

6 WORLD Yemen Houthi rebels say US strikes kill 2 1 killed in Russian attack on Kyiv 7 NATION Murnu embarks on state visit to Portugal, Slovakia amid shifting global trade dynamics PM should allay fears of TN over delimitation exercise: Stalin

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'The BJP will serve the nation till sun and moon are there' Weakening BJP will create hurdles in India's path to global leadership: Himanta

GUWAHATI, April 6: Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said weakening the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will mean creating "innumerable obstacles" in India's path to attain the position of a global leader.



India a global leader in the coming years. "The BJP will serve the nation till sun and moon are there, I wish the same. I appeal to all to

party in its march towards progress and strength in the coming period. "Social media can be used to defame and weaken the BJP. That is why, we must be strong in social media also so that we can take forward the positive things to the people," he added.

SL releases 14 Indian fishermen as a special gesture

COLOMBO, April 6: Sri Lanka on Sunday released 14 Indian fishermen as a special gesture, a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi pitched for resolving the vexed issue with a "humane approach".

Naga tribal chief urges Centre to scrap decision to fence Indo-Myanmar border

LONGWA (NAGALAND), April 6: A tribal chief in Nagaland's Mon district on Sunday urged the Centre to scrap the decision to fence the Indo-Myanmar border and to reduce the area of the Free Movement Regime (FMR).

considering the ground realities, he wondered. He also said that the Konyak villagers from the other side also come to this side for their household needs, as it is easier for them to reach Mon town for marketing and also their children come here to receive education in the five schools, including two state government-run institutes, instead of going to Myanmar side, which lacks such facilities.

Centre not seeking control of Waqf Boards: Nadda EU countries cautious on Brazil's push for new climate body

NEW DELHI, April 6: The Centre does not want to control Waqf Boards but ensure that they operate within the bounds of law so that their assets are used in promotion of education, healthcare and employment for the Muslim community, BJP president JP Nadda said on Sunday.



just concluded our membership drive and the number of BJP members has crossed 13.5 crore. We have more than 10 lakh active party workers in the country," Nadda said.

NEW DELHI, April 6: Brazil's idea to create a new multilateral body under the UN climate regime to fast-track implementation of COP decisions has triggered cautious responses from key developed countries, with Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden backing reform discussions but warning against weakening the core UN-FCCC process.

CM to attend 2nd Karbi indigenous faith gathering at Taralungso on April 19



HT Bureau DIPHU, April 6: The 2nd Karbi AronbarimArmuChingrum Amei, a gathering of indigenous faith practitioners of the Karbi community, will be held at the Karbi People's Hall, Taralungso, on

KAAC CEM Tuliran Ronghang said that the Karbis have a rich culture, language, and tradition. Since time immemorial, the Karbis have practiced their indigenous faith known as 'aronbarim,' which involves rituals including animal sacrifices.

Sonowal hoists party flag in Dibrugarh to mark BJP's 46th foundation day

HT Correspondent DIBRUGARH, April 6: Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) Sarbananda Sonowal hoisted the party flag to commemorate the 46th Foundation Day (Shapana Divas) of the BJP at its office in Dibrugarh on Sunday.



Constitution, One Flag.' Guided by our enduring philosophy of 'Nation First, Party Second, Self Last,' we rededicate ourselves to nation-building with integrity and unity. "This ethos is the very spirit that defines Bharat's emerging global identity," he added.

Highlighting the BJP government's good governance model, Sonowal opined that Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji's visionary leadership has been the cornerstone of building a New India — one rooted in good governance and a strong national identity.

PM Modi inaugurates new Pamban bridge in TN, CM Stalin skips event

Built at a cost of over ₹ 550 crore, this is India's first vertical sea-lift bridge

RAMESWARAM (TAMIL NADU), April 6: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated the Pamban sea bridge, providing rail link between Rameswaram island and the mainland and flagged off the new Rameswaram-Tambaram (Chennai) train service here.



Spanning 2.08 kilometers, the bridge comprises 99 spans and a 72.5-meter-long vertical lift span that can be raised up to 17 meters, allowing the smooth passage of large ships while ensuring seamless train operations. The bridge features stainless

steel reinforcement, high-grade paint, and fully welded joints, enhancing durability while reducing maintenance requirements. Its foundation is supported by 333 piles and 101 piers/pile caps, designed for dual rail tracks and future expansion.

Tendulkar bowled over by Meghalaya's scenic beauty, warm hospitality

SHILLONG, April 6: Sachin Tendulkar, who arrived in Meghalaya on Thursday, was bowled over by the state's beautiful weather, simplicity of its people and local cuisine, officials said on Sunday.



