

sportspopup

Ayush stuns Srikanth, Unnati also advances to Taipei Open quarters
TAIPEI: Young Indian shuttlers Ayush Shetty and Unnati Hooda continued their impressive run at the Taipei Open Super 300 badminton tournament, advancing to the quarterfinals of the men's and women's singles events respectively here on Thursday. Ayush, 20, overcame senior pro Kidambi Srikanth 21-16, 15-21, 21-17 in a hard-fought second-round clash. He will next face Canada's seventh seed Brian Yang in the last-eight stage. Earlier, Unnati made short work of Chinese Taipei's Lin Sih Yun, winning 21-12, 21-7 in just 27 minutes. The 17-year-old Indian will take on local shuttler Hung Yi-Ting in the quarter-finals.

Rew set for test debut for England after replacing Cox in squad for Zimbabwe test
LONDON: England has brought in batter James Rew to replace Jordan Cox in the squad for the one-off cricket test against Zimbabwe starting on May 22. Cox has been ruled out after sustaining an abdominal muscle injury during the English County Championship. The 21-year-old Rew would make his England debut if selected for the match at Trent Bridge after getting his first senior call-up. England: Ben Stokes (captain), Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Sam Cook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, James Rew, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, Josh Tongue.

Neeraj Chopra to compete at Ostrava Golden Spike 2025
NEW DELHI: Double Olympic medallist Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra will compete at the Ostrava Golden Spike 2025 athletics meet in the Czech Republic city on June 24, hoping to be third time lucky after pulling out in the last two editions due to injuries. "I am excited to announce that I will take part in the Golden Spike meeting in Ostrava this year. It's a legendary race and this year will be exceptional. My coach Jan Zelezny has not only won there many times, but also acts as the director of the whole event."

Police raid clinic to seize Maradona's complete medical records
BUENOS AIRES (Argentina): Police carried out an overnight raid at a Buenos Aires health clinic to seize Diego Maradona's complete medical records following a court order during the trial of seven healthcare professionals accused of negligence in the former soccer star's death. Pablo Dimitroff, the medical director at Los Olivos clinic, testified that Maradona underwent pre-surgical studies, and the operation was performed by a neurosurgeon at that center without complications. Those studies were not included in Maradona's medical history and trial judges ordered the raid to seize all Maradona files dated between November 3 and 11, 2020. A police report showed that authorities secured about 275 pages of related archives and 547 emails exchanged between the medical professionals on trial.

TODAY'S IPL FIXTURE
Lucknow Super Giants vs Royal Challengers Bengaluru, at the Ekana Cricket Stadium, Ardonamau, at 7.30 pm

Punjab Kings, Delhi Capitals IPL clash called off amid blackout in Dharamsala

May 11 game between Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings in Dharamsala moved to Ahmedabad

PTI, DHARAMSALA: The IPL match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals here on Thursday was cancelled midway following air raid alerts in neighbouring cities of Jammu and Pathankot, putting the entire league at risk of being called off due to India's ongoing military conflict with Pakistan.

The Punjab side was 122 for 1 in 10.1 overs when lights went out which at first was attributed to floodlight failure. The game

had started later than scheduled due to rain before the hill town went dark for some time. The teams and the assembled fans were eventually evacuated from the stadium for their security. The picturesque ground can accommodate approximately 23,000 spectators and it was packed to about 80 per cent of its capacity at the time of evacuation. "There was no panic from the spectators. They (spectators and players)

were moved out of the stadium very carefully and safely," a Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association source told PTI. Several people raised anti-Pakistan slogans while on their way out of the stadium. Prabhsimran Singh was batting at 50 off 28 balls while his opening partner Priyansh Arya made 70 off 34 balls before getting dismissed by pacer T Natarajan when proceedings came to a halt. The players and support

