



جامعة جدة
University of Jeddah

رؤية جامعة جدة
برنامج مجال
تركيز الجامعة



LOGISTICS AROUND THE WORLD IN FEBRUARY



A newsletter in the field
of logistics worldwide

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LUFTHANSA GROUP ADVANCES ITA AIRWAYS INTEGRATION

The Lufthansa Group has begun integrating ITA Airways into its network, offering immediate benefits like loyalty program merging, lounge access sharing, and expanded codeshare agreements. Loyalty members can now earn and redeem miles on both airlines, with improved flight coordination and smoother airport transfers at major hubs. Additionally, Irish airline operations will move to new terminals in Frankfurt and Munich to enhance the travel experience.



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THE SUEZ CANAL WITNESSES THE TRANSIT OF THE OIL TANKER CHRYSLIS ON ITS FIRST VOYAGE SINCE LAST JULY

The oil tanker CHRYSLIS, flying the Liberian flag, passed through the Suez Canal for the first time since being attacked in the Red Sea last July. The vessel, en route from India to Alexandria, signals improving stability in the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb region. The Suez Canal Authority emphasized the canal's strategic importance amid rising shipping costs and environmental risks associated with alternative routes.



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SYRIAN AIRLINES ANNOUNCES THE OPENING DATE OF ALEPPO AIRPORT, FOLLOWED BY LATAKIA

The Syrian Civil Aviation Authority announced on Thursday the reopening of Aleppo Airport next week, followed by Latakia Airport. Ashhad Salibi, the head of the Syrian Civil Aviation Authority, stated, "We are in the process of reopening Aleppo Airport next week," adding, "We will begin rehabilitating Latakia Airport immediately after Aleppo Airport." He also noted that civil aviation is moving towards reactivating all Syrian airports for international operations. Additionally, he announced that another airport would be reopened immediately after Aleppo Airport.



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CHINA DEVELOPS CR450 HIGH-SPEED TRAIN

China has developed a high-speed train of the CR450 model, with a cruising speed of 400 kilometers per hour and the capability to reach 450 kilometers per hour during tests. According to Chinese authorities, the train will consume less energy while providing higher speeds, lower noise levels, and improved comfort. Additionally, artificial intelligence will assist the driver.



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SMALL WAREHOUSES BECOMING INCREASINGLY SCARCE

Businesses seeking smaller warehouse spaces are facing significant challenges due to a shortage in availability. For instance, Half Price Books has been searching for a 6,000-square-foot warehouse in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area for over a year without success. This scarcity stems from developers prioritizing larger warehouses to maximize returns; in 2024, only 8% of new warehouses were under 100,000 square feet. Consequently, the national vacancy rate for warehouses under 100,000 square feet is 3.9%, notably lower than the overall rate of 6.7%. This trend poses challenges for businesses needing smaller spaces to optimize delivery times and costs.



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FEDEX CONFIRMS 3 MORE FACILITY CLOSURES FOR NETWORK 2.0

FedEx will close three shipping centers in Kentucky, New York, and Pennsylvania as part of its Network 2.0 initiative to merge Express and Ground operations. The Lexington, KY facility will close on March 3, affecting 122 employees. The other closures are scheduled for June. Affected employees will be offered transfers, severance, or leave options. The initiative aims to streamline operations and reduce costs by 10% in optimized markets.



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SUEZ CANAL SEES INCREASED SHIP TRAFFIC AMID RED SEA STABILITY

Chairman of the Suez Canal Authority, Osama Rabie, announced that 47 ships have redirected their routes to pass through the Suez Canal instead of the Cape of Good Hope since the beginning of February.

Speaking at the Marlog International Conference on Maritime Transport and Logistics, Rabie attributed this shift to negotiations with shipping lines and growing confidence among clients regarding the stabilization of the Red Sea region. He expects more shipping lines to return to the canal as stability continues.

Rabie emphasized that the Red Sea crisis has created unprecedented security challenges, affecting global supply chain stability. To mitigate these effects, the Suez Canal Authority has maintained stable pricing policies, expanded direct communication with shipping companies, and introduced new maritime and logistical services, including ship maintenance, rescue operations, pollution control, medical assistance, crew changes, and refueling.

Additionally, the southern expansion project of the canal has been completed and is now operational, increasing navigational safety and raising the canal's capacity by 6 to 8 ships.



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LOGISTICS UK CALLS FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION FOLLOWING CARBON BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

On February 26, 2025, the Climate Change Committee released its Seventh Carbon Budget, outlining national carbon emission targets for 2038 to 2042. In response, Kevin Green, Director of Policy at Logistics UK, emphasized the need for government support to help the logistics sector achieve net-zero emissions. Green highlighted the importance of developing a comprehensive strategy for commercial vehicle charging infrastructure and expediting new grid connections. He also advocated for incentives to offset higher vehicle costs and promoted the use of alternative fuels like Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), which can reduce carbon emissions by up to 80% without requiring engine modifications. Green stressed that a clear roadmap, encompassing technology availability, infrastructure investment, regulatory reform, and tax incentives, is essential for a fair transition to net zero while maintaining robust UK supply chains.



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