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# OLYMPICS FEVER RISES

With 15 days to go for the Paris Games to begin, sports fans await the greatest show on earth

30 32

cities have hosted the Olympics since 1896 with Paris hosting the showpiece for the third time along with London

different sports will be held during the 17-day event across 35 venues in Paris from July 26-August 11

10,500

athletes from 206 National Olympic Committees will compete for 329 medals, including 5,250 women, bringing parity among men and women competitors

100  
years ago, in 1924, Paris had hosted its previous Olympics



## Democratic donor George Clooney urges Joe Biden to end campaign

'I love Biden but the one battle he can't win is the fight against time'

NEW YORK

Actor George Clooney, one of the Democratic Party's leading fundraisers, yesterday made an emotional and heartfelt plea for President Joe Biden to end his faltering reelection campaign.

Clooney — a member of the Hollywood elite that provides key support to the Democrats — 0 joined a growing list of public figures calling for Biden, 81, to step aside after his terrible debate performance against Donald Trump last month.

"I love Joe Biden," Clooney wrote in the New York Times. "I consider him a friend, and I believe in him... But the one battle he cannot win is the fight against time."

**Lifelong Democrat**

A self-described "lifelong Democrat," Clooney co-hosted a star-studded fundraiser with Biden in Los Angeles only last month



featuring former president Barack Obama. The Biden campaign said that the event brought in a record \$28 million.

"It's devastating to say it, but the Joe Biden I was with three weeks ago at the fund-raiser was not the Joe Biden of 2010," Clooney wrote, referencing a famous hot-mic clip from Biden's vice-presidency.

"He wasn't even the Joe Biden of 2020. He was the same man we all witnessed at the debate," Clooney said — a direct challenge to Biden's claim that his poor debate showing was a one-off.

"The dam has broken" on Democratic lawmakers publicly calling for Biden to withdraw, Clooney said, asking more come forward. "Top Democrats — Chuck Schumer, Hakeem Jeffries, Nancy Pelosi — and senators, representatives and other candidates who face losing in November need to ask this president to voluntarily step aside."

—AFP

SEE ALSO P9

## Israel tells all in Gaza City to evacuate

WARNING COMES AS CEASEFIRE TALKS SET TO RESUME IN DOHA

DUBAI

BY STEPHEN N.R.

Senior Associate Editor

Israel yesterday urged all Palestinians in Gaza City to leave immediately, as a new phase of fighting intensified in what used to be the enclave's most populous area with about 800,000 people.

The Israeli army dropped thousands of leaflets in Arabic on the Gaza City, saying it "will remain a dangerous combat zone" and telling residents to move south to other parts of Gaza.

**Truce talks**

The warning and an upsurge in fighting, bombardment and displacement came as talks were to resume in Qatar towards a ceasefire and hostage release deal to end the war.

An Israeli delegation led by Mossad chief David Barnea arrived in Doha, AFP quoted a source as saying.

CIA director William Burns was also expected in the Qatari capital after holding talks in Cairo in Egypt.

Gaza City was the first place targeted by Israeli forces when

they began a ground offensive last year and this is the first time it ordered a total evacuation.

The city, in the north of the strip, was largely destroyed by Israeli air strikes and the subsequent ground incursion. Most residents fled south to places such as Rafah and tented camps, but some returned earlier this year.

In Tuesday's talks in Cairo, significant progress was made by Israeli, Egyptian and American officials, a US official was quoted as saying.

The US official said the talks had focused on issues regarding the implementation of the first phase of the potential hostage-ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas.

SEE ALSO P8

Gaza City was the first place targeted by Israeli forces when they began a ground offensive last year and this is the first time it ordered a total evacuation.

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WIMBLEDON

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NATION

**Man donates liver to save daughter after losing another | P2**



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