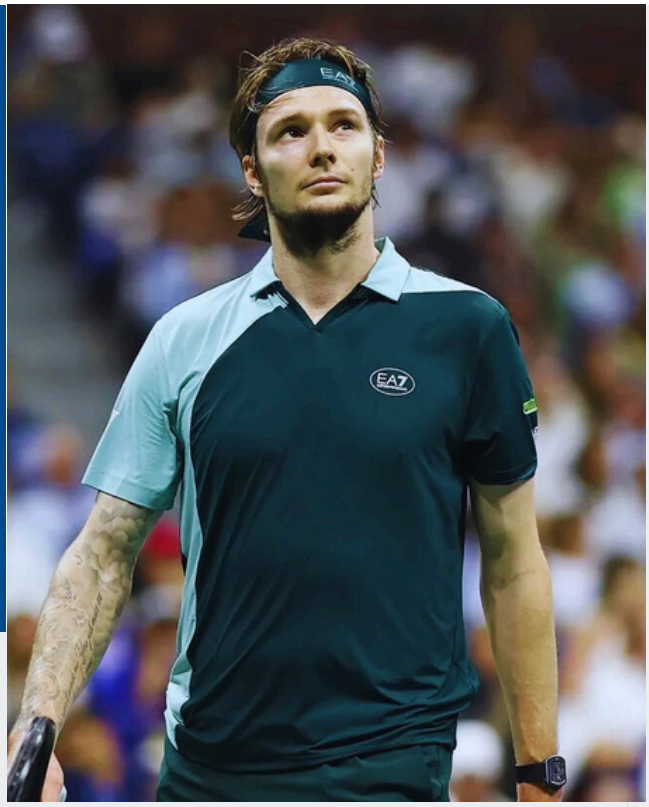
ALMATY OPEN: WHEN KAZAKHSTAN BECOMES THE CENTRE OF ASIAN TENNIS.



Almaty, October 2025, the city of Almaty is alive this week, hosting the ATP 250 Almaty Open at the Almaty Arena. A tournament that has quietly grown into one of Asia's most exciting new tennis events. What started in Astana back in 2020 has now found a new home in Almaty, bringing together world class tennis with warmth and celebration.

The Almaty Open is more than just a tournament. It's a festival — with fan zones, food courts serving global cuisines, live music, and families turning the arena into a week- long celebration. The prize money has crossed $1 million, and the main draw includes 28 players, led by Daniil Medvedev, Karen Khachanov, Flavio Cobolli, Luciano Darderi, and Brandon Nakashima.

There was disappointment, though, when Kazakhstan's own Alexander Bublik withdrew from the event. After a long and draining Asian Swing that took him through Hangzhou, Beijing, and Shanghai — where heat and humidity pushed many players to their limits. Bublik chose to rest.

His season has already been remarkable, with four titles, his best ever year on tour. Even so, fans here still hoped to see their home hero one more time on Kazakh soil.

A few players had spoken earlier about how demanding the weather was during the China Open and Shanghai Masters, and Bublik's decision reflects that reality. The Asian Swing may bring great tennis, but it also tests players' bodies and endurance in a way few other parts of the tour do.

Still, the tournament has lost none of its charm. Crowds continue to fill the stands, cheering for every rally. Local players have stepped up, enjoying the chance to compete on a big stage. Bublik has made people believe here. He, Rybakina and a few others have shown what Kazakhstan can do. The next generation is already dreaming.

Kazakhstan's journey in tennis has been remarkable. From hosting its first event in Astana in 2020 to now being a regular part of the ATP and WTA calendars, the country has become a model for how Asia can grow the sport. Players like Elena Rybakina and Bublik, who found support and success under the Kazakh flag, have turned the nation into one of the brightest tennis stories in the region.

The Asian Swing itself is spreading wider than ever — from Shanghai and Tokyo to Seoul and now Almaty. And after a week, India. Chennai to host WTA 250 action, proving how the continent continues to find new homes for world tennis.

As the Almaty Open continues through the week, the atmosphere is alive with excitement and pride. It's a reminder that the sport's energy is no longer limited to the traditional centres of Europe or America. It has found new meaning in Asia. And right now, the heart of that story beats in Kazakhstan.