

INTERNATIONAL
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INTERNATIONAL TRAVELER | UPDATE

■ **LONDON**

Silverjet adds route and triples passengers

Silverjet, the business class-only airline that is getting a \$100 million investment to add routes, said Tuesday that it more than tripled its number of passengers compared with last year, after adding a plane and starting a service to Dubai.

The airline, based in Luton, England, flew 10,594 travelers compared with 3,452 in April last year. The growth happened as two competing carriers, MAXjet and Eos, filed for protection from creditors in the past four months.

Silverjet has signed a deal for a \$100 million investment from Viceroy Holdings, a fund based in the United Arab Emirates. The carrier, which offers private terminals and women-only toilets, also flies between London Luton and Newark Liberty International Airport outside New York. *(Bloomberg)*

■ **ATLANTA**

Rising fuel costs push desire for airline merger

U.S. airlines may be approaching a "break point" on fuel costs, making the merger between Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines necessary, Ed Bastian, Delta's president, told Minnesota legislators.

Delta, which last month agreed to buy

Northwest, which is based in Minnesota, to form the world's largest carrier, has seen its fuel costs surge to 43 cents for every dollar of revenue, from 17 cents five years ago, Bastian said.

In light of the slowing economy and rising fuel costs, at least four U.S. airlines have filed for bankruptcy since March 31. *(Bloomberg)*

■ **KINGSTON, Jamaica**

Casino plan criticized

Church leaders urged Jamaican legislators to reject a plan by Prime Minister Bruce Golding to boost tax revenue by licensing the Caribbean island's first casinos.

Allowing casinos on the island would spread vice, threaten social values and ruin families, the Reverend Henley Bernard of the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands said Monday.

Last month, Golding approved a proposal by a group of international investors to build Jamaica's first casino in Montego Bay. Parliament will consider the bill in coming weeks. *(AP)*

■ **BRUSSELS:** The European Union abandoned a plan to limit the size of airline passengers' carry-on bags after the industry resisted the anti-terrorism measure. The European Commission said Monday that the planned EU-wide limit of 56 by 45 by 25 centimeters, or 22 by 18 by 10 inches, would be too inconvenient for travelers. *(Bloomberg)*

■ **RIGA, Latvia:** The Latvian Coast Guard has started evacuating a cruise ship that became stranded with nearly 1,000 people on board after tugboats were unable to pull the liner off an underwater sand bank in the Baltic Sea. About 650 passengers, most of them German, were being transferred on Monday to naval ships that would take them to land, the coast guard said. *(AP)*

■ **HONG KONG:** WOM, which calls itself the city's first and only public-survey based restaurant guide, said Monday that its more than 5,000 members eat out five or more times a week for dinner on average. The English-language guide, whose name stands for "Word of Mouth," uses about 2,500 local gourmets to review more than 1,100 eateries. The 2008 edition has been on local best-seller lists since January.

■ **NEW YORK:** Commuter ferries linking the Rockaways in Queens and Lower Manhattan's Wall Street financial district will start May 12, in the first of a two-phase plan to expand use of the city's waterways for transit, Mayor Michael Bloomberg said Monday. The New York Water Taxi will charge \$6 each way. *(Bloomberg)*

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