

BCCI to discuss IPL resumption options today

PTI, NEW DELHI: BCCI Vice President Rajeev Shukla on Saturday said the Board officials and IPL Governing Council will discuss on Sunday the best possible schedule to complete the suspended T20 League following the announcement of an immediate ceasefire between India and Pakistan.

The Board was forced to suspend the Indian Premier League (IPL) on Friday, with 16 matches remaining, as the India-Pakistan border conflict threatened to grow into a full-blown war following the Pahalgam terror attack and India's subsequent Operation Sindoor.

"The war has stopped. In the new situation BCCI office bearers, officials and IPL Governing Council, will discuss the matter on Sunday and take a call. We will see which can be the best schedule to complete the tournament," Shukla told PTI Videos.

It was being speculated that the League could be

moved to Southern Indian cities Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad but Shukla said such an option was perhaps relevant in the scenario of a continued military conflict.

"That was an option when war was going on. There are many options which have been discussed. The ceasefire has just been announced, give some time to us, we will discuss and then only a decision will be taken," Shukla said.

A total of 12 League stage matches and four play-off

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stage matches are yet to be played in the tournament.

A top IPL source, who understands the movement of the broadcaster and pro-

duction teams, hinted that there is a high possibility that not many venues will lose their share of matches but perhaps the pictur-

esque Dharamsala will be removed from the roster on resumption.

"The broadcasters had initially asked its production unit to stay back in Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Chennai only when the military crisis was deepening. But after announcement of ceasefire, the crew has been instructed to stay put in all the original venues.

"So there is a chance that save Dharamsala game, which could be rescheduled elsewhere, venues like Kolkata might retain their

matches," the source said.

Thursday's match between Punjab Kings and Delhi Capitals in Dharamsala was abandoned midway due to the conflict.

With the Dharamsala airport shut, players and support staff of both teams travelled by bus to Jalandhar and then boarded a train to Delhi.

Out of 12 league matches, Ahmedabad is scheduled to host three games while Lucknow and Bengaluru have two matches each to host.

Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Jaipur have one match each to conduct.

It remains to be seen if Dharamsala's match resumes from where it stopped or is played from the start again.

The play-offs will be held in Hyderabad and Kolkata. The iconic Eden gardens was scheduled to host the title clash. Most of the foreign recruits, who compete in the League for different teams, have already left the country.

Swiatek's Rome title defence ends early, Sinner set to return

AFP, ROME: Iga Swiatek was dumped out of the Italian Open on Saturday after the reigning Rome champion suffered a shock 6-1, 7-5 defeat at the hands of Danielle Collins, as Jannik Sinner prepares for his return to action from a contested doping ban.

World number two Swiatek was hunting a fourth title at the Foro Italico but failed to get past the third round of the last major tournament before the French Open following an uncharacteristically bad display against unfancied Collins.

Veteran Collins, 31, will now face one of Elina Svitolina or fellow American Hailey Baptiste in the last 16 as the world number 35 hunts an unlikely second WTA 1000 title after winning in Miami last year.

Swiatek's early exit is a major shock as the Pole usually dominates her rivals on clay and has a hugely impressive record in the Italian capital.

The manner of her



US Danielle Collins celebrates after winning her women's single match against Poland's Iga Swiatek at the WTA Rome Open tennis tournament at Foro Italico in Rome, Italy on Saturday

defeat is another worrying sign ahead of Roland Garros as she was also thrashed in straight sets by Coco Gauff in the semi-finals of the Madrid Open earlier this month.

The 23-year-old's elimination opens up her side of the women's draw with Naomi Osaka, who could have been her opponent in the quarter-finals, taking on Marie Bouzkova later on Saturday.

Osaka, who is still finding form after a 15-month break from tennis, will face fifth seed Madison Keys in the last 16 if she gets past Bouzkova. Jasmine Paolini delighted the Rome crowd by sweeping aside Ons Jabeur in straight sets to set up a last 16 clash with Jelena Ostapenko.

Italian star Sinner will take partisan centre court packed with over 10,000 fans late Saturday evening against Argentina's Mariano Navone, hoping to shake off the cobwebs as he eyes a run at Roland Garros later this month.

