

# Alcaraz plays Nishikori in Roland Garros opener, Swiatek gets tough draw

Djokovic will face McDonald of United States in the first round



Carlos Alcaraz

AFP, PARIS: Carlos Alcaraz will begin his French Open title defence against Japan's Kei Nishikori as Iga Swiatek faces a difficult route to a fourth successive Roland Garros title after a year-long trophy drought. Jannik Sinner takes on home hope Arthur Rinderknech in the world number one's first Grand Slam match since serving a three-month doping ban.

Alcaraz and Sinner have combined to win each of the last five men's Grand Slam titles and are the two chief contenders again in Paris.

Novak Djokovic, who had not won a clay-court match this season before this week, starts his latest quest for a record-setting 25th major against American Mackenzie McDonald. Seeded sixth, Djokovic could have been drawn to meet either Alcaraz or Sinner in the quarter-finals, but draw spared him from that prospect.

Instead, he could run into 2024 runner-up Alexander Zverev in the last eight before a potential semi-final against Sinner. Alcaraz is in the other half of the draw.

Alcaraz could play Fabian Marozsan or Luca Nardi in the second round, with towering Frenchman Giovanni Mpetshi Perricard a possible third round-opponent. The Spaniard is on course to meet 2021 runner-up Stefanos Tsitsipas or Ben Shelton in the last 16. Two-time finalist Casper Ruud is seeded to face him in the quarter-finals. In-form Lorenzo Musetti and fourth seed Taylor Fritz are also in that half of the field. Should Sinner get past the 72nd-ranked Rinderknech, he could go up against Richard Gasquet in what is the 38-year-old Frenchman's final tournament before retirement. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina potentially lurks in the third round with Andrey Rublev and Arthur Fils possible rivals in the last 16. Sinner could meet fifth seed Jack Draper or Alex de Minaur in the quarter-finals ahead of what would be a blockbuster clash with Djokovic. Three-time French Open titlist Djokovic would likely have to get beyond the likes of Denis Shapovalov and Daniil Medvedev to make another deep run. The 38-year-old Djokovic is appearing at Roland Garros for the 20th time. He has reached the quarter-finals or better at every edition of Roland Garros since



2010. Iga Swiatek will need to rediscover her best form to retain the Coupe Suzanne Lenglen following a troubled past 12 months. The Pole, who has dropped to fifth in the world, is in the same quarter as last year's finalist Jasmine Paolini, former champion Jelena Ostapenko and 2022 Wimbledon winner Elena Rybakina.

Swiatek plays Slovakian Rebecca Sramkova in the first round before a possible meeting with Britain's Emma Raducanu, the 2021 US Open winner making just her second visit to Paris.

Elina Svitolina, Belinda Bencic, Donna Vekic and Marta Kostyuk also feature alongside Swiatek in a loaded section.

The French Open starts on Sunday and concludes on June 8.

Four-time French Open champion Swiatek is in the same

half of the draw as top seed Aryna Sabalenka, who gets under way against Kamilla Rakhimova from Russia.



Iga Swiatek

## HASSAN MAKES HISTORY AS 1ST LEBANESE PLAYER IN OPEN ERA TO QUALIFY

AP, PARIS: Benjamin Hassan made history by becoming the first Lebanese tennis player in the Open era to qualify for the main draw of the French Open. The 30-year-old defeated Japan's James Trotter 6-2, 7-6 (5) in the final round of qualifying. Germany-born Hassan secured his place at Roland-Garros by winning



three straight matches in the qualifying tournament on the clay courts of Paris. Ranked No. 177 in the world, Hassan is no stranger to breaking new ground for Lebanese tennis. Last summer, at the Paris Olympics, which also took place on the clay courts of Roland-

Garros, Hassan became the first player to represent Lebanon. He defeated American Christopher Eubanks in the first round, claiming the first win in the history of the competition for his country. His qualification is the second major milestone for Lebanese tennis this year. In the first round of the French Open, he is scheduled to face another player who also came through the qualifying round, the Italian Matteo Gigante.

