

Paris welcomes the world

The Paris Olympics was inaugurated with a groundbreaking opening ceremony along the iconic River Seine yesterday evening. | P12

WORLD 6 Sabotage disrupt French railways

THE DAILY **tribune**



Kate Hudson inundated with flirty messages from celebs

8 CELEBS

BUSINESS 5

Bahrain Chamber marks 85th anniversary

HM King thanked by Iran president
TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, received a cable of thanks from the newly elected President of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, in response to his congratulatory message.

President Pezeshkian expressed gratitude for the warm sentiments and emphasised his commitment to strengthening and expanding relations between the two countries based on cooperation, dialogue, and mutual respect.

The Iranian leader noted that his government would give special importance to deepening ties with neighboring countries, including Bahrain.

He wished HM the King continued health and prosperity for Bahrain.

HM King returns after successful UAE visit



HM the King is warmly welcomed upon arrival in the Kingdom

TDT | Manama

His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa yesterday returned to Bahrain following a visit to the UAE, where he met with His Highness

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the UAE.

HM the King and HH Shaikh Mohamed bin Zayed discussed the historical Bahrain-UAE relations and means

to enhance cooperation and coordination.

HM King Hamad was bid farewell by HH Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed on his departure from Abu Dhabi's Presidential Airport today.

His Majesty had also visited Malaysia, upon an invitation from His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim ibni Sultan Iskandar, the King of Malaysia, to attend His Majesty's installation ceremony in Kuala Lumpur.

During his visit, HM King Hamad met with HE Anwar Ibrahim, the Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The two sides discussed areas of cooperation and means to enhance strategic partnership.

'Sabotage' hits French trains before Olympics
AFP | Paris

A rson attacks scrambled France's high-speed rail network for tens of thousands of passengers yesterday, after what officials called premeditated acts of "sabotage" just hours before the Paris Olympics opened.

Yesterday's attacks were launched as the French capital was under heavy security ahead of the Games opening ceremony, with 300,000 spectators and an audience of VIPs expected at the event.

The fires that affected France's Atlantic, northern and eastern lines led to cancellations and delays at a time of particularly heavy traffic for summer holiday travel. (Detailed report on World Page)

Sri Lanka to hold elections
AFP | Colombo

Sri Lanka's first presidential elections since an unprecedented economic crisis spurred widespread unrest will be held in September, the election commission said yesterday.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, 75, is running as an independent candidate.

Go for glory!

Hopes high for Bahrain athletes to win gold at 2024 Paris Olympics

Celine Dion sings on Eiffel Tower at end of Olympics opening ceremony

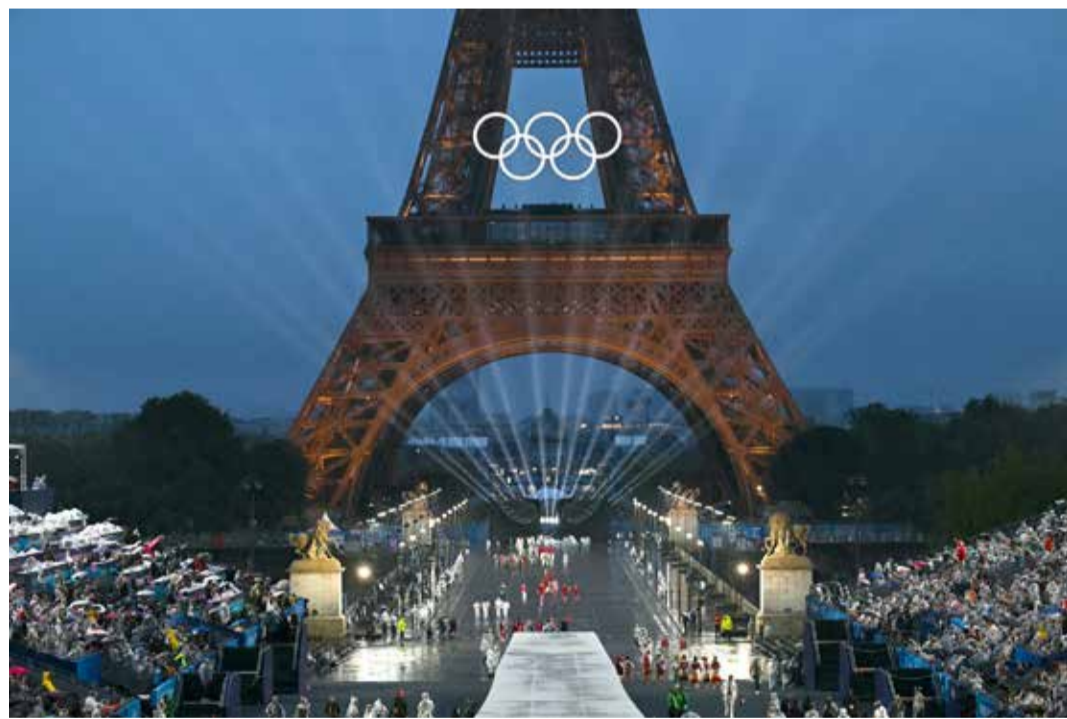
TDT | Manama

Bahrain is brimming with confidence for a spectacular showing at the 2024 Paris Olympics, with a team of 14 athletes ready to shine on the world stage.

From seasoned runners and promising swimmers to skilled weightlifters and judokas, the Kingdom is set to make waves and chase the coveted gold at the prestigious sporting event, scheduled to take place from July 26 to August 11, 2024.

In Paris, Bahrain's athletes will strive to elevate their performance, bring home medals, and add to the country's growing legacy following a history of Olympic success.

Thousands of Olympic competitors cruised down the River Seine in a spectacular opening ceremony for the Paris Games yesterday that celebrated



Delegations arrive on the Iena Bridge. (AFP)

French history and culture to the delight of a crowd undeterred by persistent rain.

For the first time in Olympic history, the opening ceremony took place outside the main stadium with up to 7,000 athletes

parading down the Seine past the historic monuments of the French capital.

In an ambitious, high-risk departure from past opening ceremonies, the athletes sailed in an armada of 85 boats instead

of making the traditional walk around a running track.

Some 300,000 people watched in person from specially built stands on the river banks, and another 200,000 from overlooking balconies and apartments.

As tradition dictates, the Greek delegation had the honour of leading out the flotilla, as the cradle of the modern Olympic movement.

The show blended French culture and history while a pre-recorded cabaret-style segment from US pop star Lady Gaga featured prominently in the early stages of the parade.

Franco-Malian R&B superstar Aya Nakamura, the most listened to French-speaking singer in the world, also sang, defying criticism from far-right activists.

Critics had accused the 29-year-old singer, best known for her hit "Djadja", of "vulgarity" and disrespecting the French language in her lyrics.

Dozens of pink-skirted cancan dancers provided a stunning splash of colour on the banks of the Seine in another standout moment.

The landmarks and architecture of the City of Light featured as a backdrop both to Friday's show and will play the same role for much of the sport afterwards.

(More reports and pictures on Page 2 and Sports Page)



Bahrain's delegation sails in a boat along the river Seine. (AFP)





The Bahraini athletes are going for gold

Bahrain ready to shine at Paris Olympics

TDT | Manama

Bahrain is gearing up to make a significant impact on the global stage at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

With a strong delegation of athletes competing across various sports, the Kingdom's team is poised to demonstrate its sporting prowess and dedication to excellence.

Swimmers Saud Ghali and Amani Al Obaidli carried the Kingdom's flag during yesterday's parade of participating countries at the opening ceremony.

Bahrain is sending a delegation of 14 athletes to the Paris Olympics, consisting of eight females and six males.

The athletics team features eight runners, namely Birhanu Balew (5,000 and 10,000 meters), Salwa Eid Nasser (400 meters), Oluwakemi Adekoya (400 meters hurdles), Winfred



The Bahraini delegation wearing traditional Bahraini attire during yesterday's opening ceremony

Yavi (3,000 meters steeplechase), Nelly Jepkosgei (800 meters), Eunice Chumba (marathon), Rose Chelimo (marathon), and Tigist Gashaw (marathon).

Bahrain will also have representation in weightlifting with Gor Minasyan competing in the over 102kg category and Lesman Paredes Montano in the under 102kg category.

The swimming team includes Saud Ghali, who will participate in the 200-meter breaststroke, and

Amani Al Obaidli, who will compete in the 100-meter backstroke.

In judo, Askerbey Jerbekoff will represent Bahrain in the under 81kg weight class, while Ahmed Tajeddin will compete in wrestling in the under 97kg weight category.

For the record, Bahrain is taking part for the eleventh time in the Summer Olympic Games, which started in 1979.

Bahrain made its Olympic debut at the 1984 Los Angeles

Games and has participated in every edition since, including the most recent one in Tokyo 2020.

The Kingdom won a total of four medals during its participation in the most recent Olympic Games, winning two golds and two silvers.

Runner Maryam Jamal made history as the first Bahraini and the first woman from the GCC to win an Olympic medal for the Kingdom by clinching gold in the 1500-meter race.

Building business bonds

Indian delegation explores trade expansion with Bahrain

TDT | Manama

A 27-member Indian delegation, comprising exporters of Basmati Rice, processed food, and animal products, visited Bahrain from July 24-25, 2024.

Led by the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), the delegation aimed to explore avenues for expanding trade and investment between the two countries.

On July 25, the Embassy of India in Bahrain, in collaboration with the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) and the Bahrain India Society, organized a B2B meeting at the BCCI premises.

