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**Dh152 million  
bonus for  
staff of Dubai  
Government**

**DUBAI**

BY KHITAM AL AMIR  
Chief News Editor

The Dubai Government yesterday approved a bonus of Dh152 million for its civilian employees.

The performance-based bonuses will be granted to eligible employees based on the criteria set by the Dubai Government Human Resources (DGHR). Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of the Executive Council of Dubai, who approved the bonuses, underscored the Dubai Government's continuous dedication to fostering an environment that nurtures creativity and commitment among employees. Such efforts contribute to enhancing Dubai's position as the world's best city to work and live in, he noted.

"We take immense pride in the exceptional performance of Dubai Government employees, and we commend the dedication of our workforce in consistently striving for excellence to provide the best services to Dubai's residents. We hope that this reward serves as an additional motivation for every member of the government workforce," he said.

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# Gaza war rages on Christmas Eve as Biden urges caution

80% OF GAZANS DISPLACED AS PALESTINIAN DEATH TOLL TOUCHES 20,424

**GAZA STRIP**

Israel pushed yesterday with its military campaign to destroy Hamas over the October 7 attacks, as the focus of the deadly combat shifted to southern Gaza where most displaced Palestinians are trapped.

US President Joe Biden stressed the "critical need" to protect civilians, in a call with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who vowed Israel would "continue the war until all of its goals have been achieved", officials said.

As heavy fighting raged on, the Israeli army said it had struck another 200 targets in the past 24 hours in the besieged Palestinian territory.

A Gaza health ministry spokesman said yesterday 166 Palestinians had been killed in the same period, taking the total Palestinian death toll to 20,424.

**No water, food, fuel**

Vast areas of Gaza lie in ruins and its 2.4 million people have endured dire shortages of water, food, fuel and medicine due to an Israeli siege, alleviated only by the limited arrival of aid trucks.

Eighty per cent of Gazans have been displaced, according to the UN, many now shielding against the winter cold in makeshift tents and forced into the south



Reuters

■ Scouts hold a sign in solidarity with Palestinians in Gaza in Bethlehem yesterday. The traditional giant Christmas tree and marching bands were absent in the city celebrated as Jesus' birthplace.

of Gaza even as ground fighting comes closer.

The Israeli army said 153 troops had died in Gaza since it launched its ground invasion on October 27. Ten soldiers were lost in battles on Saturday, one of

the deadliest days for the Israeli side. The army said soldiers had raided a northern Gaza compound near schools, a mosque and a clinic and found "explosive belts adapted for children, dozens of mortar shells, hun-

dreds of grenades and intelligence documents".

Hamas rejected those claims as lies meant "to justify their massacring of innocent civilians".

—Agencies

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