

Marco Asensio's late winner lifts Real in Copa first leg at Leganes



Real Madrid's Marco Asensio in action

Madrid

Marco Asensio's late strike earned Real Madrid a 1-0 first-leg lead in their Copa del Rey quarterfinal with Leganes.

Mateo Kovacic spurned a great opportunity for Real, whose goalkeeper Kiko Casilla made a good save to deny Claudio Beauvue after

75 minutes.

And Real took advantage after 89 minutes when Theo Hernandez's cross was met by Asensio's fine volley from six yards out.

The win at the Estadio Municipal de Butarque in the outskirts of Madrid gives Real an advantage ahead of next Wednesday's

second leg at the Bernabeu and will come as a relief after recent results.

It was only Real's second win of 2018 and the first came in the same competition, a 3-0 victory at Numancia on Jan. 4.

Zinedine Zidane's men next play Deportivo La Coruna on Sunday in

LaLiga, where they sit an unfamiliar fourth, 19 points behind leaders Barcelona and 10 adrift of second-placed Atletico.

Real head coach Zidane selected only Dani Carvajal and Raphael Varane of his first-team regulars to face their fellow La Liga outfit. (espn)

Pele suffering exhaustion



Pele

London

Pele is in hospital after collapsing due to exhaustion, preventing him from travelling to London for an engagement this weekend, the English Football Writers Association (FWA) revealed on Friday.

The 77-year-old, a three-time World Cup winner, collapsed on Thursday according to the FWA and is being monitored in hospital in Brazil.

The FWA were due to host a dinner in his honour.

Pele "has undergone a series of tests which appear to point to severe exhaustion", said the FWA.

"He is on fluids while doctors monitor his recovery. Thankfully there is no suggestion of anything more serious."

Pele helped inspire Brazil to wins in the 1958, 1962 and 1970 World Cups. (AFP)

Seventh seed Ostapenko sunk by Kontaveit

Melbourne

Estonia's Anett Kontaveit shrugged off a torrid second set meltdown to knock seventh seed Jelena Ostapenko out of the Australian Open on Friday.

The Estonian 32nd seed is into the last 16 at Melbourne Park for the first time after winning a rollercoaster match against the French Open champion 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

"It was tough. she played so aggressive," said Kontaveit after winning in an hour and 53 minutes.

Kontaveit stormed through the first set, setting the tone by breaking Ostapenko in the very first game and repeating the dose three times to take a 5-2 lead.

It made the Latvian world number seven momentarily wake up, returning with power and precision to break back to love for 5-3.



Anett Kontaveit

Ostapenko saved two breaks points in the next but when a wayward forehand gave Kontaveit a third the number 32 seed took the opportunity to break for a fifth consecutive time and wrap up the set 6-3 after 36 minutes.

"I felt I started really well," said Kontaveit, who will play Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro for a place in the quarter-finals. "I felt I played great in the first and third sets." (AFP)

Sainz takes another step towards Dakar victory

Madrid

Carlos Sainz moved a step closer to a second Dakar win on Thursday after finishing the 12th stage with a 44 minute lead over Peugeot team mate Stephane Peterhansel and two days remaining.

"We went pretty easy but towards the end we had a puncture and some gearbox problems, but everything is fine because we've finished the stage which is what matters," declared the Spaniard.

Qatari driver Nasser al-Attiyah won the stage, a 375km timed special between Chilecito and San Juan in Argentina, in his Toyota with Sainz taking it easy and finishing 18 minutes behind.

Peterhansel, the defending champion and 13 times winner, was second.

"I think it's finished now," said the Frenchman, whose hopes suffered a severe blow earlier in the rally when he lost an hour and 45 minutes last



Carlos Sainz of Spain and co-pilot Lucas Cruz of Spain drive their Peugeot.

Saturday in Bolivia.

"We will try to secure second place, so we controlled the gap with Nasser today.

"I'm crossing my fingers for me but also for Carlos - we never know what can happen."

Organisers cancelled the timed stage for motorcycles and quadbikes for weather-related safety reasons.

"Having consulted the competitors

grouped at Fiambala's marathon bivouac, the race direction has taken the decision to cancel the 12th special stage for bikes and quads," a statement said.

Austrian Matthias Walkner is leading the motorcycle standings on a KTM, 32 minutes clear of Argentina's Honda rider Kevin Benavides.

The rally ends in Cordoba on Saturday. (Reuters)