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AFP

CHILDREN STAND IN LINE FOR WATER IN GAZA

■ Displaced Palestinians queue for water at a camp west of Deir Al Balah in the Gaza Strip yesterday, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas. The United Nations agency for Palestinian refugees said yesterday that it had suspended food distribution in the southern Gaza city of Rafah over supply issues and insecurity. **SEE ALSO P9**

1 dead, 71 hurt as Singapore flight from London hits turbulence

Plane forced to make an emergency landing in Bangkok

BANGKOK

One person died and 71 were injured yesterday when a Singapore Airlines flight from London hit severe turbulence and was forced to make an emergency landing in Bangkok.

Flight tracking data suggested the plane dropped more than 1,800 metres in just five minutes, causing multiple head injuries to those on board.

It is the latest incident involving a Boeing plane, after a fuselage panel blew out of an Alaska Airlines 737 MAX in January as well as two fa-

tal crashes in 2018 and 2019. Singapore Airlines said flight SQ321 took off from London's Heathrow airport and "encountered sudden extreme turbulence" at 11,300 metres (37,000 feet) over Myanmar's Irrawaddy Basin.

"We can confirm that there are injuries and one fatality on board the Boeing 777-300ER. There were a total of 211 passengers and 18 crew on board," the airline said in

1,800

metres the plane dropped causing multiple injuries to those on board

a statement. Kittipong Kittikachorn, the director of Suvarnabhumi Airport, said the passenger who died was a 73-year-old British man.

Blows to the head

Most of the injuries were caused by blows to the head, Kittipong said.

Bangkok's Samitivej Srinakarin Hospital said a total of 71 people had been sent for treatment, six of them severely injured.

"We deeply apologise for the traumatic experience that our passengers and crew members suffered on this flight. We are providing all necessary assistance during this difficult time," Singapore Airlines said.

—AFP

SEE ALSO P11

Styrofoam ban in Abu Dhabi from June 1

SINGLE-USE PRODUCTS SUCH AS CUPS, PLATES, FOOD BOXES TO BE PROHIBITED

ABU DHABI

BY ALI AL HAMMADI
Reporter

The familiar white disposal cups and plates will be a thing of the past come June 1, when a ban on single-use Styrofoam products comes into force in Abu Dhabi.

The move is part of a wider policy to phase out single-use plastic bags and products.

To start with, the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD) is targeting "avoidable" single-use consumer products made of Styrofoam from June 1. These include cups, lids, plates and beverage containers (including their caps and lids) made of expanded polystyrene.

Alternatives

An alternative to Styrofoam cups and plates are those made from paper.

Dr Shaikha Salem Al Dhaheri, Secretary General of Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi, said: "We are striving to make life easy for consumers while maintaining the balance of conserving the environment at the same time, therefore, for the ban we

WHAT IS STYROFOAM?

Styrofoam is a type of polystyrene foam, a manmade material that is moulded into shape and used mainly as disposable items to serve or store food and drinks.

Styrofoam is popular because it is cheap, readily available, lightweight and keeps cold things cold and hot things hot.

have only selected items that are avoidable single-use plastics and have clear and sustainable alternatives. We will also provide support to government and private sector entities to facilitate the shift towards reusable solutions."

Some items will continue to be available, and these are mostly used by shops, not consumers, such as big storage boxes and coolers and trays used for meat, fruit, ready-made dairy products and other food items for retail sale.

Also, products made for medical uses are also exempted from the ban.

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