

Poll: 70% of Japanese Want Tokyo Games Cancelled or Delayed



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TOKYO (Dispatches) - More than 70 percent of people in Japan want the Tokyo Olympics to be cancelled or delayed as the coronavirus pandemic rolls on, a Kyodo News poll

showed, just over 100 days ahead of the planned start of the Games.

The survey showed 39.2 percent want the Games scrapped, while 32.8 percent favor another delay.

Only 24.5 percent of respondents want the world's largest sporting event to go ahead as scheduled.

Tokyo on Monday began a month-long period of quasi-emergency measures to blunt a fourth wave of COVID-19 infections driven by virulent mutant strains.

More than 92.6 percent of respondents felt anxiety about the resurgence of infections, the Kyodo survey conducted from April 10 to 12 showed.

109-Year-Old Kagawa Becomes World's Oldest Olympic Torch Bearer

Shigeko Kagawa, a 109-year-old woman, has become the oldest Olympic torch bearer after she took part in the Tokyo Olympic torch relay in Nara Prefecture on Monday. Kagawa, who was born in 1911,

took the record from Aida Mendes of Brazil who walked with the Rio Olympic torch in Macapa, Brazil when she was 107 years old in June 2016.

Kagawa is the second centenarian to attend the Olympic torch relay since it started on March 25. Shitsui Hakoishi, a 104-year-old barber, carried the flame in the rain on March 28, 2021, in Nasukarasyama, Tochigi Prefecture.

But the world record is expected to fall next month when Kane Tanaka, the world's oldest living citizen, is set to carry the Olympic torch.

Tanaka, 117, is recognized by the Guinness Book of Records as the oldest person in the world and was already Japan's senior citizen.

She is due to carry the flame when it passes through Shime in Fukuoka Prefecture on May 12.

Cavendish Takes 2nd Successive Stage Win in Turkey

ANKARA (Dispatches) - Mark Cavendish has won his second stage at the Tour of Turkey in as many days following a three-year victory drought.

Britain's Cavendish powered his way around the outside of rivals in the race's third stage into Konya.

The Deceuninck-Quick Step rider, 35, was tearful during his post-race interview when he paid tribute to his team-mates, including Fabio Jakobsen, who was seriously injured last year.

"The guys did an incredible job. So proud to see Fabio up there," he said.

Jakobsen, 24, is competing in his first race since a crash during last August's Tour of Poland, where he sustained head injuries following a high-speed accident with Jumbo-Visma's Dylan Groenewegen.

Cavendish, one of the most successful riders in cycling's his-



Mark Cavendish has won 48 Grand Tour stages

tory, with 30 Tour de France stage wins, added: "It was a case of staying patient - to see Fabio for the first time involved in a bunch sprint since... I'm so, so proud."

The Briton - wearing the light blue leaders' jersey after Monday's stage win, his first since February 2018 - made his way around Alpecin-Fenix's Jasper

Philipsen and Andre Griepel of Israel Start Up Nation on the final corner after a messy approach following 144km of racing.

"It was such a messy one to get right - the wind was bouncing off the buildings as we came in [to the finish]," Cavendish said.

"I'm still coming back - I was more confident today, but not as

confident as I used to be. I'm more confident in myself than it being any kind of swagger."

Cavendish - who rejoined Quick Step this season, having ridden for them between 2013 and 2015 - said he "doesn't have a clue" where he will race next. The team will consider him for upcoming major races, possibly Grand Tours, but no decision has been made yet.

The Belgian squad are famous for winning one-day races and bunch sprints, and have several other talented sprinters, such as Ireland's Sam Bennett.

But Jakobsen still has some rehabilitation to complete and Cavendish's strength in the final few meters suggested he has the form to win in races such as the Tour de France.

Cavendish is just four stage wins away from equaling cycling great Eddy Merckx's record of 34 Tour victories.

Medvedev Tests COVID-19 Positive, Out of Monte Carlo Masters



LONDON (Reuters) - World number two Daniil Medvedev of Russia has tested positive for COVID-19 and has been withdrawn from this week's Monte Carlo Masters, the ATP said on Tuesday.

Medvedev, who was seeded second behind top-ranked Novak Djokovic at the ATP Masters 1000 event on clay, has been put in isolation and is being monitored, the men's tennis governing body said in a statement.

"It's a big disappointment not to play in Monte-Carlo," said the 25-year-old Medvedev.

"My focus is now on recovery and I look forward to getting back out on Tour as soon and as safely as possible."

The ATP on Monday posted a video of Medvedev's practice session in Monte Carlo with Spaniard Rafa Nadal. The governing body did not respond to a request for comment on Nadal's participation in the tournament.

As a Monaco resident, Medvedev was allowed to stay at his home as per tournament protocols while other players are staying in bio-secure bubble accommodation.

Players living at home are required to test daily for the virus while those

in the restricted environment are tested every four days.

