



Bahrain welcomes UN envoy support for Yemen deal

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain welcomes the statement issued by the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General of the United Nations to Yemen, Mr. Hans Grundberg, on the agreement to de-escalation in the Republic of Yemen regarding the banking sector and Yemeni Airlines.

In a statement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Bahrain's appreciation for the efforts of the UN, and its support for regional and international initiatives aimed at achieving peace and stability in Yemen and the region.

It also hopes that this agreement marks a pivotal step in terms of the commitment of all Yemeni parties to maintain stability and prioritize dialogue within the framework of the UN road map to reach a comprehensive and lasting political solution that meets the aspirations of the Yemeni people for security, stability and prosperity.

Gaza protesters are Iran's useful idiots: Netanyahu

AFP | Washington

Protesters opposed to the devastating war in Gaza are "Iran's useful idiots," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a speech to the US Congress yesterday, claiming that Tehran is funding the demonstrations.

"I have a message for these protesters: When the tyrants of Tehran who hang gays from cranes and murder women for not covering their hair are praising, promoting and funding you, you have officially become Iran's useful idiots," Netanyahu said.

Netanyahu called on the US to fast-track military aid to his country to help end the war in Gaza.

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Army personnel and other officials stand around the debris of the Saurya Airlines' plane after it crashed during takeoff at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. (AFP)

Tragic take-off

18 left dead in Nepal plane crash, pilot sole survivor

Nepal has some of the world's trickiest runways on which to land, flanked by snow-capped peaks with approaches that pose a challenge even for accomplished pilots. The weather can also change quickly in the mountains, creating treacherous flying conditions.

AFP | Kathmandu, Nepal

A passenger plane crashed on take-off in Kathmandu yesterday, with the pilot rescued from the wreckage but all 18 others aboard killed, police in the Nepali capital told AFP.

Nepal has a woeful track record on aviation safety and the Himalayan republic has seen a spate of deadly light plane and helicopter crashes over the decades.

The Saurya Airlines flight was carrying two crew and 17 of the company's staff members, Nepali police spokesman Dan Bahadur Karki said.

"The pilot has been rescued and

is being treated," he said. "Eighteen bodies have been recovered, including one foreigner. We are in the process of taking them for post-mortem."

The Civil Aviation Authority said the dead foreigner was a Yemeni citizen.

A news release from the airport said the aircraft "veered off to the right and crashed on the east side of the runway" shortly after take-off.

The survivor was in serious condition in hospital, it said.

Ram Kumar K.C., who runs a tyre store near the crash site, told AFP the plane caught fire after hitting the ground.

"We were about to run to the site but then there was an explosion so we ran away again," the 48-year-old said.

The flight was being conducted for either technical or maintenance purposes, Gyanendra Bhul of Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority told AFP, without giving further details.

Images of the aftermath shared by Nepal's military showed the plane's fuselage split apart and burnt to a husk.

Around a dozen soldiers in camouflage gear stood on top of the wreckage, the surrounding earth coated in fire retardant.

Dozens of grieving relatives

gathered later outside a nearby hospital where the bodies were transported from the crash scene.

Heartbroken

"I am heartbroken," Rajan Acharya, the brother of a safety officer aboard the flight, told AFP. "He was my brother, but even more than that, we were best friends."

The plane was scheduled to fly on Nepal's busiest air route between Kathmandu and Pokhara, an important tourism hub.

Saurya Airlines exclusively flies Bombardier CRJ 200 jets, according to its website.

Work site inspections

Labour Minister checks summer ban compliance

TDT | Manama

His Excellency Jameel Humaidan, Minister of Labour, toured several work sites yesterday to ensure private sector establishments are adhering to Ministerial Decision No. 3 of 2013.

This regulation, which bans outdoor work during midday in July and August, is designed to protect workers from the intense summer heat.

During his visit, the Minister engaged with site supervisors to review the steps taken to comply with the ban on work from 12noon to 4pm.

These measures are crucial for safeguarding employees' well-being during the hottest part of the day.

Site checks

The Minister noted that the ministry's inspection teams are actively conducting site checks.

Since the decision took effect, they have carried out 6,252 visits and found only five violations, a testament to the high level of compliance among businesses.

He commended companies for their sense of duty in shielding workers from harsh conditions.

Bahrain remains committed to



H.E. Jameel Humaidan with site supervisors

upholding human rights and ensuring a safe work environment, especially as soaring tempera-

tures and humidity pose significant risks to workers' health, safety, and productivity.

Protective measures

The Minister stressed the need to step up protective measures to reduce heat-related illnesses and injuries.

He also pointed out the importance of training workers in first aid and other occupational safety programmes.

The ministerial decision mandates strict penalties for non-compliance, as outlined in Article 192 of the Labour Law (Law No. 36 of 2012).

Violators face up to three months' imprisonment, fines ranging from BD500 to BD1,000, or both.

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Shaping tomorrow



13th edition of Youth City 2024 launched to empower Bahrain's future

The Youth City 2024 continues to inspire and equip Bahrain's youth with the skills and confidence needed to excel in their future careers, making a lasting impact on the Kingdom's development and prosperity.

Ashen Tharaka
TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain is buzzing with excitement as Youth City 2024 launches its 13th edition, infusing a unique and dynamic vibe into

the lives of young Bahrainis.

Kicking off on July 21st, this year's event offers a staggering 4,000 training opportunities through 148 diverse programs over six weeks.

During a visit to Youth City yesterday, The Daily Tribune team

engaged with volunteers and participants, uncovering the rich experiences and aspirations fueling this vibrant initiative.

The program boasts over 100 new professional training opportunities across five key centers, each designed to discover and empower Bahraini youth, ensuring they become the top choice in the labour market.

Creativity and learning

Youth City 2024 is organized into five main sections, each designed to cultivate a range of skills and talents among Bahrain's youth.

The Media Training and Entertainment Center focuses on sharpening the abilities of future journalists, broadcasters, and content creators.

Culture and Arts nurture artistic talents and cultural appreciation, fostering a rich environment for creativity. Technology and Science equip participants with cutting-edge tech skills, preparing them for the future.

The Game Zone promotes creativity and strategic thinking through engaging gaming activities.

Another standout feature of Youth City 2024 is the Youth Market, specifically designed to support local businesses and inspire young entrepreneurs.