Gill-Pant duo set to take charge of Test team, BCCI silent on Kohli

Flamboyant keeper-batter Rishabh, in all likelihood, will be India's new vice-captain in Tests with talented batter Shubman set to take charge of the national team in the traditional format



Rishabh Pant

PTI, NEW DELHI: Flamboyant keeper-batter Rishabh Pant, in all likelihood, will be India's new vice-captain in Tests with talented batter Shubman Gill set to take charge of the national team in the traditional format.

The choice of vice-captain seems to be a straight forward one as Pant is one of India's finest Test batters in overseas conditions and Jasprit Bumrah can't be considered for the role of deputy due to his stature and also when his own fitness is iffy, making him uncertain for full series.

An average of 42 plus with hundreds in Australia, England and South Africa along with seven scores between 90 and 99 makes Pant one of the best batters in

the format.

"If Bumrah isn't the captain, then there is no point offering him vice-captaincy," a BCCI source told PTI.

While the cricket fraternity is taken aback by talismanic Virat Kohli's wish to retire from Test cricket, it has been learnt that selection committee did ponder over the idea of handing over leadership to him in England to allow Gill some more time to groom.

As of now, Kohli has not made any official announcement and it is believed that he will be requested to compete in the upcoming five Test series in England as his experience will be required in challenging conditions, especially when Rohit Sharma has also announced his Test

retirement.

The BCCI however is tight-lipped on its conversation with Kohli with regards to his Test career. PTI reached out to chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar and BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia but they are yet to respond to the query.

"It is true that selectors did think about having Kohli as India skipper for the England series. This would have given Gill some time to grow into leadership role but at 25-and-a-half years of age, he is yet to hit his peak. Due to Bumrah's fitness issues, Gill looks like the obvious choice for Ajit Agarkar's committee," a BCCI source privy to development said.

It is understood that KL

Rahul isn't being considered as an option as he is already 33 plus and consistency has been an issue with the Bengaluru player even though he was one of the better performers in Australia.

After 11 years of Test cricket an average of less than 35 in 50 games isn't impressive.

The Indian team for the tour of England will be announced during the end of third week of May while India A team will be announced early next week.

If there is one certainty among the rookies for the Test tour, it has to be Tamil Nadu southpaw Sai Sudharsan, who has made an impression. If all goes well, he will either open or come to bat at No.3.



Shubman Gill

sportspopup

India bag five medals in compound section; Madhura shines with maiden World Cup gold

SHANGHAI: Capping a dream comeback, Madhura Dharmagaonkar clinched her maiden individual World Cup gold to headline India's glittering medal collection in the compound section -- two gold, one silver and two bronze at the Archery Stage 2 showpiece here on Saturday. Unranked for being in the sidelines for three years, Madhura produced a sensational upturn in the final, edging out USA's Carson Krahe 139-138 to seal the top podium. The 24-year-old from Amravati, Maharashtra, had earlier bagged a team silver and a mixed team bronze, completing a fine three-medal haul. However, Madhura's individual final was a roller-coaster affair. She opened with a perfect 30, including two Xs, but faltered with two 8s in the second end and a costly 7 in the third, trailing 81-85. Krahe, ranked 52nd and a World Cup team bronze medalist last year, capitalised with a perfect 30 in the third end. Earlier, India's medal tally began with a gold in the men's team event, where the trio of multiple World Cup gold medalist Abhishek Verma, Ojas Deotale, and Rishabh Yadav defeated Mexico 232-228 in a tense final.

Gukesh loses to Vachier-Lagrave in Superbet Classic

BUCHAREST (Romania): World Champion D Gukesh suffered a shocking loss against Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France in the fourth round of the Superbet Classic here. Gukesh, the top seed and a huge favourite to win the tournament, was forced to keep looking for an elusive first victory in the event with five rounds still remaining in the USD 350,000 prize money tournament. On a day when R Praggnanandhaa played out a draw with local hopeful Deac Bogdan-Daniel, Levon Aronian of United States was the only other winner scoring his first win at the expense of Duda Jan Krzysztof of Poland. In other games of the day, Fabiano Caruana of United States played out a draw with Nodirbek Abdusattorov of Uzbekistan, while Iranian-turned-French Firouzja Alireza signed peace with American Wesley So. Caruana, Pragm and Vachier-Lagrave shared the lead on 2.5 points from the first four rounds and they are followed by Alireza, Wesley, Aronian and Deac on two points apiece. Gukesh is currently sharing the 8th spot on 1.5 points along with Abdusattorov and Duda. Results round 4: Deac Bogdan Daniel (Rou, 2) drew with R Praggnanandhaa (Ind, 2.5); Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra, 2.5) beat D Gukesh (Ind, 1.5); Duda Jan Krzysztof (Pol, 1.5) lost to Levon Aronian (U.S., 2); Firouzja Alireza (Fra, 2) drew with Wesley So (U.S., 2); Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1.5) drew with Fabiano Caruana (U.S., 2.5).

