

Alba achieves historic 40 Million safe working hours without LTI



Manama
Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba) proudly announces a historic achievement of 40 million safe

working hours without a Lost Time Injury (LTI), reached on 06 October 2025, reinforcing its position as a global leader in industrial safety. “Reaching 40 million safe working hours

is more than a milestone, it’s a reflection of our strong safety culture, the commitment of our people, and the strong collaboration between our employees and contractor personnel,” said

Alba’s CEO Ali Al Baqali during a celebration attended by senior officials and employees at the Company’s premises. Al Baqali added: “This success is a direct result of our workers’

dedication, discipline, and resilience. Working safely under the demanding conditions of aluminium smelting requires focus and teamwork and our people have consistently delivered.”

Alba is on track to mark its fourth LTI-free calendar year since 2019, demonstrating its unwavering commitment to safety excellence and the well-being of its workforce.

Brazil’s Lula asks Trump to remove tariffs in ‘friendly’ phone call

Brasília, Brazil

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva on Monday urged US President Donald Trump to remove punitive tariffs on Brazil in the first-ever official talks between the two leaders. After months of diplomatic animosity, Lula and Trump spoke for 30 minutes in a “friendly tone” and Lula raised the possibility of an in-person meeting in Malaysia next month, the Brazilian presidency said in a statement.

Lula “requested the removal” of tariffs imposed on his country’s products and sanctions against Brazilian officials.

Diplomatic ties have become increasingly strained between Washington and Brasilia in recent months, with Trump angered over the trial and conviction of his ally, the far-right former president Jair Bolsonaro.

Trump has imposed a 50-percent tariff on Brazilian products and imposed sanctions against several top officials, including a top Supreme Court judge, to punish Brazil for what he termed a “witch hunt” against Bolsonaro.

The phone call came after what first appeared to be a chance encounter on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly last month that led Trump to hail his “excellent chemistry” with Lula.

US government shutdown enters second week

● **Republicans are digging in their heels, with House Speaker Mike Johnson telling his members not even to come to Congress unless the Democrats cave.**

AFP | Washington, United States

The US government shutdown entered its second week yesterday, with no sign of a deal between President Donald Trump’s Republicans and Democrats to end the crisis. Democrats are refusing to provide the handful of votes the ruling Republicans need to reopen federal departments unless the two sides can agree on extending expiring “Obamacare” health care subsidies. With the government out of money since Wednesday and grinding to a halt, Senate Democrats looked set to vote against a House-passed temporary funding bill for a fifth time. The hard line taken by Democrats marks a rare moment of leverage for the opposition party in a period when Trump and his

ultra-loyal Republicans control every branch of government -- and Trump himself is accused of seeking to amass authoritarian-like powers. With funding not renewed, non-critical services are being suspended. Salaries for hundreds of thousands of public sector employees are set to be withheld from Friday, while military personnel could miss their first paycheck on October 15. And Trump has radically upped the ante by threatening to fire large numbers of government employees, rather than just furlough them, as has been done in every other shutdown over the years. Republicans are digging in their heels, with

House Speaker Mike Johnson telling his members not even to come to Congress unless the Democrats cave. “House Republicans think protecting the health care of everyday Americans is less important than their vacation,” Democratic House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries said in a statement. “We strongly disagree.” Red herring - But Johnson said health funding was a red herring Democrats had wielded to force a shutdown, claiming to have addressed the issue in a sprawling domestic policy bill signed into law by Trump in July. “Republicans are the party working around the clock every day to fix health care. It’s not talking points for us. We’ve done it,” Johnson told reporters at the US Capitol. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that Trump’s “One Big Beautiful Act” would in fact strip 11 million Americans of health care coverage, mainly through cuts to the Medicaid program for low income families. That figure would be in addition to the four million Americans Democrats say will lose health care

next year if Obamacare health insurance subsidies are not extended -- while another 24 million Americans will see their premiums double. Republicans argue the expiring health care subsidies are nothing to do with keeping the government open and can be dealt with separately before the end of the year. As the shutdown begins to bite, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Education, Housing, Commerce and Labor departments have been the hardest hit by staff being furloughed -- or placed on enforced leave -- during the shutdown, The New York Times reported. The Justice, Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs Departments, along with the Treasury and Office of Personnel Management have seen the least effects so far, according to the Times breakdown. With members of Congress at home and no formal talks taking place in either chamber, a CBS News poll released Sunday showed the public blaming Republicans by a narrow margin for the gridlock. Kevin Hassett, the director of the White House National Economic Council, said Sunday layoffs would begin “if the president decides that the negotiations are absolutely going nowhere.” Trump has already sent a steamroller through government since taking office for his second term in January.

Denmark to beef up checks against Russia’s ‘shadow fleet’

Copenhagen, Denmark

Denmark will step up environmental checks on oil tankers in a key shipping lane linking the Baltic and North Seas to crack down on Russia’s “shadow fleet”, Copenhagen said on Monday. More than 60,000 ships sail past Skagen in north Denmark each year, of which dozens are suspected to belong to a flotilla of rickety ships used by Moscow to circumvent Western sanctions on Russia’s fossil fuel exports. The announcement comes after a vessel believed to belong to this “shadow fleet” was linked to mysterious drone sightings over Denmark last month, closing airports at a time of heightened East-West tensions over Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. “We’re now reinforcing the control of basic environmental rules, so we can act in a more coherent and effective manner against petrol tankers and Russia’s ‘shadow fleet’,” said Environment Minister Magnus Heunicke in a statement.