Participants aged 15-35 can showcase their handmade products, turning their creative ideas into thriving businesses.

Entrepreneurs

Alaa Aleid, Supervisor at the Youth Market, shared her enthusiasm: "We are supporting our community and encouraging youth to be entrepreneurs. This year, we received 200 registrations but could only select sixty."

Youth City 2024 thrives under the esteemed patronage of His Highness Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, His Majesty's Representative for Humanitarian Affairs and



Training session in progress

Youth Affairs, and Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports.

The Ministry of Youth Affairs organized the event in collaboration with the Labour Fund (Tamkeen) as a strategic partner.

As Youth City 2024 progresses, it continues to inspire and equip Bahrain's youth with the skills and confidence needed to excel in their future careers, making a lasting impact on the Kingdom's development and prosperity.



Alaa Aleid

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No changes to Cost of Living Allowance criteria

TDT | Manama

There have been no changes to the criteria for receiving the Cost of Living Allowance in Bahrain, a senior official said.

The allowance continues to be disbursed to all eligible individuals according to the previously established and approved standards.

The official assured citizens that anyone with questions or concerns about their eligibility for the allowance can contact the relevant authorities for clarification.

All channels are open to receive citizens' inquiries and provide answers.

This clarification comes after some complaints on social media from citizens who claimed that the Cost of Living Allowance had been stopped for owners of small commercial registries with incomes below BD1,000. The criteria for receiving financial support for every Bahraini household resident with an income not exceeding BD1,000 remains unchanged. The conditions for receiving

the allowance include being a Bahraini citizen, residing permanently in Bahrain, and belonging to one of the following categories: a married couple with or without children, social security beneficiaries, senior citizens of both genders with or without children, regardless of marital status (male: divorced, widowed, married, single, female: divorced, widowed, single), divorced individuals with custody of their children, or widowed individuals with children.

No Mercy for Drug Dealers

Two Asian men sentenced to 15 years in prison for drug trafficking in Bahrain

TDI | Manama

The High Criminal Court has sentenced two Asian men to 15 years in prison and a fine of BD5,000 each.

The men were found guilty of possessing and attempting to smuggle heroin into the Kingdom.

The incident occurred on April 20th, 2024, when the first defendant, a young Asian man, arrived at Bahrain International Airport from an Asian country.

He was carrying a single backpack and aroused suspicion among airport security personnel.

Upon inspection, a significant amount of heroin was discovered hidden within the backpack, concealed in plastic bags sealed with tape and placed under the foam padding.

The defendant admitted to receiving the drugs from an individual in his home country and was tasked with delivering them to another individual in Bahrain.

Meanwhile, the second defendant, who was waiting for the first defendant in the arrival hall, was also apprehended.

His suspicious behaviour,



Representative Image

including filming passengers and staring intently at the first defendant, raised red flags.

Drug transaction

He confessed to being present to receive his brother, but a check of his phone revealed communication with the first defendant regarding the drug

transaction.

Investigations revealed that both defendants were part of a larger drug trafficking network operating in Bahrain.

The first defendant received the drugs in exchange for a substantial sum of money, indicating his role as a courier.

24-year-old cleaning worker held for trafficking

TDI | Manama

A 24-year-old cleaning worker has been arrested in Bahrain for allegedly importing and trafficking drugs from the US.

The suspect is accused of importing marijuana and hashish, as well as possessing and selling crystal meth. According to the Public Prosecution, the suspect was nabbed after a customs officer became suspicious of a

package arriving from the US.

The package contained herbal substances, which were later confirmed to be marijuana.

The suspect arrived to collect the package and presented a receipt, at which point he was detained and handed over to the Anti-Narcotics Directorate. Upon questioning, the suspect confessed to using and selling drugs.

A search of his residence uncovered two pieces of

dark-colored substance, later identified as hashish weighing 938.8 grams, 14 rolls of hashish wrapped in adhesive tape weighing 64.53 grams, a transparent nylon bag containing a white crystalline substance identified as crystal meth weighing 7745 grams, two sensitive electronic scales, a collection of new transparent nylon bags, wrapping paper, two adhesive tapes, and 22 nylon bags containing traces of hashish.

Asian designer arrested for 'shabu'

TDI | Manama

A 40-year-old Asian designer was arrested in Bahrain for allegedly trafficking and possessing crystal meth, commonly known as "shabu".

The suspect, who was apprehended at his residence, was



found with three bags containing a crystalline substance believed to be shabu.

A further search of his home uncovered a transparent bag containing 30 grams of the drug, 20 bags containing 53.8 grams of the drug, five

electronic scales, two adhesive tapes, wrapping paper, two glass

cups, and new bags used for packaging drugs. These items were found near the suspect's mattress.

The investigation revealed that the designer had been selling shabu through a "dead drop" system, where he would deliver the drugs to specific locations and inform the buyer of the location. He was also found to be communicating with other individuals through WhatsApp, discussing drug transactions and sharing photos and videos of drugs.

Industry Ministry launches Consumer Friend Initiative

TDI | Manama

The Ministry of Industry and Commerce announced the launch of the Consumer Friend Initiative for the second year in a row in coordination and cooperation with food and commodity retailers around the kingdom, starting July to November 2024.

H.E. Shaikh Hamad bin Salman Al Khalifa, Assistant Undersecretary for Domestic and Foreign Trade at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, stressed that the Consumer Friend initiative aims to enhance social responsibility, by ensuring affordability of commodities and food products provided by the commercial sector to consumers, citizens and residents in Bahrain.

Assistant Undersecretary for Domestic and Foreign Trade said that the Consumer Protection Directorate at the ministry



H.E. Shaikh Hamad bin Salman Al Khalifa

launched this initiative with the participation of major markets to offer the lowest prices for food commodities and products.

He added that the names of the commercial establishments participating in the Consumer Friend initiative would be published on the official websites of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, with lists of commodities and food products to ease accessibility for

consumers to review goods and prices and compare between different shops. Shaikh Hamad bin Salman also called on all commercial establishments concerned with the sale of food commodities and products spread around the Kingdom to participate in the initiative of the Consumer Protection Directorate, in a step to enhance the principle of consumer protection and encourage competition to ensure consumer confidence in commercial establishments and achieve sustainability in the growth of business.