Nadal, who is chasing a record-extending 12th title in Monte Carlo, and his team were tested on Monday as per protocols and all results were negative, the Spaniard's publicist Benito Perez-Barbadillo told Reuters on Tuesday.

"Nadal is absolutely fine," Perez-Barbadillo said on phone from Monte Carlo. "As we understand the virus does not anyways show before three-four days."

"The next scheduled testing is in three days."

Nadal, the winner of 20 Grand Slam singles titles, has not played since his Australian Open quarter-final defeat in February by Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas due to a back issue.

Stephen Curry Scores 53, Makes Warriors History in Win



Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry shoots against the Denver Nuggets during the first half of an NBA basketball game in San Francisco, April 12, 2021.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Stephen Curry became the all-time leading scorer in Golden State Warriors history with the ninth 50-point game of his career, exploding for 53 in a 116-107 victory over the visiting Denver Nuggets on Monday night.

The Nuggets might have lost more than just a second straight game, as standout guard Jamal Murray went down with a left knee injury with 50.6 seconds remaining in the game.

Murray, who missed the previous four games with a sore right knee, was escorted straight to the locker room after the fall, which came at the end of a 17-point night. Coach Michael Malone said postgame that Murray would undergo an MRI exam.

Curry began the game with 17,765 points in his Warriors career, needing 18 to equal Wilt Chamberlain's all-time franchise

record. He got there in the first quarter, then went on to finish the night with 10 3-pointers. Nikola Jokic finished with 27 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists for the Nuggets, and Michael Porter Jr scored 24.

Wizards 125, Jazz 121
Bradley Beal scored 34 points, Russell Westbrook compiled his fifth consecutive triple-double and Washington overcame a tough start to upset Utah in Salt Lake City. This result snapped the Jazz's franchise-record, 24-game home winning streak.

Westbrook scored 25 points, dished out 14 assists and grabbed 14 rebounds to help the Wizards beat the Jazz for the second time in a month. Utah had won 11 of 13 games since falling at Washington on March 18.

The Jazz lost despite getting 42 points from Donovan Mitchell and 33 from Bojan Bogdanovic.

Perez Re-Elected Unopposed as Real Madrid President



Florentino Perez has been re-elected president of Real Madrid until 2025

MDRID (AFP) - Florentino Perez has been re-elected unopposed as president of Real Madrid for a sixth term, the Spanish champions announced on Tuesday.

The 74-year-old was the only candidates to apply after nominations opened at the start of the month.

A club statement said: "A single candidate was validated by the electoral committee...and D. Florentino Perez Rodriguez is proclaimed president"

Perez, the head of major construction group ACS, had already been re-elected unopposed twice: in 2013 and 2017. He is approaching 18 years in charge of Real.

He was the man behind Madrid's star-studded 'Galacticos' era in his first spell as club president between 2000-2006.

His latest mandate runs until 2025.

He called for new elections at a board meeting on April 1, and the club's electoral committee met at one minute past midnight Tuesday to allow any late runners to appear before the deadline.

Perez's fourth consecutive term,

and sixth in total, was confirmed quarter of an hour later.

Critics say a reform in the club's statutes from 2012 makes it harder to run for president.

Since then, any candidate must have been a Real Madrid member for at least 20 years and be able to guarantee a part of the team's budget with their personal assets.

His personal wealth is estimated by Forbes Magazine at \$2.2 billion dollars (1.85 billion euros).

Among the most pressing items in his in-tray are the renovation of Real's Santiago Bernabeu stadium, the club's balance sheet in the wake of the coronavirus, and the club's two main transfer targets - Paris Saint-Germain's Kylian Mbappe and Borussia Dortmund star Erling Haaland.

Real Madrid face Liverpool in the second leg of the Champions League quarter-finals at Anfield on Wednesday, leading 3-1 from the first leg as they pursue a 14th European crown.

After the weekend's 2-1 Clasico win they moved above Barcelona into second, one point behind Atletico Madrid in the hunt for a Liga/Champions League double.

Manchester United Fall in New Top 20 Global Rich List

LONDON (Dispatches) - Manchester United have dropped to fourth place in the global rich list, compiled by Forbes, as clubs from the Premier League dominate the top 20 most valuable clubs.

Despite reporting severe financial issues and debt, Barcelona sit in top spot for the first time with a value of \$4.76 billion as they just pipped bitter rivals Real Madrid who slipped from top spot to second.

Manchester United have a val-

ue of \$4.2 billion, with Bayern Munich just ahead of them and Liverpool just behind them in fifth at \$4.1 billion. Man United have been in top spot for 11 of the last 16 years, and were in third in the last rankings.

According to the release from Forbes, the value of Liverpool has rocketed in the past two years by 88 percent. That comes after Jurgen Klopp's side won the UEFA Champions League and then the Premier League in back-to-back seasons.

