Alcaraz apologises for racquet fiasco

Cincinnati: Carlos Alcaraz has apologised for his behavior during Friday afternoon's loss to Gael Monfils at the Cincinnati Open.

During the third set, Alcaraz destroyed his racquet by repeatedly smashing it on the court in a rare show of frustration for the four-time grand slam winner. The No. 3 player in the ATP rankings lost 4-6, 7-6 (7-5), 6-4 to the 37-year-old Monfils.

Posting in Spanish on X on Saturday, Alcaraz said his attitude was not correct, and his actions should not have been done on the court. The 21-year-old added that it's difficult to control yourself when your heart rate is high, and he will work to ensure it doesn't happen again.

Carlos Alcaraz

Alcaraz was playing his first match since earning a silver medal at the Paris Olympics after losing to Novak Djokovic, who also beat him last year in the Cincinnati final.

"I felt like it was the worst match that I've ever played on my career," Alcaraz said Friday. "I've been practicing really well. I was feeling great. But I couldn't play. I want to forget it and try to move on to New York."

The US Open begins in New York on August 26.

AP/PTI

Jannik Sinner of Italy returns to Andrey Rublev at the Cincinnati Open on Saturday. (Reuters)

Sinner does a first, Iga loses

Cincinnati: Aryna Sabalenka advanced to her first Cincinnati Open final with relative ease, defeating Polish world No.1 Iga Swiatek 6-3, 6-3 in the semi-finals on Sunday.

In their third clash of the season and their first on a hard court, the Belarusian world No.3 showcased her prowess with a fast-paced, aggressive style.

CINCINNATI OPEN

Despite a valiant effort to mount a late comeback Swiatek struggled to keep up with Sabalenka's pace and precision and was ultimately unable to close the deficit.

Sabalenka will compete in her ninth WTA 1000 final on Monday.

Top-ranked Swiatek and Jannik Sinner had fended off challenges on Saturday to reach their respective semi-finals.

Swiatek had extended her match-winning streak to 15 with a 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 victory over 17-year-old Mirra Andreeva. Sabalenka was a 6-3, 6-2 winner over 10th-ranked Liudmila Samsonova.

Aryna Sabalenka in action during her semi-final match against Iga Swiatek at the Cincinnati Open on Sunday. (Reuters)

Sinner avenged last week's loss to No.6 Andrey Rublev in the quarter-finals in Montreal with a 4-6, 7-5, 6-4 victory to become the first Italian man to reach the Cincinnati semis in the Open era.

"It was very windy and I tried to be as consistent as possible," Sinner said. "First time that I've played a semi-final in this place, so that's very positive."

Sinner will face No.3 Alexander Zverev. Zverev, the only remaining former champion in the draw, beat Ben Shelton 3-6, 7-6, 7-5. Zverev has won four straight against Sinner.

Frances Tiafoe advanced to the semi-finals for the second consecutive year when Hubert Hurkacz retired in the second set because of a calf injury.

In the other women's quarter-finals, No.6 Jessica Pegula outlasted Leylah Fernandez, 6-2, 6-7, 7-6 for her first semi-final berth here. Pegula will face Paula Badosa who beat Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-3, 6-2. "Paula is really playing some good tennis," Pegula said. "She turned her year around and is finding some form. She's a top player."

AP/PTI

Rana slams NRAI for inconsistent policies

New Delhi: Double Olympic-medallist shooter Manu Bhaker's coach Jaspal Rana has slammed the national federation's "ever-changing" Olympic selection policy, saying that it has hurt some of the most promising talents in the past and will damage more youngsters if there is no consistency going forward.

Rana, a pistol champion in his own right who won three Asian Games gold medals in the 2006 edition, hardly minced words as he questioned the federation's tendency to make last-minute changes to its policy, and its stubborn refusal to acknowledge or facilitate the presence of shooters' personal coaches at national camps and trials.

"The (federation's) selection policy changes every six months. I met the sports minister and told him 'get the selection policy from the federation. Let them decide... whatever they decide, right or wrong, we are not discussing that, and then stick to it'.

"You will see the difference (in the performance of shooters)," he said.

Several talented shooters like Saurabh Chaudhary, the only one to make the 10m air pistol final at the Tokyo Games, and Asian Games gold-medallist pistol shooter Jitu Rai faded away in a matter of few of years at a time when they were among the brightest prospects for Olympic glory. Rana said the system failed them and many more.

Jaspal Rana

"Where is Saurabh Chaudhary, where is Jitu Rai? Does anybody talk about them? No. Are we talking about (10m air rifle shooter) Arjun Babuta, who finished fourth in Paris? He missed the medal by a fraction," the 48-year-old asked.

