

Sports

Aryna Sabalenka earns Iga Swiatek revenge to win Madrid Open title

Sabalenka earned her 13th career title and only her second on clay

MADRID: World number two Aryna Sabalenka played a superb attacking game to beat Iga Swiatek in the Madrid Open final on Saturday for her first win on clay against her top-ranked rival. The Belarusian prevailed 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to capture the title in the Spanish capital for the second time.

Until Saturday, the 25-year-old had lost all of her three previous meetings with the Pole on clay without even winning a set. "It's something unbelievable. I'm really happy that I'm able to fight against her and I'm able to get this win so it's not like so super boring for people to watch our matches," said the champion.

"I really enjoy playing on clay, because I have extra time. It's not super fast, so I can go for my powerful shots. There are longer rallies. It's like not just bomb, bomb." The big-hitting Belarusian gained revenge for defeat by her Polish rival in the Stuttgart final a fortnight ago with a thrilling triumph to end Swiatek's nine-match winning streak ahead of her French Open defence.

Two-time Roland Garros winner Swiatek fought her way back into the match after an explosive start by Sabalenka, but the second seed came back strongly in the third set to win the first WTA 1000 final featuring the top two ranked players since 2014.

Sabalenka earned her 13th career title, and only her second on clay in two hours and 25 minutes, clinching victory on her fourth championship point with a forehand cross-court winner. "I'm just super happy with this win, especially against Iga on the clay, it's always tough matches against her," added Sabalenka.

The Australian Open champion started with great intensity in her serve and forehand, given some extra zip because of the altitude — Madrid is the second highest European capital city. Sabalenka earned two break points but sought a winner too keenly to convert and Swiatek held for 3-3.

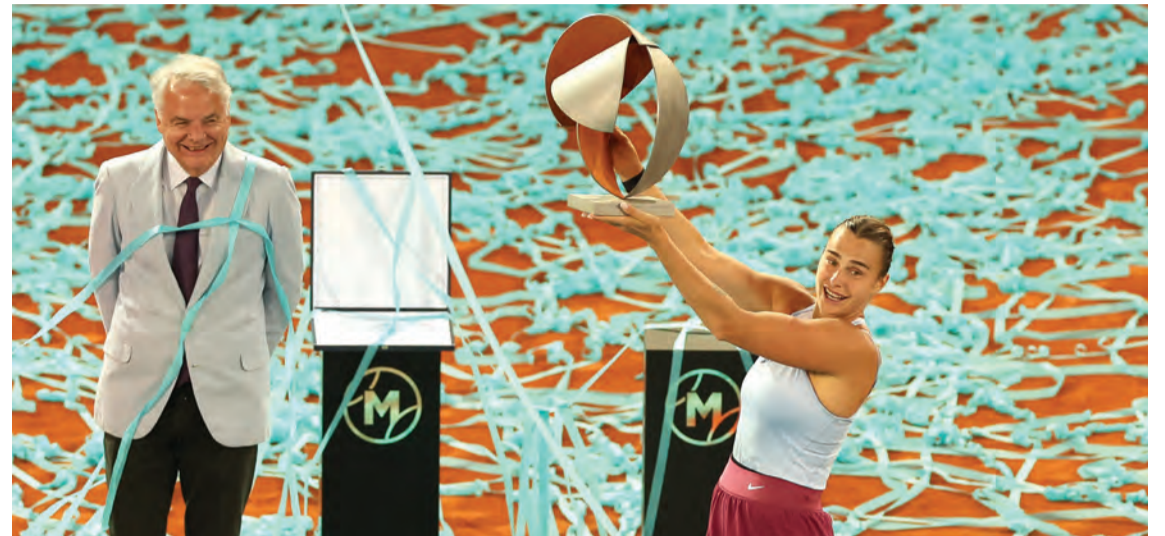
She did the same again on Swiatek's next service but this time earned the break for a 5-3 lead when the top seed sent a backhand long. The 2021 Madrid victor consolidated to clinch the first set, her first ever against Swiatek on the dirt, having lost in straight sets in their three previous clay clashes.

'No fun at 1am'

Swiatek, who failed to earn a single break point in the opening set to Sabalenka's four, converted her first for a 2-0 lead in the second set as her opponent pushed a return into the net. The world number one consolidated it to love, showing a flash of her usual prowess on clay.

However at 3-1 down, the relentless Sabalenka earned four break points, getting back on serve with a beefy backhand winner down the line. The Belarusian consolidated and again put Swiatek under the cosh on her serve, but the Pole dug deep and saved two break points to hold. Swiatek showed her fine defensive game as she broke again for 5-3 and served it out to force the decisive third set. Sabalenka broke for a 2-0 advantage as Swiatek went a fraction long, and saved a break point with a vicious forehand and another after that to consolidate.

