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AFP

STARMER ADDRESSES UK PARLIAMENT FOR FIRST TIME AS PM

■ Britain's new Prime Minister Keir Starmer addresses MPs as they meet for the first time since the general election at the House of Commons in London yesterday. Britain's new lawmakers excitedly squeezed into parliament with Labour sitting on the government's side of the chamber for the first time in 14 years following last week's landslide election win.

New Gaza truce talks begin today

US and Israeli teams
discuss ceasefire
ahead of Doha meet

CAIRO

CIA director William Burns and Israel's Mossad chief David Barnea are expected to arrive in Doha today and meet the Qatari prime minister as part of a new round of Gaza truce talks.

Egyptian President Abdul Fattah Al Sissi met Burns yesterday in Cairo, where US and Israeli delegations discussed efforts for a Gaza truce. The

two men "discussed the latest developments in joint efforts to reach a truce and ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip," where Israeli troops, backed by tanks and warplanes, stepped up their operations in Gaza City on Monday.

Starvation campaign

UN rights experts on Tuesday accused Israel of carrying out a "targeted starvation campaign" that has resulted in the deaths of children in Gaza.

"We declare that Israel's intentional and targeted starvation campaign against the Palestinian people is a form of

genocidal violence and has resulted in famine across all of Gaza," 10 independent United Nations experts said in a statement. The UN has not officially declared a famine in the Gaza Strip.

But the experts, including the UN special rapporteur on the right to food Michael Fakhri, insisted there was no denying famine was under way. "Thirty-four Palestinians have died from malnutrition since October 7, the majority being children," said the experts,

—AFP

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All eyes on Biden as Nato summit starts

US PRESIDENT FACES INTENSE SCRUTINY AS HE HOSTS LEADERS OF THE ALLIANCE

DUBAI

BY ALEX ABRAHAM

Senior Associate Editor

As the Nato summit began in Washington yesterday, all eyes were on US President Joe Biden who hoped to convince allies at home and abroad that he could still lead.

The summit, to reaffirm the alliance's strength in its 75th year, faces the prospect of being overshadowed by domestic issues — calls for Biden to withdraw from the race for a second term, French President Emmanuel Macron's power base weakened by recent elections, and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz struggling with his party's poor European Parliament results.

Allied unity

The summit's focus remains on Biden, who, at 81, is the oldest Nato leader. Initially hoping to emphasise his role in restoring allied unity post-Trump, Biden now faces intense scrutiny over his capacity to run for the White House again. He will host a late dinner and hold a press conference, providing opportunities for critics to assess his performance closely.

Earlier, Biden sought to quell Democratic infighting over his presidential campaign, reaffirming his determination to

stay in the race and challenging dissenters to end talk of his removal from the ballot. "I am firmly committed to staying in this race, to running this race to the end, and to beating Donald Trump," Biden wrote in a two-page letter to Democratic lawmakers, released by his campaign. Biden sent the letter, made an unscheduled call-in appearance on MSNBC, and spoke to donors on Monday as members of Congress returned to Washington for the first time since his debate performance sparked concerns about his ability to defeat Trump and serve another four years.

At the summit, Ukraine will be hoping for additional aid. Despite pledges to support Ukraine, plans for long-term aid have stalled, and President Volodymyr Zelensky's aspirations to join Nato remain distant.

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What happens when you don't move

Two landmark studies on twins, published 12 years apart, highlight the importance of physical activity. The first was a 'longitudinal' research conducted over a period of 30 years, while the second focussed on various markers, including fitness and heart function, body weight and fat accumulation, muscle and adipose tissue gene expressions, arteries to lower limbs and others. Both show several negative consequences that can occur due to inactivity.

—Jay Hilotin, Senior Assistant Editor



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