"Nobody is thinking how to get him back on the platform (again)," said Rana, who was allegedly told to leave the Karni Singh ranges by the federation's high-performance director Pierre Beauchamp during the Paris Olympics selection trials.

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) amended its selection criteria in 2021 after a second successive medal-less Olympic outing in Tokyo, drastically reducing the bonus points awarded to quota winners and re-introducing trials to decide the final squad after a considerable gap.

Earlier, the composition of the final squads was at the NRAI's discretion and quotas used to be swapped if the federation did not consider a shooter good enough.

But even with the introduction trials, there was no consistency and NRAI faced criticism for restricting the number of shooters who could aim for an Olympics berth to just the top five.

Rana said he wasn't against change but would like more consistency during an Olympic cycle.

He said that Bhaker, too, will have to fight for a place in the national squad once she returns from a three-month break.

PTI

Rahm in lead, Lahiri slips

White Sulphur Springs (US): India's Anirban Lahiri carded a below-par 1-over 71 in the second round to slip further at the LIV Golf Greenbrier tournament here. From overnight tied-38, Lahiri slid to tied-49 in the field of 54 players.

Lahiri had two bogeys against one birdie despite favourable scoring conditions at the Old White Course.

Jon Rahm rose to the top of the leaderboard on Saturday after a second-round score of 8-under 62.

At 14-under, he leads by two shots entering the final round of what promises to be a shootout in favourable scoring conditions.

Anirban Lahiri

Rahm's focus will be simply to hold off all the challengers on a course that yields low scores.

Last year, Bryson DeChambeau won by shooting 58 in the final round. So far, there have been eight rounds of 63 or lower shots this week, with Rahm's 62 being the lowest.

The all-Australian Ripper GC took the team lead by shooting 20 under, thanks to 63s by Cameron Smith and Lucas Herbert and a 64 by Marc Leishman. At 36 under, they lead Smash GC by one shot and Legion XIII by six in pursuit of their third victory of the season.

If Rahm posts a second consecutive victory on Sunday, it will guarantee that the Individual Championship will be decided next month at LIV Golf Chicago in the regular season finale.

Rahm entered the week in second place in the standings, 24 points behind Niemann.

AP/PTI

A win finally for women

Mackay: Rookie leg-spinner Priya Mishra grabbed five wickets while Tejal Hasabnis and Raghvi Bist scored half-centuries as India Women 'A' thrashed Australia Women 'A' by 171 runs in the third and final one-dayer on Sunday.

India 'A' finally achieved success in Sunday's game after having lost five games on the trot — three T20s in Brisbane and two one-dayers here — in the six-match white-ball series.

India A scored a modest 243/9, thanks to middle-order batter Tejal's 66-ball 50 and Raghvi's 64-ball 53.

Then 20-year-old Delhi cricketer Priya took five wickets for only 14 runs to dismiss the Australia A batting line-up for just 72 runs for a massive win.

Brief scores: India Women 'A' 243/9 in 50 overs (Tejal Hasabnis 50, Raghvi Bist 53; Mattiar Brown 3/38). Australia Women 'A' 72 in 22.1 overs (Priya Mishra 5/14).

Scores with PTI inputs

STAR APPEAL: Shuttler Lakshya Sen during a felicitation by the Uttarakhand chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in Dehradun on Sunday. (PTI)

Sait claims main event

TITAN BOY

Hyderabad: Trainer Imtias Sait's 11/2 shot Geographique (Neeraj Rawal-up) claimed the 2,000m Nizam's Gold Cup, main event here on Sunday.

RESULTS

(With RCTC dividends)

1st race: Noble Heart 1, Eminency 2, American Flame 3. **Win ₹ 36**; (P) 12, 22, 12. **2nd race:** Pleasant Star 1, Clara 2, Anon One 3. **Win ₹ 42**; (P) 14, 19, 11. **3rd race:** Hurricane Bay 1, Nightmare 2, Barbel 3. **Win ₹ 19**; (P) 10, 39, 10. **4th race:** Fly Tothe Stars 1, Lucky Zone 2, Epavor 3. **Win ₹ 147**; (P) 30, 21, 11. **5th race** (Nizam's Gold Cup): Geographique 1, Chamonix 2, Touch Of Grey 3. **Win ₹ 94**; (P) 19, 13, 10. **6th race:** Ashwa Gajraj 1, Crown Witness 2, Federer 3. **Win ₹ 63**; (P) 17, 15, 10.

