

Djokovic tames Alcaraz to set up semis clash with Zverev

Sabalenka survives scare; Sinner plays Alex de Minaur in quarters on Thursday



Serbia's Novak Djokovic celebrates the match point against Spain's Carlos Alcaraz during their men's singles quarter-final match on Day 10 of the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on Tuesday. (Right) Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka celebrates a victory over Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova after women's singles quarter-final match

AFP, MELBOURNE: A vintage Novak Djokovic tamed Carlos Alcaraz in a late-night blockbuster to set up an Australian Open semi-final with Alexander Zverev as two-time women's defending champion Aryna Sabalenka fought on.



The 37-year-old Djokovic rolled back the years at the scene of his greatest achievements on Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4 triumph sealed close to 1 am (local time).

The Serb surged into the semi-finals and a date with World Number No. 2 Zverev to edge closer to an 11th Melbourne crown and all-time record 25th Slam title.

With former rival Andy Murray now in his coaching

Bopanna-Zhang ousted

PTI, MELBOURNE: Rohan Bopanna and Shuai Zhang had a match point in the Super Tie-break but could not close out the mixed doubles quarterfinals in their favour as local wild cards John Peers and Olivia Gadecki emerged winners in an exciting contest at the Australian Open here on Tuesday. Bopanna and Zhang lost 6-2 4-6 9-11 in one hour and eight minutes at Kia Arena, bringing curtains on India's campaign at the first Grand Slam of the season.

corner, Djokovic was at his imperious and defiant best, cupping his ear to the crowd after winning big points. Djokovic was at the centre of a row on Monday after he demanded an apology -- and got one -- from a local TV presenter for what he called "insulting and offensive comments".

Spain's World Number No. 3 Alcaraz will have to wait another year to get a kangaroo tattoo. He had vowed to get one if he won the Australian Open for the first time. The 21-year-old four-time major champion has still never been

beyond the Melbourne Park last eight.

In hot and windy conditions, Germany's Zverev defeated the American Tommy Paul 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (7/0), 2-6, 6-1 to step up his quest to win a Grand Slam for the first time.

The 27-year-old lost his cool at one point -- because of a feather. The umpire called for a replay when the feather drifted in front of him as he played a shot at a critical juncture.

World Number No. 1 and defending champion Jannik Sinner plays home hope Alex de Minaur in the quarter-fi-

nals on Thursday, the winner facing American 21st seed Ben Shelton or the unseeded Italian Lorenzo Sonego.

Sabalenka will face Paula Badosa in the last four as the Belarusian bids to win the Australian Open for a third time in a row, something last achieved 26 years ago by Martina Hingis.

The World Number No. 1 kept that dream alive but had to battle for it in beating Russian 27th seed Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 2-6, 6-3 in the wind.

Sabalenka next plays Badosa, the Spanish 11th seed who stunned world number three Coco Gauff 7-5, 6-4. Badosa is into her first Slam semi-final at the age of 27.

On Wednesday, Iga Swiatek will look to continue her march to a first Australian Open title when she faces Emma Navarro. The winner plays Madison Keys or Elina Svitolina in the last four.

Tanisha-Ashwini, Satwik-Chirag march on

PTI, JAKARTA: India's Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty stormed into the second round of the US\$475,000 Indonesia Masters super 500 badminton with a clinical straight-game win against Chinese Taipei's Chen Zhi Ray and Lin Yu Chieh in Jakarta on Tuesday.

The Asian Games champions, who reached back-to-back semi-finals at Malaysia Super 1000 and India Super 750 in the last two weeks, outwitted Chen and Lin, ranked 38th in the world, 21-16, 21-15 in their opening match. World No. 19 combination of Tanisha Crasto and Ashwini Ponnappa stamped their authority over Thai pair of Ornnicha Jong-sathapornpan and Sukitta Suwachai 21-6, 21-14 in the women's doubles opening round.

Satwik and Chirag, the former world number ones, will face the winner of the match between Indonesia's Raymond Inra and Patra Harapan Rindorindo and Thailand's Kittinupong Kedren and Dechapol Puavaranukroh. Ashwini and Tanisha, who won the Guwahati Masters super 100 title, last month will take on Malaysia's Pei Kee Go and Mei Xing Teoh next.

In the men's singles, 2023 Odisha Masters runner-up Ayush Shetty brushed aside compatriot Kidambi Srikanth 21-7, 21-15, while Tanya Hemant eked out a hard-fought 16-21, 21-17, 21-15 win over Chinese Taipei's Tung Ciou-Tong in the men's and women's qualifying rounds.

Ayush, a 2023 World junior championships bronze winner, will face top seed China's Shi Yu Qi in the main draw, while Tanya will meet Thailand's former world champion Ratchanok Intanon.

