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HARBINGER

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF
AL-RASHED INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CO.,
KUWAIT



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CEO'S OUTLOOK



The New year always comes with new hope; as we unfold the year, the excitement, hope, spirit to make a difference keeps diminishing. This year, keep your resolutions simple and realistic; every time, remind yourself about the hope, light, goals that you have set for yourself. Remind yourself to be excited for life always, not only during the new year, keep the fire in you alive all throughout, in highs and lows, ups and downs, rise and fall, success and failure.

Life's mission should always be to make a difference in everyone's life with your talent, skills, and experience. Monetary benefits will become the by-product of your passion and will help you achieve more than you expect from life.

A new year always makes us feel good about everything. It's a new start for many beginnings. Bring a new year feel every day and start a new beginning with every sunrise. Rest everything else will follow as you begin with the right and positive spirit.



RAVI VARRIER



POTPOURRI

FLYING CAR CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF, BUT YOU'LL NEED A PILOT'S LICENSE

A car that can transform into a small aircraft has passed flights tests with flying colours in Slovakia, developers say.

The "AirCar" was awarded an official Certificate of Airworthiness by the Slovak Transport Authority after completing 70 hours of "rigorous flight testing," according to Klein Vision, the company behind the "dual-mode car-aircraft vehicle."

The test flights — which included more than 200 takeoffs and landings — were compatible with European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) standards, the company said in a press release on Monday. "The challenging flight tests included the full range of flight and performance manoeuvres and demonstrated an astonishing static and dynamic stability in the aircraft mode," the company said.

A spokesperson for Klein Vision told CNN that a pilot license is required to fly the hybrid vehicle, and added that the company hopes to have the "AirCar" commercially available within 12 months.

A team of eight specialists clocked up more than 100,000 hours converting design concepts into mathematical models that led to the prototype's production. The "AirCar" is powered by a 1.6L BMW engine, and runs on "fuel sold at any gas station," Anton Zajac, co-founder of Klein Vision, said in a statement to CNN.

The vehicle can fly at a maximum operating altitude of 18,000 feet, Zajac added.





SHIPPING WORLD



MSC and Lufthansa in joint bid to take over Italy's new ITA Airways

MSC has told the Italian government it wants to buy a stake in the new airline, ITA Airways, which began operations in October, replacing defunct Alitalia.

And it's doing it in partnership with Lufthansa.

As previously reported, Lufthansa has expressed an interest in wresting state-owned ITA away from the SkyTeam Alliance to add it to its own roster of carriers, which include Austrian, Swiss and Brussels.

Now you can rent a robot worker – cheaper than paying a human

The economics of automating warehouse operations are becoming increasingly plain – in the US, the minimum wage for a worker is \$15 an hour, while leasing a robot (as opposed to purchasing one for around \$100,000) comes in at around \$8 an hour.

This feature from Wired explains how the pandemic-induced labour shortages in production and distribution facilities led to the emergence of a new breed of leasing companies building up fleets of robots and renting them out – a particular attraction for smaller operators nervous of the large capex requirements of directly investing in automation.

Shipping lines are paying workers bonuses of more than three years' salary

Several of the world's largest shipping lines, worried they will be unable to recruit and retain workers, have begun offering unprecedented incentives for a job known for notoriously bad working conditions and low pay. To dissuade seafarers from leaving their jobs, global shipping lines are doling out massive bonuses that will effectively triple or quadruple some workers' salaries for the year in hopes of retaining workers to staff many of the ships they've bought or ordered during the pandemic.

Intra-Asia and Africa trades lose out in today's record-breaking box shipping era

Container services covering the intra-Asia and Africa markets have been ditched in dramatic fashion over the past year as global liners focus on the two main east-west tradelanes.

Alphaliner data published this week shows 43.7% of the total box fleet is now trading on the transpacific and Asia-Europe, the two biggest east-west trades, up from 38.1% year-on-year.

At the start of this year, 22% of the total cellular fleet was deployed between Asia and North America, up from 17.5% on January 1 2021. Carriers added 1.3m teu of capacity onto the transpacific, a "staggering" 31.2% increase, Alphaliner reported in its latest weekly report.

DID YOU KNOW?

