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### Three new bridges to ease traffic in Dubai

#### DUBAI

**BY FAISAL MASUDI** Assistant Editor

project to take off 19,400 vehicles per from busy surface roads and channel them on three breezy bridges in Dubai has almost reached the halfway mark.

Yesterday, the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) revealed that the first contract for Phase 4 of Al Shindagha Corridor Improvement Project is now 45 per cent complete.

This contract's scope extends 4.8km from the intersection of Shaikh Rashid Road with Shaikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Street to the Falcon Intersection on Al Mina Street. It involves the construction of three bridges.

The contract includes a 1,335-metre bridge, with a capacity of three lanes in each direction between Shaikh Rashid and the Falcon Intersection.

The second bridge extends 780m with a capacity of three lanes to serve traffic coming from the Falcon Intersection heading to Al Wasl Road.

The third is a two-lane bridge extending 985m to serve traffic coming from Jumeirah Street heading to Al Mina Street in the direction of the Falcon Intersection.

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# Battle rages across Gaza as death toll tops 35,000

DONORS PLEDGE OVER \$2 BILLION FOR PALESTINIANS AT KUWAIT CONFERENCE

RAFAH

srael struck Gaza yesterday and troops were battling militants in several areas of the Hamas-run territory, where the health ministry said the death toll in the war had exceeded 35,000 people.

More than seven months into the Israel-Hamas war, UN chief Antonio Guterres urged "an immediate humanitarian ceasefire, the unconditional release of all hostages and an immediate surge in humanitarian aid" into the besieged Gaza Strip.

"But a ceasefire will only be the start," Guterres told a donor conference in Kuwait. "It will be a long road back from the devastation and trauma of this war." The conference of international donors yesterday pledged over \$2 billion to aid the devastated Gaza Strip.

The conference, organised by the International Islamic Charitable Organisation (IICO) and the UN's humanitarian coordination agency OCHA, said the funds would be dispersed over two years, with the possibility of extension, in efforts to support lifesaving humanitarian interventions in the Palestinian territory.

As Egyptian, Qatari and US mediation efforts towards a truce appeared to stall, US President Joe Biden said on Saturday a ceasefire could be achieved "tomorrow" if Hamas released the hostages held in Gaza since the October 7 attack.

AFP correspondents, witnesses and medics said Israeli air strikes pounded parts of northern, central and southern Gaza during the night and into Sunday morning.

The Israeli military said its jets had hit "over 150 terror targets throughout the Gaza Strip" over the past day.

#### More deaths in Rafah

In Rafah, Gaza's southernmost city which sits on the border with Egypt, the Kuwaiti hospital said it had received the bodies of "18 martyrs" killed in Israeli strikes over the past 24 hours.

The health ministry in the territory said that at least 63 people had been killed over the last 24 hours, bringing the overall death toll from Israel's bombardment and offensive in Gaza to at least 35,034 people, mostly women and children.

On Saturday, the Israeli military expanded an evacuation order for eastern Rafah and said 300,000 Palestinians had left the area.

**SEE ALSO P8** 

The health ministry in Gaza said that at least 63 people had been killed over the last 24 hours.



A woman pushes an elderly man in a wheelchair as they arrive at the Daraj quarter of Gaza City yesterday amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas.

#### **NATION**

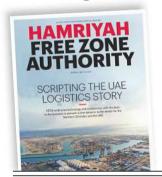
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