

# ALCARAZ SURVIVES OPENING DAY SCARE AS SABALENKA SHINES

AFP, LONDON: Carlos Alcaraz survived a major scare from veteran Fabio Fognini, while Aryna Sabalenka advanced smoothly and

before breaking Fognini in the second game. Roaring "vamos," Alcaraz set the tone for the final set and saw out the match to keep his place in the draw. Former US Open champion Daniil Medvedev was the

Daniil Medvedev suffered a shock early exit on a sweltering opening day at Wimbledon — the hottest in the tournament's history.

Temperatures at the All England Club soared to 31.4 degrees Celsius (88.5°F) by 1500 GMT, surpassing the previous opening day record of 29.3°C set in 2001. With fans and players alike seeking shade and relief, the action on court was no less intense.

World number two Alcaraz launched his title defence with a gruelling five-set win over Fognini, eventually prevailing 7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 7-5, 2-6, 6-1 in a Centre Court battle lasting over four hours. It was the first time since Roger Federer's narrow win over Alejandro Falla in 2010 that a defending champion had been pushed to a fifth set in the opening round.

The 22-year-old Spaniard, who is aiming for his third straight Wimbledon crown, overcame 62 unforced errors and saved two break points early in the decider

highest-profile casualty of the day, suffering a stunning first-round defeat to France's Benjamin Bonzi. Medvedev, a two-time Wimbledon semi-finalist, lost 7-6 (7/2), 3-6, 7-6 (7/3), 6-2 in just over three hours, ending his campaign in frustration by smashing his racket against his chair.

Meanwhile, top seed Aryna Sabalenka stayed composed to cruise into the second round with a 6-1, 7-5 win over Canadian qualifier Carson Branstine on Court One. The Belarusian, who used ice packs between games to stay cool, was pleased to overcome a minor challenge in the second set.

The 27-year-old three-time Grand Slam champion, who missed last year's Wimbledon due to a shoulder injury, will face either New Zealand's Lulu Sun or



Carlos Alcaraz

Aryna Sabalenka

Czech Marie Bouzkova in the second round.

Elsewhere, two-time Wimbledon finalist Ons Jabeur was forced to retire from her opening match against Viktoriya Tomova. Trailing 7-6 (7/5), 2-0, the 30-year-old Tunisian broke down in tears and withdrew after a lengthy medical timeout. "I wasn't expecting not to feel good," said

Jabeur. "I've been practising pretty well the last few days... I'm pretty sad. It really doesn't help with my confidence."

The Wimbledon heat rule, which allows a 10-minute break between sets when the heat stress index crosses 30.1°C, remained in effect. "The athletes compete in temperatures like this all year," said Wimbledon CEO Sally Bolton. "We do have the heat rule available to us... and we will be taking heat stress monitor readings."

In other action, Britain's Sonay Kartal stunned former French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko with a 7-5, 2-6, 6-2 win, giving the home crowd something to cheer on a blistering day at SW19.

## 17-year-old boxer alleges sexual harassment by SAI woman coach; parents lodge FIR

PTI, NEW DELHI: A woman coach with the Sports Authority of India's National Boxing Academy in Rohtak has been accused of sexual harassment by a minor pugilist, who according to the FIR filed by her parents, has slipped into depression because of repeated "mental and physical abuse".

Despite having a copy of the FIR, PTI is withholding the name of the accused as the matter is under investigation.

When reached for a comment, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) acknowledged receiving a complaint from the 17-year-old victim about intimidation and incidents of slapping but denied being told about sexual harassment as alleged in the FIR.

Both the bodies said that their internal investigations did not find any evidence against the coach, who is continuing to play a leading role in conducting the national camp for junior and youth boxers at this

point.

In her FIR lodged at a Rohtak police station, the victim has stated that the coach tried to forcibly remove her clothes once, slapped her on multiple occasions, threatened to ruin her career and called her a "person of bad character" in front of other boxers leading to her isolation.

The complaint against the coach has been registered under Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita's section 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 351 (3) (criminal intimidation) along with Protection of Children from Sexual Abuse act's section 10 (aggravated sexual assault).

SAI said it would assist in the investigations as and when required.