Praggnanandhaa shares lead

PTI, WIJK AAN ZEE (The Netherlands): Indian Grandmaster R Praggnanandhaa scored a finely-crafted victory over compatriot Arjun Erigaisi to share the lead with Uzbek Nodirbek Abdusattorov after the third round of the Tata Steel Chess Tournament here.

Both Praggnanandhaa and Abdusattorov have 2.5 points each. It turned out to be an excellent day for the 19-year-old Indian as he handled the Catalan opening to perfection, getting a tiny advantage and squeezing out the defensive resources right from the early middle game stage. After the trade of Queens, the players reached a rook and knight endgame wherein Erigaisi's fractured pawns on the queenside came under the scrutiny.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant held to a goalless draw

AGENCIES, CHENNAI: Chennaiyin FC held Mohun Bagan Super Giant to a 0-0 draw in the Indian Super League match played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, here, on Tuesday.

The Mariners continue to be at the top of the table with 37 points from 17 games and the Marina Machans are positioned 10th with 18 points from as many games as the visitors.

It was a cagey affair from start to finish as both teams were unable to create enough openings to break open the opposition's defence.

ISL FIXTURE
Bengaluru FC vs Odisha FC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium, Bengaluru, 7.30 pm

GOA DIARY

Football tournament at Curtorim

RAIA: Margao SC in association with Batora United, Curtorim, will organise 1st Vaurudeancho Ixtt (an oldest Konkani weekly) trophy football tournament from January 28, at the DSYA ground, Curtorim. 16 teams will be participating.

FC Goa trounce Churchill Bros

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MAPUSA: FC Goa once again had an easy outing as they trounced Churchill Brothers SC by 9-1 margin in the All India Football Federation U-17 I-League match played at Field of Dreams, Guirim,

AIFF U-17 I-LEAGUE

on Tuesday.

Young Gaurs started earnestly and scored three goals through Shubb, Meldon and Sam, while Celvic Fernandes pulled one back for Church-

ill Brothers before the break to keep them in the game and make it, 3-1.

However, the Young Gaurs came out flying in the second half and pumped in six more goals through Sam, Sangam, Cayden, Vernon and a brace from Josley to end the rout, 9-1.

Calangute, Fatorda Veterans enter semis

Team Herald
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PANJIM: Calangute Veterans and Fatorda Veterans scored contrasting wins to enter the semi-finals of the All

Goa Veterans football tournament organised by Mix Friends of Santa Cruz, at Santa Cruz ground, on Tuesday.

Calangute Veterans defeated Bardez Veterans by a solitary goal

scored by Alwyn Fernandes, while Fatorda Veterans proved too strong for Varca Veterans, scoring a 3-1 win.

Fatorda were helped by a brace scored by Rosario and Vincent, while

Domingos was on target for Varca.



Government Higher Secondary School, Khandola-Marcel, won the Zonal Level U-19 Boys Tennis Ball Cricket Tournament for the second consecutive year organised by the Directorate of Sports and Youth Affairs at Mercedes, recently. In the final, they defeated Vidya Prabhodini Higher Secondary School, Porvorim, by 21 runs. The team along with officials (sitting left to right) Ruchi Verekar (PE teacher), Nagaraj Godekar (PE teacher), Sanjay Shirodkar (ZSO-DSYA), Hemant Khot (technical official) and Vishal Phautankar (official)

TODAY'S SPORTS

Reliance Foundation Development League Group Stage) Goa leg: Sesa FA vs FC Goa, at Duler Stadium, Mapusa, 8.30 am

GFA Division II League (Ilhas Zone): Aivao Youth Club vs Amaravati Sports Club, at Taleigao ground, 3.45 pm. (Bardez Zone): Goan Warriors FC vs PVC Association, at Guirim ground. Sangolda Lighting Club vs Vagator Parish Youth SC, at Vagator ground. Kick off 3.45 pm

GFA Vedanta Women's League: Livvals Sporting Association vs Sesa FA, at Benaullim ground, 3.45 pm

GFA Division II League (Mormugao Zone):

Vasco City SCC vs Mormugao United SCC, at Tilak Maidan ground, 3.45 pm. Chicalim SC vs United YC Bogmalo, at BITS Pilani ground, 3.45 pm. BITS Pilani FC vs Benfica Youth Club, at BITS Pilani ground 6 pm

Simon Barreto memorial football (semi-finals): Curtorim Gymkhana vs Maina Sports Club, at the DSYA ground, Curtorim, 4.30 pm

3rd All Goa Volleyball tournament: Sai Kurpa, Usgao, vs Ritvik 7, at Manora ground, 8.30 pm

Mix Friends Veterans Soccer: Ilhas Veterans vs Mitra Veterans at Santa Cruz ground, 3.30 pm. Vasco Veterans vs Football Mogi Veterans, 4.30 pm