The Initiative, in its first edition, was launched from June to November last year, and achieved positive results, as the number of participants reached 49 commercial establishments, while the number of beneficiaries exceeded 300,000, with a total savings return of BD250,000 for consumers.

How to handle lost or stolen Bahrain passports abroad

TDI | Manama

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued a statement providing guidance to Bahraini citizens who have lost or had their passports stolen while traveling abroad.

The Ministry emphasised the importance of obtaining a travel permit to return to Bahrain in such situations.

The statement outlines two methods for obtaining a travel permit: Citizens can approach the nearest Bahraini embassy or consulate in their current location and follow the established

procedures and provide necessary documentation to obtain a travel permit.

Alternatively, citizens can access the National Portal of Bahrain (bigabahrain.bh) to submit their request online.

The portal provides a comprehensive guide and detailed information on the required documents and procedures.

The Ministry assured citizens that it is committed to assisting them in returning to Bahrain safely and efficiently. By following the

outlined procedures, citizens can ensure a smooth process for obtaining a travel permit and returning home.



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Gaming sector booms

Bahrain stands out as second fastest-growing market in GCC, just behind Saudi Arabia

● **Renewable energy new, emerging key investment industry**

Mohammed Darwish

TDI | Manama

A recent report has spotlighted video games as one of six sectors ripe for investment in Bahrain, underscoring the local enthusiasm for gaming, especially on mobile platforms.

The report, "Situating Bahrain in a Future World: Opportunities for Foreign Investment," by Arthur D. Little, reveals that Bahrain's video game sector is the second fastest-growing in the Gulf, just behind Saudi Arabia.

The report paints a vivid picture of the video game industry's surge across the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and suggests Bahrain could ramp up its acquisitions in this arena.

Bahrain has already made waves by attracting significant investments in cloud services from major players like AWS and, more recently, Tencent.

Computing services

While cloud computing services flourish in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, Bahrain is also making strides in this field.

Cloud gaming, a niche within cloud computing, leverages the widespread love for mobile games.

The GCC's video game sector is booming, with Bahrain standing out as the second fastest-growing market in the region after Saudi Arabia.

The report also notes a cultural shift in the Middle East



and North Africa (MENA) region, where gaming start-ups are proliferating, and game development is gaining respect as a profession.

Bahrain could potentially tap into this momentum by investing in game software development, studios, and gaming hardware.

Renewable energy

Renewable energy also emerges as a sector with significant promise.

Investment in renewable energy in the MENA region has surged over the past decade, reflecting a concerted effort across GCC economies to meet their energy efficiency targets.

The report includes a chart detailing the installed and planned solar power capacity in the region up to 2035.

With abundant solar radiation and coastal sites ideal for wind power, the MENA region is well-positioned to expand its renewable energy capacities.

Considerable interest

The investment outlook is positive, with the UAE and Saudi Arabia already attracting considerable interest in this sector.

Bahrain could explore joint renewable energy projects with Saudi Arabia, such as solar installations along the King Fahd Causeway, and position itself as a leader in managing decentralized energy grids.

Bahrain continues to be a major player in the financial services sector, with assets totaling over \$210 billion.

This sector is the largest non-oil contributor to Bahrain's GDP, making up around 18% in 2020.

Greater transparency

Although financial services are well-established in the UAE and Saudi Arabia, there is a need for greater transparency in commercial finance across the GCC.

Bahrain could address this by creating a company to provide ratings for commercial finance transactions, with the potential



to expand these ratings globally. Leveraging blockchain technology could further enhance this platform.

Bahrain's potential as a hub for real estate services in the GCC region is also highlighted, offering expertise in property management, digitization, valuation, transaction advisory, project management, and public financing services.

Regulatory environment

Its favorable regulatory environment and extensive experience in the real estate sector, through organizations like the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA) and the Survey and Land Registration Bureau, position it well for this role.

Manufacturing remains crucial for all GCC economies, with Saudi Arabia and the UAE investing heavily in the industrial sector. Bahrain's strategy should focus on building upon its existing industrial base, particularly in aluminum.

As one of the world's leading aluminum smelters and the largest in the GCC, Bahrain is well-placed to expand its industrial capabilities.

CSB plans to roll out 15 new training courses for HR staff

TDI | Manama

The Civil Service Bureau (CSB) has embarked on a plan to offer 15 training courses for human resources employees within the government sector, which will continue until the year's end.

This initiative aims to deepen understanding of the laws and regulations governing the civil service, reflecting the bureau's ongoing effort to improve governmental operations and raise performance standards.

It also seeks to increase awareness among human resources staff across all government entities.

Shaikha Rana A. Rahman Mohamed Al Khalifa, Director General of Human Resources Development & Performance Management, announced that the bureau has introduced a new system for training government employees, based on specific guidelines.

A key aspect of this system is the formation of a training committee within each governmental body, composed of experts in human resources planning and development.

Equal training and study

This committee is responsible for ensuring equal training and study opportunities for all employees, identifying training needs based on career development paths, performance evaluation reports, and the allocated annual budget, in line with the state's overall policy.

Shaikha Rana also emphasized the importance of con-



It is important to continually involve government sector employees in appropriate and ongoing training courses to improve their chances of professional growth and advancement, in line with civil service systems and available resources

SHAIKHA RANA A. RAHMAN MOHAMED AL KHALIFA, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT & PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

tinually involving government sector employees in appropriate and ongoing training courses to improve their chances of professional growth and advancement, in line with civil service systems and available resources.

This initiative aims to enhance the quality of governmental work, ensuring that civil service employees deliver high-quality services with the utmost efficiency, ultimately benefiting the public and serving the common good.

KHK bodybuilding event opens doors for free

TDI | Manama

Entry to the KHK Bodybuilding Championship will be free.

This was announced by Sami Al Haddad, President of the Bahrain Bodybuilding and Fitness Federation and Chairman of the Organising Committee for the Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa Open Bodybuilding Championship.

Al Haddad explained that the Federation and the organising committee chose to waive the entrance fee to maximise the event's success and draw a large crowd, offering everyone the chance to enjoy the competitions live. A family area has also been arranged.

Discussing the final preparations, Al Haddad noted that the

organising committees are diligently completing their tasks as the event approaches.

Preliminary indications reveal a significant number of athletes from both Bahrain and abroad are gearing up to participate, recognising the championship's importance and prestige.