MONDAY TIPS

1.55 pm: Secret Saint 1. Mountain Touch 2. Dosen Hero 3.
2.30 pm: Oliver's Mount 1. Star Forever 2. Burgundy Black 3. **3.05 pm:** Lashka 1. Shadow Fax 2. Divine Connection 3. **3.40 pm: Sugar** 1. Get Lucky 2. Exclusive Spark 3. **4.15 pm:** Activut 1. Greisy 2. Silver Act 3.
4.50 pm: Star Cruise 1. Bien Ponsant 2. If You Like It 3.

Maharaj, Rabada seal it for SA

OUR BUREAU & REUTERS

Calcutta/Providence: Keshav Maharaj and Kagiso Rabada took three wickets apiece to lead South Africa to a 40-run win over the West Indies in the second and final Test at Providence on Saturday.

South Africa completed the victory in three days after bowling the Windies out for 222, having set them a target of 263 to win the Test.

The rain-affected first game in Trinidad was drawn but the second Test victory means South Africa have won 10 successive series against the Windies.

Maharaj, named Player of the Series, finished with 3/37, going past off-spinner Hugh Tayfield's tally of 170 wickets to become South Africa's most successful spinner in Test cricket.

Senior pacer Rabada, also crucial to the Proteas' win, is now on 299 Test scalps.

For Maharaj, it was about trying to understand his team's requirements from him. "I just want to play, to be honest. I haven't played a Test in quite some time, so I just wanted the opportunity to play continuously.

"I just tried to keep getting better and understanding what the team wanted from me," the left-arm spinner said at the post-series presentation. Talking about bowling on that Providence Stadium surface which kept the bowlers in the contest right through the Test, Maharaj said: "To be honest, I tried to bowl as many wobble-seam balls as I could because of the kind of pitch.

"I still managed to move it even though I was bowling wobble seam mostly."

Keshav Maharaj (left), in a picture shared on X, receives his Player-of-the-Series award from former West Indies top-order batsman Ramnaresh Sarwan at Providence on Saturday

Nonetheless, it was a close call for the Proteas in a low-scoring game as the Windies fell agonisingly short. They began their chase with more than two days of play remaining but lost opener Mikyle Louis cheaply for four as he nicked a catch to Wiaan Mulder at slip off Rabada.

Captain Kraigg Brathwaite was the next man out but not before adding 42 runs with Kency Carty for the second wicket. When the experienced Jason Holder fell without scoring to leave the Windies on 104/6, it looked an uphill task for the home team.

Keeper Joshua da Silva and Gudakesh Motie, however, shared the best partnership of the series for the hosts, adding 77 runs to reduce the target to 82.

Motie then was lbw off Maharaj for a Test-best 45.

Brief scores: South Africa 160 & 246. West Indies 144 & 222 (Kei[illegible] Nev Maharaj 3/37, Kagi[illegible] 3/50. South Afri[illegible]

HAPPENINGS

New Executive Director appointed by Punjab & Sind Bank

Shri Rajeeva has assumed charge as Executive Director of the Punjab & Sind Bank w.e.f. 09.08.2024. Prior to his elevation as Executive Director of Punjab & Sind Bank, he was Chief General Manager of Punjab National Bank. Shri Rajeeva, a postgraduate in Arts, is also a Master of Business Administration in Banking & Finance and a Certified Associate of Indian Institute of Bankers (CAIIB).He joined the services of PNB in 1993. In a carrer spanning over three decades, Shri Rajeeva gained expertise in almost all the key areas of Banking, having served in Rural and Urban Branches.

HUDCO welcomed its new Director Finance

Shri Sanjay Kulshrestha, CMD, along with Shri M. Nagaraj, DCP HUDCO, warmly welcomed Shri Daljeet Singh Khatri as the new Director Finance at HUDCO. This marks the beginning of a new chapter for HUDCO, with Shri Khatri's extensive expertise that will bring valuable insights and leadership to the organization's financial strategies.

Shri Naveen Srivastava appointed as Director (Operations) POWERGRID

Shri Naveen Srivastava has been appointed as Director (Operations) of Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), a Maharatna CPSE under Ministry of Power, Government of India. Priorto his joining as Director (Operations), he worked as Executive Director (NR-III) handling challenging and flagship works & delivered results consistently in dynamic business environment. With over two decades of experience in operations, Shri Srivastava has consistently driven success across multiple facets, including Operations and Maintenance (O&M), Testing and Commissioning (T&C), and cutting-edge SCADA and communication technologies.