GRAND RELEASE
26th JAN 3:15 PM RAVINDRA BHAVAN SANVORDEM (SUNDAY)
FOR TICKETS CONT: 9975258918
02nd FEB 3:30 PM PAI HALL MARGAO (SUNDAY)

TIATR FATIMA SAIBINICHEA ASREA KHAL
FANNS PRODUCTIONS
FRANCIS DE DICARPALE

MHOZO FAIDO TUZO KAIDO
WRI & DIR: FRANCIS DE DICARPALE

MUSIC BY: SHAMON & HIS TROUPE MERTS TONY STADE MANGALERS EDILES
CONT: 8975965951 / 9923699764

BY PUBLIC DEMAND - 4th REPEAT SHOW
24th JAN - 3:30 P.M.
PAI HALL MARGAO
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER

TIATR AL-RIYA PRODUCTION STAGE BY JESSICA ANIL ST ANTONIA DA GOVA APLA POLIDOROSA
WRI & DIR: ROSA FERNANDES

PANVDE NASLEEM GHOR

MUSIC BY: NOLVERT COTA & ARIFF THE GREAT CONT: 8669384011 / 968987527

CELEBRATING GOLDEN JUBILEE SHOW TODAY
AT BANDIANTLO KHURIS CORTALIM - 7.30 P.M.
BY PUBLIC DEMAND, POSITIVELY LAST SHOW IN MARGAO
30th JAN - 7.30 P.M. - PAI HALL MARGAO
(TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE COUNTER. ONLINE BOOKING: 7798944546)

TIATR WITH THE BLESSINGS OF OUR LADY OF VAILANKANNI TIATR
ULHAS TARI
6th Production
Konn Nhoi Konnacho
WRI & DIR: ULHAS TARI
BAND: ALEX, YESELON, TREMSON, MYLES, ELETON LIGHT: JAISON TRANSPORT: LUIS
FOR VILLAGE SHOWS CONTACT: 9923033704/7798944546

Fastest Golden Jubilee Show of the Season MARCHING TOWARDS DIAMOND

1) 25TH OCT. - SANVORDEM	31) 13TH DEC. - MAINA
2) 26TH OCT. - PARRA	32) 14TH DEC. - ANJUNA
3) 27TH OCT. - VELIM	33) 17TH DEC. - MARGAO
4) 28TH OCT. - PANJIM	34) 19TH DEC. - DIVAR
5) 29TH OCT. - MARGAO	35) 25TH DEC. - SIRCAIM
6) 30TH OCT. - TIVIM	36) 26TH DEC. - COLLEM
7) 2ND NOV. - CANDOLIM	37) 27TH DEC. - COLVALE
8) 3RD NOV. - VASCO	38) 28TH DEC. - MARGAO
9) 8TH NOV. - MARGAO	39) 30TH DEC. - MOKKORNEM
10) 9TH NOV. - CHINCHINIM	40) 1ST JAN. - NASNOLA
11) 10TH NOV. - ARPORA	41) 4TH JAN. - AGONDA
12) 11TH NOV. - AGASSAIM	42) 5TH JAN. - DANDO-COLVA
13) 12TH NOV. - MERCES	43) 6TH JAN. - CHANDOR
14) 14TH NOV. - MANDUR	44) 10TH JAN. - MARGAO
15) 15TH NOV. - MARGAO	45) 12TH JAN. - CANACONA
16) 16TH NOV. - SIOLIM	46) 16TH JAN. - PARODA
17) 17TH NOV. - PANJIM	47) 17TH JAN. - COLVA-5TH WARD
18) 17TH NOV. - MANDREM	48) 19TH JAN. - GALGIBARG
19) 20TH NOV. - NAVELIM	49) 21ST JAN. - BOGMALO
20) 22ND NOV. - NUVEM	50) 22ND JAN. - BANDIANTLO KHURIS
21) 24TH NOV. - MARGAO	(50TH SHOW)
22) 24TH NOV. - BETALBATIM	51) 25TH JAN. - PANCHWADDI
23) 30TH NOV. - ARAMBOL	52) 26TH JAN. - CONSUA
24) 3RD DEC. - MORJIM	53) 27TH JAN. - ZUARI
25) 5TH DEC. - MARGAO	54) 28TH JAN. - ST. CRUZ
(25TH SHOW)	55) 29TH JAN. - VARCA - PEDDA
26) 7TH DEC. - BORIM	56) 30TH JAN. - MARGAO
27) 8TH DEC. - SANVORDEM	57) 2ND FEB. - CANDOLIM
28) 8TH DEC. - KURDEM	58) 3RD FEB. - POMBURPA
29) 9TH DEC. - CARMONA	59) 11TH FEB. - ODXEL
30) 10TH DEC. - TUEM	... and the show goes on

Congratulations to
ULHAS TARI & HIS TROUPE
Best Wishes from:
PAULO & WILMA, Colva (U.K.)