The committees have been tasked with ensuring all aspects of the event are thoroughly prepared. This year, new features include stage screens and an enhanced lighting system, with students from the College of Physical Education contributing to the organisation.

Al Haddad hailed the support and patronage of His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa.

Potential candidates set to be assessed upon submission

TDI | Manama

Low turnout was noted on the fourth day of the voter list display for the by-elections in the First District of Muharraq, following the removal of former MP Mohammed Al-Hussaini.

Dr. Ali Al Shuwaikh, head of the supervisory committee for the elections in the First District of Muharraq Governorate, based at Al-Busaiteen Intermediate Girls' School, addressed rumors regarding the disquali-



The Supervisory Centre receives voters for the by-elections

fication of two candidates.

He confirmed to The Daily Tribune yesterday that the nomination period would commence on 10 August, adding that only local residents are eligible to run. Potential candidates will be assessed once they submit their information.

The Supervisory Centre will continue to receive voters until Saturday, 27 July, allowing them to verify their names on the voter rolls and submit appeals and correction requests.

Bahrain Chapter of ICAI organises blood donation campaign

TDI | Manama

As the saying goes, "Donate Blood, Donate Life".

The Bahrain Chapter of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India organised a blood donation campaign on Friday, July 19, 2024, at the King Hamad University Hospital for its members and families.

The campaign was well-received among the members and their families, which saw more than 40 of them donating blood and helping save someone's life.

The Bahrain Chapter of ICAI thanked all its members and their families, the members of Maharashtra Sanskritik Mandal, and the staff at King Hamad University Hospital for contributing to a noble cause.

The Bahrain Chapter of ICAI is the largest body of professionals in the Kingdom of Bahrain, with over 450 members. It provides a forum for the members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) to develop professionally and personally and undertakes various initiatives to serve society.



Participants at the event

Takaful International launches revamped website

TDT | Manama

Takaful International Company announced the launch of its cutting-edge website, designed to redefine the customer insurance journey. The new platform offers a seamless and intuitive experience, empowering customers to manage their policies, access essential services, and get instant support with



Abdulaziz Al-Othman

unprecedented ease.

The redesigned website boasts a user-friendly interface, allowing customers to easily navigate and access a comprehensive suite of services.

Key features include simplified policy management with login-free vehicle insurance renewal, policy overviews through the 'My Takaful' portal, and instant quotes for various insur-

ance products.

Customers can also benefit from expanded digital services such as online agency vehicle insurance, instant travel insurance purchase, real-time claim status updates, and efficient policy management.

Additionally, the streamlined payment process through Takaful Pay facilitates seamless transactions for various serv-

ices, while enhanced customer support ensures timely assistance through direct access to Takaful International's assistance services and emergency contacts.

On this occasion, Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Othman the Deputy Chief Executive Officer at Takaful International Co., commented, "By offering a comprehensive suite of online services,

we are confident in our ability to enhance customer satisfaction and foster long-term relationships."

Mr. Al-Othman added, "We have invested in the latest technologies to understand and meet our customers' evolving needs, providing an easy-to-use, efficient, and comprehensive platform to simplify their insurance experience."

ila Bank introduces bespoke 'International Spend' campaign

Monthly cash prizes total BHD 60,000, to award 60 customers

TDT | Manama

ila Bank, the fastest growing digital mobile-only bank in Bahrain powered by Bank ABC, announces the launch of the 'International Spend' campaign. The campaign will award sixty ila Credit Card (including Supplementary Cards) and Prepaid Card customers each BHD1,000 during the months of May - December 2024, delivering a total prize pool of BHD 60,000.

To enter the monthly draw, customers have to spend the equivalent of BHD 200 or more in foreign currencies using their ila Credit or Prepaid cards during the month. Each BHD 50 spent will count as one chance in the draw. All foreign currency transactions at points of sale, international ATM withdrawals, and e-commerce transac-



tions posted in the cardholder account three days before the monthly draw date will be eligible for the draw.

Commenting on this bespoke campaign, Abdulla Abuidrees, Head of Marketing & Acquisition at ila Bank, said, "The International Spend campaign is part of our exciting bouquet of summer campaigns this year and reflects our commitment to continually listen to and un-

derstand the requirements of our customers ever-evolving lifestyles. These campaigns have been designed with the aim of rewarding our customers for putting their valuable trust in ila Bank. We encourage our customers to use their Credit and Prepaid cards as much as possible to increase their chances of winning multiple cash prizes and rewards throughout the year."

Winners for the monthly lucky draws will be selected in the presence of a representative from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, ila Bank's executives, external and internal auditors. All fees and charges including but not limited to late payment, interest and over-limit fees are excluded from the draws. Customers can check the respective draw dates and detailed terms and conditions for the campaign on the ila Bank app and social media channels.

This chance to win cash every month is in line with ila Bank's endeavour to enrich and upgrade customers' lifestyles, continuously propelling them 'towards' their goals and aspirations. Get spending with your ila cards to gift yourself the opportunity to win a cash prize every month for the year.

UK's Lammy arrives in India to push free trade deal

TDT | New Delhi

British Foreign Secretary David Lammy began working yesterday to reinvigorate a stalled push for a free-trade agreement with India after arriving in New Delhi for his first official visit.

The two countries have spent more than two years negotiating what would be an important milestone for Britain as it seeks alternative markets following its 2020 exit from the European Union.

Lammy is travelling to India less than three weeks after taking office following the Labour Party's election win under new Prime Minister Keir Starmer. "India is the emerging superpower of the 21st century, the largest country in the world with 1.4 billion people and one of the fastest growing economies in the world," Lammy was quoted as saying in a statement by Britain's foreign office.

"Our free-trade agreement negotiations is the floor not the ceiling of our ambitions to unlock our shared potential and deliver growth, from Ben-

galuru to Birmingham."

Lammy will meet his Indian counterpart S. Jaishankar and commerce minister Piyush Goyal during his two-day trip to Delhi.

He will also hold high-level meetings with environment and business leaders to galvanise support for action on the climate crisis, with India being an "indispensable partner".

Lammy said resetting Britain's relationship with the Global South was a key part of the new government's agenda.

Labour came to power in a landslide victory over the Conservatives earlier this month.

The previous government had been seeking to secure the Indian trade deal since January 2022 but hit several roadblocks.

