



# 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 high 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.