Mumbai, (UNI)

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Friday announced the suspension of the ongoing TATA Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 for a period of one week with immediate effect, citing the prevailing national security situation following the recent terrorist attack and subsequent aggression by Pakistan's armed forces.

The decision was taken by the IPL Governing Council after detailed consultations with all key stakeholders, including franchise representatives, the league's broadcaster, sponsors and fan groups, a BCCI statement

"While we repose full faith in the strength and pre-paredness of our armed forces, the Board considered



BCCI suspends IPL 2025 for a week amid

it prudent to act in the collective interest of all stakeholders," the BCCI said.

The Board expressed its unwavering solidarity with

the Government of India, the Armed Forces, and the citizens of the country in light of the ongoing military response under Operation Sin-

door. "We salute the bravery, courage, and selfless service of our armed forces, whose heroic efforts continue to protect and inspire the na-

tion," the statement added.
The BCCI stressed that while cricket remains a passion across the nation, "there is nothing greater than the Nation and its sovereignty, integrity, and secu-

Further updates regarding the revised IPL schedule and venues will be shared in due course after a comprehensive assessment of the situation in consultation with the relevant authorities

and stakeholders.
The Board also extended its gratitude to Jiostar, the league's official broadcaster, along with title sponsor TATA and other associate partners, for their unequivocal support and understanding in these testing times.

Hardik, Manpreet & Harmanpreet have helped me a lot: Rajinder Singh



Bengaluru, (UNI)

Rajinder Singh made his senior debut in October last year during a two-match series against Germany, and eight months later, he has become a pivotal part of the Indian Men's

Hockey Team.

The midfielder is currently training at the Senior National Camp at SAI Bengaluru ahead of India's
FIH Hockey Pro League 2024/25 matches in Europe.

Talking about the ongoing camp, Rajinder said, "The preparations are going really well. We are working a lot on our fitness. Some players are focusing on fitness, while others are working on stick-and-ball skills, so it's a combination of both. The earlier camp before the Senior National Championships was solely focused on fitness, but now we are doing a bit of

everything."

India played the home leg of the FIH Hockey Pro League in Bhubaneswar in February this year, where they bagged fifteen points with five wins in eight games and are currently placed third in the points table. Their three losses came against Spain, Germany, and England — all of whom they defeated in the reverse fixtures.

Reflecting on the team's performance in the tournament so

matches ahead, Rajinder said There were quite a few ups and downs in Bhubaneswar, but we learned a great deal from them We still have video sessions or those matches as we prepare for the upcoming leg. The teams we'll be facing next are very strong, so we need to perform at our best. Our aim is to qualify for the 2026 World Cup through

the Pro League."

"During the Bhubaneswar leg, we realised that while we were making circle entries, we struggled to convert our chances. Right now, we're focusing a lot on our game inside the circle to ensure we convert field goals. We don't want to rely heavily on penalty corners," he added, discussing India's cur rent strategy.
At just 22, Rajinder has al

ready become a core member o the team and a key presence in the midfield. Hailing from Haryana, he rose through the ranks of the junior team, with whom he won the Sultan of Jo Asia Cup in 2023. Sharing his experience playing with the senior squad, he said, "I've learned a lot during my time with the se nior players. They guide us youngsters well, and whenever we make mistakes, they show us how to handle the situation, stay calm, and focus on our game.

LA Memorial Coliseum, Stadium to share 2028 Olympic, Paralympic ceremonies

Los Angeles, (UNI): The historic Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum and the Stadium in Inglewood will share the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games, organizers announced. With the two venues sharing the Olympics opening ceremony on July 14, 2028, it will mark the third time the Coliseum has staged this event - the only stadium to claim that feat in Olympic history - and will represent the first Olympic use of the Stadium in Inglewood. The Games' closing ceremony will take place at the Coliseum on July 30. Los Angeles hosted the Summer Olympic Games in 1932 and 1984. The Paralympic Games' opening ceremony is scheduled for August 15 at the Stadium in Inglewood, while the closing ceremony will be held on August 27 at the Coliseum. "The venues selected for the 2028 opening and closing ceremonies will highlight Los Angeles's rich sporting history and cutting-edge future, showcasing the very best that LA has to offer on the world stage," said 1428 president Casey Wasserman said on Thursday. "These two LA28 president Casey Wasserman said on Thursday. "These two extraordinary venues will create an unforgettable experience, welcoming fans from across the globe to an Olympic and Paralympic Games like never before and concluding what will go down as one of the most incredible Games in history," he added. The dual-location approach reflects Los Angeles' long-standing sporting heritage and modern infrastructure, according to Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass. "For over a century, the Coliseum has been a landmark host to some of the most iconic moments in all of sports history," she said. "That story continues in 2028 as our city and our region welcomes the world for what will be the greatest Olympic and Paralympic Games." Inglewood mayor James T. Butts Jr. remarked, "Our stadium is one of the most impressive in the world and will deliver an incredible experience for thousands of in-person fans, with millions more watching from home, as we come together to celebrate the opening ceremonies of the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games

