

Iranian Women Defeat Indian Rivals at ParaVolley Asia Championships



TEHRAN – The Iranian national women's sitting volleyball team on Wednesday won the match against India at the 2023 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zone Championships.

Iranian defeated India by winning three straight sets (25-10, 25-10, 25-4).

The Iranian team will face the second team of Group B in the semifinal stage on Thursday.

The champion of the Asian

Sitting Volleyball Championships will earn a spot at the 2024 Paralympic Games.

The 2023 ParaVolley Asia Oceania Zone Championships in both men's and women's categories is held in Astana, Kazakhstan from July 3 to 8.

The Iranian men's team who are participating in the same competitions defeated their Chinese opponent in three straight sets earlier on Tuesday.

Volleyballers Fall Short Against France in VNL



TEHRAN – France defeated Iran volleyball team 3-0 (25-18, 25-22, 25-19) in Week 3 of the 2023 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) in Anaheim, the U.S., early Wednesday.

Timothée Carle collected 17 points for France and Iran's Morteza Sharifi scored eight points.

Iran head coach Behrouz Ataei and two key players Amin Es-

maeilnezhad and Arman Salehi have missed the Week 3 after the U.S. government didn't issue their visas.

Team Melli was headed by Iran assistant Alireza Tloukian in this match.

Iran will also meet Bulgaria (July 6), Argentina (July 8) and Cuba (July 9) and have a difficult task with an incomplete team.

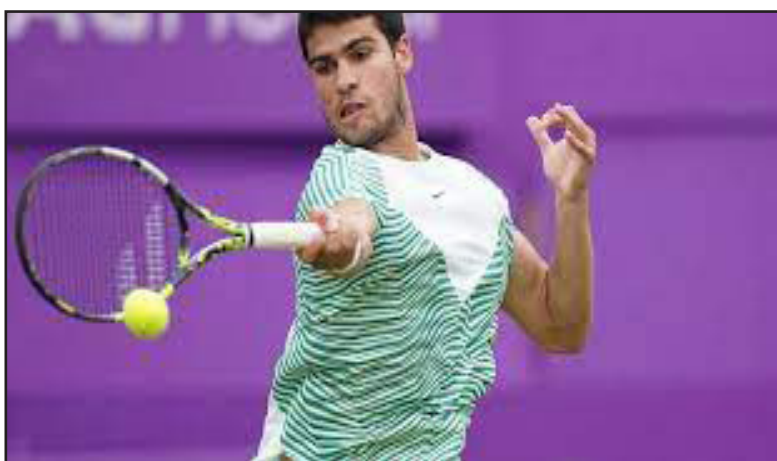
Alcaraz, Murray Advance After Dominant Performances in Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) - The rain was in charge on Day 2 of Wimbledon. It started to pour about an hour into the first wave of matches Tuesday and just didn't stop, and outside play was eventually suspended for the rest of the day.

The only matches that were played as normal were those on the two covered courts.

Those courts are where the top players typically have their matches, but since it's Round 1, the competition wasn't exactly even. But the crowd still got to see some of the game's best players in action, even if the action wasn't the non-stop tennis thrill ride they'd been hoping for.

Carlos Alcaraz, the No. 1 seed, looks 100% ready to make a deep run at Wimbledon. He's a joyful player, but he was serious and focused against Jeremy Chardy, despite Chardy being ranked No. 542 in the



Carlos Alcaraz cruised past Jeremy Chardy in the first round of Wimbledon at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club on Tuesday in London.

world.

Alcaraz wasted no time setting the pace, leaving Chardy in the dust pretty quickly in the first two sets (and leaving the crowd wishing for a more competitive match).

Alcaraz did encounter some trouble in the third set when Chardy finally got comfortable and put up a fight, tying the

score 5-5. But Alcaraz didn't panic and won the final two games of the set, ending his 6-0, 6-2, 7-5 win with an emphatic ace.

Andy Murray's utter demolition of Ryan Peniston was one of those matches where you felt bad for the other guy.

Peniston, ranked No. 267 in the world, was every bit The

Other Guy. Even though he represents the UK like Murray, he didn't get much more than pity cheers from the crowd.

The kind of cheers you hear when the crowd wants it to be a competitive match because they've just realized they shelled out a lot of money to see Murray steamroll his opponent in about two hours.

That's (essentially) what Murray did, taking care of business against Peniston with a 6-3, 6-0, 6-1 win in two hours and one minute. Murray's good on grass, (he's won Wimbledon twice, most recently in 2016), but it was surprising to see him so completely and utterly dominant.

Murray's not seeded and is currently ranked No. 40 in the world, but if he can keep up the pace and precision he showed against Peniston, he will be extremely dangerous over the next few weeks.

Osasuna Barred From UEFA Conference League Over Historic Match-Fixing Scandal - Club

MADRID (Reuters) - Osasuna will not play in Europe's third-tier Conference League next season after the LaLiga club said that they have been excluded from the competition by continental soccer body UEFA due to a match-fixing scandal from a decade ago.

Osasuna qualified for the Conference League playoff round after finishing seventh in LaLiga last term.

However, the club was embroiled in a match-fixing scandal in the

2013-14 season. A trial in early 2020 resulted in the conviction of several of the club's former directors, a decision that was welcomed by the administration that succeeded them.

