

# business

## Alba posts record quarterly production, sales volume

TDT | Manama

Aluminium Bahrain (Alba) yesterday announced recording a double-digit growth in its third-quarter sales and production volume, which, according to the company, is also its highest-ever quarterly production and sales volume.

Sales volume jumped 51 per cent to 376,025 metric tonnes (mt) from 248,970 mt for the same period in 2018.



Alba's CEO, Ali Al Baqali

Production topped 385,396 mt in Q3, up by 53pc YoY, versus 251,472 mt in Q3 2018.

"With the double-digit growth in our Production and Sales' Volume, we are set for a strong finish to 2019. This year is proving to be transformational for Alba as we will produce 1,350,000 mt for the first time in history and deliver Line 6 into commercial operations," said acting CEO Ali Al Baqali.

For the nine months of 2019, Sales' volume was 945,067 mt, up by 26pc, compared to 750,202 mt for the same period in 2018.

Production rose by 26pc YoY to finish at 963,830 mt for the nine months of 2019 versus 762,952 mt for the same period in 2018.

Alba will release its Third Quarter and Nine-Month 2019 Financial Results on 27 October 2019.

## Putin says Trump not to blame for lack of improvement in Russia-US ties

Reuters | Moscow



Trump, Putin (file)

Moscow is not blaming US President Donald Trump for failing to improve US-Russian relations, a pledge he had made during his election campaign, Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with Arab broadcasters.

"We know that, including during his previous election campaign, he spoke in favour of a normalisation (of US-Russian relations), but unfortunately it has not happened yet," Putin told Al Arabiya, Sky News Arabia and RT Arabic.

"But we have no claims because we see what's going on in U.S. domestic politics," he

said, according to a transcript published on the Kremlin's website on Sunday.

Putin said the "internal political agenda" was not allowing Trump to take steps aimed at a drastic improvement of bilateral relations, adding Moscow would in any case work with any U.S. administration to the extent that Washington itself wants.

## Citi names Christoph Geidner Consumer Business Head

TDT | Manama

Citi Bahrain has appointed Christoph Geidner as the Consumer Business Head for Bahrain.

Christoph is not new to Citi, his last role in 2015 was Head of Alliances and New Business for Citi EMEA Cards based in London. He originally joined Citi in 2008 in London as Consumer Management Associate and progressed into several roles. Christoph re-joins Citi from Commercial Bank International (CBI) in UAE, where he was heading Credit/Debit Cards, Loans and the Emerging Affluent Customer Segment.

Usman Ahmed, Head of Citi for Bahrain, Kuwait and Qatar said: "Under Christoph's leadership of Citi Bahrain's Consumer Bank, we look forward to driving sustainable growth



Christoph Geidner

of the business and ensuring an exceptional experience for our clients".

Citi currently offers full scale corporate and investment banking services in Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

## Scientists endorse mass civil disobedience to force climate action

Reuters | London

Almost 400 scientists have endorsed a civil disobedience campaign aimed at forcing governments to take rapid action to tackle climate change, warning that failure could inflict "incalculable human suffering."

In a joint declaration, climate scientists, physicists, biologists, engineers and oth-

ers from at least 20 countries broke with the caution traditionally associated with academia to side with peaceful protesters courting arrest from Amsterdam to Melbourne.

The declaration was coordinated by a group of scientists who support Extinction Rebellion, a civil disobedience campaign that formed in Britain a year ago.

## BAC rolls out new ICT software



Officials during a ceremony marking the launch of Oracle Soar, a programme designed to help businesses migrate applications to the cloud

TDT | Manama

Bahrain Airport Company (BAC) has become first in the Kingdom to implement Oracle Soar, a programme designed to help businesses migrate applications to the cloud.

The deal, BAC said, will support its transition to Oracle Fusion, a suite of new software applications that will improve efficiency and automate key business processes.

To mark the occasion, BAC held a ceremony attended by top management, including Chief Executive Officer Mohamed Yousif Al Binfalah, Oracle management, and key users.

Al Binfalah, Vice President

**"The future of the financial industry revolves around Fintech, and the Kingdom continues to demonstrate its aptitude in this area with the public and private sectors working proactively to adapt to the latest innovations"**

MOHAMED YOUSIF AL BINFALAH  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

of Information and Communications Technology, Najwa Abdulrahim; Vice President of Human Resources, Hind Mahmood, Vice President of Finance, Krishnan Manjapara and Acting Manager of Procurement, Khalid Al Haddad received certificates of appreciation for helping to ensure the successful delivery of the project.

Al Binfalah said: "Adapting to this cloud-based solution will play a key role in standardising and streamlining the Company's human capital management, procurement, finance, consolidation and reporting processes while offering a modern user experience for Gulf Air Group

Holding (GFG), BAC, Hala Bahrain, Bahrain Jet Fuel Company, and Gulf Handling Company."

Oracle Fusion is now the sole tool for all BAC employees to submit requests, eliminating the need for paperwork, and streamlining the approval process.

Oracle Soar helps users shift to the cloud with time and cost reductions of up to 30 per cent. It also provides faster time to value, reduced risk, and increased transparency.

Earlier this year, BAC migrated its server to Amazon Web Services, positioning it alongside a growing number of Bahrain government entities shifting to the cloud platform.

## Egypt discovers archaeological industrial zone in Luxor

Reuters | Luxor, Egypt

Egypt has unveiled two archaeological discoveries in Luxor including an industrial zone at the southern city's West Valley, also known as the Valley of the Monkeys.

Egyptian archaeologists have discovered 30 workshops in the industrial area, the Ministry of Antiquities said in a statement. The area is "composed of houses for storage and the cleaning of the funerary furniture with many potteries dated to Dynasty



The team had been working in the Valley of the Monkeys

18," the excavation team's leader, Zahi Hawass, said in the statement.

The team had been working in the Valley of the Monkeys, which is located at Luxor's western bank of the Nile, since 2017.

The manufacturing area contains a deep cut and a water storage tank that had been used by workers, the statement said. Between them the archaeologists have found a scarab ring, hundreds of inlay beads and golden objects that were used



Archaeologists have found a scarab ring

to decorate royal coffins and some inlays known as the wings

of Horus.

The team also discovered a tomb in Luxor's East Valley, also known as the Valley of Kings, where it found "the tools that the ancient Egyptians used to construct a royal tomb," Hawass said. The East Valley contains famous royal tombs.

The discoveries are the latest in a series of major findings of ancient relics that Egypt hopes will revive a tourist business that has been hit by political instability.