Swiatek broke back but Sabalenka did it again



MADRID: Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka poses for pictures with the winner's trophy after beating Poland's Iga Swiatek during their 2023 WTA Tour Madrid Open tennis tournament singles final match at Caja Magica in Madrid. — AFP

for a 5-3 lead and, after missing three championship points as the 21-year-old battled until the end, eventually triumphed. "Sometimes it's tougher; sometimes it's easier. That's why we have variety in tennis, and that's why sometimes players are playing better on some surfaces and some on different," said Swiatek.

The world number one aimed a jab at the tournament organizers for some of the late nights over

the past week, with matches regularly finishing in the early hours. "It's not fun to play at 1 am though," she added. "I'm happy anyway I was able to get past this experience and survive and be in the final."

In the men's final on Sunday home favorite and world number two Carlos Alcaraz is aiming to defend his title against German lucky loser Jan-Lennard Struff. — AFP



LIVERPOOL: Liverpool's Egyptian striker Mohamed Salah (left) fights for the ball with Brentford's German midfielder Kevin Schade (right) during the English Premier League football match between Liverpool and Brentford at Anfield in Liverpool. — AFP

Salah keeps Liverpool in top four hunt

LIVERPOOL: Mohamed Salah's landmark goal sealed Liverpool's 1-0 win against Brentford to keep their Premier League top four hopes alive on Saturday. The Egypt forward's first half finish made him the first player in Liverpool history to net in nine successive games at Anfield, with his strike taking him to 100 career goals at the stadium.

He also moved level with Steven Gerrard's Liverpool tally of 186 goals, sitting in joint fifth place in the club's all-time scoring list. For the third season in a row, Salah has reached 30 goals in all competitions. "Mohamed Salah is special. A lot of people don't appreciate players when they are still playing. For us, it's clear. He is an all-time great," Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp said.

"I can't see him stopping, that's just his nature.

You need to have this desire to score goals. "He works hard to close players down. We all know some world class players don't do that, but he does. I'm really proud of him." Klopp's fifth placed team climbed within one point of fourth placed Manchester United after their sixth successive league victory.

United's defeat at Brighton in midweek has given Liverpool renewed hope of qualifying for the Champions League via a top four berth. But United, who travel to West Ham on Sunday, have two games in hand and remain favorites to finish above their bitter rivals. "If Manchester United win their games in hand, then they are seven points away and it is pretty much done. We know that," Klopp said. "It's an interesting period. We have to make sure we keep the teams behind us, behind us because they are coming. Nothing is decided and that's good."

Salah's memorable evening was partially overshadowed by the Liverpool fans who booed the national anthem just hours after the coronation ceremony for King Charles III at Westminster Abbey. Liverpool said on Friday they would play the anthem prior to kick-off despite acknowledging "some supporters have strong views" on the subject. — AFP

Alvarez batters Ryder to retain super middleweight crown

GUADALAJARA: Saul "Canelo" Alvarez made a triumphant return to Mexico, punishing John Ryder on the way to a unanimous 12-round decision to retain his undisputed super middleweight world title. Ryder, whose face was already a bloody mess by the time Alvarez knocked him down in the fifth round, battled gamely in the later stages but Alvarez emerged a clear winner in his first fight in his native Mexico in nearly 12 years.

Judge Jeremy Hayes scored the bout 120-107 for Alvarez while Joe Pasquale and Gerardo Martino both saw it 118-109 for the champion, who delighted a sellout crowd of some 50,000 at the open-air Akron Stadium in his hometown.

"It's a historic moment for me," Alvarez said. "I'm blessed to be here with my people who supported me from the beginning." Alvarez improved to 59-2-2 with 39 knockouts while Ryder, the mandatory challenger, fell to 38-6 with 18 wins inside the distance.

After a tentative opening round, the 32-year-old Alvarez began to open up, landing a bevy of right hands that had Ryder bleeding from the nose and



GUADALAJARA: Mexican boxer Saul "Canelo" Alvarez (left) fights British boxer John Ryder (right) during their boxing match for the WBA, WBC, IBF and WBO super middleweight titles at Akron Stadium in Guadalajara, Jalisco State, Mexico. — AFP

mouth by the third round. A brutal left-right combination dropped Ryder in the fifth round.

He beat the count and held on until the bell, but he was in trouble again in the sixth when another big right from Alvarez had the Briton's knees sagging. But Ryder, nicknamed "The Gorilla," kept coming. He was down again after a right from Alvarez late in the eighth, but that was ruled a slip and he had bounced back up moments before the bell. — AFP

Iran sports boss quits after women compete unveiled

TEHRAN: The head of Iran's athletics federation resigned Sunday over a sporting event featuring women without the mandatory headscarf, state media reported, as the Islamic republic toughens enforcement of hijab rules.