Under UEFA rules any team implicated in match-fixing since April 2007 can be excluded from the next European competition they qualify for. Osasuna have not qualified for a UEFA competition since the 2006-07 season.

Osasuna plan to appeal the UEFA

ruling at the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

The UEFA decision means LaLiga's eight-placed side Athletic Bilbao are set to go into the playoff round instead. The first leg is scheduled for Aug. 24.

"Osasuna does not share at all the criteria of UEFA or the investigation of the case carried out and regrets the wrong message that UEFA sends to the world of football (by) punishing those who denounce corruption and

prosecute it in court," the club said in a statement.

"The members of the UEFA Appeals Committee have not taken into account the allegations presented by the club last Friday and have reaffirmed the initial opinion of the inspectors of the UEFA Control, Ethics and Disciplinary Committee."

Osasuna added that they will continue to explore all legal options to be able to play in Europe next season.

Ancelotti Will Become Brazil Boss in 2024, Says President

MADRID (BBC) - Real Madrid boss Carlo Ancelotti will take charge of Brazil next summer, says the Brazilian Football Confederation president Ednaldo Rodrigues.

The five-time World Cup winners are confident the Italian will be in place for the Copa America in June 2024.

Rodrigues said Fernando Diniz will oversee the Selecao until then, alongside his role as Fluminense boss.

"He will come and make the transition in Brazil for Ancelotti," Rodrigues said.

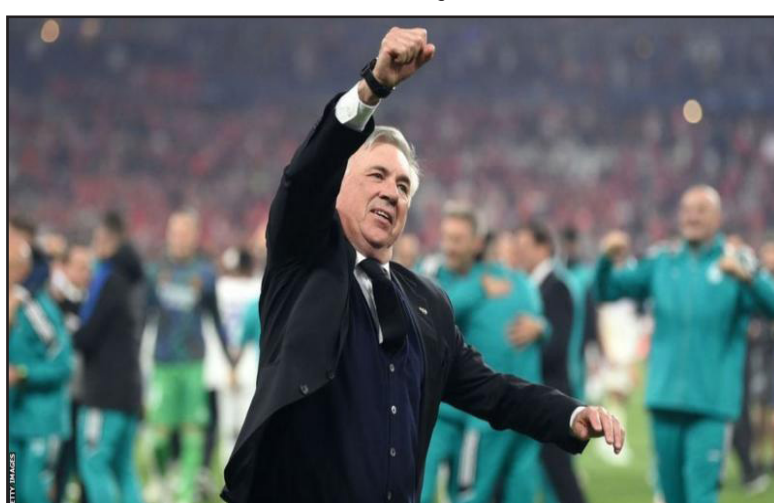
"His game plan is almost similar to that of the coach that will take over at Copa America, Ancelotti.

"We don't call him an interim coach of the national team."

Brazil have been without a permanent head coach since the World Cup, when Tite resigned following their quarter-final defeat by Croatia, with under-20s coach Ramon Menezes taking charge of recent friendly fixtures.

Ancelotti, whose contract expires next summer, would be the first foreign manager to coach Brazil since 1965. There has been no official word from Ancelotti or Real Madrid that he will depart the club next year.

The 64-year-old began his second spell at the Bernabeu in 2021, after leaving Everton, and has won the Champions League,



La Liga, a Copa del Rey and the Club World Cup among a string of successes since his return.

The Champions League final win against Liverpool in 2022

was Ancelotti's fourth European triumph as a manager, and second with Real Madrid, after also winning the competition twice with AC Milan.

World Beach Games Cancelled After Bali Withdraws as Host



LONDON (Reuters) - The 2023 Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) World Beach Games scheduled to be held in Bali next month have been cancelled after the Indonesian city withdrew as hosts, giving the ANOC no time to find an alternative.

"It is with great surprise and extreme disappointment that ANOC has learnt that the Indonesian Olympic Committee (KOI) has withdrawn from its commitment to host the ANOC World Beach Games and the ANOC General Assembly in August 2023," it said on Tuesday.

Bali was set to host the second edition of the World Beach Games and the event included 14 sports like beach soccer, beach volleyball and surfing. Doha hosted the inaugural edition in 2019.

"With the Games scheduled to take place in one month, the decision at such late notice prevents ANOC from being able to find an alternative host.

"So there is no option but to cancel this year's edition of the Games in Bali in August as well as the ANOC General Assembly."

The ANOC said the KOI had informed the body that the

budget for the Games was not released by the Indonesian government.

"While there have been challenges in the Games preparations, as at any major multi-sport event, ANOC had been regularly assured by the KOI that solutions would be found and the Games would go ahead as planned," it added.

KOI chief Raja Sapta Oktohari told Reuters on Wednesday the budget for the event had not been disbursed and said it withdrew from hosting the event because "it would be too risky".

Indonesia's sports minister Dito Ariotedjo on Wednesday expressed regret for the cancellation and said the budgeting process was long, adding 446 billion rupiah (\$29.71 million) had been approved for the event but was still being reviewed by the finance ministry.

A finance ministry spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Indonesia was stripped of the rights to hold Under-20 soccer World Cup this year.

The decision was taken after the country's football federation (PSSI) said it had cancelled the draw because the governor of the largely Hindu island of Bali refused to host Israel's team.