She also shared her selfie with the cricket idol of yesteryears. "Some moments are etched in your heart forever — this was one of them. I got the incredible honour of cooking for the legend, @sachintendulkar," she posted on her Instagram page.

I don't know where I would fit in today's game, says Michael Owen

MUMBAI, April 6: The game of football continues to evolve in a fast pace and teams hardly use two strikers these days, says former England and Real Madrid forward Michael Owen, adding he does not know how he would fit in the modern game.

Owen is in Mumbai along with several other international superstars such as Luis Figo, Carlos Puyol, Rivaldo, Xavi and many others to take part in a 'Legends Faceoff' match between former Real Madrid and FC Barcelona players.

"The game has definitely changed. Everybody had two

strikers when I was growing up, when I played professional football. Now, hardly anybody does that," Owen said during a select media interaction ahead of the match here on Sunday.

"Of course, now not many people have two strikers, the role has changed. The profile has changed, the shape and size of the striker has changed.

"Somebody like myself, I guess, I don't know where I would fit in today's game. Maybe I would have to play in one of the wider areas," he said.

Owen said across Europe there are not many natural No. 9s that can score a lot of goals

which indicated towards the change in profile of players.

"Profile (has) definitely changed. There's just less because of that, because of the profile and because of the way teams play now, there's just less strikers as well," he said.

"I look around Europe and there's not many natural No. 9s who can score lot of goals. But when we were playing, there was loads and loads of them. The game has changed a little bit. Wider players scoring more goals now coming inside, being on their wrong foot," he added.

The 45-year-old Owen, who last played for England in 2008,



he would prefer to stick with the old style.

"I prefer the old style. I think combinations and pairings was great and I do think in time it will come back. Football is quite fashionable. You know, if one great coach is playing one way, then everybody thinks that's the perfect way and everybody follows," he said.

"So maybe in a few years we will come back to having two centre forwards. I don't know. But yeah, I'd certainly prefer the old way when everybody had pairs," he added.

Portugal and Real Madrid legend Figo said it remains to

be seen whether Cristiano Ronaldo will play for the country in the 2026 World Cup.

"I don't know what is the idea for Cristiano, how long he wants to continue to play, how long he will play for Portugal. It's a lot of questions that I cannot answer right now," he said.

"But in the end, a World Cup is always a big competition. It's always the best nations that are playing and normally it's always the last part of the competition.

"We have to wait a bit and see first which one they qualify, which players are fit to play," he added. (PTI)

MI look to overcome batting woes against inspired RCB



MUMBAI, April 6: Struggling Mumbai Indians will hope the batters will get their act together to shoulder responsibility when they take on an inspired Royal Challengers Bengaluru in an Indian Premier League match here on Monday.

With three defeats in four games marking yet another poor start for the five-time winners, Mumbai Indians are grappling with batting woes. Only two MI batters have hit half-centuries so far in four matches, with Suryakumar Yadav and Ryan Rickelton recording one each. Among all the 10 IPL teams, this is the least number of contributions in terms of fifties per batter.

Scoring fifties has always been tough in T20 cricket, and IPL teams have increasingly moved towards being top-heavy with their best batters getting most overs to face and looking to bat through.

At the centre of MI's struggles with the bat are former skipper Rohit Sharma, who missed the last game against Lucknow Super Giants due to a blow to his knee at the nets after a poor start to the IPL, and middle-order batter Tilak Varma, whose starts haven't converted into big scores. It remains to be seen if Rohit is fit for the clash against RCB but MI will certainly need a quick fix to their batting woes and would need Suryakumar to continue doing the heavy lifting.

With 177 runs to his kitty, the India T20I captain has been MI's best

batter this season. His maiden half-century gave MI the glimmer of hope for a win over LSG, but it corresponded with Tilak's failure to accelerate which left the lower order with an uphill task in the chase.

Despite skipper Hardik Pandya's five-for, LSG accumulated a total which was also beyond MI as they lacked a hard-hitting batter lower down the order. Pandya struck a valiant 16-ball 28 but got no support from the other end.

Mumbai Indians have indeed been bolstered with the return of Jasprit Bumrah, who joined the team ahead of the clash against RCB but it remains to be seen if he is fit to bowl or not. MI's only win so far came last week over Kolkata Knight Riders at the Wankhede, which would certainly spur the confidence of the Pandya-led side to put up a unified show again. For the visiting Royal Challengers Bengaluru, it would be an opportunity to exploit MI's batting frailties and pile up further pressure on their opponents.

