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UK teachers strike sets 'good example' to pupils, union head says

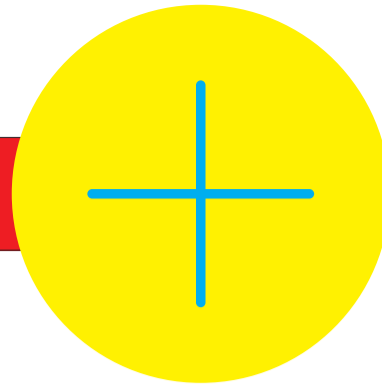
The mass closure of schools expected across England and Wales due to teacher strikes next week will be a "good example" to pupils, the head of the UK's largest teaching union has said.



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Tiss Great Mosque dates back to early Islamic era

Tiss Great Mosque is located in Chabahar Free Trade Zone, the southern province of Hormuzgan. It is considered as one of the attractions of this area. The different façade and design of the building is a reminder of Indian architecture – the adorable and colorful forms. Tiss Great Mosque is reminiscent of the early centuries of the Islamic era. At that time,

Tiss village was one of the important ports of the south-eastern coast of Iran. Today, Chabahar is the only oceanic port in Iran, and Tiss village still exists as an important village close to the Indian Ocean, visitiran.ir reported. Formerly, the importance of Tiss was based on the fact that goods were transferred to this port, and were sent to different destinations in the Middle East,

Central Asia and the Caucasus. Tiss village is located on the foothills, five kilometers north-west of Chabahar. The relics and artefacts found in this area cover a vast time span from the Achaemenid Empire to later eras. This village was considered an important center even in the early years of the Islamic era. The Great Mosque of Tiss is proof of this. The remains of

Tiss Castle, facing the sea, indicate the strategic importance of Chabahar. What is visible from the middle of the village is a structure that looks like the mosques of Pakistan and India. The minaret and the dome, colored in red and green, and also the stained glass that has been used as windows are some of the unique features of this mosque.

The doors of the mosque have been ornamented with regular and irregular stained glass that further adds to the beauty of this structure. The previous prayer hall was not spacious enough to host all the worshippers. Therefore, the local people are expanding the mosque from its eastern side. The building that can be seen today is quite different from its previous version.

World's second largest book fair kicks off

The 46th International Kolkata Book Fair 2023 opened on Monday at Salt Lake's Central Park fair ground, which has been named 'Boi Mela Prangan'.

The opening ceremony was attended by chief minister Mamata Banerjee. "Last year we had 23 lakh visitors, and books worth \$2.8 million were sold. We are expecting more this year," said Publishers and Booksellers Guild general secretary Tridib Chatterjee, Times of India reported. There are arrangements to live-stream all events, Chatterjee added. Spain being the theme country this year, there will be a high-level delegation during the inauguration. Jose Maria Ridao Dominguez, Spain's ambassador to India; Maria Jose Galvez Salvador, director general for books of Ministry of Culture and Sports of Spain, and Luis Garcia Montero, director of Instituto Cervantes will be present at the programme.

The chief minister will also hold the cabinet meeting for the first time at Unnayan Bhavan, located opposite the fair ground, before inaugurating the book fair. The Karunamoyee 'office para' has been decked up for the twin events.



Philips to cut 13% of jobs in safety and profitability drive



● PIROSCHKA VAN DE WOUW/REUTERS

Dutch health technology company Philips will scrap another 6,000 jobs worldwide as it tries to restore its profitability and improve the safety of its products following a recall of respiratory devices that knocked off 70% of its market value.

Half of the job cuts will be made this year, the company said on Monday, adding that the other half will be realised by 2025, Reuters reported.

The new reorganisation brings the total amount of job cuts announced by new Chief Executive Roy Jakobs in recent months to 10,000, or around 13% of Philips' current workforce.

It also adds to the string of technology-based firms to make layoffs, after companies including Alphabet's Google, Microsoft, Amazon and German software maker SAP announced thousands of layoffs to cut costs as they brace for tougher economic conditions. Philips shares traded up 5.5% at 0855 GMT, helped by fourth-quarter earnings which were much better than expected.

"There is a significant beat on Q4 and the operational improvement measures are very large," ING analyst Marc Heselink said in a note.

Jakobs took over the reins of the company last October, as Philips continued to grapple with the fallout from the recall of millions of ventilators used to treat sleep apnoea over worries that foam used in the machines could become toxic. "What we present today I think is a very strong plan to secure the future of Philips. The challenges we have are serious and we are addressing them head on," Jakobs told reporters.

Jakobs said patient safety would be put "squarely at the center" of the new organization.

To improve profitability while investing in safety, innovations will be targeted at "fewer, better resourced, and more impactful projects", Jakobs said. Together this should lead to a low-teens profit margin, as measured by adjusted earnings before interest, taxes and amortization (EBITA), by 2025, and a mid-to-high-teens margin beyond that year, with

mid-single-digit comparable sales growth throughout.

Results improving, with cautious outlook

Amsterdam-based Philips remained cautious in its outlook for the year despite fourth-quarter results that were significantly better than expected.

Adjusted EBITA in the last three months of 2022 came in at 651m euros (\$707.18m), nearly stable from 647m euros a year before, while analysts in a company-compiled poll on average had predicted it would drop to 428m euros. Comparable sales edged up 3%, instead of the 5% plunge analysts had predicted, as ongoing supply chain problems eased.

But despite the improvement in the shortage of components that has troubled Philips for over a year, Philips said the supply chain remained challenging and would only further improve gradually.



Actresses perform a street theater in the waiting platform of the Valiasr subway station on January 30, 2023, as the last day of the Fajr Theater Festival was held in Tehran, Iran.
● SARA ABDOLLAHI/SNN

The service road in front of Unnayan Bhavan has been relaid with fresh bitumen, and the space in front of the fair ground has been spruced up with decorations and lights. There will be tight security in Karunamoyee and Central Park.

With around 950 stalls, the highest participation ever, along with increased connectivity from across the city and beyond, this book fair is expected to break footfall and book sale records.

Government agencies and Bidhanagar Municipal Corporation (BMC) have come up with plans and amenities for visitors. For the first time, the book fair ground will have direct Metro connectivity from Sealdah, with two stations at Karunamoyee and Central Park catering to guests. The transport department has come up with plans to operate additional bus services on several routes daily from 3pm to 9pm. Officials said there will be a minimum of three buses on each route. Long-distance buses to the book fair venue will operate from Jhargram, Midnapore, Asansol and Durgapur. There will also be shuttle services from Sealdah, Kamalgazi, Tollygunge and Dunlop. To accommodate extra buses, the premises adjacent to Mayukh Bhavan will be used to reduce parking pressure at Karunamoyee bus terminus.

BMC will look after disposing the daily waste from the fair ground, along with sweeping and cleaning the area twice a day. The authorities are also sprucing up the roads around the venue.