"...we have not received copy of any such FIR as of now. A complaint was however lodged by a female Boxer of NBA Rohtak through email, on 24/4/25 in which she alleged Mental and Physical harassment by a female coach during an invitational boxing tournament held in Ireland from 25th March 2025 to 3rd April 2025. No allegation of sexual harassment was levelled in that complaint," SAI Regional Centre (Sonepat) stated in response to PTI query.

"A detailed inquiry was conducted in which statements of the complainant, the coach concerned, the fellow coaches and staff members and fellow athletes were taken and the allegations made could not be established.

"SAI is committed to ensuring clean sports and will extend any cooperation required during investigation based on the FIR, at any point of time," it added.

The girl's parents have stated that they are not satisfied with the BFI's handling of the matter.

Describing in detail the abuse she was allegedly subjected to, the victim's parents said that during the tour of Ireland, the coach humiliated the boxer and went on to molest her as well.

## Coach Gambhir faces growing pressure ahead of second Test

AFP, NEW DELHI: Gautam Gambhir is under growing pressure ahead of the second Test against England after India's loss at Headingley made it seven defeats in 11 red-ball matches since he became coach last year.

The 43-year-old former opening batsman is facing flak from some quarters for his selections, man management and how he carries himself in press conferences.

India are ushering in a new era following the retirements of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, with Gambhir widely reported to have played a part in the exit of at least one of the two veteran stars.

Led by new captain Shubman Gill, the visitors were beaten by five wickets in the opening Test of the five-match England series, adding to a growing sense of alarm.

The second Test at Edgbaston starts on Wednesday and patience is wearing thin back home.

"Gautam Gambhir is under significant pressure. The situation is becoming increasingly tense," former India batsman Aakash Chopra said on his YouTube channel.

"He has managed two wins against Bangladesh and one against Australia, but we've lost three matches to New Zealand, three to Australia and now one to England.

"He has been losing and losing."

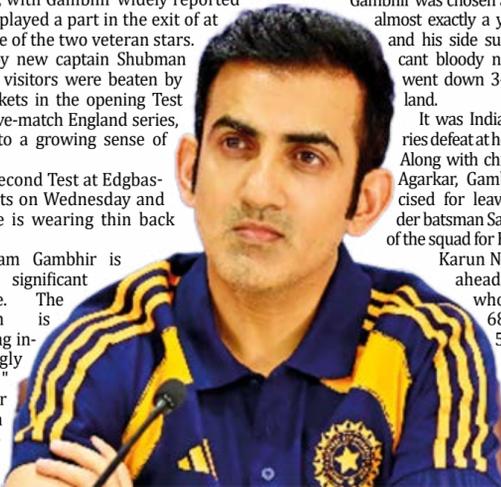
Gambhir, who as a player had a key role in India's ODI World Cup triumph in 2011, succeeded Rahul Dravid in July last year.

Dravid signed off a largely successful three-year tenure by winning the T20 World Cup.

Gambhir was chosen as his successor almost exactly a year ago but he and his side suffered a significant bloody nose when they went down 3-0 to New Zealand.

It was India's first Test series defeat at home in 12 years. Along with chief selector Ajit Agarkar, Gambhir was criticised for leaving middle-order batsman Sarfaraz Khan out of the squad for England.

Karun Nair was picked ahead of Sarfaraz, who had scores of 68 not out and 56 against a visiting England last year, and made 150 versus New Zealand in Bengaluru.



## PSG rout Messi's Miami, Bayern through to Club World Cup quarters

AFP, ATLANTA (United States): Paris Saint-Germain steamrollered Lionel Messi's Inter Miami 4-0 to reach the Club World Cup quarter-finals on Sunday, where they will face Bayern Munich after they overcame a spirited Flamengo side.

The German giants defeated the Brazilians 4-2 in Sunday's other last 16 clash with a brace from Harry Kane, after the European champions proved far too strong for Miami's cast of ageing stars.

Miami hoped Messi's magic could help them produce an unlikely result against the Argentine star's former club, but the Major League Soccer side were dismantled by Luis Enrique's rampant team.