Over 100 Bahraini businessmen attended the event, which featured opening remarks from H.E. Mr. Sameer Abdulla Nass, Chairman of BCCI, H.E. Mr. Abdulnabi Alshoala, Founding Chairman of the Bahrain India Society, and H.E. Mr. Vinod K. Jacob, Ambassador of India to Bahrain.

Ambassador Jacob highlighted that Indian exports to Bahrain for the fiscal year 2023-2024



H.E. Mr. Sameer Abdulla Nass speaks at the event

totaled approximately \$900 million, with imports amounting to \$829 million. This resulted in a nearly balanced trade figure of \$1.73 billion.

The food and agriculture sector remains a significant area of bilateral trade, with India exporting rice worth \$67.68 million and frozen boneless meat

of bovine animals valued at \$22 million last year.

This aligns with India's broader global export profile, which reached \$48.76 billion in agricultural products in 2023-24.

Tasting campaign

As part of the visit, APEDA organized a tasting campaign featuring Biryani made from Indian Basmati Rice at Al Jazira and Lulu supermarkets.

The delegation also held discussions with the Public Health Directorate for Food Safety and the Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture of Bahrain.

Traditionally, India has been a major supplier of rice, meat, sugar, spices, fruits, and vegetables



H.E. Indian Ambassador Vinod K. Jacob with H.E. Abdulnabi Alshoala, along with dignitaries, inaugurate a food festival at Lulu supermarket



A tasting campaign featuring Biryani made from Indian Basmati rice

to Bahrain.

Recently, Indian processed food products, organic items,

and dairy products have gained popularity in Bahrain due to their high quality and compet-

itive pricing.

To support this growth, the Government of India has established numerous laboratories across the country to provide testing services and ensure quality certification for exports.

The Quality Council of India (QCI) has been authorized to implement the "India Conformity Assessment Scheme (i-CAS)" for Halal products, with APEDA designated as the overall monitoring agency.

The visit of this delegation is expected to foster new opportunities for collaboration and growth in trade and investment between India and Bahrain.

Indian Ambassador chairs successful Open House

TDT | Manama

The Embassy of India organised an Open House yesterday which was chaired by Ambassador H.E. Mr. Vinod Kurian Jacob.

The Embassy's Community Welfare team, along with the consular team and panel lawyers, were present.

More than 50 Indian nationals took part in the Open House, which was held in English, Hindi, Tamil and Malayalam languages.

The Ambassador briefed on the Roads Safety Awareness Campaign to be held at the Embassy premises on 2nd August, 2024 in co-ordination with



H.E. Ambassador Vinod Kurian Jacob addresses the needs of Indian nationals

Ministry of Works and General Directorate of Traffic.

He urged the community members specially drivers/motorcyclists to participate in the event, in large number.

Second Secretary (CW) / HOC along with the welfare officials visited Jau Jail to interact with the inmates and to ensure their welfare status.

The Embassy also paid a visit

to the Women's Detention Centre in Isa Town and distributed 15 support kits to the inmates present in the jail.

The Embassy provided air tickets to six distressed individuals who were affected by the recent fire incident occurred in Manama.

The Embassy also provided air tickets to a woman and children, who were left stranded after her husband was deported by the local authorities.

Ambassador Jacob commended the Indian community and organisations for their collaboration with the Embassy in effectively addressing several consular and welfare matters.

Factories inspection visit



The Minister of Industry and Commerce, His Excellency Mr. Abdullah bin Adel Fakhro, has conducted an inspection visit to several factories within the Mina Salman Industrial Area. Accompanied by a delegation of officials, the Minister aimed to closely examine the latest developments and future plans of these facilities as part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to monitor industrial progress in the Kingdom of Bahrain and explore opportunities for enhanced cooperation to meet national objectives.

Bahrain clinches top spot in global Quran competition

TDT | Manama

The Kingdom of Bahrain has secured first place in the BRICS International Holy Quran Competition, held in Kazan, Russian Federation, from July 24 to 26, 2024.

The announcement came during the closing ceremony yesterday evening, attended by Shaikh Dr. Rashid bin Mohammed Al Hajri, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Sunni Endowments.

Dr. Muhammad Samir Mujahid claimed the top position for Bahrain in the recitation category, competing against participants from 20 countries worldwide.

His Excellency Nawaf bin Mohammed Al-Maawda, Minister of Justice, Islamic Affairs and Endowments, expressed pride in this achievement, stating it "embodies the passion of Bahraini youth to memorise and recite the Book of Allah."

He attributed this success to the royal patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the ongoing support of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister.

Love prevails, and so does justice

Wedding planner fails to deliver, couple wins BD1,750 refund in court

TDT | Manama

A Bahraini couple has successfully sued a wedding planner for failing to deliver on their contract, securing a full refund of their payment.

The couple, who had planned their wedding five months in advance, entered into an agreement with the wedding planner for a venue booking at a local hotel for 100 guests, paying a total of BD1,750.

However, two months before their wedding day, the couple received distressing news.

The wedding planner informed them that his company had been dissolved and promised to return their money.

Legal action

Despite this promise, the planner failed to reimburse the couple, prompting them to seek legal action.

The couple, represented by lawyer Bander bin Shamal Al



Image used for illustrative purposes only

Doseri, filed a lawsuit against the wedding planner and his company.

The lawsuit argued that the planner's breach of contract had caused them significant financial and emotional distress.

The couple had eagerly anticipated their wedding day, and the planner's failure to secure the venue caused them consid-

erable anxiety and disappointment.

Nightmare

"It was an absolute nightmare. We were counting down the days to our special day, and then this bloke goes and pulls the rug right out from under us," lamented the groom, adding: "We had put so much trust in



The lawsuit has argued that the planner's breach of contract had caused them significant financial and emotional distress.

the wedding planner and were devastated when we found out he couldn't deliver on his promise. It was a stressful and emotional time."

The Civil Court of First Instance ruled in favour of the couple, ordering the wedding planner to repay the full amount of BD1,750, along with interest from the date of the lawsuit filing.

Pearling Path closed for maintenance



Pearling Path in Muharraq

● Temporary closure until September 1

TDT | Manama

The Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities (BACA) has announced the temporary closure of the Pearling Path in Muharraq to visitors and tourists until September 1.

This 3.5-kilometre path, which served as a route for pearl divers throughout most of Bahrain's history, remains a significant cultural landmark despite its current pause in operations.

The Pearling Path, an iconic symbol of Bahrain's rich heritage, includes numerous tourist sites and activities.

Visitors can explore historic locations such as Bu Maher Fort, Al Ghus House, Badr Ghuloom House, Turabi House, Al Jalahma House, Al Alawi House, Fakhro House, Murad House, Murad Council, Siyadi Shops, Yousef Abdulrahman Fakhro Building, Ali Rashid Fakhro Building, Al Nokhuda House, Siyadi House, Siyadi Council, and Siyadi Mosque.

The last major event held at the Pearling Path was "Tales of the Pearl Path" last February.

Organised by the BACA, the event drew a remarkable turnout, attracting attendees from both within Bahrain and internationally.

The closure provides an opportunity for maintenance and preservation efforts to ensure that the Pearling Path continues to be a cherished part of Bahrain's cultural landscape.

Visitors and tourists are encouraged to plan their visits accordingly and look forward to the reopening of this historical gem.

Elderly 'struggle' as ministries go online

TDT | Manama

The digital shift in government services has left many elderly citizens at their wits' end, grappling with an overwhelming maze of bureaucracy.

As ministries insist on online platforms for service requests, what used to be simple tasks now stretch out over months, leading to mounting frustration.

Abdullah Al Qubaisi, a Member of the Northern Municipal Council, has stepped in, urging government ministries to reopen their doors and make processes more accessible.

Practice

He argues that when citizens visit ministry offices, they're



Image used for illustrative purposes only

frequently directed back to the website for follow-ups, a prac-

tice he deems unacceptable. This system has extended the

"The online-only approach complicates matters for many elderly individuals."

— ABDULLAH AL QUBAIS, A MEMBER OF THE NORTHERN MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

resolution time for issues that previously took mere days, as the online-only approach complicates matters for many elderly individuals.

Al Qubaisi has called on service ministries to set aside at least one day a week for direct interactions between officials

and citizens.

He pointed out the current difficulty many citizens face in meeting officials to discuss their needs.

Al Qubaisi stressed the importance of these face-to-face meetings, particularly for the elderly, suggesting they would significantly improve satisfaction with the work of service ministries.

He acknowledged the essential role of state ministries but highlighted the need for practical adjustments.

Direct interaction, he believes, is key to enhancing service satisfaction and effectively resolving the challenges faced by citizens and residents.

Muharraq by-election voter list displayed with moderate turnout

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

The scene at the electoral center in Busaiteen remained relatively calm yesterday, the sixth day of displaying the voter list for the forthcoming Muharraq by-election, with a moderate number of voters turning up.

This voter list display is a key part of the by-election process, following the recent court decision to annul the membership of former MP Mohammed Al Hussaini. Earlier this month, the seventh court of cessation issued this ruling.

Dr. Ali Al Shuwaikh, the Head of the Supervisory Committee, informed The Daily Tribune that today will be the last day for voters to verify the accuracy of



A voter checks his registration status

their data.

He stressed that only those whose names are on the list will

be eligible to vote in the upcoming by-election.

Al Shuwaikh added that voters



Dr. Essam Al-Alawi and Saleh Al-Sada, potential candidates

whose names are missing from the list can request additions, changes, or corrections through

the Supervisory Committee.

Voters can check their registration status on the official

website or in person at the Al Busaiteen Intermediate Girls School, where the electoral centre is located.

This voter list display process upholds the integrity of the electoral system and ensures that eligible residents of the constituency have the chance to cast their ballots.