- A hippopotamus can run faster than a man.
- The world's oldest existing eatery opened in Kai-Feng, China in 1153.
- The average age of Forbes's 400 wealthiest individuals is 63.



KUWAIT NEWS

Kuwait sees 'unprecedented' COVID-19 wave, says minister

Kuwait is experiencing a "high, unprecedented" wave of COVID-19 infections, the country's Health Minister Dr Khalid Al Saeed was quoted as saying.

More than 5,000 infections on a daily average were registered in January, which are more than double the Delta variant cases that were previously recorded, the minister added, according to Al-Jarida newspaper.

Last week, daily COVID-19 infections in Kuwait exceeded the 5,000 mark for the first time since the country's first case of the pandemic was detected nearly two years ago.

As part of new precautions announced by the government to curtail the spread of the virus, all arrivals in Kuwait are now required to present a negative PCR conducted 72 hours before arrival.

The Kuwaiti government has also decided to temporarily halt all social events held at indoor places starting from January 9 until February 28.

Kuwait will again issue work visas to expats over 60 years old

Kuwait will again allow expatriates who are 60 years old and older to obtain a work permit, the Minister of Justice and Minister of State for "Nazaha" Boosting Affairs Jamal Al-Jalawai announced, Kuwait state news agency KUNA reported.

The decision this week ends a months-long debate in Kuwait following a 2020 ruling in which Kuwaiti officials banned renewing work permits for those who are over 60 years old and those who hold only a secondary school certificate or less.

During the ban, around 4,000 expatriates were pushed out of the labour market due to their age.

IRAQ NEWS

Work Starts at \$594m Oil Processing Plant at Block 9

The President of the **Iraqi National Oil Company (INOC)** has laid the foundation stone for the \$594-million crude oil processing plant at Block 9, within the Al-Fayha Oil Field in Basra Province.

Ihsan Abdul-Jabbar Ismail said that the development is important for the production of light oil, with a target for this project of up to 100,000 barrels of crude oil per day, along with 135 mmscfd of gas at a future stage for electricity production.

Khaled Hamza, General Manager of **Basra Oil Company (BOC)**, said the development of the field was started in 2014 by **Kuwait Energy Company (KEC)** and continued by the Chinese company **UEG [United Energy Group]** which acquired KEC, and that the first exploration well was drilled and the results were encouraging.

He stressed that the oil produced from the exploration Block 9 is one of the best types of oil globally.

The CEO of UEG, Sonk Yu [Song Yu, Chief Operation Officer??], said that laying the foundation stone for the development was an important moment for the company.

"IF YOU WANT TO LIVE A HAPPY LIFE, TIE IT TO A GOAL, NOT TO PEOPLE OR THINGS."- ALBERT EINSTEIN

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RIDDLE ME!!

There's a one-storey house in which everything is yellow. Yellow walls, yellow doors, yellow furniture. What color are the stairs?

Answers in next month's edition
Send in your answers to editor@al-rashedgroup.com
Correct answers get a shout-out in the next edition

Dec Riddle

What is in a bed but never sleeps?
Ans: River

Correct Answers: Mr. Mansoor Ali, Mr. Santosh Kumar, Mr. Firoz Kutub

FOOTNOTES

New Beginnings- A very difficult paradigm shift in our lives. With the new year beginning, we need to focus on how we can better ourselves. While we make and break resolutions, it is imperative to ensure that we focus on our mental health.

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.

Our actions have to reflect in a way that elevates our quality of living both mentally and physically. Any action that is detrimental to our well being needs to be kept at bay.

A happy mind is what helps us to move ahead in life. A sad mind eats you up internally and results in issues that may make you detached from life.

Be optimistic, happy and keep growing!!

ANAND K V
EDITOR

ABOUT US

With a brand name synonymous with best quality shipping services, Al-Rashed International Shipping Co. is Kuwait's premier shipping company specialized in shipping, LCL, FCL, breakbulk, freight forwarding, RORO, projects, with a worldwide network and proven expertise in delivering the client requirements

Al Rashed International Shipping Co. is a division of The Al-Rashed Group—a long established trading company founded in 1911 by Late Mr. Abdul Aziz Abdul Mohsin Al-Rashed, from the highly respected Al-Rashed family.