

Clinical Royals hand Mumbai Indians third loss in a row

PTI, MUMBAI: A clinical Rajasthan Royals romped home for a third win on the trot in the Indian Premier League with a six-wicket hammering of Mumbai Indians, whose skipper Hardik Pandya continued to be on the receiving end of fans' anger, here on Monday.

After Yuzvendra Chahal (3/11) and Trent Boult (3/22) combined to suffocate Mumbai Indians with the bat, restricting them to 125/9, Riyan Parag (54 not out) churned out yet another top-drawer knock to take Royals to the first spot in the IPL points table.

The 22-year-old Parag continued to make giant strides this season with a knock that reflected his maturity and aggression, dishing out some spectacular hits while being single-minded to not relent until his side was over the line.

Parag's knock was studied with five fours and three sixes as Royals reached 127/4 from 15.3 overs, winning with 27 balls to spare.

Meanwhile, there was no letup for Pandya who was booed on several occasions

in Mumbai Indians' first home game. It started with Pandya being booed when he took field for warm-up drills and the fans hit the player hard again when he came out for the toss.

Even though commentator and former India and Mumbai player Sanjay Manjrekar appealed to the crowd to "behave", the boos continued until Pandya hit a few fours to bring smile back on Mumbai fans after their side was left reeling at 20/4 inside the powerplay.

Pandya top-scored with 34 for Mumbai in his bid to turn the brickbats into cheers but Rajasthan came out on top on every moment in the game, which was underlined by special bowling efforts from Chahal, Boult as well as Nandre Burger (2/32), who were all backed by excellent fielding.

Boult struck early with a three-wicket burst inside the powerplay and Chahal made life miserable for rest of the batters in the following overs to return brilliant figures 3/11 in four overs, accounting for Pandya, Tilak Varma (32) and Gerald Coetzee (4).

SCOREBOARD

Mumbai Indians: Ishan Kishan c Samson b Burger 16, Rohit Sharma c Samson b Boult 0, Naman Dhir lbw b Boult 0, Dewald Brevis c Burger b Boult 0, Tilak Varma c Ashwin b Chahal 32, *Hardik Pandya c (sub) Powell b Chahal 34, Piyush Chawla c Hetmyer b Khan 3, Tim David c Boult b Burger 17, Gerald Coetzee c Hetmyer b Chahal 4, Jasprit Bumrah not out 8, Akash Madhwal not out 4. **Extras:** 7. **Total:** 125-9. **Fall of wickets:** 1-1, 1-2, 14-3, 20-4, 76-5, 83-6, 95-7, 111-8, 114-9. **Bowling:** Trent Boult 4-0-22-3, Nandre Burger 4-0-32-2, Avesh Khan 4-0-30-1, Yuzvendra Chahal 4-0-11-3, Ravichandran Ashwin 4-0-27-0.

Rajasthan Royals: Yashasvi Jaiswal c David b Maphaka 10, Jos Buttler c Chawla b Madhwal 13, *Sanju Samson b Madhwal 12, Riyan Parag not out 54, Ravichandran Ashwin c Varma b Madhwal 16, Shubham Dubey not out 8. **Extras:** 14. **Total:** 127-4. **Fall of wickets:** 10-1, 42-2, 48-3, 88-4. **Bowling:** Kwen Maphaka 2-0-23-1, Jasprit Bumrah 4-0-26-0, Akash Madhwal 4-0-20-3, Gerald Coetzee 2-3-0-36-0, Piyush Chawla 3-0-18-0. **Man-of-the-match:** Trent Boult

Valanka files defamation case against GFA President

Alleges Caitano claimed she had pressurised the girls to take back the complaint filed against Deepak, executive member of the AIFF

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PANJIM: The case against the Executive Member of All India Football Federation (AIFF) Deepak Sharma, who was arrested in Goa for physical assault on women footballers, has taken a curious turn with AIFF Women's Committee Chairperson Valanka Alemao filing a defamation charge against Goa Football Association (GFA) President Caitano Fernandes.

Valanka dared him to prove his allegations of she asking the players to withdraw the complaint against the alleged accused Sharma.

Referring to an alleged doctored audio, Valanka in a statement said, "Sports is something which has no gender, caste, religion and it is something that unites everyone irrespective of differences. Mr Caitano, why are you making politics on such a sensitive subject? Why are you making certain doctored audio viral? I fail to understand why he is politicising a sensitive issue and making so-called doctored audio of me and defaming me. Please understand these girls are somebody's

QUOTE ROOM

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She further said that in order to show her in bad light, such a sensitive issue shouldn't have been politicised.

"I ask you to show even one recording in which Valanka Alemao has said you please withdraw the complaint. This is not fair and I



understand these girls have spoken to the match commissioner, the vice-president and general secretary, but there was not a single female. And why was the match conducted on the next day, (March 30). The incident happened on the March 28 and I went on March 29. Before I went, the GFA officials (men) went to meet those girls. I wish to ask, is there not a single woman in GFA and I being the AIFF Women's Committee head, I cannot go and meet those girls? So you have a so-called insecurity because I went to meet those girls and you are highlighting such an issue in a bad light."

Reiterating that justice will be done, she said, "Sorry whoever has done wrong, the girls have given all the facts of the matter and the AIFF has taken a proper call on this. The probe is on and nobody can go free if he has done something wrong."