Potential candidates Dr. Essam Al-Alawi and Saleh Al-Sada yesterday visited the center.

Dr. Al-Alawi expressed confidence in his electoral prospects, predicting a decisive victory in the first round.

Having reached the second round in the 2022 elections against the former MP Al-Alawi believes his chances have improved.

He said: "I believe that my chances will be better this time."

Preserving the past

Historic homes in Manama old city to be included in heritage project

TDI | Manama

The Capital Municipal Council, in collaboration with relevant government entities, has completed a comprehensive inventory of historic homes in the old city of Manama.

This initiative paves the way for the evaluation and inclusion of these properties in the "Manama Historical Project."

Huda Sultan, a member of the Manama Municipal Council, revealed that Manama boasts hundreds of historic homes with significant cultural value.

The inventory process included a thorough assessment of each property's condition and architectural features, she added.

Sultan emphasised that the "Manama Historical Project" is a crucial endeavor aimed at preserving the city's historical identity.

She drew a parallel with the successful "Muharrag Historical Project," which has transformed Muharrag into a prominent tourist destination, attracting visitors from across the globe.

Identity

The "Manama Historical Project" aims to safeguard the historical and cultural identity of the capital's buildings and urban landscape.

It seeks to revitalise the city



One of the historic homes in Manama that needs urgent preservation



"The project will further strengthen Bahrain's national identity, which has been nurtured for decades."

- HUDA SULTAN, A MEMBER OF THE MANAMA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

while preserving its traditional architectural heritage, creating a harmonious visual blend

between historic and modern structures.

This will be achieved through the innovative application of contemporary architectural elements, ensuring the preservation of Manama's unique identity.

Sultan highlighted that the project will further strengthen Bahrain's national identity, which has been nurtured for decades.

She emphasised the significance of Manama's old market,

a prominent landmark and a key player in the Gulf region's trade during the past century.

It continues to be a popular tourist destination.

"The development of Bab Al Bahrain market has added a significant heritage element to the city, making it one of Manama's most prominent tourist attractions. The project's success has sparked hopes for its expansion to include the old market and neighboring areas," she underlined.

Work on new road connection begins

TDI | Manama

Engineer Ahmed Sami Al Tajer, Assistant Undersecretary for Roads at the Ministry of Works, has announced the commencement of a key infrastructure project designed to enhance Bahrain's road network.

The project involves constructing a new road connecting Al Hunainiya Street and Al Muaskar Street in the Southern Governorate.

The initiative, part of the government program's objectives for 2023-2026, is designed to improve traffic flow and support the Kingdom's development goals.

The new road will feature two lanes in each direction, spanning 3.4 kilometers.

It will connect Al Hunainiya Street in the north to Al Muaskar Street in the south, facilitating smoother traffic transitions between these major routes.

Scope

The scope of the project includes creating intersections,



Eng. Ahmed Sami Al Tajer

installing sidewalks, and establishing a rainwater drainage network.

Improvements will also be made to street lighting, traffic safety measures, and infrastructure for treated water to support afforestation and irrigation efforts.

The road is expected to alleviate congestion in the Al Hunainiya area, East Riffa, and nearby regions.

It will benefit residents of the Al Hunainiya housing project and several local service institutions.

The Tender Board has awarded the project to Al-Dur Excavation and Construction Company.

When should you avoid breastfeeding?

TDI | Manama

Dr. Shahenaz Hanafi Hassan, a Specialist Pediatrician at Middle East Hospital, provides crucial advice on when breastfeeding may need to be avoided to ensure the health and safety of both mother and baby.

According to Dr. Shahenaz, breastfeeding should be avoided if the infant is diagnosed with classic galactosemia, a condition where the baby cannot metabolize galactose properly.

Mothers with HIV, she added, should refrain from breastfeeding if they are not on antiretroviral therapy (ART) or if they are on ART but have not achieved or maintained sustained viral suppression during pregnancy, delivery, or postpartum.

Diseases

She emphasised that breastfeeding is also contraindicated for mothers infected with human T-cell lymphotropic virus type I or II, those using illicit drugs such as opioids, PCP, or cocaine, and those with suspected or confirmed Ebola virus disease.

In situations where breastfeeding should be temporarily avoided, mothers infected with untreated brucellosis



Dr. Shahenaz Hanafi Hassan

should hold off until appropriate treatment is administered.

Similarly, those taking certain medications or undergoing diagnostic imaging with radiopharmaceuticals should not breastfeed during these times.

Mothers with an active herpes simplex virus infection with lesions on the breast or those infected with the mpox virus should also temporarily avoid breastfeeding.

Appropriate treatment

Dr. Shahenaz said that for mothers who should temporarily avoid breastfeeding but can provide expressed milk, those with untreated, active tuberculosis should resume breastfeeding only after completing appropriate treatment for at least two weeks and confirming they are no longer contagious.

Ministers inspect corniche waterfront project's progress

TDI | Manama

The Minister of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture, His Excellency Eng. Wael bin Nasser Al Mubarak, and H.E. Eng. Ibrahim bin Hassan Al Hawaj, Minister of Works, conducted an inspection visit to the King Faisal Corniche waterfront development project in Manama.

This visit aimed to review the ongoing construction and development of Phase One of the project.

During the visit, the ministers were briefed on the project's progress, which includes the development of walking, jogging, and cycling paths, green spaces, playgrounds, an administrative building, pump rooms, water tanks, an irrigation system, 143 parking spaces, and lighting



The King Faisal Corniche is currently undergoing development

works.

Al Mubarak said that the project is a significant part of Manama's strategic development initiatives and aligns with the

priorities of the Higher Committee for Urban Planning to enhance the city's seafronts.

He noted that the project spans approximately 46,000

square meters and features walkways, play areas, playgrounds, green spaces, service buildings, and waterfront restaurants.



East Sitra Housing City visit

The Chairman and members of the Capital Municipality Council visited the East Sitra Housing City to receive a comprehensive briefing on the infrastructure and facilities related to municipal affairs. Eng. Saleh Tarada, Chairman of the Capital Municipality Council, commended the Ministry of Housing for its efforts in constructing innovative housing projects. He highlighted that the East Sitra Housing Project is a notable initiative designed with careful consideration of citizen needs, including optimal location, house design, and essential facilities such as walkways, gardens, and designated sports areas.

Bahrain Chamber marks 85th anniversary

Celebratory event planned for December, coinciding with King Hamad's Silver Jubilee accession anniversary

● **Event to honour founders who established Bahrain's economic foundations**

TDI | Manama

Chairman of the Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sameer Nass, announced the Chamber's plan to hold a celebratory event in December to mark the 85th anniversary of its establishment, coinciding with Bahrain's Silver Jubilee celebrations commemorating the 25th anniversary of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa's accession to the throne.

Nass stated that the celebration of the Chamber's founding anniversary is a tribute to the fathers and ancestors who charted the course for the economic life and built the foundation for



its prosperity and development, ensuring that it remains a strong voice defending and supporting the rights and interests of the business community.

He noted that 85 years stand as a testament to the Chamber's

rich history, which has set a unique model among Arab and regional chambers in establishing the pillars of the national economy and serving the commercial sector, representing its diverse activities and sectors.

Nass added that the Chamber has been a mirror of Bahrain's economic landscape throughout its history, serving as a key driver for the development of institutions and companies.

It has worked hand in hand with the esteemed government to find solutions to the challenges and crises facing the world from time to time, without impacting the local market and citizens.

He emphasized that the Chamber has become an integral part of the national economic system, drawing on the successes inspired by Bahrain's strategic commercial position, which was behind the early emergence of the Bahraini business community in the modern history of the Gulf region. The Chamber continues to defend its principles and values, with its successive boards of directors throughout its history.

Nass explained that the Chamber is the principal rep-



The Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry is not only a key player in the national economy but also serves as a global ambassador for Bahrain, maintaining strong ties with chambers of commerce across the Arab, Islamic, and international landscapes, positioning Bahrain as a central hub for foreign investment in the Gulf region

resentative of the private sector, which bears the greater responsibility in development, and it is the gateway for foreign investment, as it has formal relations and bilateral agreements with all Arab, Islamic, and international chambers of commerce. It also chairs joint business councils between Bahrain and more than 60 countries worldwide, and it receives all foreign ambassadors and trade representations.

He noted that the Chamber's unwavering drive to fulfill its mission and duties is fueled by the unlimited support of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and the patronage and attention of His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, towards the private sector and enhancing its role in various sectors, contributing to the achievement of the comprehensive development journey's objectives.

OpenAI to challenge Google with new search functionality

AFP | San Francisco

OpenAI said it was putting its artificial intelligence engine to work in a challenge to Google's market-dominating search engine.

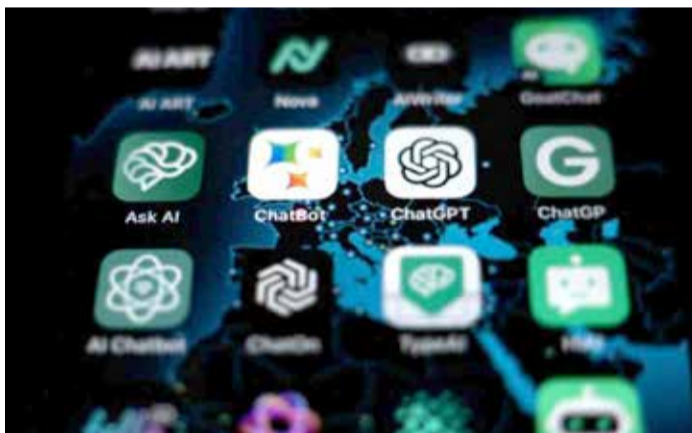
The startup behind ChatGPT announced that it is testing a "SearchGPT" prototype that is "designed to combine the strength of our AI models with information from the web" to answer online queries quickly and to provide relevant sources.