staff of both the teams will now be brought to Delhi aboard a special train from Pathankot, which is about 85km from Dharamsala. The teams will reach Pathankot by road. Dharamsala's lone airport and the ones in neighbouring Kangra and Chandigarh are closed for operation right now as part of precautionary measures to thwart Pakistani attacks. With the cancellation of this match, it is not clear

whether the league will proceed any further and it is learnt that a BCCI meeting is currently in progress amid security concerns raised by the participating foreign players. Sources say the foreign recruits wants to head home at the earliest. India launched missile attacks on terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan Occupied Jammu and Kashmir a fortnight after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26

people were killed. On Thursday, a blackout was enforced in several districts including Pathankot, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Hoshiarpur, Mohali in Punjab and Union Territory Chandigarh amid air raid alarms and reports of explosion-like sounds in Jammu. IPL's schedule has already been affected by the developments as the May 11 game between Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings in Dharamsala has been moved to Ahmedabad.

Sans superstars, PSG reach Champions League final

To face Inter Milan for elusive title on June 1 at 12.30 am

AP, PARIS: Paris Saint-Germain weathered one attack after another and showed remarkable adaptability Wednesday to hold off and defeat an inspired Arsenal 2-1 to reach the Champions League final and have another shot at the title it craves. Deprived of the ball possession it usually enjoys, PSG looked shaky early on but found answers by relying on counter-attacks and goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma to advance 3-1 on aggregate. PSG reached the final of Europe's elite tournament for just the second time in club history — it was runner-up five years ago — and did so in the first season following superstar Kylian Mbappé's departure to Real Madrid. The big hole left by Mbappé was not filled by yet another superstar. It



Paris Saint-Germain's Fabian Ruiz celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal of the Champions League semi-final, second leg match against Arsenal at the Parc des Princes in Paris was a major change at a club where for more than a decade owners had spent lavishly to attract big names such as Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Lionel Messi and Neymar. The club's new approach allowed coach Luis Enrique to build a rejuvenat-

"To be the first to win the long-awaited trophy. This is a project that has evolved since last year, and I feel very comfortable here as a coach because I have the freedom and support from the president to build what we want, adapting to the market to put together a team that improves every day." The French club will try again for its first Champions League title when it faces Inter Milan on June 1 in Munich, at 12.30 am. "We believe in our coach and we believe in our players — in our talented, young, hungry players," PSG president Nasser al-Khelaifi told CBS Sports. **CHAMPIONS LEAGUE RESULT** Semi-final, second leg **Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Ruiz 27, Hakimi 72)** **Arsenal 1 (Saka 76).** **PSG win 3-1 on aggregate**

Dhoni on IPL future: Will take a call later

PTI, KOLKATA: Chennai Super Kings captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni says "there is no escaping the fact" that he is in the twilight of his IPL career but a decision on his future will depend on how his body responds to the pressure of hard work in the next six to eight months. The former India captain, who is being met with a sea of adoring fans in yellow at every venue he goes to, is well aware of the emotions and his passionate followers' desire to be there when he plays his last game. "That is the love and affection I have gotten throughout. Not to forget I am 42 (43). I have played a long time. A lot of them don't know when it is going to be my last time, so they want to come and see me play," Dhoni said after CSK's two-wicket win over Kolkata Knight Riders here on Wednesday. Dhoni, who underwent a knee surgery in 2023, has continued to battle fitness concerns. CSK head coach

Stephen Fleming recently admitted that the veteran "can't bat 10 overs running full stick." All of this has contributed in building speculation that the ongoing season is his last outing in the league. The enigmatic wicket-keeper-batter said he is fully aware of where he stands in his storied career right now but will not make a decision without deliberating hard over it and fully assessing his fitness. "There is no escaping the fact (that I am in the last phase of my career). After this IPL gets over, I have to work hard for another 6-8 months to see if my body can take this pressure. "Nothing to decide now but the love and affection I have seen is excellent," Dhoni said. The win was only the third of CSK's disappointing season marred by inconsistency. With play-off hopes dashed, Dhoni said the focus is now on testing bench strength.

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