Virat Kohli has blown hot and cold as he began his IPL with 59 not out against KKR but since then has struggled. But RCB have enough firepower in their ranks to keep pushing for bigger totals, with Phil Salt and Devdutt Padikkal providing fireworks and skipper Rajat Patidar the necessary cushion if things are going against them.

Tim David could prove to be a vital cog in this RCB line up. The

former MI player knows this ground well and its short boundaries will give the burly Australian another chance to play an explosive knock, something which he has done several times in the past for his former side. RCB have a strong pace bowling attack in Josh Hazlewood and Bhuvneshwar Kumar providing control at the top, but spin bowlers are yet to make their mark.

RCB are placed at third position in the points table and would be keen to bounce back from their loss to Gujarat Titans in their last outing.

The Teams (from):

Mumbai Indians: Hardik Pandya (c), Rohit Sharma, Suryakumar Yadav, Robin Minz, Ryan Rickelton, Shrijith Krishnan, Bevon Jacobs, Tilak Varma, Naman Dhir, Will Jacks, Mitchell Santner, Raj Angad Bawa, Vignesh Puthur, Corbin Bosch, Trent Boult, Karn Sharma, Deepak Chahar, Ashwani Kumar, Arjee Topley, VS Venkatesh, Arjun Tendulkar, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Jasprit Bumrah.

Royal Challengers Bengaluru: Rajat Patidar (c), Virat Kohli, Phil Salt, Jitesh Sharma, Devdutt Padikkal, Swastik Chhikara, Liam Livingstone, Krunal Pandya, Swapnil Singh, Tim David, Romario Shepherd, Manoj Bhandage, Jacob Bethell, Josh Hazlewood, Rasikh Salam Dar, Suyash Sharma, Bhuvneshwar Kumar, Nuwan Thushara, Lungi Ngidi, Abhinandan Singh, Mohit Ramee, Yash Dayal. (PTI)

MBSG seek to overturn deficit against JFC in second leg semifinal

KOLKATA, April 6: Hosts Mohun Bagan Super Giant will have their task cut out as they look to overturn a one-goal deficit against Jharkhand FC in their second leg semi-final of the Indian Super League here on Monday.

Jharkhand FC will enter Mohun Bagan SG's bastion -- Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Kriangan (VYBK) -- with a 2-1 aggregate advantage after the Khalid Jamil-coached side snapped MBSG's six-game unbeaten streak against the Red Miners.

The League Shield winners will be drawing confidence from their impeccable home record though, having not given away a goal in any of their previous six games at the stadium.

They will have to extend that streak to overturn the deficit and find a place in the summit clash for the third year running. MBSG, however, have lost three of their last four playoff games in the ISL, including each of their last two. They had faced defeats in only two of their first nine playoff matches before this patch began; a promising run of form they will seek to regain starting from this game.

Having scored 21 goals from set-pieces this season, which is the most ever by a team in a single ISL campaign, Mohun Bagan Super Giant's mastery from dead-ball situations could be instrumental in dissecting Jharkhand FC's backline.

Jharkhand FC have scored

multiple goals in each of their last four ISL games, which is their second-best such streak ever. However, they have never netted more than once in consecutive games against MBSG before, and an alert home side defence will be eager to sustain that record.

While their attacking form has been inspiring, the Red Miners have conceded a league-high 23 goals in the first half. Jamil will push his team to shore up defensively early on to avoid conceding their aggregate advantage.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant head coach Jose Molina brought the focus to the core objective from the coming match: to progress into the finals.

"The only thing that is there in my mind right now is the matchday. We have to perform well and win -- that's the goal currently," he said.

"We have kept our preparations for this match the same as before."

Jharkhand FC head coach Khalid Jamil recognised MBSG's strength at home.

"We have kept our preparations for this game the same as before. There is no doubt about Mohun Bagan Super Giant, who always play very well, especially at home," he said.

The two sides have played 11 games against each other, with MBSG winning five times and Jharkhand FC emerging victorious four times. Two encounters have produced draws. (PTI)

India ends World Boxing Cup campaign on a high with six-medal haul

NEW DELHI, April 6: The Indian boxing contingent ended their campaign at the World Boxing Cup with an impressive haul of six medals, including a gold won by Hitesh, at Foz Do Iguacu in Brazil.

It's India's first-ever outing in an elite-level international meet organised by World Boxing.

Hitesh became the first Indian boxer to clinch a gold medal in the World Boxing Cup. His opponent Odel Kamara of England was injured and couldn't take to the ring in the 70kg final on Saturday. Abhinash Jamwal, the other Indian boxer to reach the final in the 65kg category, gave his best against local favourite Yuri Reis but could not do enough to get a favourable verdict and bagged a silver medal.