SearchGPT is being made available to a small group of users and publishers to get feedback, OpenAI said in a blog post.

Search features refined in the prototype will be woven into ChatGPT in the future, according to the San Francisco-based company.

Users will be able to interact with SearchGPT through conversational queries, and can ask follow-up questions as they might if speaking to a person, OpenAI said.

Google recently added AI-generated query result summaries -- referred to as "Overviews" -- to its search engine,



An illustration picture shows icons of Google's former AI app BardAI (C-L), OpenAI's app ChatGPT (C-R) and other AI apps on a smartphone screen

causing worries among some that the move would result in fewer opportunities to serve up money-making ads.

This new feature offers written text at the top of results for Google searches, ahead of the traditional links to sites, which summarizes information that the engine believes answers the user's search query.

OpenAI's description of SearchGPT sounded similar to Google's Overviews.

Since the release of ChatGPT at the end of 2022, companies in

the sector have been engaged in a frantic race to deploy generative AI programs for producing text, images and other content through prompts in everyday language.

"We are innovating at every layer of the AI stack," Google chief Sundar Pichai said this week during an earnings call for parent company Alphabet, which he also heads.

OpenAI said it was working with some publishers to refine SearchGPT, which is being kept separate from the training of its



Users will be able to interact with SearchGPT through conversational queries, and can ask follow-up questions as they might if speaking to a person, OpenAI said

generative AI foundation models.

"AI search is going to become one of the key ways that people navigate the internet, and it's crucial, in these early days, that the technology is built in a way that values, respects, and protects journalism and publishers," The Atlantic chief executive Nicholas Thompson said in the OpenAI blog post.

Apple agrees to abide by White House AI safeguards



Apple CEO Tim Cook (L) and Apple senior vice president of software engineering Craig Federighi greet attendees at the start of the Apple Worldwide Developers Conference (file photo)

AFP | Washington

The safeguards include tech companies simulating attacks on AI models in a testing technique referred to as "red teaming" to expose flaws or vulnerabilities

The White House yesterday said that Apple has joined more than a dozen tech firms committed to following safeguards intended to curb the risks of artificial intelligence.

Amazon, Google, Microsoft and OpenAI were among the AI sector rivals who joined US officials in unveiling the voluntary pact a year ago.

President Joe Biden's administration said at the time that it had secured commitments from the companies "to help move toward safe, secure, and transparent development of AI technology."

The safeguards include tech companies simulating attacks on AI models in a testing technique referred to as "red teaming" to expose flaws or vulnerabilities.

Testing of AI models or systems is to include societal risks and national security concerns such as cyber assaults and developing biological weapons, according to the White House.

Companies that signed on to the commitment are to work on sharing information with each other and the government about AI dangers and attempts to circumvent defenses.

Apple in June unveiled "Apple Intelligence," its suite of AI features for its coveted devices as it looks to reassure users that it is not falling behind on

the AI frenzy.

Apple's announcement included a partnership with OpenAI that would make ChatGPT available to iPhone users on request.

Biden late last year signed an executive order setting new safety standards for AI systems and requiring developers to share results of safety tests with the US government.

Biden's executive order was touted by the White House as "the most sweeping actions ever taken to protect Americans from the potential risks of AI systems."

Shortly after it was issued, Vice President Kamala Harris gave a major AI policy speech at a gathering of politicians, tech industry figures and academics.

The event focused on growing fears about the implications of advanced AI models that have prompted concerns around everything from job losses and cyber-attacks to humankind losing control of the very systems it created.

Stocks rise as inflation data boosts rate cut hopes

AFP | London

Major stock markets pushed higher yesterday as traders welcomed data showing US inflation is slowing, firming expectations for the Federal Reserve to start cutting interest rates in September.

Wall Street's three main indices were solidly higher at the end of a volatile week during which tech stocks and other sectors were rocked by disappointing earnings.

The Fed's preferred measure of US inflation -- the personal consumption expenditures (PCE) price index -- fell to 2.5 percent on an annual basis in June, from 2.6 percent in May.

"This provides clear support for the Fed to start cutting interest rates in September," said



A view of a emblem of the Federal Reserve

Kathy Bostjancic, chief economist for Nationwide, adding that the move could lead to "a desired soft-landing for the economy, though risks of a harder landing remain."

The core PCE price index that excludes volatile food and en-

ergy prices held steady at 2.6 percent.

The Fed has signalled that it wants to see inflation trending lower to its 2.0 percent target before cutting interest rates.

"To get a rate cut, investors and the Fed only needed to

avoid a disastrously high PCE result today," said Bret Kenwell, US investment analyst at eToro online brokerage.

Attention will shift to Fed Chair Jerome Powell's comments after the central bank's meeting next week, "with the hope and expectation that he will set the stage for a rate cut in September", he added.

Briefing.com analyst Patrick O'Hare noted the market was now fully pricing in a 0.25-percentage-point cut in the Fed's policy rate. The inflation data follows figures Thursday that showed the US economy expanded far more than expected in the second quarter, providing a much-needed boost to sentiment and eased concerns that it was slowing a little too much for comfort.

News in brief

Two top figures in Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel in US custody



Two top leaders of Mexico's Sinaloa drug cartel, including its co-founder Ismael Zambada Garcia, were arrested on Thursday in Texas, the US Department of Justice said. "Ismael Zambada Garcia, or 'El Mayo,' cofounder of the Cartel, and Joaquin Guzman Lopez, a son of its other cofounder, were arrested today in El Paso, Texas," Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement, calling the cartel "one of the most violent and powerful drug trafficking organizations in the world." The pair face "multiple charges in the United States for leading the Cartel's criminal operations, including its deadly fentanyl manufacturing and trafficking networks," Garland said.

Journalists at some of Australia's largest newspapers launched a rare five-day strike yesterday, downing tools ahead of the Olympic opening ceremony due to a rancorous pay dispute.

The strike hit the Sydney Morning Herald, The Age and Australian Financial Review, in one of the most significant acts of industrial defiance to hit Australia's troubled news sector in years. It is estimated hundreds of journalists employed under the umbrella of Nine Entertainment have deserted newsrooms in major cities Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Perth.

Journalists strike at top Australian newspapers



Brazil records world's first Oropouche virus deaths



Brazil has recorded the world's first Oropouche virus deaths, the country's health ministry said Thursday, after two women died of the illness spread by infected flies and mosquitos. The women from the state of Bahia in northeast Brazil were "under 30 years old, with no comorbidities, but who had signs and symptoms similar to a severe case of dengue," the ministry said in a statement. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website states there are currently known outbreaks of Oropouche in parts of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba and Peru.

SPOTLIGHT

SpaceX cleared to launch Falcon 9 rocket again



The Falcon 9 Booster at SpaceX Headquarters in Hawthorne, California

AFP | San Francisco

SpaceX's stalwart Falcon 9 rocket has been cleared for launch after experiencing a rare failure earlier this month, officials said Thursday.

The rocket, a prolific launch vehicle that propels both satellites and astronauts into orbit, experienced an anomaly during a launch on July 11 in its second stage booster that meant it failed to deploy 20 Starlink satellites at a high enough altitude, and all burnt up on re-entry through Earth's atmosphere.

"During the first burn of Falcon 9's second stage engine, a liquid oxygen leak developed within the insulation around the upper stage engine," Elon Musk's company said in a statement.

"The cause of the leak was identified as a crack in a sense line for a pressure sensor attached to the vehicle's oxygen system."

After investigating the mis-

hap, the Federal Aviation Administration said it had determined "no public safety issues were involved in the anomaly" and that the Falcon 9 vehicle "may return to flight operations while the overall investigation remains open."

The last time a Falcon 9 experienced a serious incident was in September 2016, when one blew up on the launchpad.

And in June 2015, the second stage of a Falcon 9 disintegrated two minutes after lift-off, resulting in the loss of important equipment bound for the International Space Station.

The new mishap notably came as the first crew of Boeing's problem-plagued Starliner spaceship are stuck waiting for ground teams to give a green light for them to return from the ISS.

With Falcon 9 cleared, the next scheduled resupply of the orbiting outpost in early August can now take place as planned, using a Northrop Grumman Cygnus cargo ship.

Sabotage disrupt French rail

Coordinated sabotage hits high-speed rail network hours before Paris Olympics opening

Attacks affected Atlantic, northern, and eastern rail lines

Around 800,000 passengers expected to be impacted over the weekend

Fires targeted fibre-optic cables crucial for train operations

AFP | Paris

Arson attacks scrambled France's high-speed rail network for tens of thousands of passengers yesterday, after what officials called premeditated acts of "sabotage" just hours before the Paris Olympics opened.

Yesterday's attacks were launched as the French capital was under heavy security ahead of the Games opening ceremony, with 300,000 spectators and an audience of VIPs expected at the event.

The fires that affected France's Atlantic, northern and eastern lines led to cancellations and delays at a time of particularly heavy traffic for summer holiday travel.



SNCF employees and French gendarmes inspect the scene of a suspected attack on the high speed railway network at Croiselles, northern France

Around 800,000 passengers are expected to be affected over the weekend as the damage is heavy and labour-intensive to repair.

"Early this morning, coordinated and prepared acts of sabotage were perpetrated against installations of SNCF," the national rail operator, Prime Minister Gabriel Attal said.

"There are huge and serious consequences for the rail network," he added, while security services are hunting the culprits.

SNCF chief executive Jean-Pierre Farandou said that the attackers had started fires in "conduits carrying multiple (fibre-optic) cables" that carry "safety in-

formation for drivers" or control the motors for points.