In exchange for lowering tariffs on British imports such as whiskey, India has pushed for more work and study visas for its citizens, in line with similar deals struck between Britain and Australia and New Zealand.

Lammy will travel from India to the ASEAN foreign ministers meeting in Laos.

LuLu announces 3rd e-raffle winners from 100,000 BD worth promotion

● The third weekly draw took place at Lulu Hypermarket Dana Mall in the presence of Lulu Senior Management

● The promotion will run till August 9th, 2024

TDT | Manama

LuLu Hypermarket handed out BD 20,000 worth of gifts in the third draw of its Summer Raffle Draw. Prizes included 200 grams of gold shared by four top winners and LuLu Gift Cards to 200 winners as well as 20,000 shopping points for 100 winners.

The third weekly draw took



Summer winnings third raffle prize distribution held at LuLu hypermarket Dana Mall.

place at Lulu Hypermarket Dana Mall and was conducted in the presence of Lulu Senior Management. The Summer Raffle Draw will put BD 100,000 worth of prizes into the hands of shoppers just in time for the busy retail season before summer break and school opening.

The Raffle promotion will run till August 9th, 2024 and prizes include 1 kilo of gold to be distributed to 20 winners, valuable LuLu Gift Cards worth BD 50 each to 1000 winners and Loyalty points promising instant discounts under the LuLu Happiness Programme for 500 lucky winners.

Shoppers get an electronic raffle ticket for every BD 5 spent and stand a chance to win multiple times if they spend each week.

Bahrain Bourse Rolls-out 'Technical (Uncovered) Short-selling Guidelines'

TDT | Manama

As part of Bahrain Bourse's (BHB) efforts to develop the Capital Market in the Kingdom of Bahrain and enhance market liquidity, and following the approval of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB), Bahrain Bourse announces the launch of 'Technical (Uncovered) Short Selling Guidelines' to market participants through authorized brokerage firms, which aims



Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa

to increase liquidity levels as well as diversify investment and hedging instruments in order to

attract new investors.

The newly introduced guidelines supplement the existing Market Rules of Bahrain Bourse and are designed to regulate 'Technical (Uncovered) Short Selling', where the seller does not possess the eligible securities at the time of sale or has not arranged for their borrowing before the short sale is made but commits to settle within the applicable settlement period T+2. According to the guidelines,

'Technical (Uncovered) Short Selling' is only permitted to authorized brokers and qualified investors.

According to the newly introduced guidelines, the framework includes a number of measures to regulate the short-selling service including, trade suspensions for a minimum of 5% drop in the reference price of a given stock or if short sold securities reach 10% of the total capital issued. Bahrain Bourse has also

implemented a clear framework under which trades should take place.

Shaikh Khalifa bin Ebrahim Al-Khalifa, Chief Executive Officer of Bahrain Bourse, commented, "It is essential to establish a robust regulatory framework for Technical (Uncovered) Short Selling including clear rights and obligations for brokers and qualified investors. This significant step empowers investors, particularly quali-

fied ones, to utilize new trading strategies and diversify their investment portfolios."

It is worth noting that eligible Members must be authorized by BHB to conduct Technical (Uncovered) Short Selling activities as outlined in the guidelines. Technical (Uncovered) Short Selling is applicable to eligible securities as approved by BHB, subject to regular review, to ensure a secure, dynamic and adaptable market environment.

autobuzz



World's most energy-efficient EV!

Lucid Air Pure 2025 claims 420-Mile Range on 84 kWh

TDT | agencies

Lucid has announced a “landmark” achievement with its 2025 Air Pure electric sedan, claiming an impressive 5 miles-per-kilowatt-hour efficiency. This makes it one of the most energy-efficient vehicles ever produced. Upon

delivery, Lucid states the Air Pure will boast a record 146 MPGe and an EPA-estimated range of 420 miles.

Starting at \$69,900, the Air Pure is Lucid's most affordable model. For the new model year, the battery size has been slightly reduced from 88kWh to 84kWh.

Additionally, it includes new energy-saving and cold weather-fighting heat pump technology, which was initially introduced with the \$249,000 “Sapphire” model and later added to the Touring and Grand Touring models.

Lucid is betting that luxury

EV shoppers will value abstract specs like efficiency and MPGe just as much as traditional premium features like leather seats and high-end stereos. However, the Air Pure's top spot in efficiency may be short-lived, as other luxury automakers like Mercedes-Benz are also devel-

oping hyper-efficient EVs. For example, concepts like the Vision EQXX have achieved an efficiency of 8.4 miles per kWh.

For 2025, all models from the Air Pure to the Air Grand Touring will feature Lucid's “DreamDrive Premium” Advanced Driver Assistance Sys-

tem (ADAS), which includes 3D surround view cameras and a blind spot display. Additionally, a new-generation control unit offers “triple” processing power and twice the memory of previous models, promising faster infotainment performance and responsiveness.

In Saudi Arabia, electric cars pique interest

AFP | Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

For Hamed al-Rafidain, a Saudi human resources worker, an electric vehicle offers welcome savings, especially since his other car is a fuel-guzzling four-wheel drive favoured by motorists in the desert kingdom.

The 39-year-old is part of a small but growing EV consumer base in Saudi Arabia, which hopes to become a hub for the technology as it seeks to diversify its economy away from oil.

Although the EV market in the world's largest oil exporter remains small compared with the United States and China, it tripled last year to nearly 800 cars, according to Saudi business news outlet Al-Iqtisadiyah.

“What drove me to buy an electric vehicle was financial considerations,” said Rafidain, who spends up to 2,000 riyals (\$530) a month on fuel for his off-road vehicle.

“Maintenance costs are also lower compared to a conventional vehicle, with no oil changes and no brake-pad replacements,” he added, pointing to the engine-free storage space under the hood of his new car.

Chinese EV giant BYD is expected to dominate the Saudi market. Its global rival Tesla of



Representative picture

the United States has no dealerships in the Gulf kingdom.

With eight million residents, Riyadh experiences traffic jams that contribute to high pollution levels.

Rafidain said he chose an EV because of environmental concerns, noting electric vehicles “help reduce global warming in cities”.

For a little over \$53,300, he bought a BYD that he mostly uses for short trips within the capital.

EV challenges

A lack of charging infrastructure and Saudi Arabia's vast size mean that many view their EVs as suitable for shorter trips, rather than replacements for conventional vehicles.