SJVN launched 90 MW floating solar project

SJVN Limited, a Mini Ratna Schedule 'A' CPSU under Ministry of Power, Govt. of India has successfully commissioned its 90 MW Omkareshwar Floating Sol[illegible] Project . The project has been [illegible] by SJVN Green Energy [illegible]L), a wholly own[illegible] of SJVN. On co[illegible] at the project, total [illegible]apacity of SJVN has been [illegible]sed to 2466.50 MW. The project has been developed at a cost of Rs. 646.20 crores & is expected to generate 196.5 million units of energy in first year. The estimated cumulative energy generation over a period of 25 years shall be 4629.3 million units.

IIT Roorkee powers up hydro research with new lab

The Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee), Department of Water Resources Development and Management (WRDM) celebrated a significant advancement in research infrastructure with the inauguration of the newly renovated and modernized Power Electronics and Hydro-Electric Machines Laboratory (PEHEM Lab). The inauguration was followed by an industry-academia joint workshop in collaboration with CADFEM India, underscoring the institute's commitment to research and industry engagement. The PEHEM Lab, a state-of-the-art facility within the WRDM department at IIT Roorkee, was officially inaugurated by Prof. K.K. Pant, Director, IIT Roorkee.

NBCC to develop a township in Srinagar

a India Enterprise signed an MoU on 8.8.2024 for implementing development of Satellite Township at Rakh Gund Aksha, Bemina, Srinagar, spread over approximately 406 acres. The project site is located adjacent to upcoming Medi City and High Court Complex. NBCC will implement the project from 'concept to commissioning' as Project Management and Marketing consultant at an estimated cost of Rs 15000 Cr. approximately. The MoU was signed by Shri Owais Ahmed, Vice Chairman, SDA and Shri Sanjay Gupta, Executive Director, NBCC.

Performance of LIC (Q1) of FY 2024-2025

The Board of Directors of Life Insurance Corporation of India ("LIC") approved and adopted the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter ending June 30th, 2024. Below are the key highlights of our standalone results. The Pro[illegible] after Tax (PAT) for the quarter ende[illegible] was Rs. 10,461 crore as com[illegible] crore for the quarter en[illegible] 2023 registering [illegible]1%. The Total [illegible]ume [illegible]uarter en[illegible] 2024 w[illegible] 1,13,770 [illegible] as compared to [illegible],363 crore for the quarter ende[illegible] 30th 2023, registering a growth [illegible]6.66%.

PSPCL detected cases of thefts during mass checking drive

Under directions of Power Minister Punjab Harbhajan Singh ETO, a mass checking drive was conducted in five zones of Punjab State Electricity Board (PSPCL), to check cases of theft, unauthorised use of electricity (UUE) and unauthorised extension of load (UE) and others. The PSPCL Director (Distribution) Er. DPS Grewal added that the staff members, including Chief Engineers, XEns and SDOs conducted surprise checking at various places in all the five zones during which a total 26,599 power collections were checked. During checking, a total 1,149 cases of thefts were detected and an amount of Rs.437.54 lakhs were charged to defaulters.

Bajaj Finserv large cap fund

Bajaj Finserv Asset Management has announced the launch of an open-ended equity scheme that will focus on just 25-30 stocks in the large caps category. Bajaj Finserv Large Cap Fund will be benchmarked against the Nifty 100 Total Return Index (TRI). It aims to provide better risk-adjusted returns over the long term through its high active share approach. This fund has a concentrated strategy, with a focus on a handful of high-conviction stocks and a high active share.

NBCC signs MoU with Jhansi Development Authority

NBCC, recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jhansi Development Authority (JDA) to undertake development of land parcels in Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh. The MoU was signed by Shri Alok Yadav, IAS, Vice Chairman, JDA, and Shri Pradeep Sharma, Executive Director, NBCC. Shri Paritosh Goyal, General Manager, NBCC along with other key officials from both organizations attended the signing ceremony. Following the signing, a strategic meeting was held with Shri Bimal Dubey, IAS, Commissioner/ Chairman, JDA, to discuss the project's scope and implementation strategy.

Symphony launched coolers, smart water geysers

For enhancing the comfort and to address the health issues of their customers, Symphony Limited launched new coolers and entered in to the water heater category. The company announced its entry into the storage water heater category with the launch of three ranges of geysers – Spa, Sauna and Soul. The new Geysers are equipped with several ground breaking features, including the Symphony PuroPod, an advanced 9-layer water filtration cartridge that softens hard water, reducing hair damage and providing skincare benefits.