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**Dubai mum's
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Brendon Hansford, founder of
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Sunday to Wednesday : 10am - 10pm
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الأحد - الأربعاء : 10 صباحاً - 10 مساءً
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Virendra Saklani/Gulf News

THOUSANDS THROG SHARJAH BOOK FAIR

People from all walks of life and age groups visit the ongoing Sharjah International Book Fair yesterday at Sharjah Expo Centre. The 43rd edition of the annual book fair, featuring 2,520 publishers from 112 countries, runs until November 17. This year's highlights include the participation of 400 authors who will sign their books and engage with readers, creating an interactive space where literature comes to life. **SEE ALSO P4**

Israel opens new Gaza aid crossing, but situation in north 'catastrophic'

Move comes on eve of US-imposed deadline to improve conditions for Palestinians

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N. R.

Senior Associate Editor

Israel's military announced the opening of a new aid crossing into Gaza yesterday, but the UN has sounded alarm over the deepening crisis.

Despite the efforts to increase aid, the UN warned that deliveries have already reached critically low levels, with the situation in northern Gaza described as "catastrophic."

Israel military confirmed that the Kissufim crossing had

been opened to deliver essential supplies — food, water, medical aid, and shelter materials — to central and southern Gaza.

However, the scale of the aid is still far from adequate. Last month, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin issued a stark warning to Israel: improve aid delivery to Gaza by November 13 or face a potential cut in military support from the United States.

Speaking from Gaza in

An average of just 37 trucks per day entered Gaza throughout October, a trickle for a population of 2.2 million.

a video briefing, UNRWA emergencies officer Louise Wateridge revealed the grim numbers: an average of just 37 trucks per day entered Gaza throughout October, a trickle for a population of 2.2 million.

"Children are dying every day," Wateridge said, emphasising the urgent need for food, water, medicine, and shelter. "People here need everything."

Wateridge said that testimonies from the north painted "an endlessly horrific" picture that was becoming "more critical" by the hour.

In Lebanon, health ministry said five people were killed yesterday in an Israeli strike on Tefahta village while rocket fire from Lebanon killed two men in the northern Israeli town of Nahariya.

SEE ALSO P10

Work starts on Dubai's first flying taxi port

INITIAL PHASE TO COVER DOWNTOWN, DUBAI MARINA AND PALM JUMEIRAH

DUBAI

BY FAISAL MASUDI

Assistant Editor

Another milestone was crossed yesterday in Dubai's path towards becoming a global leader in futuristic urban mobility, with the start of construction on the first port for air taxis in the city.

During an event marking the occasion, Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, revealed that the aerial taxi vertiport (vertical port) is being built near Dubai International Airport (DXB).

Maiden flight

The maiden flight of the flying cabs will take off from DXB Vertiport in the first quarter of 2026 — making Dubai the world's first city to offer aerial taxis that use a take-off and landing infrastructure network.

"Dubai continues to shape the future of global mobility with its steadfast commitment to innovation, safety, and sustainability," Shaikh Hamdan said.

With air taxis starting service — with a capacity for four passengers plus a pilot per taxi — distances will seemingly shrink, commutes will speed up

An air taxi ride from Dubai International Airport to Palm Jumeirah, for example, will take only around 12 minutes — compared to 45 minutes by road.

and traffic will ease. The initial phase will feature stations in Downtown, Dubai Marina and Palm Jumeirah. An air taxi ride from Dubai International Airport to Palm Jumeirah, for example, will take only around 12 minutes — compared to 45 minutes by road.

There will be dividends for the environment also — the aerial taxis will be all electric, meaning zero carbon emissions and clearer, cleaner skies.

Vertical take offs and landings will mimic how helicopters fly, but Dubai's air taxis will be much quieter, thanks to using six rotors and four battery packs, enabling a flight range of up to 161km at a maximum speed of 321km/h.

SEE ALSO P2



Travel around Dubai in minutes: How air taxis will speed up your daily commute

NATION

Dh2 billion police projects launched to enhance Dubai's security | P2

WORLD

Trump likely to appoint Marco Rubio as Secretary of State | P11

ENTERTAINMENT

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BUSINESS

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SPORT

**Lawrence
seeking to
chase down
'idol' McIlroy
in Dubai | P12**