Using an EV for travel outside the city was a “gamble, especially since the infrastructure is still underdeveloped”, Rafidain said, noting the range of current batteries is only about 400 kilometres (250 miles).

While BYD and Lucid install charging stations directly at customers' homes, the Electric

Vehicle Infrastructure Company (Eviq) is working to place them elsewhere, aiming for 5,000 across the country by 2030.

EV prices remain high in Saudi Arabia, where fuel costs are lower than in most countries, with a litre of petrol costing \$0.62.

A vehicle from Lucid, which opened a factory in Jeddah last year after a billion-dollar Saudi investment, costs \$92,000, but the arrival of BYD is expected to make EVs more affordable.

Industry expert Hossam Iraqi said EVs are less popular among Saudis owing to their size and performance in extreme heat.

“Most current electric vehicle production is small to medium-sized, which does not suit the needs of large Saudi families,” he said, adding the Gulf region's extreme heat has an impact on battery efficiency.

Saudi surge

Salesman Hassan Mohammed expects strong EV sales this year, as demand grows at home and abroad.



A man inspects an electric car at a showroom in Riyadh



Men inspect an electric car at a showroom in Riyadh

“More than one car brand has opened its doors in the kingdom and now offers after-sales service, which has encouraged consumers,” he said at an exhibition

in northern Riyadh, where Saudis test-drove cars.

Al-Iqtisadiyah reported in April that Saudi Arabia imported only 779 EVs in 2023, up from 210 the previous year, citing official Saudi statistics.

The country is also ramping up domestic production.

Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, PIF, now controls 60 percent of Lucid and has secured a deal with South Korea's Hyundai to establish a plant in the kingdom for both EVs and petrol-powered cars.

Additionally, Saudi EV brand CEER, launched in 2022, plans to start production in 2025.

Earlier this year, Saudi Industry Minister Bandar al-Kharif said the country was aiming to

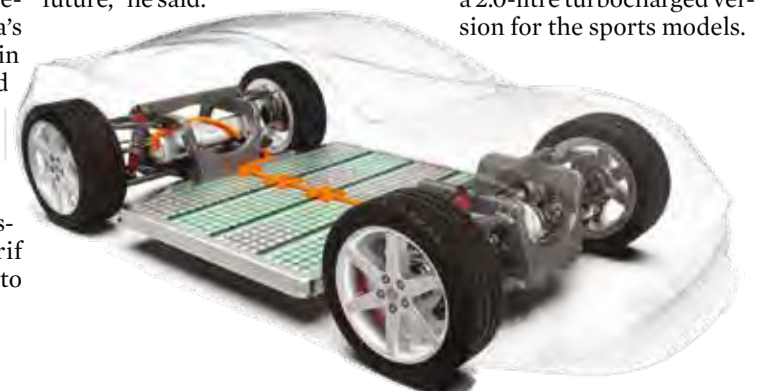
produce 300,000 EVs annually, without giving a timeline.

Riyadh, targeting carbon neutrality by 2050, was also in talks with battery producers, he said.

For now, some still prefer hybrid vehicles, which use both batteries and petrol to go longer distances.

“The balance between electricity and gasoline is economical and convenient,” said Omar el-Shami, a 43-year-old Egyptian pharmacist, as he charged the car he bought for his wife.

“Things may change in the future,” he said.



Next-generation Toyota Corolla expected in 2026



TDT | agencies

According to media reports, Toyota is said to be working on the next-generation iteration of its most popular sedan, the Corolla.

The new-gen Toyota Corolla will feature a host of upgrades, both in terms of design and powertrain, and is expected to make its global debut sometime in 2026.

The upcoming Corolla could borrow BYD's hybrid powertrain, allowing for a driving range almost 3 times more than that of a conventional ICE unit. As per reports, Toyota is aiming at a driving range of 2,100 km from the upcoming Corolla PHEV. To help achieve this, the car will come powered by a new and highly efficient 1.5-litre turbocharged 4-cylinder petrol engine, paired with BYD's latest hybrid tech.

The 1.5-litre unit is part of Toyota's new engine family, which also consists of a 1.5-litre non-turbo unit and a 2.0-litre turbocharged version for the sports models.



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Bahrain gears up for Paris 2024 Olympics: Aiming for glory across multiple sports

Hussain Al Maskati
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is gearing up for an exciting participation in the Paris 2024 Olympic Games with a strong representation across multiple sports. The athletes are set to showcase their skills on the global stage, aiming for top honours.

Wrestling Team Spotlight

Ahmed Taj Al-Din will represent Bahrain in wrestling, competing in the 97 kg category. The competition will take place at Champ-de-Mars Arena on Saturday, August 10th at 12:30 PM.

Taj Al-Din has been in rigorous training, aiming to secure a medal for Bahrain in this highly competitive category.

Athletics



The Bahrain Athletics Team has a packed schedule at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, with multiple athletes participating across various disciplines. Here are the key events:

Birhanu Yematao will compete in the 10,000 meters final on August 2 at 10:20 PM.

Nelly Jepkosgei will race in the 800 meters first round on August 2 at 8:45 PM.

Winfred Mutile will participate in the 3000 meters steeplechase first round on August 9 at 11:05 AM.

Olukemi Adoki will compete in the 400 meters hurdles first

round on August 9 at 1:35 PM.

Salu Eid Naser will run in the 400 meters first round on August 5 at 12:55 PM.

The marathon events will feature Eunice Jebma, Tagiset Basho, and Rose Gilimo on August 11 at 9:00 AM.

Weightlifting

Bahrain's weightlifting team includes two strong contenders:

Lijman Montalvo will compete in the under 102 kg category at South Paris Arena 6 on August 10 at 12:30 PM.

Gor Minasyan will participate in the above 102 kg category

on the same day at 9:30 PM.

Both athletes are expected to deliver powerful performances, building on their extensive training and preparation.

Swimming

Amany Al-Obaidly will compete in the 100 meters backstroke event at Paris La Defense Arena on Monday, July 29th at 12:00 PM.

Saud Ghali will participate in the 200 meters breaststroke event at Paris La Defense Arena on Tuesday, July 30th at 12:00 PM.

Judo

Askirep Igor will represent Bahrain in the under 81 kg judo event at Champ-de-Mars Arena on Tuesday, July 30th at 11:00 AM.

