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FEBRUARY 23, 2024, SHA'BAN 13, 1445 **WEEKEND EDITION**







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BUSINESS

UAE travellers prefer using local cards for payment, study finds I P6

flydubai posts record profit of Dh2.1 billion

DUBAI-BASED CARRIER REPORTS ITS BEST PERFORMANCE SINCE LAUNCH

DUBAI

BY DONA CHERIAN Assistant Online Editor

lydubai reported its best year on record yesterday, after earning a net profit of Dh2.1 billion in 2023. This figure marks a 75 per cent increase in profits year-on-year, and the highestever profit recorded since the airline's first flight in June,

Shaikh Ahmad Bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Chairman of flydubai, said the carrier's business model is what made this feat possible. He added, "The decision to accelerate its aircraft deliveries during the pandemic, preserve its workforce and to move forward with its ambitious network expansion plans has proven to be the correct strategy for the carrier resulting in its strongest-ever performance."

"I am very proud of the hard work and dedication of everyone at flydubai which has enabled us to break all our records while keeping our customers at the heart of everything we do."

The airline reported cash and cash equivalents of Dh4.8 bil-

lion. Total revenue was Dh11.2 billion, up from Dh9.1 billion in

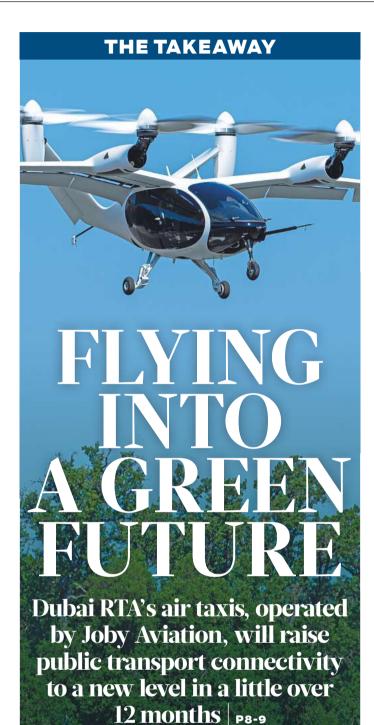
Ghaith Al Ghaith, Chief Executive Officer at flydubai, said 108 million passengers have travelled with flydubai since its launch. In 2023 alone, the airline ferried 13.8 million passengers – a 31 per cent increase compared to 2022.

flydubai launched with four destinations in its network in 2009, and ended 2023 with routes to 122 destinations across 52 countries. This is in addition to cities accessible to flydubai passengers through codeshare agreements with Emirates and over 25 global airlines.

The airline ordered its firstever wide-body aircraft in 2023 with a \$11 billion order for 30 Boeing 787 Dreamliners, which will be delivered from 2026.

SEE ALSO P5

total revenue reported by flydubai in 2023



Israel strikes Rafah amid truce talks

GAZA STRIP

srael launched deadly air strikes on Rafah yes-Lterday, after threatening to send troops in to hunt for Hamas militants in the southern Gaza city where around 1.4 million Palestinians have sought refuge.

Major powers trying to find a way to end the destructive İsrael-Hamas war have so far failed, but a US envoy was in Israel yesterday in the latest attempt to secure a truce deal.

Mediators including the United States, Qatar and Egypt, who have tried and so far failed to broker a ceasefire and hostage release deal, made a new push for an agreement.

Brett McGurk, House coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa, held talks with Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, after meeting with other mediators in Cairo who had met Hamas chief Ismail Haniyeh earlier this week.

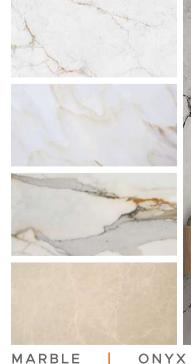
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