

Alba Empowers Young Safety Advocates

Employees' Children deliver safety messages



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Nine participants attended a two-day Toastmasters workshop at Alba Club before they delivered safety messages on avoiding shortcuts, ensuring road safety, and coping with extreme heat.



TDT | Manama



● Children lead safety campaign

● Part of Alba ESG outreach

Aluminium Bahrain B.S.C. (Alba), the world's largest aluminium smelter on one site, recently launched an initiative designed to cultivate

the next generation of safety advocates from within its own community - the children of its employees. This endeavour was a key component of Alba's 'Summer is Here! Ring the Safety Bell' Safety and Health Campaign.

Taking centre stage on 17 and 22 July, the Young Albawees captivated the audiences with their unique safety messages. To further develop their capabilities, nine participants attended an intensive two-day Toastmasters workshop at Alba Club to

enhance their public speaking abilities before they delivered safety messages like avoiding shortcuts, ensuring road safety, and coping with extreme heat.

This initiative aligns closely with one of Alba's key 2025

objectives, 'Be an Albawee'. Spearheaded by Alba's CEO Ali Al Baqali, this vision encourages every employee to embrace their role as safety ambassadors, both at work and within the community, starting with their families.

Coca-Cola plans US cane sugar alternative after Trump push

AFP | Washington, United States

Coca-Cola on Tuesday said it would release a version of Coke in the United States made with US-grown real cane sugar, a move requested by President Donald Trump.

"We're going to be bringing a Coke sweetened with US cane sugar into the market this fall, and I think that will be an enduring option for consumers," said CEO James Quincey on a call with analysts.

The company currently uses high-fructose corn syrup (HFCS) for many of its US products -- a sweetener that has long drawn criticism from Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. and his "Make America Healthy Again" agenda. Trump last week said that

the company had agreed to use cane sugar in the United States version of Coke.

"This will be a very good move by them -- You'll see. It's just better!" Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Coca-Cola at the time did not confirm the move even if it said it appreciated Trump's "enthusiasm" for its brand.

In announcing the new option, Quincey insisted that the main Coke product would still be made with corn syrup, with the cane sugar version offered as an alternative.

Mexican Coke -- which is made with cane sugar -- is often sold at a premium in US stores and prized for its more "natural" flavor.

The US president did not explain what motivated his push for the change.

US Treasury chief says no reason for Fed chair to step down

AFP | Washington, United States

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Tuesday that he did not see a reason for Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell to resign immediately, a day after calling for a sweeping review of the Fed.

Bessent's comments in a Fox Business interview come as Powell faces growing pressure from Donald Trump's administration to slash interest rates, with the president recently ramping up attacks against the independent central bank chief over the Fed's \$2.5 billion renovation project.

"There's nothing that tells me that he should step down right now," Bessent said, referring to Powell.

He noted that Powell's term

as Fed chair ends in May 2026, and that Powell should see out his full term if he wants to.

But if the Fed chief wanted to leave early, he should as well, Bessent added.

Late Monday in a social media post, Bessent called for the Fed to conduct an "exhaustive internal review of its non-monetary policy operations," accusing the central bank of mission creep.

Bessent, in his post on X, said the Fed's "independence is a cornerstone of continued US economic growth and stability."



Bessent eyes China tariff deadline extension in talks next week

AFP | Washington, United States

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Tuesday that he would meet his Chinese counterparts in Stockholm next week for tariff talks, eyeing an extension to a mid-August deadline for levies to snap back to steeper levels.

Bessent told Fox Business that he will be speaking with Chinese officials on Monday and Tuesday for a third round of high-level negotiations, to work out what he said would be a likely postponement of the deadline.

Washington and Beijing slapped escalating, tit-for-tat levies on each other's exports earlier this year -- reaching triple digit levels -- stalling trade between the

world's two biggest economies as tensions surged.

But after top officials met in Geneva in May, both sides agreed to temporarily lower their tariff levels in a de-escalation set to expire next month. Officials from the two countries also met in London in June. "That deal expires on August 12, and I'm going to be in Stockholm on Monday and Tuesday with

my Chinese counterparts, and we'll be working out what is likely an extension then," Bessent said in the interview.