The diverse representation in wrestling, athletics, weightlifting, swimming, and judo highlights Bahrain's dedication to fostering sports and nurturing talent across various disciplines.

With rigorous training, strategic preparation, and the unwavering support of their compatriots, Bahrain's Olympic team is poised to make a significant impact in Paris 2024.

Covid hits Australian Olympic water polo team

Paris, France

Five members of Australia's women's water polo team have tested positive for Covid-19 just days before the Paris Olympics, officials said Wednesday.

Australian chef-de-mission Anna Meares said they would resume training when well enough. Their campaign is due to start on Saturday against China.

"It is confined to the water polo team. There have been five athletes in total who have tested positive," she said.

Australia has a 13-person team in Paris.

"They are following all the protocols that we have. I can confirm that all the water polo team has been tested as well," Meares added.

The protocols include wearing masks and isolating outside of training.

Paris is the first summer Olympics since the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Games in 2021, which was mostly held without spectators and with rigorous Covid testing procedures in place.

Dupont helps France into Olympics sevens quarters

AFP | Paris, France

Antoine Dupont received a rapturous welcome from a raucous Stade de France crowd on Wednesday, scoring a vital try to help the French team qualify for the quarter-finals of Olympics rugby sevens.

Dupont played 12 minutes of the opening 12-12 Pool C draw against the US, the Americans scoring the equalising try after he had been subbed off.

Dupont again started the second match and crossed for a memorable five-pointer in the hard-fought 19-12 victory over Uruguay, who lost their opener 40-12 to Fiji.

The result meant that France, who play the Fijians in their final pool game on Thursday, were mathematically qualified for the knock-out round later the same day -- at worst as one of the best two teams finishing third in the pools.

Dupont has established himself as one of world rugby's best players and the scrum-half cuts an iconic figure in France.

The 27-year-old took the gamble of missing the Six Nations to make the French Olympic



France's Antoine Dupont (C) fumbles the ball during the men's pool C rugby sevens match between France and Uruguay during the Paris 2024 Olympic Games at the Stade de France in Saint-Denis

team, a move that led to some criticism.

Dupont factor

But the combative half-back put that to one side, going on to help France to two wins on the World Rugby Sevens Series, including victory in the Madrid finals.

In between, he skipped his club Toulouse to Top 14 and Champions Cup glory in the 15-a-side code.

Against the Americans at the

Stade de France, Dupont was named in the starting seven, coach Jerome Daret having previously used the playmaker largely as a super-sub from the bench.

Wearing the number 11 shirt, Dupont's passing ability and counter-rucking were to the fore in a tight opening seven minutes.

A trademark Dupont hand-off and deft offload helped Rayan Rebbadj in for a try, before he produced a great flying tackle

to bring down Kevon Williams, forcing a knock-on.

With that, the Frenchman exited the pitch, with two minutes remaining.

The US, however, immediately hit back through Marcus Tupuola to leave the scores level at 12 points apiece.

The second pool match against Uruguay was also close.

But it was another Antoine -- Zeghdar -- who starred for France, the powerhouse a permanent menace and also scoring a great individual try.

But Uruguay stayed in the hunt through Igancio Facciolo. Then the moment came that the whole stadium had been waiting for. Dupont cleared up an Uruguayan grubber and played namesake Zeghdar into space. As he hit the ground, his offload found Dupont in support and the Toulouse player twice handed off Mateo Vinals to muscle his way over the line.

He was subbed off shortly after, Juan Gonzalez capitalising on an error from the kick-off to drag Uruguay back into the game. But Joseph grabbed France's third try to secure qualification.

Boxing has been part of every Games since 1920, but faces an uncertain long-term future after its place at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics was put "on hold" by the International Olympic Committee.

Axing boxing from 2028 Olympics 'a crime': Garside

Paris, France

Australian medallist Harry Garside said on Wednesday it would be "a crime" to drop boxing from the 2028 Olympics, calling it a poor man's sport that saves lives.

Boxing has been part of every Games since 1920, but faces an uncertain long-term future after its place at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics was put "on hold" by the International Olympic Committee.

Garside, who won lightweight bronze in Tokyo and is bidding for gold in Paris, said it was more than a sport, with young people's dreams and aspirations at stake.

"All of our dreams started somewhere, and whether you're a boxer, whether you're in other sports, we all love the Olympic movement. That's why we're here," he said.

"To take that away from some young people around the world, it would be a crime, truly." The International Boxing Association was effectively expelled from the Olympic movement last year following a bitter dispute with its Russian president, Umar Kremlev.

Dujardin video shows British Olympic star repeatedly whipping horse

AFP | Paris, France

Video has emerged of British Olympic dressage star Charlotte Dujardin repeatedly whipping a horse's legs after she was suspended by the sport's governing body.

The three-time gold medallist, the joint most-decorated British female Olympian, withdrew from the Paris Games on Tuesday over the footage showing her making an "error of judgement".

The International Federation for Equestrian Sports (FEI) suspended Dujardin just days before the start of the Olympics.

The governing body said it had received a video "depicting Ms Dujardin engaging in conduct contrary to the principles



The footage shows Dujardin using a whip multiple times to strike the legs of a horse

of horse welfare".

The footage shows Dujardin using a whip multiple times to strike the legs of a horse during what appears to be a training session at a stable.

"The FEI has officially an-

nounced the provisional suspension of British Dressage athlete Charlotte Dujardin effective immediately from the date of notification, 23 July 2024," it said in a statement on Tuesday.

"This decision renders her

ineligible to participate in the upcoming Paris 2024 Olympic Games or any other events under the jurisdiction of the FEI."

The FEI said the video was submitted to it by an "undisclosed complainant".

"According to the information received, the footage was allegedly taken several years ago during a training session conducted by Ms Dujardin at a private stable," it said.

The governing body said Dujardin had confirmed she was depicted in the video and had acknowledged that her conduct was "inappropriate".

"Charlotte Dujardin requested to be provisionally suspended pending the outcome of the investigations and voluntarily withdrew from the Paris 2024

Olympic Games and also confirmed that she will not participate in any competitions pending the outcome of the FEI's investigation," it said.

"The FEI condemns any conduct contrary to the welfare of horses and has robust rules in place to address such behaviour."