India women's team looks to dispel tricky Sri Lanka in tri-series final

COLOMBO: Indian women's team will bank on its smooth-functioning batting line-up to ward off a tricky Sri Lanka and win the ODI tri-series final here on Sunday. India's lone defeat in this event came against the Lankans but Harmanpreet Kaur's side has been the most dominant team, finishing at the top of the points table with three wins from four matches. Sri Lanka finished second with two wins and as many losses while South Africa were at the bottom of the pile with only one win in four games. Winning this contest will also be paramount for both India and Sri Lanka, as it would help them in the buildup to the ODI World Cup later this year. India: Pratika Rawal, Smriti Mandhana, Harleen Deol, Harmanpreet Kaur (c), Jemimah Rodrigues, Richa Ghosh (wk), Deepti Sharma, Kashvee Gautam, Arundhati Reddy, Sneha Rana, Nallapureddy Charani, Yastika Bhatia, Amanjot Kaur, Tejal Hasabnis, Shuchi Upadhyay. Sri Lanka: Vishmi Gunaratne, Hansima Karunaratne, Hasini Perera, Piumi Wathsala, Harshitha Samarawickrama, Anushka Sanjeevani (wk), Nilakshika Silva, Chamari Athapaththu (c), Kavisha Dilhari, Manudi Nanayakkara, Rashmika Sewwandi, Dewmi Vihanga, Inoshi Priyadarshini, Achini Kalasuriya, Sugandika Kumari, Malki Madara, Inoka Ranaweera. Match starts at 10 am.

Ayush, Unnati lose in semi-final at Taipei Open

TAIPEI: Rising shuttlers Ayush Shetty and Unnati Hooda ended their impressive runs with semifinal finishes in the men's and women's singles respectively, bringing curtains down on India's campaign at the USD 240,000 BWF Taipei Open Super 300 here on Saturday. Ayush, 20, a bronze medalist at the 2023 World Junior Championships, fought hard before going down 18-21, 17-21 to local favourite and world No. 7 Chou Tien Chen, a veteran of nearly two decades on the international circuit. Earlier, Unnati, the 2022 Odisha Masters and 2023 Abu Dhabi Masters winner, showed early promise but couldn't sustain the momentum, losing 19-21, 11-21 in 43 minutes to top seed and world No. 8 Tomoka Miyazaki of Japan, the 2022 World Junior Champion. Armed with a powerful smash and solid net play, Ayush had beaten top names including All England runner-up Lee Chia Hao, former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth, and Canada's Brian Yang in earlier rounds.

Anahat, Abhay make winning starts at Squash World Championship

CHICAGO (USA): Making a stupendous start to her World Championship campaign, young Indian squash player Anahat Singh knocked out world No 28 American Marina Stefanoni here. The 17-year-old Anahat, ranked 62 in the world, overcame loss in the first game to eke out a 10-12, 11-9, 6-11, 11-6, 11-6 win in the opening round of the high-profile tournament on Friday. Anahat has a tough task ahead as she faces world No 15 Fayrouz Aboelkheir next, who beat fellow Egyptian Hana Moataz 3-1 in her first round contest of the USD 656,500 tournament. Also making a winning start was India's Abhay Singh, who sent the world No 25 Nicolas Mueller packing. The 38th ranked Singh beat his Swiss rival 11-7, 2-11, 11-7, 11-6 in his opening round match of men's singles event. Singh's opponent in the next round is world No 13 Youssef Ibrahim, who is also from Egypt.