Messi and his former Barcelona team-mates Luis Suarez, Sergio Busquets and Jordi Alba had done well to reach the last 16 but the gulf



Bayern Munich's forward Harry Kane celebrates after scoring his team's second goal against Flamengo, at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami

in quality between the teams was laid bare in Atlanta.

Joao Neves netted twice for PSG, who benefited from a Tomas Aviles own goal, while Achraf Hakimi was also on target for the treble-winners.

Messi was the main draw, as fans chanted his name and most of the 66,000 crowd were clad in Miami's

hot pink, interspersed with Argentina shirts.

Kane produced two lethal finishes as Bayern beat out Filipe Luis' Flamengo side backed by a passionate following at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami.

Erick Pulgar headed Joshua Kimmich's corner into his own net and then Kane's

### RESULTS

Last 16

Paris Saint-Germain 4 (Neves 6, 39, Aviles 44-og, Hakimi 45+3)  
Inter Miami 0; Flamengo 2 (Gerson 33, Jorginho 55-pen) Bayern Munich 4 (Pulgar 6-og, Kane 9, 73, Goretzka 41)

deflected drive flew into the bottom corner as Bayern took a two-goal lead.

The three-times Copa Libertadores champions battled back in as Gerson smashed a shot past Manuel Neuer to delight most of the 61,000 crowd.

Leon Goretzka restored Bayern's lead but former Chelsea midfielder Jorginho pegged them back once more from the penalty spot.

Kane settled the contest with a fine touch and finish to set up the quarter-final clash against PSG.

## Ayush clinches maiden BWF World Tour title at US Open

### Tanvi finishes runner-up

PTI, IOWA (US): Rising shuttler Ayush Shetty notched up his first BWF World Tour title with a commanding straight-games victory over Canada's Brian Yang in the men's singles final of the US Open Super 300, ending India's title drought this season.

The 20-year-old, a 2023 junior world championships bronze winner, defeated the third seeded Yang 21-18 21-13 in 47 minutes on Sunday to cap off an impressive week, which included a come-from-behind win against top seed Chou Tien Chen in the semi-finals.

It was Shetty's third victory over Yang, having defeated him twice earlier this year at Malaysia and Taipei Open.

"It means a lot, it's my

first title in the senior circuit. So I'm really happy," the 6 ft-4 inch shuttler told BWF.

"There are a lot of positives to take away. I played some excellent badminton here, and I'm looking forward to the Canada Open next week."

In the women's singles final, 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma finished runner-up after a fighting three-game loss to top seed Beiwen Zhang of the United States.

Playing her first World Tour final, the unseeded teenager went down 11-21 21-16 10-21 in 46 minutes.

"I'm very happy with my performance. I was a bit nervous before entering the court, and I made many mistakes. This is my first Super 300 final, so I'm happy about that," Tanvi said.

### shorttakes

#### MS Dhoni moves to trademark his iconic nickname 'Captain Cool'

MUMBAI: Mahendra Singh Dhoni has officially moved to trademark 'Captain Cool', the nickname fans have fondly used for years to describe his calm and composed leadership style. The former India captain is seeking exclusive rights to use the moniker for services including sports coaching, training, and related facilities. According to the Trade Marks Registry portal, his application has now been accepted and advertised. The trademark was published in the official journal on June 16, 2025. "Delighted to share a recent development from the field of trademark law that underscores the evolving role of personality rights and acquired distinctiveness in overcoming relative grounds for refusal," Dhoni's lawyer, Mansi Aggarwal, told a national daily.

#### Hitesh, Sachin Siwach shine as India begin World Boxing Cup in style

ASTANA: Hitesh and Sachin Siwach led India's charge with dominant performances, securing unanimous decision victories in their opening preliminary bouts at the World Boxing Cup here on Monday. Hitesh outclassed Kan Chia-Wei of Chinese Taipei 5-0 in the light middleweight division at the Beeline Arena. Sachin was equally convincing in his 5-0 win over Canada's Al-Ahmadih Keoma-Ali in the lightweight category. In the women's competition, Minakshi began her campaign with a clean 5-0 win over Australia's Madeleine Bowen in the light flyweight division, while Muskan edged England's Kerry Davis 3-2 in a closely contested middleweight category bout.