"There's a huge number of bundled cables. We have to repair them one by one, it's a manual operation" requiring "hundreds of workers," he added.

Passenger services chief Christophe Fanichet said there were delays of 90 minutes to two hours on services between Paris and France's north and east.

"We ask people please not to come to the station, because if you haven't heard from us, your train won't be running," Fanichet told reporters.

One major branch of the network, the line to France's south-

Eurostar services to London also affected with cancellations and delays

east, was spared. CEO Farandou said that railway workers doing night maintenance in central France spotted unauthorised people, who then fled when the workers called in police.

Multiple services between Paris and London via northern France were also cancelled, the Eurostar company said, with others suffering delays as they divert onto lines not meant for high-speed trains.

Paris's RATP transport network was also operating under "increased vigilance" following the railway attacks, its chief executive Jean Castex said as he visited a control station.

The RATP has laid on a denser schedule throughout the day to bring spectators to and from the opening ceremony.

Olympics under heavy security

France's intelligence services were scrambling to determine the perpetrators of the sabotage, a security source told AFP.

The source added that the arson method used resembled past attacks by extreme-left actors.

In September, arson attacks on conduits holding railway cables

UN puts 4th century Gaza monastery on endangered site list

AFP | Paris

The Saint Hilarion complex, one of the oldest monasteries in the Middle East, has been put on the UNESCO list of World Heritage sites in danger due to the war in Gaza, the body said yesterday.

UNESCO said the site, which dates back to the fourth century, had been put on the endangered list at the demand of Palestinian authorities and cited the "imminent threats" it faced.

"It's the only recourse to protect the site from destruction in the current context," Lazare Eloundou Assomo, director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, told AFP, referring to the war sparked by Hamas's



A picture shows a view of the archaeological site of Saint Hilarion in the centre of the Gaza Strip

October 7 attack on Israel.

In December, the UNESCO Committee for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict decided to

grant "provisional enhanced protection" -- the highest level of immunity established by the 1954 Hague Convention -- to the site.

Typhoon Gaemi displaces nearly 300,000 in eastern China

AFP | Beijing

Authorities evacuated nearly 300,000 people and suspended public transport across eastern China yesterday, as Typhoon Gaemi brought torrential rains already responsible for five deaths in nearby Taiwan.

Gaemi was the strongest typhoon to hit Taiwan in eight years when it made landfall on Thursday, flooding parts of the island's second-biggest city.

It also exacerbated seasonal rains in the Philippines on its path to Taiwan, triggering flooding and landslides that killed 20 people.

It had weakened by the time



fishing boats returning to port to avoid Typhoon Gaemi in Xiamen, in eastern China's Fujian province

it made landfall in China's eastern Fujian province shortly before 8:00 pm local time on Thursday, state media said.

China is enduring a summer of extreme weather, with heavy rains across the east and south coming as much of the north

has sweltered under successive heatwaves.

The country is by far the world's largest emitter of the greenhouse gases scientists say are driving climate change and making extreme weather more frequent and intense.

Sri Lanka announces first presidential vote since unrest



Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe
AFP | Colombo

Sri Lanka's first presidential elections since an unprecedented economic crisis spurred widespread unrest will be held in September, the election commission said yesterday.

The election will be the first test of the public mood since the height of the 2022 downturn, which caused months of food, fuel and medicine shortages across the island nation.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, 75, who took office after street protests forced his predecessor to flee the country, has strongly hinted he plans to run.

He will face at least two rivals campaigning against austerity measures his government imposed to satisfy an International Monetary Fund bailout package.

The five-week campaign announced by the commission will conclude with a September 21 vote in a country still struggling with a fragile economic recovery and endemic discontent over cost of living issues.

Economic issues are expected to dominate the campaign as the country emerges from its worst-ever recession in 2022, when the GDP shrank by a record 7.8 percent.

1586

Walter Raleigh brings the 1st tobacco to England from Virginia



1689

Battle of Killcricankie: Jacobite Scottish Highlanders under Viscount Dundee defeat royalist force under General MacKay

1789

US Congress establishes Department of Foreign Affairs now referred to as the State Department

1866

First transatlantic telegraph cable comes ashore at Heart's Content, Newfoundland after being laid out 1,686 miles by Isambard Kingdom Brunel's Great Eastern steamship

Railways

Opening ceremony



There's a huge number of bundled cables. We have to repair them one by one, it's a manual operation requiring hundreds of workers

SNCF CHIEF EXECUTIVE JEAN-PIERRE FARANDOU

caused travel chaos in northern Germany, with a claim of responsibility posted to an extreme-left website.

The attacks happened hours before the Olympics parade yesterday evening that will see up to 7,500 competitors travel down a six-kilometre (four-mile) stretch of the river Seine on a flotilla of 85 boats.

It will be the first time a Summer Olympics has opened outside the main athletics stadium, a decision fraught with danger at a time when France is on its highest alert for terror attacks.

France's rail network was expected to be busy this weekend not only due to the Olympics but also as people return from or leave for their summer holidays.

At Paris's Montparnasse train station, passengers were waiting for information, with display boards showing delays of more than two hours.

India stuns China in Bangladesh, wins rights to operate terminal of Mongla port

TDT | Agencies

In a major strategic victory over China, India has secured operational rights of a terminal of Bangladesh's Mongla port in the Indian Ocean.

As per experts, it will give a major boost to India's maritime race to gain quasi-control of foreign ports, especially in its neighbourhood where China has sought to expand its influence.

The details of the deal are not out yet. It's India's third successful bid to run overseas ports in the last years, after Chabahar in Iran and Sittwe in Myanmar.

As per media reports, the terminal at the Mongla port will be managed by Indian Port Global Limited (IPGL).

The Indian Ocean region is key to fulfilling the objectives of China's Maritime Silk Road initiative. From Gwadar in Pakistan to Djibouti in East Africa,



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) shakes hand with his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina (file photo)

ca, China has made substantial investments in ports, a sector where India still remains a lightweight.

For instance, none of the Indian ports feature in the world's top 10 ports based on container traffic. On the other hand, China has six ports on the list.

According to C Uday Bhaskar, director of the Delhi-based think tank Society for Policy Studies, even development regarding to Chabahar and Sittwe ports has remained unimpressive over the years due to geopolitical and security factors.

"The progress [by Indian

companies] in Iran and Myanmar has been uneven due to other geopolitical factors, and hopefully Mongla will allow for speedy execution of the agreement," he was quoted as saying by South China Morning Post.

China's influence in Indian Ocean

As of now, China is actively involved in at least 17 Indian Ocean ports, out of which it's directly involved in the construction of 13 ports.

Now, India is hoping to boost its influence over key maritime locations on the western and eastern sides of the Indian Ocean and reinforce its role in regional security. "Building and managing ports is a form of 'port diplomacy' - a refurbished national power tool - which is acquiring strategic significance and China has pursued this path with great success," Bhaskar said.

Thousands evacuated as record rains pound northern Japan

AFP | Tokyo

Record heavy rain forced the evacuation of thousands of people across parts of northern Japan as rivers burst their banks washing away bridges and cars, officials and media reports said yesterday.

At least one person was killed and four missing after the downpours in Yamagata and Akita prefectures on the main island of Honshu.

A man in his 60s was missing after a landslide at roadworks in Yuzawa City, while an 86-year-old man was unaccounted for

after last being seen on a river bank in Akita City, police said.

One body was found in Akita City, media reports said.

A local official said in Yamagata, where two rivers burst their banks, that "three people, including two police officers who

were on a mission searching for a missing man, are unaccounted for".

Two parts of Yamagata prefecture recorded the most rain in 24 hours since records began in 1976, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said yesterday.

Harris 'will not be silent' on Gaza after tough talks with Netanyahu

● Harris meets Netanyahu, calls for end to "devastating" war

AFP | Washington

Kamala Harris signalled a major shift on US Gaza policy Thursday, with the presidential hopeful telling Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to seal a peace deal and insisting she would not be "silent" on the suffering in the Palestinian enclave.

Ripping up outgoing President Joe Biden's playbook of mostly behind-the-scenes pressure on Israel, the vice president said after meeting Netanyahu that it was time to end the "devastating" war.

"What has happened in Gaza over the past nine months is devastating. The images of dead children and desperate hungry people fleeing for safety, sometimes displaced for the second, third or fourth time," Harris told reporters.

"We cannot look away in the face of these tragedies. We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to the suffering and I will not be silent."

The 59-year-old -- now the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee after Biden said over the weekend he would not stand in November's election --



US Vice President Kamala Harris and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrive for a meeting in the Vice President's ceremonial office

Harris's outspoken comments mark a significant departure from Biden's approach, potentially signalling a new direction in US policy towards the Israel-Gaza conflict as she becomes the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee for the upcoming election

the prime minister my serious concern about the scale of human suffering in Gaza, including the death of far too many innocent civilians."

"And I made clear my serious concern about the dire humanitarian situation there."

Biden, for his part, held Oval Office talks with Netanyahu and called on him to swiftly "finalize" a deal on a Gaza ceasefire and the release of hostages, and "reach a durable end to the war in Gaza," according to a White House readout of the meeting.

Harris also called for the establishment of a Palestinian state and, similar to Biden, urged both Netanyahu and Hamas to agree to a ceasefire and hostage release deal to end the war sparked by

We cannot look away in the face of these tragedies. We cannot allow ourselves to become numb to the suffering and I will not be silent

KAMALA HARRIS

Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel.

"As I just told Prime Minister Netanyahu, it is time to get this deal done," she said.