Huracan stays top of group, Fluminense falters in Copa Sudamericana

Buenos Aires, (UNI)

Argentina's Huracan recovered from a oal down to secure a 3-1 away win over Uruguayan side Racing Montevideo in the Copa Sudamericana group stage match

Bautista Tomatis put the hosts ahead with a spectacular volley before Huracan equalized through Agustin Urzi, who fired home after meeting Matko Miljevic's diagonal cross at the far post on Thursday.

Fabio Pereyra gave the visitors the lead by heading into the top-left corner, and Rodrigo Cabral put the result beyond doubt with a calm finish on the counterattack.

Huracan remains top of Group C with 10 points from four games while Racing is last,

having yet to pick up a point.

In Bolivia, a second-half strike from



Daniel Calero fired GV San Jose to a 1-0 home win over Brazil's Fluminense. The latter remains second in Group F with seven points, three ahead of third-placed GV San Jose. In other fixtures on Thursday, Cienciano won 3-1 at home to Caracas FC, and Deportes Iquique edged to a 3-2 home victory over Atletico Mineiro.

Chelsea and Strasbourg prepare for multi-club rule changes

Chelsea's US-based owners are preparing for a situation in which the Blues qualify for the same European competition as French sister club Stras-

bourg.
UEFA, European football's governing body, has strict rules regarding multi-club ownership models and it has forced BlueCo, the parent company of both Chelsea and Strasbourg, into a change to allow both clubs a chance of playing Champions League football next season - should they qualify.

Strasbourg are currently sixth in Ligue 1 and will likely need to win their last two matches to secure a third-placed finish to qualify for the Champions League, ahead of the likes of Monaco, Nice, Lille and Lyon.

Chelsea's owners have been in conversation with UEFA since January about setting up a structure that is



move into a 'blind' trust, while removing any conflicts like board members or staff working across the two clubs. The two established ways round UEFA's

ther reduce a stake in one of them - as Brighton owner Tony Bloom did with his Belgian outfit Union-Saint Gilloise - or put one of them into a blind trust so over two clubs, the BBC reported. In a similar situation to BlueCo, Not

nakis has diluted his control of the club in preparation for possible Champions League qualification, with Olympiakos set to qualify for the competition by winning the Greek league. Legally Marinakis has ceased to become a "person with significant control" of the company that owns Forest. Marinaki maintains his commitment to Forest bourg, after substantial off-field and on-field investment since their £64m takeover in 2023. Manchester United co-owner Sir Jim Ratcliffe moved his two other Ineos-owned clubs Nice and Lausanne-Sport into this structure and City Football Group, which owns Manchester City, also moved Girona into a blind trust.

Jacob Fearnley of Britain reaches Italian Open second round

Britain's Jacob Fearnley is safely through to the second round of the Italian Open with a straight-set victory over home hero Fabio

The 23-year-old defeated the veteran Italian who announced on Tuesday this would be his last Masters 1000 event in Rome - 6-2 6-3 in the first round on Thursday.

Fearnley will now face another Italian opponent, Matteo Berrettini, on Saturday.

He said it was a "tough match" against the 37-year-old Fognini and he had to "dig deep" in

"I knew playing such an experienced player like Fabio that I had to up my game in order to win," Fearnley told Sky Sports.

Thursday's match was briefly interrupted as spectators at Foro Italico were told Robert Prevost had been elected as the new Pope.

To the delight of the home crowd, Fognini started brightly before Fearnley won six games in a row to take the first set.