## From player to coach: Shane's mission to shape India's football future

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MAPUSA: Shane Anthony Temudo, from Thivim, began his football journey at St Britto's High School, Mapusa, in Class IV, where Fr Cecil played a pivotal role in nurturing his love for "The Beautiful Game".

This early encouragement laid the foundation for a deep-rooted passion that continues to shape his life today. Shane reflects on the investment he has made in football, both as a player and now as a coach.

"I always wanted to be a professional player and play for the country and was

ambitious to doing so, did work hard but injuries took a stall and it was very difficult to come back from back-to-back setbacks," Shane shared.

At the age of 24, after facing repeated injuries, Shane made the difficult decision to stop playing professionally. "I tried to have different areas of interest - sports journalism and coaching - something that would keep me

**"I always wanted to be a professional player and play for the country and was ambitious to doing so, did work hard but injuries took a stall and it was very difficult to come back from back-to-back setbacks - Shane Anthony Temudo"**

closer to game. Football is life, and I did listen to my inner voice saying that I cannot become a professional player and represent my country but why not create players for the national team? That's a dream yet to be fulfilled," he said.

His passion for the sport has now transformed into a mission to develop future football stars.

"It's clear I am not just focused on technique, but on building a well-rounded footballing culture and mindset. My transition into coaching and passion for developing future stars is powerful," Shane explained.

Having played at the highest levels from a young age, Shane gained valuable insight into the demands of professional experience that now fuels his coaching.

His stint with the Arsenal Academy in London provided him with professional training and a first-hand view of the football culture abroad.

"I did witness the footballing culture in London being part of the Arsenal Academy and getting professional training, playing at high levels, which has enriched my coaching knowledge," he noted.



"For me, coaching is a rewarding experience. It is more than only educating players about "The Beautiful Game" - it's beyond that. Through football, we can learn a lot, which helps us build an ecosystem within the footballing environment and, moreover, build true professionals," he mentioned.

Shane has been coaching since 2018 and sees it as a meaningful way to remain connected to football while influencing the next generation.

"Since then, there is no looking back as that's where I found myself living the unfulfilled dream to represent my country at the highest level - and I am continuing to work towards getting there someday, but this time on the other side as a coach."

### COACHING STUNTS

FC Goa U-13, U-15 and now currently Head Coach for FC Goa U-17 team and Assistant Coach FC Goa development team

Head Coach of Goa U-15 team for the Dr BC Roy Trophy held in Odisha, Bhubaneswar

### COACH HIGHLIGHTS

U-17 AIFF League Regional round winners 2024-25

Champions of the GFA U-17 Division-I League Season 2024-25

U-15 AIFF league regional round winners 2023-24 (Final round group stage)

Champions of the GFA U-15 Division-I League Season 2023-24

Vedanta U-15 Youth Cup Runners-up 2023-24

Champions of the GFA U-15 Division-I League Season 2022-23

Champions of the GFA U-13 Division-I League Season 2022-23

Won Fair Play Award at the JSW U-13 Cup at Bellary (April 2022)

## Asha bags bronze in Pencak Silat

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RAIA: Goa's Asha Babu Naik won the bronze medal in the -65kg category of Pencak Silat at the 1st Khelo India Beach National Games 2025 underway at Ghoghla Beach, Diu, on Saturday.

### KHELO INDIA BEACH NATIONAL GAMES 2025

This remarkable feat not only reflects Asha's talent and determination but also marks the first-ever medal for Goa. The Goa Pencak Silat team participated in only two categories with a

small but determined contingent of three athletes, led by Head Coach Anthony Ceddy Braganza.

The Pencak Silat Association of Goa (PSAG) hailed the exceptional leadership and dedication of Anthony Ceddy Braganza, the head coach and general secretary of PSAG, whose tireless efforts have been instrumental in the team's performance and development.

This historic win is a shining inspiration for budding martial artistes and a proud achievement for Goa's sporting community.



