



Paris holds breath for today's Olympics opening ceremony
AFP | Paris

Paris was yesterday counting down the hours to the most ambitious Olympics opening ceremony in history on the river Seine. The show tonight will see up to 7,500 competitors sail down a six-kilometre stretch of the Seine on 85 boats, accompanied by a performance blending French culture and Olympic values that organisers promise will be spectacular. The Paris Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, are scheduled to take place from July 26 to August 11, 2024.

HH Shaikh Khalid names Bahrain delegation head
TDT | Manama

His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sports (SCYS), Chairman of the General Sports Authority (GSA), and President of the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC), has assigned HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali Al Khalifa, Vice President of BOC, to lead Bahrain's delegation at the 33rd Summer Olympics in Paris from 26 July to 11 August 2024. HH Shaikh Isa bin Ali expressed his appreciation to HH Shaikh Khalid, noting that the assignment reflects his confidence in national capabilities to represent Bahrain.

Reckless truck driver arrested
TDT | Manama

The General Traffic Department has arrested a truck driver from a local company following the circulation of a video clip on social media showing him driving the truck in the wrong direction in the Ramli area. The department reported that the driver's actions posed a significant risk to road users' safety. In response, the General Traffic Department has initiated legal proceedings and impounded the vehicle involved.

220 fils (includes VAT)



Tense truce talks

Netanyahu, Biden discuss approach to ending nine-month Gaza fighting

AFP | Washington

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he was ready to work with Joe Biden for the rest of his presidency, as the two leaders met for the first time at the White House for talks on a Gaza ceasefire. "I want to thank you for the 50 years of public service and 50 years of support for the state of Israel," Netanyahu said after they shook hands in the historic setting of the Oval Office. "And I look forward to discussing with you today and working with you in the months ahead."

Biden stunned the world Sunday when he announced that he was bowing out of the US presidential election, with Vice President Kamala Harris now set to be the Democratic Party's candidate. Netanyahu will also meet Harris separately at the White House, in a reflection of the new political reality that will see Biden as a lame duck president for his remaining six months in office. The Harris meeting comes amid speculation that if she wins in November it could herald a tougher approach on Israel's war in Gaza.

Support

Relations between Biden and Netanyahu are tense over Israel's conduct in the war sparked by Hamas's October 7 attacks, but the US president has contin-



Palestinian children receive treatment at the Nasser hospital following the Israeli military targeting of the southeastern district of Khan Yunis, in the southern Gaza Strip. (AFP)

ued strong military and political support.

They have met just three times during his presidency, once in September last year in New York, and then when Biden traveled to Israel after the attacks and hugged Netanyahu on the airport tarmac at Tel Aviv.

The meetings come after Netanyahu vowed "total victory" against Hamas in a fiery speech Wednesday to the US Congress.

Biden and Netanyahu will later meet the families of US hostages held in Gaza.

Police presence

The White House was surrounded by metal barriers and a heavy police presence, after protests broke out near the Capitol following Netanyahu's speech.

Harris yesterday condemned the "despicable" and "unpatriotic" burning of an American flag

by protesters, after attempts by Donald Trump's Republicans to paint Democrats as pro-Hamas.

In a primetime speech explaining his decision on Sunday to bow out of the US presidential election, Biden made clear that resolving the conflict would remain a top priority.

"I'm going to keep working to end the war on Gaza, bring home all the hostages to bring peace and security to the Middle



The White House said yesterday US President Joe Biden will tell Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu a ceasefire in Gaza is needed "soon".

East and end this war," the US president said.

Negotiations

A senior US administration official said Wednesday that negotiations on a Gaza deal were in the "closing stages" and that Biden would try to close some "final gaps" with Netanyahu.

Harris has previously been more outspoken about Israel's conduct of the war, prompting speculation she will shift her policy as presidential nominee.

The US official said there was "no daylight between the president and vice president", who will meet Netanyahu at 4:30 pm (2030 GMT).

Netanyahu will meet Republican contender Donald Trump today at his Mar-a-Lago residence in Florida.

Global finance meeting

US rejects plan for G20 deal to tax super-rich

AFP | Rio De Janeiro

The United States sees no need to negotiate an international agreement on taxing the super-wealthy, US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said yesterday, highlighting divisions on a plan that is top of the agenda at a G20 finance ministers' meeting in Rio de Janeiro. Taxing the ultra-rich is a key priority of Brazil's leftist president, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who this year heads the G20 grouping of the world's major economies, the European Union and African Union.

"Tax policy is very difficult to coordinate globally," Yellen told a press conference in Rio de Janeiro, ahead of an evening meeting between finance ministers to discuss the topic.

"We don't see a need or really think it's desirable to try to negotiate a global agreement



Image used for illustrative purposes only



The richest one percent of the world have earned more than \$40 trillion in a decade, but their taxation is at "historically" low rates, according to a study by the NGO Oxfam published yesterday.

on that. We think that all countries should make sure that their taxation systems are fair and progressive."

Yellen said Washington was "strongly supportive of progressive taxation, and making sure that very wealthy, high-income individuals pay their fair share."

She highlighted policies proposed by US President Joe Biden, such as a billionaires' tax, which she described as "a very worthwhile initiative."

Progressive taxation

"It makes sense for most countries to take this approach of progressive taxation."

Brazil's search for a global agreement on taxing the richest of the rich is backed by France, Spain, South Africa, Colombia and the African Union.

"Some individuals control more resources than entire countries," Lula said Wednesday at the launch of an initiative to fight world hunger, another project topping his G20 agenda.