Harris's outspoken comments were a stark contrast to the largely amiable greetings between Biden and Netanyahu earlier in the day, even if it masked months of tensions between the two men as well as questions over the US president's relevance.

"From a proud Zionist Jew to a proud Zionist Irish American, I want to thank you for 50 years of public service and 50 years of support for the State of Israel," Netanyahu said in tribute to Biden at the start of the Oval Office meeting.

Harris has been more outspoken on Gaza in the past than Biden and there had been speculation that she could adopt a tougher approach on Israel. Officials earlier denied there is any "daylight" between her and the president.

California governor orders homeless encampments dismantled



A homeless encampment is seen in California

AFP | Los Angeles

California Governor Gavin Newsom on Thursday ordered the dismantling of homeless encampments on state land, one month after the US Supreme Court overturned protections for unhoused residents sleeping outdoors.

The Golden State has long been reckoning with a homelessness crisis -- roughly one-third of the entire US homeless population live there -- in part due to lack of affordable housing.

"The state has been hard at work to address this crisis on our streets," Newsom said in a statement.

"There are simply no more excuses. It's time for everyone to do their part."

The Democratic governor issued an executive order to direct state agencies "to address dangerous encampments while supporting and assisting the individuals living in them."



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



Leaders across the board must wake up and step up their #ClimateAction. That means governments - especially #G20 countries - as well as the private sector, cities and regions. They must #ActNow as though our future depends on it - because it does.

@antonioguterres

02



Great to speak with athletes from @TeamGB ahead of the Olympics opening ceremony tonight. On behalf of the whole country: good luck - we are all behind you. #Paris2024

@Keir_Starmer

03



The EU stands with Ukraine. Today we transfer €1.5 billion in proceeds from immobilised Russian assets to the defence and reconstruction of Ukraine. There is no better symbol or use for the Kremlin's money than to make Ukraine and all of Europe a safer place to live.

@vonderleyen

04

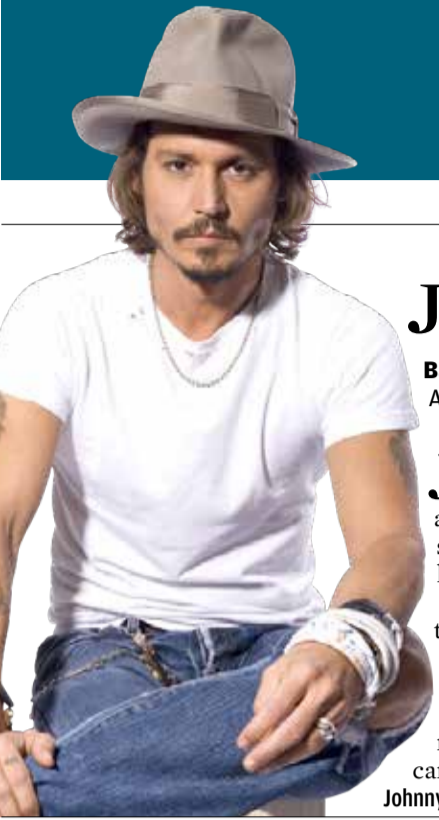


Delivering again on our commitment to support Ukraine. The first payment of 1.5 bln from frozen Russian assets goes to military capabilities and reconstruction. The EU will stand by Ukraine for as long as it takes.

@JosepBorrellF

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

CELEBS



Johnny Depp unveils new art collection Tarot

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Johnny Depp has revealed a new art collection inspired by his own life.

The 'Pirates of the Caribbean' actor has explored the themes of parenthood, love, relationships and career in the new series 'Tarot', which is limited to 195 editions and features four works titled 'The Lovers', 'The Empress', 'The Emperor' and 'Strength'.

Johnny said of the collection: "I've always been tremendously curious about tarot... and there's a great art to the cards".

'The Lovers' marks "the beginning of the story" and features a cinematic scene of a male holding a rose as he wards off danger and "protects" the female, while 'The Emperor' - who is styled as a 17th century French Mon-

arch - was inspired by a work the 61-year-old star created while filming 'Heanne Du Barry' in Versailles.

He said of the figure: "He's not really there... It kind of represents ignorant power. I certainly wouldn't dare put my own face as an emperor. Never. I made 'The Emperor' somewhat faceless because if you put the Emperor next to the Empress who do you trust?... The Empress."

And 'The Empress' pays tribute to Vanessa Paradis, the mother

of Johnny's two children, and is inspired by a painting the 'Black Mass' star did which featured on the cover of the French singer's album 'Divinidylle'.

He said: "I know who she is inside. She's magnificent. She's pragmatic. She's practical."

Of the Empress' tarnished crown, he added: It looks like a crown that has weathered storms. It shows a certain courage and strength of commitment.... the Crown has been through a lot; she still shines."

Khloe Kardashian advised to get therapy



Khloe Kardashian
Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Khloe Kardashian has been told she needs therapy.

Both Khloe's sister Kim Kardashian and Khloe's best friend Malika Haqq have advised the reality TV star to see a therapist to help her cope with issues in her personal life but Khloe doesn't feel like she needs one.

On the latest episode of 'The Kardashians', Kim told Khloe that she was returning to therapy and added that "[you should] be on this journey with me."

And, when discussing plans for Khloe's 40th birthday, Malika suggested: "We do have to celebrate your birthday really big. Should we do an 'Eat Pray Love' for your birthday? It's indirect therapy. It's like the kind of therapy you want to do."

Kim Kardashian fears she's becoming a 'full robot'

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Kim Kardashian is worried she's been "turning into a full robot" with "no emotion".

The 43-year-old beauty was robbed at gunpoint in Paris in 2016 and the trauma has left her "frozen" in knowing that staying cool saved her from being seriously hurt during the terrifying ordeal, so she wants to work through what happened with her therapist before she stops being able to express herself.

Speaking on the latest episode of 'The Kardashians', Kim - who has four children with ex-husband Kanye West - told her sister Khloe Kardashian: "[My therapist] was like, 'You think calm is your superpower. I think you are so desensitized from trauma that you literally are frozen in fight or flight.'"

"So then she was like, 'One time in life something happened, and you remained calm, and that worked for you. So you will always choose calm.'"

The Good American founder then insisted it didn't take a "detective" to realise it was the Paris robbery that had had such an impact on her sister's behaviour.

Khloe, 40, replied: "You

weren't calm before. Kim, you were a lunatic. You became calm.

"You were never calm as a teenager, in your 20s. You cried about everything. You were bratty. You threw tantrums.

"Everything stopped after you got robbed, because you stayed calm in that situation and you even said, 'My calmness is what kept me alive.'"

"That's when it started. It doesn't take a f***** detective to figure that one out."

In a confessional, Kim admitted she was worried people would "take advantage" of her calm nature.

She said: "I mean, imagine you're like, gun to your head, getting tied up, dragged across a hotel room, and the guy, I remember him telling me, 'Just like, stay calm and you'll live.' And I did that."

"[It] served me well at that time, and I think it saved my life."

"But I think I've let it get too calm to where people could take advantage of my calmness or I'm just turning into a full robot with like, no emotion."



Kate Hudson inundated with flirty messages from celebs

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Kate Hudson was inundated with messages from famous men when she took a year off from dating.

The 45-year-old actress decided to take a break from relationships in her thirties but revealed that did not stop celebrities from sliding in to her DMs.

Speaking on 'Watch What Happens Live': "Look, it's a great way to meet people, and a great thing to make your ego feel wonderful. Like, 'Oh, that one snuck in.' But I had a ton [of DMs] ... I like to flirt, which is why I had to go through a year without flirting. Yeah, now it's done."

Kate - who is now engaged to Danny Fujikawa - first opened up about her celebrity admirers in May.

Speaking on the 'Call Her Daddy' podcast, she said: "I was at that place where I

was like, 'I don't want to keep repeating any patterns anymore.'

"I have a great therapist who was like, 'I can help you, but you have to do it.'"



Look, it's a great way to meet people, and a great thing to make your ego feel wonderful. Like, 'Oh, that one snuck in.' But I had a ton [of DMs] ... I like to flirt, which is why I had to go through a year without flirting. Yeah, now it's done

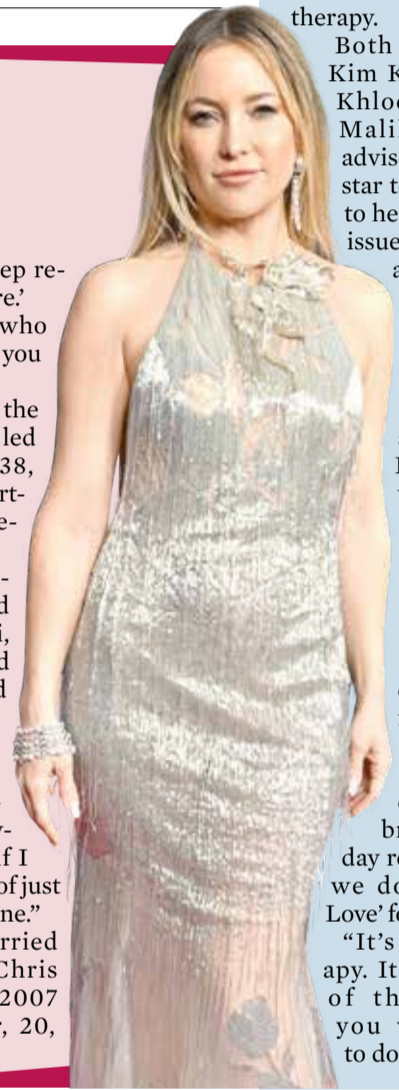
KATE HUDSON

And, Kate believes the break from dating led her to Danny, 38, who she first started dating in December 2016.