Murali, Iniyan and Daneshvar share lead

AL AIN (UAE): Indian Grandmasters Murali Karthikeyan and P Iniyan, and Iranian Bardiya Daneshvar shared the lead on 3.5 points after the end of the fourth round of the Asian Continental Chess Championship here on Saturday. Pranav Anand proved Indian bench strength, holding highly regarded top seed Nihal Sarin to a draw. Sarin has accumulated three points. Iniyan got the better of Meng Yihan while Iranian Sina Mohaveed was no match for Karthikeyan. In the women's section, Mungunzul Bat-Erdene of Mongolia and Afruza Khamdanova of Uzbekistan emerged as co-leaders with a perfect score of four points. Srija Sheshadri is the best performing Indian in this section with 3.5 points to her kitty. Important and Indian results round 4 (Indians unless specified): Shamsiddin Vokhidov (Uzb, 3) drew with Bardiya Daneshvar (Iri, 3.5); Pranav Anand (3) drew with Nihal Sarin (3); Sina Mohaveed (2.5) lost to Murali Karthikeyan (3.5); A R Saleh Salem (Uae, 3) drew with Praneeth Vuppala (3); Xu Xiangyu (Chn, 3) drew with L R Srihari (3); Yang Zilong (Chn, 3) drew with M Pranesh (3); P Iniyan (3.5) beat Meng Yihan (Chn, 2.5); A R Ilamparthi (2) lost to Aleksey Grebnev (Phi, 3); Leon Luke Mendonca (3) beat Sugar Gan-Erdene (Phi, 2); Siddharth Jagadeesh (2) lost to Abhimanyu Puranik (3); Surya Shekhar Ganguly (2.5) drew with Ivan Rozum (2.5).

Chapora Yuvak Sangh are GFA Div I League champs Promoted to next season's Goa Professional League 2025-26

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MAPUSA: Chapora Yuvak Sangh proved to be too good as they trounced St Anthony's SC, Marna-Silolim, by 6-1 margin in the Goa Football Association's Division I League play-off match played under floodlights at the Duler Stadium, here, on Saturday.

With this win, Chapora YS are promoted to next season's Goa Professional League 2025-26.

Chapora YS did not disappoint their large supporters as they pinned their opponents mostly in their own territory and scored three goals before the breather.

Early in the match, St Anthony's SC goalkeeper Micky Dias brought three brilliant saves from Rohan Pednekar and Stephen Martin. Finally in



Champions Chapora Yuvak Sangh team along with Goa Football Association Vice-President Anthony Pango, GFA Executive Committee Members Uday Lingudkar, Omkar Vaingankar, Laxman Hadfadkar, Cosme Oliveira, John Pereira, club officials and other dignitaries at the Duler Stadium, Mapusa, on Saturday

the 34th minute, Chapora YS opened their account where a stiff groundner by Nakul Gawas took a wicked deflection off St Anthony's SC defender into the goal, 1-0.

Just four minutes later, Chapora YS doubled their

lead where Rayman Fernandes' free-kick was brilliantly headed by Gaurav Vaingankar into the far corner of the goal, 2-0.

A minute before the breather, St Anthony's SC Vipul Pednekar was sent off for double caution and from the

resultant free-kick Rayman Fernandes excellently curled the ball into the goal, 3-0.

On crossing ends, Chapora Yuvak Sangh hunger for goals did not stop with Sankalp Kankonkar guiding the ball into the goal of a deadly cross by Cain Fer-

nandes, 4-0.

St Anthony's SC had just one good look at the rival goal but substitute Likson Rebelo strike was blocked by Chapora YS' custodian Ozen Silva for a corner.

In the 78th minute, substitute Saimesh Gaonkar

darted inside the 18-yard box from the right flank and drilled a power-packed right footer into the back of the net, 5-0.

In the 89th minute, Brandon Pereira was brought down by Aryan Vaingankar inside the 18-yard box. Alesh Sawant stepped forward and scored, 5-1.

Salman Khan netted Chapora YS' sixth goal.

The Goa Football Association's Vice-President Anthony Pango handed over the champions trophy to Chapora YS, while runners-up trophy to St Anthony's SC was handed over by GFA Executive Committee Member Uday Lingudkar in the presence of other GFA Executive Committee members Omkar Vaingankar, Laxman Hadfadkar, Cosme Oliveira and John Pereira. Worrel D'Souza compered.