#### Bosch breaks through as SA set Zimbabwe huge target

BULAWAYO: South African fast bowler Corbin Bosch ended stubborn resistance by Zimbabwe's opening batsmen with a wicket in the last over of the third day of the first Test at Queens Sports Club on Monday. Zimbabwe, set a near-impossible target of 537 runs to win, were 32 for one at the close after Takudzwanashe Kaitano was caught at third slip after defending determinedly to make 12 off 62 balls. Keshav Maharaj, captaining South Africa in a Test match for the first time, chose to keep Zimbabwe in the field until his team were bowled out for 369 in their second innings more than half an hour after tea. All-rounder Wiaan Mulder, in his third match since being promoted to bat at number three, made his second Test century, batting fluently to score a Test-best 147 before being caught on the deep mid-wicket boundary off part-time spin bowler Wesley Madhevere.

#### England unchanged for second India Test as Archer misses out

LONDON: England named an unchanged team for the second Test against India starting at Edgbaston on Wednesday, as Jofra Archer was made to wait for his return. Ben Stokes' men won the opening match of a five-Test series by five wickets last week after chasing down 371 on the final day at Headingley. Archer has not played Test cricket since February 2021 but had been called into the squad after bowling his first red-ball overs for four years in Sussex's County Championship draw against Durham last week. However, the 30-year-old was forced to miss Monday's training session due to a family emergency. England team: Ben Stokes (capt), Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Brydon Carse, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Jamie Smith (wkt), Josh Tongue, Chris Woakes

#### Chelsea to sign Brighton forward Joao Pedro

LONDON: Chelsea's forward options could be bolstered by the time they face Palmeiras in the Club World Cup quarter-finals on Friday after reportedly agreeing a deal with Brighton for Joao Pedro. The Athletic reported the Brazilian international is on his way to the United States for a medical before joining up with the Chelsea squad after terms were struck for a transfer in excess of \$69 million.

#### Michelle Kang takes over as president of Ligue 1 team Lyon

PARIS: American businesswoman Michele Kang has taken over as president of seven-time French champion Lyon after John Textor resigned following the club's relegation over financial irregularities. The South Korea-born Kang is also majority owner of the Lyon's women's team — OL Lyonnais — and has been on Lyon's board of directors since 2023.

#### India woman footballer Soumya undergoes surgery after nasal bone fracture

CHIANG MAI (Thailand): Indian women's football team midfielder Soumya Guguloth has undergone a successful surgery after she suffered a nasal bone fracture during her side's AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers victory over Timor-Leste here. The 24-year-old is currently recovering at the team hotel. Soumya had tested the Timor-Leste defence a couple of times in the second half but could not convert the opportunities into goals. India won the group match 4-0 to notch their second consecutive victory on Sunday.

#### Confident India hope for Mandhana encore, Harmanpreet availability against England

BRISTOL: A confident India will aim to capitalise on opener Smriti Mandhana's sublime form and hope for skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's availability to achieve another big win when the second Women's T20I against England is played here on Tuesday. India: Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Yastika Bhatia (wk), Harleen Deol, Richa Ghosh (wk), Jemimah Rodrigues, Shafali Verma, Amanjot Kaur, Sneha Rana, Sayali Satghare, Deepti Sharma, Kranti Goud, Arundhati Reddy, Shree Charani, Radha Yadav. England: Natalie Sciver-Bruno (c), Tammy Beaumont (wk), Sophia Dunkley, Amy Jones (wk), Danni Wyatt-Hodge, Alice Capsey, Charlie Dean, Paige Scholfield, Em Arlott, Lauren Bell, Sophie Ecclestone, Lauren Filer, Linsey Smith, Issy Wong. Match starts at 11 pm IST

#### Azhar Mahmood appointed Pak's acting red-ball head coach

LAHORE: Former all-rounder Azhar Mahmood was on Monday elevated to the post of Pakistan's acting red-ball head coach until the conclusion of his current contract, which runs until April next year. Mahmood had signed a two-year contract with the Pakistan Cricket Board in April last year as assistant coach across formats along with Australia's Jason Gillespie (Tests) and South Africa's Gary Kirsten (limited overs), who have both moved on.