'Error of judgement'

Earlier Tuesday, Dujardin said a video had emerged from four years ago showing "an error of judgement during a coaching session".

"Understandably, the International Federation for Equestrian Sports is investigating and I have made the decision to withdraw from all competition -- including the Paris Olympics -- while

this process takes place," she said.

"What happened was completely out of character and does not reflect how I train my horses or coach my pupils. However, there is no excuse. I am deeply ashamed and should have set a better example in that moment."

FEI president Ingmar De Vos said: "We are deeply disappointed with this case, especially as we approach the Olympic Games in Paris 2024."

Dujardin was eliminated from the European Championships in 2019 after blood was found on her horse, Mount St John Freestyle, in a post-competition check.

The FEI said the action taken then did not imply there was any intent to injure the horse.



The game kicks off

Chaos, crowd trouble as Morocco beat Argentina in men's Olympic football opener

AFP | Paris, France

Chaos and confusion reigned on Wednesday as Morocco beat Argentina 2-1 in their opening game of the men's Olympic football tournament, but only after a late equaliser for the South American side was disallowed and the final minutes were played out in an empty stadium following crowd trouble.

Argentina thought they had escaped from the Group B match in Saint-Etienne with a 2-2 draw when Cristian Medina scored in the 16th minute of added time.

But as their players celebrated, projectiles including bottles and plastic cups rained down from the stands and several spectators entered the pitch, with the referee promptly blowing the whistle.

The teams left the playing area, but the referee had not blown for full-time and the outcome of the match was completely unclear until the sides finally reappeared two hours later to play out three more minutes in a stadium that was by now emptied of spectators.

Medina's goal was eventually disallowed following a VAR review, and Morocco held on to claim all three points.

It was a n



undignified start to the sporting action at the Paris Games, and a bad day all round for Argentina, whose players were booed as they emerged onto the pitch and during the national anthems by the crowd, most of whom were supporting Morocco.

That welcome came after Argentina players were filmed singing racist chants following their victory in the recent Copa America. Argentina are looking to win men's football gold for the third time after success in 2004 and 2008, but Javier Mascherano's side trailed 2-0 following a brace by Soufiane Rahimi.

Morocco captain Achraf Hakimi, the Paris Saint-Germain full-back who is one of the biggest names featuring in the tournament, set up Rahimi for the opener at the end of a fine move in first-half stoppage time.

The reigning African Under-23 champions doubled their lead six minutes into the second half from the penalty spot, UAE-based forward Rahimi stroking in the spot-kick after Ilias Akhomach

was brought down. Messi opted not to come to the Paris Games, and the biggest names in their side here were Manchester City striker Julian Alvarez and captain Nicolas Otamendi, the Benfica defender.

Group B rivals Iraq and Ukraine meet later in Lyon.

Spain beat Uzbekistan

Silver medallists in Tokyo three years ago, Spain opened their bid for gold with a 2-1 win over Uzbekistan in Group C at the Parc des Princes in Paris.

The Spain team featured two members of their Euro 2024-winning squad in Alex Baena and Fermin Lopez, but it

was Marc Pubill who gave them the lead just before the half-hour mark. Uzbekistan had chances and drew level from the penalty spot in first-half added time following a foul by Pau Cubarsi, with Roma forward Eldor Shomurodov

con-

verting the kick.

Cubarsi, the 17-year-old Barcelona prodigy, had been booked early on and did not reappear for the second half.

Sergio Gomez then had a penalty saved early in the second half, but the former Manchester City player netted Spain's winner just after the hour mark as he fired in from Juan Miranda's cutback.

Group rivals Egypt and the Dominican Republic drew 0-0.

The pick of Wednesday's later games sees hosts France face the United States in Marseille in Group A, with Thierry Henry's team hoping to win a medal despite failing in their attempts to enrol the services of Kylian Mbappe. The same section with Plymouth Argyle's Ben Wayne getting the winner.



France held to draw in rugby sevens opener, Fiji sparkle
Paris, France

France struggled to live up to pre-tournament billing as favourites for Olympic Gold in rugby sevens Wednesday, held to a 12-12 draw by the United States to the disappointment of a packed Stade de France.

Meanwhile, double Olympic champions Fiji burnished their own title credentials, swatting aside Uruguay 40-12 with typical Fijian flair.

The Les Bleus side featuring Antoine Dupont, arguably the world's greatest 15-a-side player, were left to rue several errors in possession that opened the door for their lesser-ranked opponents.

Sinner out of Olympics tennis with tonsillitis
Milan, Italy

World number one Jannik Sinner withdrew from the Paris Olympics tennis tournament on Wednesday after falling ill with tonsillitis.

The Italian said he had started feeling ill on Monday after a practice week in Monaco and was advised to drop out.

"After seeing my doctors on Tuesday and waiting an extra day to give myself some more time to see if my condition would improve, things unfortunately got worse," Sinner said in a statement.

AFP | Paris, France

As the clock ticks down towards Friday's opening ceremony along the Seine, Olympic chiefs awarded the 2030 Winter Games to the French Alps and the 2034 event to Salt Lake City.

But in a dramatic twist they warned the US city could be stripped of the Games if American authorities kept up their feud with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

Preparations for Friday's historic opening ceremony were in full swing with an unprecedented security operation for the athletes' parade along the River Seine.

Around 6,000-7,000 athletes are set to sail down a six-kilometre (four-mile) stretch of the river towards the Eiffel Tower, on 85 barges and boats.

Up to 500,000 people are set to watch in person from specially built stands, on the river banks and from the overlooking balconies and apartments.

The area around the river

has been locked down before the ceremony, with snipers positioned along the route and frogmen deployed to prevent a waterborne attack.

The entertainment line-up for the ceremony, the first time a Summer Olympics has opened outside the main stadium, is yet to be fully announced. But videos posted online showing US pop star Lady Gaga in Paris sparked rumours she will be among the performers.

American rapper Snoop Dogg will carry the Olympic

flame this Friday as it makes its final rounds before the ceremony.

90% of Paris entrants tested

Nearly 90 per cent of all entrants in the Paris Olympics have been tested this year as part of a pre-Games anti-doping program, the International Testing Agency (ITA) said on Wednesday. ITA said it had conducted more than 32,600 doping controls this year, an increase of around 45 per cent on tests of athletes in the previous six months.