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■ Shaikh Hamdan Bin Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum leads thousands of runners through Shaikh Zayed Road and Downtown Dubai during the Dubai Run yesterday.

Record turnout sees residents ramp up the fun in fitness run

Hamdan hails Dubai Run as a 'testament' to the power of community

DUBAI

BY ASHWANI KUMAR Chief Reporter

hammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, led 278,000 community members in an awe-inspiring and record-breaking edition of the Dubai Run yesterday.

This landmark event, a cornerstone of the Dubai Fitness Challenge, saw an impressive 23 per cent surge in participation, making it the world's largest fun run.

Shaikh Hamdan hailed the event as a "testament" to the power of community and the determination of the people of Dubai to lead healthier and more active lives.

Thousands of individuals from diverse nationalities, backgrounds, and abilities transformed Shaikh Zayed

278,000 community members took part in the Dubai Run

Road and Downtown Dubai into giant running tracks of green.

members Community highlighted that the event inspired them to embrace a culture of health and well-being. "Being able to join and experience this event is a great motivation to continue healthy habits," said Michelle Ducusin, a participant.

Nabeel Chakkantakath, a resident and fitness freak, pointed out the city's commitment to fostering wellness.

"It's one of the best fitness challenges, where people from all nationalities participate, showcasing that the UAE and Dubai are globally competitive in promoting a fun and healthier lifestyle.

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New gates expected

to ease traffic in several key areas

DUBAI

BY SHARMILA DHAL **UAE** Editor

otorists must pay Salik at two more locations in Dubai, starting yesterday.

Salik Company had announced the November 24 activation of the toll gates at Business Bay Crossing and Al Safa South on Shaikh Zayed Road earlier, following the completion of Al Khail Road Development Project by the Roads and

The two new toll gates have taken the total number of toll

As commuters plying on the routes confirmed being charged the toll, they said they needed to factor the additional amount. An Indian expat who

More public transport use

RTA has said that the introduction of more toll gates is aimed at encouraging greater public transport use, thus reducing the number of private vehicles on the roads and improving traffic flow.

Existing toll gates are said to have reduced total travel time in Dubai by six million hours annually, decreasing traffic on Al Maktoum and Al Garhoud Bridges by 26 per cent, reducing travel time on Shaikh Zayed and Al Ittihad Roads by 24 per cent, and increasing public transport ridership by around nine million passengers per year. The location of the two new gates is also expected to divert traffic to alternative routes, easing traffic in several key

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BUSINESS

Fourth edition of India Global Forum ME&A 2024 to kick off in Dubai 1 P7

NATION

Dubai mums connect at the second Gulf **News Mama &** Me Event | P5



BUSINESS

HSBC bankers fight for new roles as major overhaul gets under way | P8

World reaches \$300b climate finance deal

INDIA'S DELEGATE AT COP29 CONDEMNS PLEDGE AS AN 'OPTICAL ILLUSION

BY STEPHEN N. R. Senior Associate Editor

fter tense and at times contentious negotiations, nearly 200 countries reached an agreement to triple the financial resources available to help developing nations combat the devastating effects of cli-

mate change. However, the \$300 billion annual pledge from wealthier nations - those historically responsible for the majority of global emissions - was met with sharp criticism, particularly from countries already bearing the brunt of extreme weather events.

'Paltry sum'

India's delegate, Chandni Raina, called the deal "a paltry sum," condemning it as little more than an "optical illusion" that fails to address the magnitude of the crisis. Even supporters of the agreement, reached at the close of the two-week COP29 summit in Azerbaijan, acknowledge that while it represents a step forward, it falls short of what is needed.

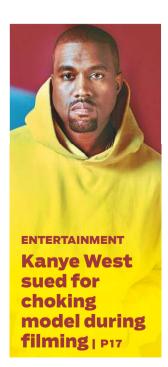
The pledge for at least \$300

billion annually by 2035, to be sourced from a combination of public funds and private financing, is far below what many climate advocates believe is necessary to help vulnerable countries cope with the escalating climate crisis. In addition to the \$300 billion target, the agreement sets an aspirational goal of mobilising \$1.3 trillion annually, with the lion's share expected to come from private financing.

"It was hard fought," said Avinash Persaud, climate adviser to the President of the Inter-American Development Bank.

Under a compromise to get a deal over the line, rich nations eventually agreed to commit \$50 billion more than what a draft agreement on Friday called for. They had also made an agreement contingent on reaffirming last year's COP28 outcome in Dubai that included a vow to transition away from fossil fuels.

In addition to the \$300 billion target, the agreement sets an aspirational goal of mobilising \$1.3 trillion annually.



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2 more Salik toll gates activated in Dubai

Transport Authority (RTA).

gates in Dubai from eight to 10.

passed through the Business

Bay Crossing in the morning said, "I must have been one of the first motorists to have paid Salik (Dh4) under the new Business Bay gate. It's a route I must take every day to work."

SEE ALSO P2 areas.

