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Nineteen killed in Nepali crash

On Friday, a propeller-driven Sita Air Dornier aircraft crashed shortly after its departure from Kathmandu after the pilot reportedly informed air traffic controllers that the plane had struck a bird. A total of 19 people were killed, including seven British and five Chinese passengers. This latest crash marks the sixth fatal air accident in less than two years in Nepal. The failure of the Loka-bound flight has Nepali tourism officials concerned that travellers may be deterred from embarking on treks in Nepal, especially Mount Everest and the Himalayas. Nepal's aviation industry has faced roughly 70 crashes in its 55-year history.

Nigeria-bound flight lands safely after emergency

On Saturday, a Qatar Airways Airbus 330 aircraft carrying 162 passengers and crew landed safely after the pilot discovered a problem with the aircraft's landing gear. After takeoff from Doha, the pilot reportedly realized one of the 10 tires on the aircraft had a low pressure. The airline said the pilot did not declare an emergency over the tire, though local officials said the pilot had. Upon landing at Lagos' Murtala Muhammed International Airport, the Qatar aircraft was greeted by firefighters and emergency workers. A post-landing inspection revealed the tire had peeled away from the landing gear. Passengers were not aware there was a problem.

Governments struggle with EADS-BAE agreement

Merger discussions between Britain's BAE Systems and Airbus parent EADS are at risk of collapsing in light of the conflicting positions of the British, German, and French governments involved. A successful merge depends on a three-way understanding of each government's respective role in a combined company, however some sources are claiming that the tentative plan is not working for all parties. If these details cannot be worked out, it seems likely that merger talks will dissolve altogether.

Dubai International Airport phasing out business flights

Due to the quick expansion of Emirates Airline and its low-cost affiliate, Flydubai has announced its intention to phase business aviation operators out of Dubai International Airport. ExecuJet and Jet Aviation, the two fixed-base operators at Dubai International, will begin making arrangements to move their operations to Dubai World Central (DWC) Airport in 2013 as take-off and landing slots quickly become constrained. Furthermore, with Emirates and Flydubai adding a combined three new aircraft to their fleets each month, there are at least 12 fewer stands available for business jets each year. The move to DWC, located in Jebel Ali's industrial zone, is the subject of much debate as the new airport is much further from Dubai's commercial centre. In addition, although the airport has one functional runway, the site is still in the early stages of construction.

A piece of aviation history for 2 October

1918 - The Kettering Bug, pilotless airplane, being developed by Charles F. Kettering, makes its first successful unmanned flight test, albeit for only nine seconds.

Quote of the day

It is better to be hated for what you are than to be loved for what you are not. - Andre Gide (1869-1951)

A bit of light relief

A police officer in a small town stopped a motorist who was speeding down Main Street. "But officer," the man began, "I can explain." "Just be quiet," snarled the officer. "I'm going to let you cool your heels in jail until the chief gets back." "But, officer, I just wanted to say..." "I said keep quiet! You're going to jail!" A few hours later, the officer looked in on his prisoner and said, "Lucky for you that the chief's at his daughter's wedding. He'll be in a good mood when he gets back." "Don't count on it," answered the fellow in the cell. "I'm the groom."