Reacting to the defamation filed by Valanka Alemao, GFA President said, "Entire Goa and entire India knows what the GFA President did to give justice to the girls. That is all I am willing to say. I need not say anything more."

"I have requested the police to investigate and look into it completely. Please

IPL preview: Faltering RCB eye collective improvement

PTI, BENGALURU: An inconsistent Royal Challengers Bengaluru would be eager to hit the turnaround button when they host Lucknow Super Giants, who will keep an eye on regular skipper KL Rahul's fitness, in the IPL, here, on Tuesday.

The Royal Challengers are currently eighth on the table with two points from three matches, and alarmingly,

their net run rate too has dipped to -0.71 after a heavy defeat against Kolkata Knight Riders here last week. This is not to undermine the side under Faf du Plessis, who himself is struggling for big runs, but its ability to dish out consistent cricket is a matter

of debate at this point. Several reasons are there for that overbearing feeling. It starts with the RCB batting line-up in which Virat Kohli is the only constant with two fifties from three matches. But Du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell, Rajat Patidar and Cameron

Green, who constitute the cream of RCB's top and middle-order, have so far made up for a faltering coalition. The quartet's collective returns from three matches stand at Du Plessis (46, Avg: 15.33), Maxwell (31, Avg: 10.33), Green (54, Avg: 18) and Patidar (21, Avg: 7), and terming them underwhelming is an understatement.

TODAY'S FIXTURE
Royal Challengers Bengaluru vs Lucknow Super Giants, at M Chinnaswamy Stadium, Bengaluru, 7.30 pm

sportspopup

Arsenal, Man City stalemate hands Liverpool Premier League lead

MANCHESTER: Manchester City failed to break down a determined Arsenal defence as a highly-anticipated clash at the top of the Premier League failed to live up to the hype in a 0-0 draw at the Etihad, on Sunday. Liverpool were the big winners of the day in the title race as they beat Brighton 2-1 to go top, two points ahead of Arsenal and three clear of City with nine games to play. A share of the spoils preserves City's unbeaten home run stretching back to November 2022 and ends Arsenal's eight-match winning run in the Premier League. But it is the Gunners who will be happier with a point as they prevented Pep Guardiola's men from scoring at the Etihad for the first time in two years. Man City are still yet to win in six matches this season against other sides in the Premier League top five and must end that run when fourth-placed Aston Villa visit on Wednesday to keep their title challenge alive. Results: Sunday - Liverpool 2 (Diaz 27, Salah 65) Brighton 1 (Welbeck 2, Manchester City 0 Arsenal 0. Saturday: Aston Villa 2 (Diaby 36, Kona 65) Wolves 0, Bournemouth 2 (Solanke 64, Coleman 90+1-og) Everton 1 (Beto 87), Brentford 1 (Ajer 90+9) Manchester United 1 (Mount 90+6), Chelsea 2 (Palmer 44-pen, 78) Burnley 2 (Cullen 47, O'Shea 81), Newcastle 4 (Isak 6-pen, 77-pen, Barnes 83, 90) West Ham 3 (Antonio 21, Kudus 45+10, Bowen 48), Nottingham Forest 1 (Wood 61) Crystal Palace 1 (Mateta 11), Sheffield United 3 (McBurnie 58, Brereton 68, Hamer 70) Fulham 3 (Palhinha 62, De Cordova-Reid 86, Muniz 90+4), Tottenham 2 (Kabore 51-og, Son 86) Luton 1 (Chong 3).

Sri Lanka on top in Bangladesh Test despite 2nd innings batting blues

CHITTAGONG: Asitha Fernando claimed 4-34 as Sri Lanka bowled out Bangladesh for 178 to take a massive 353-run lead in the first innings of the second Test in Chittagong on Monday. The visitors decided against enforcing a follow-on but were left struggling with their batting in the second innings, reaching 102-6 at stumps on the third day to extend their lead to 455 runs. Debutant pacer Hasan Mahmud gave Bangladesh something to smile about with 4-51, while fellow pacer Khaled Ahmed also troubled the Sri Lankan batsmen with 2-29. But Angelo Mathews remained unbeaten on 39 alongside Prabath Jayasuriya, three not out, with the pair looking to extend Sri Lanka's lead with the help of the tail-enders.

Pant fined Rs 12 lakh for slow over rate

VISAKHAPATNAM: Delhi Capitals skipper Rishabh Pant has copped a Rs 12 lakh fine for maintaining a slow over rate during the IPL game against Chennai Super Kings, here. Delhi Capitals pulled off a comfortable 20-run win over defending champions CSK, here, on Sunday. "Rishabh Pant, the Delhi Capitals captain, has been fined after his team maintained a slow over rate during their IPL match against Chennai Super Kings," an IPL statement read.

BCCI invites IPL owners for meet on April 16

NEW DELHI: The BCCI has invited owners of the 10 IPL teams for an informal meeting in Ahmedabad on April 16. The meeting will take place on the sidelines of the game between Delhi Capitals and Gujarat Titans at the Narendra Modi Stadium. "The IPL owners have been invited for an informal meeting. There is no set agenda. Since IPL will be into its second month, it will be a good time for all stakeholders to get together," a BCCI official told PTI.







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