Four Indians -- Jadumani Singh Mandengbam (50kg), Manish Rathore (55kg), Sachin

(60kg) and Vishal (90kg) -- bagged bronze medals.

Hitesh credited the 10-day preparatory camp in Brazil ahead of the tournament as something that helped him and the team a lot.

"The camp helped me learn a few tactical nuances that helped me a lot in the competition. This tournament has provided us fantastic exposure at the highest level and I am happy that I could grab the gold medal," said Hitesh.

India had fielded a 10-member contingent at the World Boxing Cup, their first major international outing since the Paris Olympics.

The strong performance will not only boost the confidence of the players as they start preparing for the Olympic cycle ahead of the 2028 Los Angeles Games. (PTI)

I deserve the price tag: Confident Chahal looks to regain rhythm

BENGALURU, April 6: Yuzvendra Chahal said on Sunday that the hefty Rs 18 crore price tag sits lightly on him, and was confident that he can overcome the lukewarm start in the IPL 2025 for Punjab Kings.

Chahal, the highest wicket-taker in the IPL with 206 scalps, has taken only one wicket so far in this iteration of the tournament.

"We have played three matches and the best thing is that we won two of them. The tournament has just started and I'm getting into my rhythm. My performance is secondary. If I don't get a single wicket, and if we win the trophy, that would be my preference," Chahal said during the JioHotstar Press Room with Punjab Kings.

"The price tag, I think, I deserve it. When you play, you don't think about whether

you've lost 5 crores or 18 crores," he added.

So, is it imperative for Chahal to perform well in the IPL to chart his way back to the Indian team, for whom he has not played since August 2023.

Chahal is not unduly worried about it. "I don't think about it. It's not in my hands. Last year as well, I was not playing for a year, but I came to the (T20) World Cup (squad). I don't put any pressure (on myself). I just enjoy my cricket whether I am playing or not (for India)," he

said. Chahal was also glad that Kuldeep Yadav, the one part of the famed KulChal pair, is doing well for the country and in the IPL.

"As far as Kulcha is concerned those are my memories. He will always be there. He is doing so well. I am so happy for him. I think, right now, he is the world's number one wrist spinner," he said.

There is a considerable gap in Chahal's game time these days, but the leg-spinner said it has not affected his bowling.

"We've played so many matches all over India. We know the stadiums, the conditions. If I play in Chinnowamy or in Chepauk, I plan my bowling after the match situation and the team needs.

"We speak to our captain about what we need. We should attack or we should defend. So, according to that, we always bowl," he added. (PTI)



JOFRA IS ONLY GOING TO GET BETTER AND BETTER: SANDEEP SHARRMA

CHANDIGARH, April 6: Jofra Archer is one of the toughest bowlers to face in world cricket and he regaining form after proving expensive early in the IPL was on expected lines, his Rajasthan Royals teammate Sandeep Sharma said.

Archer had leaked as many as 76 runs in his four overs in the opening game against Sunrisers Hyderabad before conceding 33 runs in 2.3 overs against Kolkata Knight Riders. He also failed to pick up a wicket besides proving expensive.

However, the England pacer upped his ante in his previous two outings, most recently against Punjab Kings on Saturday night when he struck twice in the open-

ing over.

"When you start any tournament, something like the IPL, it's high pressure. You have so many quality batters and opponent sides. First two matches, your nerves are high. I think that is what happened.

"We always knew Jofra is a world class bowler. The skill he brings to the table or into the game, it's totally different. Very few can bring that," said Sandeep after the win over Punjab Kings.

Archer had castled Priyansh Arya and skipper Shreyas Iyer in the opening over.

"All management and team had this confidence on him that the day he gets that 1 over, 1 wicket, maybe 2 overs, those 2 good



overs. In response to Royals' 205 for 4, Punjab Kings could only manage 155 for 9.

"Actually, this pitch, the back-of-length was skidding and was keeping low. We saw the other team bowling. I think we read the pitch faster than the other team," Sandeep said.

"We had the same plan during time-outs. We talked to the batsmen who were playing inside us. We got their feedback on which ball is tough to hit or which ball is tough to convert boundary balls.

"We cut down those balls on this wicket. Again, I feel the wicket was not that good. The credit goes to our batters, who scored well," he added. (PTI)

overs, that will boost his confidence. He is one of the toughest bowlers to face. With more games, he is going to get better and better," said Sandeep.

Sandeep also contributed to Royals' success with the ball, taking two wickets for 21 runs in his