"Hashem Siami resigned from his post due to the controversies that arose from the endurance (running) race organized in Shiraz" in Iran's south, official news agency IRNA said. According to images from Friday's competition published by Iranian media, some women were running without headscarves, made compulsory shortly after the Islamic revolution of 1979.

Local organizers of the public event have also been summoned to provide "explanations", the provincial prosecutor said Sunday in a statement. Siami told IRNA he was not involved in organizing the competition, and the unveiled athletes were not part of the national federation.

A new police programme came into force last month aiming for stricter enforcement of hijab-wearing in public. The number of women in Iran defying the dress code has increased since a wave of protests following the September 16 death in custody of Kurdish-Iranian Mahsa Amini, 22, for allegedly breaching it. Authorities in Tehran last week launched proceedings against at least four actors who had appeared in public without a headscarf, local media said. More than 150 commercial establishments nationwide were closed after employees had allegedly violated the dress code, authorities said in mid-April. Police in Shiraz arrested in June girls who removed their veils at a skateboarding event, as well as the organizers. — AFP

Classifieds

Hospitals & Clinics

Hospitals

Sabah Hospital	24812000
Amiri Hospital	22450005
Maternity Hospital	24843100
Mubarak Al-Kabir Hospital	25312700
Chest Hospital	24849400
Farwaniya Hospital	24892010
Adan Hospital	23940620
Ibn Sina Hospital	24840300
Al-Razi Hospital	24846000
Physiotherapy Hospital	24874330/9

Clinics

Kaizen center	25716707
Rawda	22517733

Adaliya	22517144
Khaldiya	24848075
Kaifan	24849807
Shamiya	24848913
Shuwaikh	24814507
Abdullah Salem	22549134
Nuzha	22526804
Industrial Shuwaikh	24814764
Qadsia	22515088
Dasmah	22532265
Bneid Al-Gar	22531908
Shaab	22518752
Qibla	22459381
Ayoun Al-Qibla	22451082
Mirqab	22456536
Sharq	22465401
Salmiya	25746401

Change of Name

I, MOHAMMAD AZAM SIDDIQUE S/o ABDUL WAHEED SIDDIQUE holder of Indian passport No. L4907223, having permanent address: Ghooripur Nizamabad Azamgarh, 276206, Uttar Pradesh, India. Street No. 170, Building No:302 Jleeb Al-Shuyoukh, residing in Kuwait at present, hereby declare that henceforth my name will be read as under: Given name MOHAMMAD AZAM SHAIKH S/o ABDUL WAHEED SHAIKH and surname SHAIKH. **(#3528) 8/5/2023**

I, HUSENI BHAI holder of passport no. R7728766 do hereby change my name to HUSENIBHAI (as given name) KATABJIWALA (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name HUSENIBAHAI KATABJIWALA and I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. **(#3527) 8/5/2023**

I, SHABBIR HUSAIN ABDUL HUSAIN, holder of Indian passport No. Z5712083 issued at Embassy of India, Kuwait. I am a permanent resident of Ezzy Mohalla Bohra Colony, Galiyakot, Distt Dungepur, Rajasthan-India and presently residing in Kuwait hereby declare my given name is SHABBIR HUSAIN and surname is BADRI. **(#3526) 8/5/2023**

I, ZENAB BAI, holder of Indian Passport No. Z4824509 issued at Embassy of India, Kuwait. I am a permanent resident of Ezzy Mohalla Bohra Colony, Galiyakot, Distt Dungepur, Rajasthan-India and presently residing in Kuwait hereby declare my given name is ZENAB BAI and surname is BADRI. **(#3526) 8/5/2023**

I, Nazia Can, R/o. H. No. 81/3, near Ameeniyah High School, Islampur, Baina, Vasco-Da-Gama, South-Goa, hereby change my name from Nazia Nurulla Khan to Nazia Can. Hereafter in all my dealings & documents, I will be known by the name Nazia Can. **(C 3524) 5-5-23**

I, Koteswar Babu Kondeti (old name), holder of Indian Passport No. L3463636, having permanent address D. No:13/38-A, Kothapalli, Kanchelu, Rajampeta, Anamayya Dist. Andhra Pradesh, India, presently residing in Kuwait, hereby declare that I have changed my name to Koteswar Babu (as given name) Narayana Nellore (as surname) for all purposes. I will henceforth be known in the name Koteswar Babu Narayana Nellore. I also undertake to carry out this name change in all my documents. **(C 3523) 5-5-23**

Lost & Found

I, JAMIMAH CARIS SADIQ have lost my original senior school marks statement year 2016 Roll No: (9114432) (CBSE) board, if found contact; 65766538. **(#3525) 8/5/2023**

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