## Patidar, Cummins fined Rs 24L, Rs 12L for slow over-rate

PTI, LUCKNOW: Royal Challengers Bengaluru skipper Rajat Patidar and Sunrisers Hyderabad captain Pat Cummins have been fined for their respective teams' slow over-rate during their Indian Premier League match here.

While Cummins was fined Rs 12 lakh as it was his team's first offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct, Patidar was docked Rs 24 lakh as a member of the playing XI of the second-time offender RCB.

"As it was his team's second offence of the season under the IPL's Code of Conduct relating to minimum over-rate offences,

Patidar was fined Rs 24 lakhs," said the IPL in a statement.

"The rest of the members of the Playing XI, including the Impact Player, were each individually fined either Rs 6 lakh or 25 per cent of their respective match fees, whichever is lesser."

The IPL statement also added: "As it was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of the IPL Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Cummins was fined Rs 12 Lakh." Already assured of a playoff berth, RCB suffered a 42-run loss against SRH in their penultimate league game.

### TODAY'S SPORTS

GFA U-17 Division II All-Goa Semi-finals: Snobs Football Academy vs FC Tuem, at Raia Panchayat ground, 4.15 pm

Calangute Panchayat Cup: St Savio Sports Club, Calangute, vs Peddem Bomm Sports Club, Anjuna, at Poriat ground, Calangute, 4.30 pm

YMCA 3x3 Basketball Tournament: U-14 Girls final - Don Bosco Oratory, Fatorda A vs St Mary's A, 5 pm; U-14 Boys Final - Loyola Hoopers vs Flash Squad, 5.15 pm; U-17 Girls Final - Sharada Mandir vs Sonics A, 5.30 pm; U-17 Boys Final - Sonics A vs Don Bosco Oratory Green, 5.45 pm. Women's exhibition game: YMCA Infknights vs Sonics Porvorim, Transpire Pune Customs vs Falcons Mumbai, 6 pm. All matches at Don Bosco Oratory, Panjim

33rd Arlem Rolling Trophy (final): Shiroda Youth Club vs United Club Verna, at Raia panchayat ground, 4.30 pm

## 33 RD ARLEM ROLLING TROPHY 2025

Organized by ARLEM YOUTH ASSOCIATION

GRAND FINAL

SHIRODA YOUTH CLUB

V/S

UNITED CLUB OF VERNA

On Sunday, 25th May 2025, At 4.30 p.m.

Venue: Raia Panchayat Ground

Added attraction HOUSE

KONKANI MUSICAL SHOW BY PIO AGNELO FERNANDES

Chief Guest: RAJESH FALDESSAI (Chairman of GOA Rehabilitation Board & MLA of Cumbarjua Assembly Constituency)

Guest of Honours: CLAFASIO DIAS (Ex MLA Cuncolim Constituency)

To Preside: SHRI. ALEIXO REGINALDO LOURENCE (Chairman of Goa Industrial Development & MLA of Curtorim Constituency)

Special Invites:

REV. FR. VENTURA LAWRENCE (PARISH PRIEST OUR LADY OF LIVRAMENTO CHURCH ARLEM)

Shri. Dominic Gauncar (Z.P. Member, Raia) Shri. Mario D'Souza (Sarpanch V.P. Raia) Shri. Anthony Pango (GFA Vice President, South Goa)

Shri. Milagres Rodrigues (Benjo) Shri. Andrew Ferrao (GFA Executive Member) Shri. Laxman Tulsidas Hadfadkar (GFA Executive Member) Shri. Omkar Rohidas Vaigankar (GFA Executive Member) Shri. Cosme Oliveira (GFA Executive Member) Shri. Luis Caetano Quadros (President of Raia Sporting Club) Shri. Shrikant Sawant (President of Youth Club Manora)

Smt Sarika P. Gauncar (Chairperson Gauncar Higher Secondary School Raia) All the Members of Village Panchayat, Raia.

Jeron Colaco President

Marcos Gonsalves Vice President

Francisco Pango Asst. Sports Secretary

Seby Gauncar General Secretary

Johnson Cardozo Asst. Treasurer

Rosario Colaco Cultural Secretary