The couple welcomed daughter Rani, five, in 2018 and Danny proposed in 2021.

Kate said: "His values are very sturdy, and he's such a lovely person. I would have never, I think, allowed that in if I didn't take those three years of just being so happy in my life alone."

Kate was previously married to Black Crowes singer Chris Robinson from 2000 to 2007 and they have son Ryder, 20, together.



Kate Hudson

Kesha wants to change the law after Dr Luke battle

Bang Showbiz | Los Angeles

Kesha wants to change the law in the wake of her long-running battle with Doctor Luke.

The 37-year-old singer was locked in a legal row with the producer for several years after accusing him of drugging and raping her at a party, but was only able to leave his record label Kemosabe in December, six months after they settled their dispute out of court, and she wants to campaign for change after having lost "the rights to [her] recorded voice" because she didn't own her own master recordings.

Asked what being an independent artist means to her now, she told Forbes magazine: "It's wild that a human being can lose the rights to their recorded voice in perpetuity in the universe."

"First of all, changing litigation around that is something that's on my radar, so if this makes it into the interview - if anybody's reading this - I would love to connect because it's atrocious that's part of the business of making art."

The 'Joyride' hitmaker plans to use her own Kesha Records label to provide a "safe space" for other musicians.

She added: "Second of all, I have to say, currently I'm really excited to build a safe space for artists because creation and fear cannot co-exist. When you're in a state of fear, you cannot create, and I know this from personal experience."

"I'm really excited for Kesha Records to expand and grow in all the ways that people would think, but also in unexpected ways because I'm currently looking into the tech space and I'm looking to find partners who have the values that I align with."



Kesha

SUDOKU

			2					6
		8	1			9	7	
3	7		6					
	1					5	9	
8	9				7		2	
2	7				4			
			2			1		5
	8	6		9	5			
9		1						

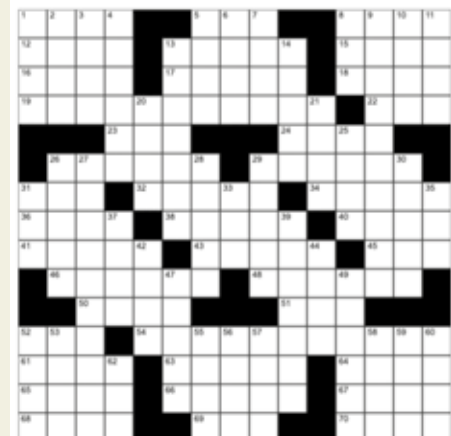
Yesterday's solution

8	1	5	6	9	3	2	7	4
3	9	2	5	7	4	1	6	8
7	6	4	8	2	1	3	9	5
9	5	1	3	8	6	4	2	7
6	2	8	9	4	7	5	1	3
4	3	7	2	1	5	9	8	6
1	8	3	7	5	2	6	4	9
5	4	9	1	6	8	7	3	2
2	7	6	4	3	9	8	5	1

How to play

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

CROSSWORD



Across

1- Opaque gemstone; 5- Pampering, briefly; 8- Musical staff sign; 12- The ___ Ranger rode a horse called Silver; 13- Russian range; 15- Extinct bird; 16- Ages and ages; 17- Try to bite; 18- Constantly; 19- Leaping insect; 22- Spreading tree; 23- LAX posting; 24- Low high tide; 26- The continent; 29- Capital of Russia; 31- WWW address; 32- "Forbidden" fruit; 34- Spud; 36- Faction of a group, often religious; 38- You can get a rise out of it; 40- Iranian coin; 41- The hole; 43- Ford flop; 45- Surgery sites, briefly; 46- Picks up the check; 48- Pines for; 50- Bern's river; 51- Water tester; 52- Acquire; 54- Laundry rope; 61- Oklahoma city; 63- Modern surgical tool; 64- Skeptic's scoff; 65- PBS science series; 66- Constellation components; 67- Scottish social unit; 68- Dog-powered snow vehicle; 69- Madrid Mrs.; 70- ___ good example;

Down

1- Couturier Cassini; 2- Needy; 3- Sigmund's daughter; 4- Children of a ___ God; 5- Small combo; 6- Reindeer herder; 7- Applaud; 8- Alphabet trio; 9- Aphrodisiac; 10- Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon; 11- Something to fill out; 13- Sad; 14- Note taker; 20- Greek portico; 21- Take a break; 25- Rent; ___ 26- Set up; 27- Cankerous; 28- Fencing blades; 29- Unordered; 30- Has on; 31- It's a free country; 33- Young man; 35- "Treasure Island" monogram; 37- ___ yellow ribbon...; 39- Seesaws; 42- DEA agent; 44- Vietnam neighbor; 47- Informs; 49- Souvenir; 52- Mil. leaders; 53- Hydroxyl compound; 55- Cereal grain; 56- Former Russian ruler; 57- Zeus's wife; 58- Adjective-forming suffix; 59- Cool; 60- Sicilian smoker; 62- Father;

Yesterday's solution

M	O	R	A	L	I	F	A	T	O	A	R	S		
I	V	O	R	Y	C	R	E	E	R	E	E	D		
D	I	S	C	S	K	E	R	R	E	R	E	I		
I	D	A	H	O	Y	E	A	R	B	O	O	K		
	I	L	L	T	A	R								
C	A	P	E	S	A	B	E	A	L	O	H	A		
O	R	O	N	A	S	A	D	I	E	S	E	L		
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I	N	G
E	S	T	O	P	S	R	O	L	Y	E	N	A		
Y	E	S	E	S	S	A	N	E	B	R	A	E		
		A	V	E	S	K	Y							
T	O	R	T	I	L	L	A		A	P	L	U	S	
P	A	N	E	S	D	A	K		R	A	I	S	E	
T	I	E	A		T	O	N	I		A	S	S	E	
A	S	A	P		A	M	E	N		T	S	A	R	S

Norris heads Piastri in McLaren one-two at Belgian GP practice

Norris and Piastri lead the pack, outpacing Verstappen who faces grid penalty

● **Norris leads Piastri by 0.215 seconds, Verstappen by 0.217**

● **Leclerc and Sainz place fourth and fifth in the session**

● **Hamilton and Russell deliver below expectations, finishing tenth and sixth**

AFP | Spa



McLaren's British driver Lando Norris drives during a practice session

Lando Norris topped the times ahead of his team-mate Oscar Piastri as McLaren finished a dominant one-two in yesterday's second free practice ahead of this weekend's Belgian Grand Prix.

The duo, who secured a front row lockout in qualifying at last

Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix, set the pace again ahead of series leader and three-time champion Max Verstappen of Red Bull.

The Dutchman faces taking a 10-place grid penalty for Sunday's race after his team fitted him with a new engine, taking

him beyond the permitted limit of four units for the season.

Norris clocked a best lap in one minute and 42.260 seconds to outpace Piastri by 0.215 seconds and Verstappen by 0.217, meaning they were separated by only 0.002 seconds after lapping

the 7.004-kms circuit, the longest on the calendar.

In cooling conditions, with rain threatening, the Ferraris of Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz were fourth and fifth ahead of George Russell of Mercedes and



The Spa-Francorchamps circuit, at 7.004 km, is the longest on the Formula 1 calendar, presenting unique challenges for drivers and teams in terms of setup and strategy

Alpine's Esteban Ocon, who it was announced Thursday will switch to Haas next year.

Kevin Magnussen was eighth in his Haas ahead of Sergio Perez of Red Bull and seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Mercedes.

After his successful exploits in opening practice, which he topped with some ease, Verstappen was out swiftly for FP2 on mediums to set a marker lap in 1:43.456 as Perez joined him on the pace, back in third, separated from the champion by Hamilton.

To the delight of his fans, Alpine's Ocon joined the fray, having missed most of the earlier action due to a suspected water leak.

Verstappen improved his time as the McLarens began to reel him in, but it was Sainz, in his Ferrari, who leapt to the top of the timing monitor in 1:43.098 before Piastri moved six-tenths clear.

"Might just need to check the floor," reported the Melbourne driver, who claimed his maiden F1 victory in Hungary.

"Turned into a skateboarder at Turn Seven..."

Piastri was soon displaced by his team-mate Lando Norris, in 1:42.260, giving them a one-two again, with the Australian adrift by two-tenths, but 0.002 clear of the Dutchman.

After two aborted attempts on softs, Hamilton could manage no better than 10th on his third flying lap with Russell in sixth behind the Ferraris, a below-expectations effort from Mercedes as they switched to race runs.

For Hamilton, who counts the majestic high-speed Ardennes circuit as one of his favourites, it was a discouraging day as he sought a set-up for Sunday's race, which is expected to be run in dry conditions after a wet qualifying day on Saturday.

New India captain Yadav says ready to lead against Sri Lanka

AFP | Kandy

India's Suryakumar Yadav said yesterday he was not going to repeat the mistakes of his domestic captaincy ahead of his first trial as Twenty20 skipper against Sri Lanka.

Suryakumar, 33, this month picked up the baton from much-loved predecessor Rohit Sharma, who announced his retirement from the 20-over format after India's World Cup victory in June.

He pipped all-rounder Hardik Pandya to the post after concerns over the latter's frequent injury absences.

But his previous captaincy of state team Mumbai had aroused concerns over his leadership style, after complaints from teammates prompted his 2015 sacking.

"Lot of things have changed since then. I am a different person now," the batsman told reporters in Kandy ahead of Saturday's series opener.

"I have got married and I have learned a lot from other captains. I will take the team forward in my own style," he



Sri Lanka's captain Charith Asalanka (R) and his Indian counterpart Suryakumar Yadav at a press conference in Kandy

added. "Our brand of cricket remains the same. What the captaincy has done is it has given me new responsibility and I am looking forward to the challenge."

