



## Gulf Air fastest growing in ME



TDT | Manama

Gulf Air, Bahrain's national carrier, has been awarded as the Fastest Growing Airline in the Middle East at the 19th Airline Marketing Workshop organised by Athens International Airport.

The event takes place annually in Athens and includes all carriers that operate to and from Athens International Airport.

The award ceremony was attended by Gulf Air's representative.

"This is a great achievement for Gulf Air to be awarded as the fastest growing airline in the Middle East region. The upcoming summer season will see increased flights to and from Athens as it is a popular route by many of our passengers," Gulf Air's Chief Commercial Officer Vincent Coste," said.

## At least 54 dead as ferry sinks in north Iraq

Mosul, Iraq

At least 54 people died when an overcrowded ferry carrying families sank yesterday in a swollen river in northern Iraq during Kurdish New Year celebrations, officials said.

Another 28 people were missing after the disaster on the Tigris in the city of Mosul, according to an interior ministry official who did not want to be named.

"The boat sank because there were too many passengers on board, more than a hundred," another security official based in Mosul said.

## Deputy Premier inaugurates Royal Hospital in Riffa

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Bahrain will soon emerge as one of the leading medical destinations in the region, thanks to the growing private sector investment, said Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid bin Abdullah Al Khalifa.

"The continuing private investment in Bahrain's health sector reflects this as well as the investors' confidence in the legislative and regulatory ambience of the Kingdom," Shaikh Khalid said thanking His Majesty the King for the remarkable achievements.



Deputy Prime Minister Shaikh Khalid with other top officials during the inauguration of the new hospital in Riffa



The newly opened Royal Hospital for Women and Children in Riffa

Kingdom, Shaikh Khalid said, will back all such efforts with hassle-free licensing procedures and other regulatory clearances.

The Deputy Prime Minister was inaugurating the Royal Hospital for Women and Children in Riffa in the presence of Lt-General Dr Shaikh Mohammed bin Abdullah Al Khalifa, President of the Supreme Council for Health, Faeqa bint Saeed Al Saleh, the Minister of Health, senior officials and invitees from Bahrain and abroad.

Calling for further collaboration in the health sector and citing effective partnership between the public and private sector across various industries, Shaikh Khalid said such partnerships are one of the prime objectives of the Government Action Plan (GAP2019-2022).

GAP, the Deputy PM said, encourages the private sector to assume its role as the main driver of the economy with the support of Prime Minister HRH Prince Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa and Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander and First Deputy Prime Minister, HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

The Deputy Premier said the newly opened hospital will meet the growing demand for gynaecological and paediatric health-care in the Kingdom.

"The total number of registered health institutions in the Kingdom has increased by 7 pc in 2018 reaching 716 establishments in comparison to 617 in 2017 - this includes 21 hospitals, 95 public centres, 41 specialized centres and 132 clinics," said Shaikh Khalid.

## Houthi 'delays' stalled Yemen peace deal: US

Reuters | Al Arabia

The US ambassador to Yemen blamed the Iran-aligned Houthi movement yesterday for the stalling of a UN-led peace deal in the main port of Hodeidah and said the group's weapons pose a threat to other countries in the region.

The Yemeni government and the Houthis reached a ceasefire and troop withdrawal deal for Hodeidah, which is under

Houthi control, at talks in Sweden in December. The agreement was the first major breakthrough in efforts to end more than four years of war.

While the truce has largely held, the troop withdrawal has yet to materialise with both parties blaming each other for lack of progress in implementing the pact.

"We are greatly frustrated by what we see as delays and stalling on the part of the Houthis in implementing what they agreed



Ambassador Tueller

to in Sweden, but I have great confidence in the UN envoy and what he is doing," ambassador

Matthew Tueller told a televised news conference in the southern port of Aden, where the internationally recognised government is based.

"We are willing to work with others in order to try to implement these (Sweden) agreements and see whether the Houthis can in fact demonstrate a political maturity and start to serve the interests of Yemen rather than acting on behalf of those who seek to weaken and destroy Yemen," he said.

### TWEET IMPACT

## Los Angeles 'meteor' sets internet alight

Los Angeles, United States

A "meteor" that tore across the Los Angeles skyline set Twitter alight with speculation it was a real life "Deep Impact".

A bright orange fireball that arced over Hollywood -- home of countless disaster movies -- sent people scrambling to capture the scene for social media -- even if it later turned out to be more fiction than fact.

"Anyone else just see the Meteor over LA?", one person wrote on Twitter. "Incredible. Coolest thing I've seen."



Screengrab from video tweeted by @LAFD\_CERT\_Batt9/NDTV

"Anyone else see a giant meteor or fireball in the middle of downtown Los Angeles like a few minutes ago? It looked

Anyone else just see the Meteor over LA?

ONE PERSON WROTE ON TWITTER

like a meteor but it was WAY too low to the ground," wrote Kasey Clark.

The Los Angeles Police Department weighed in to calm people's nerves with a Public Service Announcement, and remind them that theirs is the city of fantasy and dreams.

"PSA: A meteor did not crash into Downtown Los Angeles, and no, it's not an alien invasion ... just a film shoot. This is Tinseltown after all," the LAPD wrote on Twitter.

The phenomenon was a publicity stunt by Red Bull, which fitted skydivers with LEDs and pyrotechnics as they plunged out of a helicopter 4,000 feet (1,200 meters) above the city.

Still -- for a few moments at least -- the people of Los Angeles were allowed to dream.

"Is Captain Marvel back?" wrote Twitter user @Mighty-MisterX.

## Facebook admits storing passwords

San Francisco, United States

Facebook yesterday admitted that millions of passwords were stored in plain text on its internal servers, a security slip that left them readable by the social networking giant's employees.

"To be clear, these passwords were never visible to anyone outside of Facebook and we have found no evidence to date that anyone internally abused or improperly accessed them," vice president of engineering, security, and privacy Pedro Canahuati said in a blog post.

The blunder was uncovered during a routine security review early this year, according to Canahuati.

## At least 10 dead in Egypt chemical plant blast

Cairo, Egypt

At least 10 people were killed yesterday in an explosion at a chemical plant in Ain Sokhna on Egypt's Red Sea coast, security and medical sources said.

Two medics told AFP that 10 bodies had been received at a morgue in Suez.

Families of victims gathered outside the morgue, an AFP stringer at the site said.



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