

Hamilton back on top in Silverstone practice

Hamilton leads Mercedes 1-2 ahead of Ricciardo as Vettel suffers engine failure | P 08

Rajapaksa brothers win big in Sri Lanka's poll

THE DAILY **tribune**



Reese Witherspoon shares sad 2020 meme, goes viral on social media

Trump preps bans on WeChat, TikTok

Oil ministers reaffirm commitment to OPEC+ deal

TDT | Manama

Oil ministers of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Oman and Iraq yesterday reaffirmed their full commitment to the OPEC+ agreement.

The minister, during a teleconference call, emphasised the importance of all OPEC+ countries in meeting their production targets to accelerate the rebalancing of the oil market.

The minister also called countries who overproduced in May, June and July to compensate those volumes.

The meeting thanked Ihsan Abdul Jabbar Ismail, Oil Minister of Iraq for his great efforts to achieve the balancing of the oil market.

The ministers reviewed the recent developments in oil markets, the continued recovery in the global economy and oil demand and the progress made in rebalancing the oil market.

Oil Minister Shaikh Mohammed bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Prince Abdulaziz Bin Salman Al Saud, Energy Minister of Saudi Arabia, Suhail Mohammed Al Mazrouei, Energy Minister of the UAE, Khaled Ali Al Fadhel, Oil Minister of Kuwait, Mohammed bin Hamad Al Rumhy, Energy Minister of Oman and Oil Minister of Iraq took part.

"The ministers stressed, again, that full commitment to the OPEC+ agreement and the compensation mechanism will accelerate the recovery of the global oil market."

Dubai-Kozhikode Air India flight skids of runway, splits into two

Eighteen dead, including pilot; over 100 passengers injured

TDT | Kerala

A pilot and 17 passengers were killed, and over 100 passengers were injured when an AirIndia express flight carrying 191 passengers from Dubai skidded off the runway, plunging nose down into a gorge, splitting into two, while landing at Calicut International Airport, Kerala, amidst heavy rain.

There were 174 passengers, 10 infants, two pilots and five cabin crew members on board the Air India express IX 1344 operating as part of Indian government's Vande Bharat evacuation mission.

A critically injured co-pilot and other passengers, who were injured, were rushed to nearby hospitals. The Kerala state police chief said at least 17 people had been killed, with at least four passengers stuck in the wreckage.



Air India flight from Dubai skids off runway at India's Kozhikode airport in Kerala. (picture courtesy of Tol)

Early images from the site showed the aircraft's fuselage broken into two pieces with the entire area littered with debris.

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) said the accident occurred at around 7:40 pm. No fire reported at the

time of landing. The incident happened at Kozhikode international airport, also known as Karipur Airport, in the state of Kerala.

Initial reports said the plane skidded off the runway and fell down the valley at least 35 feet below. (continues on page 2)

191 passengers and crew were onboard the Boeing-737 plane flying from Dubai

18 passengers including a pilot died in the crash, initial reports said

Beirut blast, an attack?

Lebanon investigating the possibility of rocket, bomb or other act in Beirut blast

Toll rises to 154

Rescue efforts continue

Teargas fired at crowd

Reuters | Beirut

Lebanon's president said yesterday an investigation into the biggest blast in Beirut's history would examine whether it was caused by a bomb or other external interference. "The cause has not been determined yet. There is a possibility of external interference through a rocket or bomb or other act," President Michel Aoun said in comments carried by local media and confirmed by his office.

He said it would also consider whether the explosion was due to negligence or an accident.

The United States has previously said it has not ruled out an attack. Israel, which has fought several wars with Lebanon, has also previously denied it had any role. Latest reports say the massive blast took the lives of at least 150 people and injured nearly 5,000, heaping misery on the country already in crisis.



A view of the damaged grain silo following Tuesday's blast in Beirut's port area.



Bahrain delegates deliver the first batch of humanitarian aid to Lebanon in the presence of Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Waleed Al Manea, and Bahrain's Charge d'Affaires in Syria, Ali Khaled Al Mahmoud

The death toll is expected to rise as search-and-rescue operations continue for missing people. Lebanese Red Cross Secretary General George Kettaneh told local radio VDL that three more bodies had been found in the search, while the health minister said on Friday the death toll had climbed to 154. Dozens are still unaccounted for.

The blast wipe-out a large grain silo, destroyed neighbourhoods and left several city blocks littered with glass and rubble.

Lebanese community thanks HM King

Manama

The Lebanese community in Bahrain thanked His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for the humanitarian and relief aid to the Lebanese people in Beirut.

The medical aid sent to Lebanon amidst the exceptional circumstances "reflects the most sublime humanitarian essence and deep-rooted relations between the two brotherly countries," Lebanese community members wrote in a statement yesterday. They wished HM the King a long life, describing him as a model of humanitarian support during crises.



HM the King

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On a mission: Bahrain begins Beirut relief efforts



Workers loading aircraft with emergency medical supplies for Beirut

TDT | Manama

A team of Bahraini experts went to Beirut yesterday with ample supplies of emergency medicines, first aid materials and respiratory ventilators, to expedite Kingdom's relief operations and support victims of the devastating blast.

Dr Mustafa Al-Sayyed, the Royal Humanitarian Foundation (RHF) Secretary-General, who is with the relief team, told BNA before departure yesterday morning that they are looking forward to delivering the aid to pain-stricken people as soon as possible.

Later yesterday, Dr Al-Sayyed said, the team of Bahraini youths visited the blast-hit areas, to assess their needs, and deliver the relief materials.

Lebanon's Health Minister Hamad Hassan thanked Bahrain for its noble stance and praised the directives of HM the King to provide aid to Lebanon to help it face the painful disaster.

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DR MUSTAFA AL-SAYYED
 ROYAL HUMANITARIAN FOUNDATION (RHF) SECRETARY-GENERAL

BAHRAIN COVID-19

TOTAL CASES
43,307

ACTIVE CASES
2,872

DEATHS
159

DISCHARGED
40,276

NEW CASES
418

CRITICAL
40

210 fils (includes VAT)



\$15 bn

Officials have estimated losses at USD 10 billion to USD 15 billion, which exceeds 150 per cent of Lebanon's economic output