Star batsman Virat Kohli also retired after the T20 World Cup and India's 15-man squad will give Suryakumar the opportunity to experiment with the top order, anchored on openers Shubman Gill and Yashasvi Jaiswal.

Sri Lanka also have a new short-format captain after a humiliating first-round World Cup knockout prompted Wanindu Hasaranga's resignation just six months after his appointment.

His replacement Charith Asalanka captained Jaffna Kings on Sunday to a title win in the island's 20-over Lanka Premier League tournament.

"It's a huge challenge for us to play the world champions. We are ready for the challenge as we

prepared well for this series," Asalanka said. "Bit disappointed that we are not at full strength," he added, saying that injury and illness had hurt the team's pace strength.

Fast bowler Nuwan Thushara was ruled out of the series with a fractured thumb while Dushmantha Chameera is unwell.

Sri Lanka have brought in right-arm seamer Asitha Fernando and left-arm quick Dilshan Madushanka as replacements.

The three-match series concludes Tuesday in Kandy before a three-match ODI series begins in Colombo yesterday.

"The players themselves have not been involved in any unethical behaviour," Blue said. "And frankly we ask FIFA to take that into consideration if contemplating any further sanctions.

Lombardi were also sent home for their roles in the scandal. Blue told reporters there had been "frankly unacceptable shortcomings of ethical incidents" by members of the Canadian coaching team.

However, he pleaded with FIFA not to slap Canada with a points deduction, which could potentially blow a hole in the defence of their Olympic crown.

"The players themselves have not been involved in any unethical behaviour," Blue said. "And frankly we ask FIFA to take that into consideration if contemplating any further sanctions.

Priestman's departure came a day after assistant coach Jasmine Mander and analyst Joey

around the squad. Canadian Soccer announced yesterday that English coach Priestman had been suspended with immediate effect after initial investigations into the scandal revealed drone-spying that pre-dated the Paris Olympics.

Canadian Olympic Committee chief executive David Shoemaker said separately yesterday that Canada's victory at the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics might also have been stained by spying tactics.

Australian swim coach avoids being kicked out of Olympics

AFP | Paris

An Australian swimming coach who backed a South Korean rival to beat two of his countrymen avoided being kicked out of the Olympics yesterday, with officials deciding it would be too disruptive.

Michael Palfrey told South Korean media this week he hoped Kim Woo-min won gold instead of Sam Short and Elijah Winnington in the men's 400m freestyle.

The trio -- all former world champions -- will face off on Saturday in the opening day of action at La Defense Arena.

Head coach Rohan Taylor blasted Palfrey as "un-Australian", deeming his actions "extremely disappointing".

But he stopped short of following through on a threat to send him home, saying athlete welfare across the 41-member pool team factored into his decision.

"We took the time to consider the two options -- for



Michael Palfrey

Mick Palfrey to stay, and for him to be sent home," he said in a statement.

"After extended conversations with athletes, the athlete leadership group, and coaching staff we have made the decision for Michael to stay.

"It is not one we have taken lightly and I stress this is an ongoing discussion for when we return home."

Palfrey works with Australian swimmers Zac Incerti, Abbey Connor and Alex Perkins, but also mentored Kim while he was training in Brisbane ahead of the Games.

Players unaware of spying scandal as Canada Olympic coach sent home: official

AFP | Paris

Canadian soccer chiefs yesterday pleaded with FIFA not to deduct points from their women's Olympic football team as a drone-spying scandal led to head coach Bev Priestman being dramatically kicked out of the Paris Games.

Canada Soccer chief executive Kevin Blue said Canadian players had not seen any footage produced by the drone used to spy on a New Zealand training session and should not be punished by global governing body FIFA.



Bev Priestman

Reigning Olympic champions Canada defeated New Zealand 2-1 in their opening match of the women's football tournament on Thursday despite the turmoil

around the squad.

Canadian Soccer announced yesterday that English coach Priestman had been suspended with immediate effect after initial investigations into the scandal revealed drone-spying that pre-dated the Paris Olympics.

Canadian Olympic Committee chief executive David Shoemaker said separately yesterday that Canada's victory at the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics might also have been stained by spying tactics.

Priestman's departure came a day after assistant coach Jasmine Mander and analyst Joey

Lombardi were also sent home for their roles in the scandal.

Blue told reporters there had been "frankly unacceptable shortcomings of ethical incidents" by members of the Canadian coaching team.

However, he pleaded with FIFA not to slap Canada with a points deduction, which could potentially blow a hole in the defence of their Olympic crown.

"The players themselves have not been involved in any unethical behaviour," Blue said. "And frankly we ask FIFA to take that into consideration if contemplating any further sanctions.



AQUA COOL
Ultra Pure Bottled Drinking Water

35 YEARS

Easy & Secure Online Ordering of your favourite Aqua Cool Products

Download the AQUA COOL App Now

Available on Google Play and the App Store

Jalal Ionics Co. W.L.L. is ISO 22000 : 2005 certified

Free Home Delivery
Call Us Now -1787 5098
www.aquacool.bh

Jalal Ionics Co. W.L.L.
P.O. Box 1770, Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain
G.R. No. 14986, Public Health Registration No. 18 0006



Paris welcomes the world



Bahrain's delegation sails on a boat during the opening ceremony of the Paris 2024 Olympic Games

TDT | Agencies

The Paris Olympics was inaugurated with a groundbreaking opening ceremony along the iconic River Seine yesterday evening.

Departing from tradition, over 7,000 athletes embarked on a six-kilometer journey aboard 85 boats, transforming the Seine into a spectacular passage for the Games' grand entrance.

Prior to the opening ceremony, French President Emmanuel Macron had guaranteed attendees an unforgettable spectacle, promising a vibrant celebration that embodies France's bold vision for the Games and showcases its rich cultural tapestry.

The 2024 Olympics will feature an array of star athletes poised to captivate global audiences.

LeBron James leads the US basketball team, eyeing his 17th gold medal.

Gymnast Simone Biles seeks redemption from Tokyo, while British tennis icon Andy Murray bids farewell to his Olympic career.

Spanish legend Rafael Nadal anticipates a thrilling doubles match alongside Wimbledon champion Carlos Alcaraz, and Italy's Marcell Jacobs defends his title in the iconic 100m race



Lady Gaga performed an iconic French cabaret classic at the Paris Olympics opening ceremony Friday. The appearance of the US pop star was kept under tight wraps by organisers, but rumours that she might perform spread after she was spotted in the French capital



Athletes from the delegations from India, Indonesia, and Iran sail in a boat past the Pont au Change bridge

Nadal injury doubt for Olympics, says coach Moya

AFP | Paris

Rafael Nadal has suffered a thigh injury to put his participation at the Paris Olympics in doubt, his coach Carlos Moya said on Thursday.

The 14-time French Open champion is scheduled to play in the singles and in the men's doubles alongside rising star and fellow Spaniard Carlos Alcaraz at Roland Garros.

"He had some discomfort yesterday (Wednesday) morning," Moya told Spanish radio.

"In the afternoon he was more limited and before it got worse he decided to stop."

The 38-year-old Nadal did not train on Thursday, which Moya said was "the most responsible thing to do".

"Don't force it at the moment and see if he recovers well," he added. "We

will see what condition he's in tomorrow and Saturday."

Nadal returned to tennis this year after a lengthy absence with a hip injury, reaching his first ATP final since winning the 2022 French Open in Bastad last weekend before losing to Portugal's Nuno Borges.

He is scheduled to face Hungarian Marton Fucsovics in the singles first round on Sunday, the day after partnering Alcaraz in the doubles.

If Nadal defeats

Fucsovics, he would set up a possible second-round meeting with old rival Novak Djokovic.

"I can't guarantee anything, neither that he won't play or he will play," said Moya. "At the moment he needs to rest, undergo treatment."

"He is obviously very excited to play these Olympics. It has been something marked on his calendar for years."

"He is a born competitor and wants to play singles and doubles. He's very excited about the doubles with Alcaraz. It will be the first time they have played together and it will be something historic for Spanish tennis."

Nadal is a two-time Olympic champion, having won singles gold in Beijing in 2008, and doubles gold at the 2016 Rio Games alongside Marc Lopez.



Rafael Nadal

'Raw meat': British team hit out at Olympic Village food

AFP | London

France may be the home of haute cuisine but the British team have been less than impressed about the food on offer at the Paris Olympic village, especially "raw meat".

Britain have brought in an extra chef as a result and complained about a shortage of the right food at the village, and the quality of what's on offer, English media reported.

Andy Anson, the British Olympic Association chief executive, told the Times that the fare at the village in the French capital "is not adequate" and that "a dramatic improvement" was needed.

Some British competitors have headed off to Team GB's



IOC President Thomas Bach at a salad bar at the Olympic Village

base elsewhere in the city to get fed and pick up packed meals to take back for dinner.

"There are not enough of certain foods: eggs, chicken, certain carbohydrates," Anson said of the apparently disappointing offering at the village where many athletes stay.

"And then there is the quality

of the food, with raw meat being served to athletes."

Anson called the food problem "the biggest issue at the moment" and said the added chef was to cater for the extra demand at their so-called performance lodge.

A Team GB spokesman told AFP on Friday, hours before the opening ceremony, that things were looking up.

"I think the latest update is that we understand the situation is improving and being attended to by Paris 2024," he said.

French sports newspaper L'Equipe on Wednesday quoted a firm responsible for catering as saying that it was aware of issues, including a shortage of eggs, and was working to increase supplies.