Fognini on the front foot early on, only for his younger opponent to go on a run of games which eventually sealed the match.

Fognini made his debut at the clay-court event in 2006 and reached the quarter-finals of the tournament in 2018.

He had told the Tennis Channel before his opening tie with Fearnley that now was a "good The second followed the same pattern, with time to say goodbye in this beautiful city.

South Africa name new all-format head coach

Cricket South Africa (CSA) have announced the appointment of Shukri Conrad as the head coach of the Proteas Men's teams across formats, marking a new chapter for South African cricket.

Conrad is set to replace former Proteas white-ball coach Rob Walter, following the latter's resignation from the white-ball head coach role

Conrad expressed his pride and excitement at taking on the expand-

"I'm truly honoured to be entrusted with the responsibility of leading the national team across allthree formats," The 58-year-old said. "Coaching the Test side has been the greatest privilege of my cricket journey, and to now oversee the white-ball teams as well is something unbelievably special."

South African cricket has incredible white-ball talent, from the calibre of our senior players to the ICC report said. The appointment, jectory," he added.



emerging group of juniors eager to make their mark. There's a strong

foundation to build on, and I believe we have what it takes to

achieve something special," he said. The Proteas prepare for a crucial World Test Championship final against Australia, starting June 11 at al cricket and has fostered valuable Lord's, after which Conrad's tenure relationships with the players. We as the all-format head coach begins have every confidence he is the with a T20I tri-series against Zim- right person to guide the team for babwe and New Zealand in July, an ward and maintain our upward tra-

which runs through to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2027 - set to be hosted on home soil - comes in as South Africa aim to strengthen the national team's competitiveness across formats.

Enoch Nkwe, CSA Director of National Teams and High Performance, praised Conrad's impact on South Africa's Test setup thus.

'Shukri's track record with the red-ball team speaks for itself. He has laid a solid foundation and instilled a strong identity within the Test environment. I'm excited to see him bring that same level of clarity, structure, and purpose to the white-ball formats," said Nkwe. "Having worked within the national setup for the past two years, he understands the demands of internation-

Rory McIlroy five shots off lead in Philadelphia

Philadelphia (USA), (UNI)

Rory McIlroy admitted he felt "a little rusty" after he began his warm-up for next week's US PGA Championship by finishing five shots behind round one leader Keith Mitchell at the Truist Championship in

McIlroy - last year's winner and a four-time champion at the event - recorded six birdies and two bogeys to card a four-under-par 66 at the Wissahickon Golf reported.

Course on Thursday. Slam with his thrilling win done a ton of practice," said over Justin Rose at last McIlroy. month's Masters, ended the



'I was a little rusty out The 36-year-old, who there, just hadn't played in tories in this event, formercompleted a career Grand a week and I hadn't really ly known as Wells Fargo, coming towards the end of

"I drove the ball pretty PGA. day tied in 25th alongside well. I certainly can tidy a nine other players, the BBC few things up, but overall a has "nothing but positive der par.

for a first title at Augusta National, and fifth major He finished tied 12th at ast month's Zurich Classic in his first outing since the

> American Mitchell tops the leaderboard having posted a nine-under-par 61 one stroke ahead of com-

vibes" as he approaches the

second major of the year,

having ended his long wait

patriot Denny McCarthy. Mitchell parred the first five holes but got better as the day wore on with a run of four straight birdies

were won at Quail Hollow, his round Ireland's Shane Lowry is at six under, while Aaron McIlroy said this week he Rai of England is at five un-

Liverpool manager Arne Slot is "disappointed" to be losing "a very good full-back" in Trent Alexander-Arnold and has hinted that the England international will be joining Real Madrid.

Alexander-Arnold said on Monday that he is going to bring his 20-year spell at Anfield to an end by departing the Premier League champi

on June 30 2025. Since then, Real Madrid – the club he has been heavily linked with during the season - have approached Liverpool about signing the 26-year-old before his deal runs out so he can play at the Fifa Club World Cup, which starts on June 14 in the United States. Asked about Alexander-Arnold leaving early for the Spanish club, Slot said: "He hasn't

said anything about it himself, the BBC reported. he's going and if that is a club that is going to play in the Club World Cup.



"You see by my smile we both know where he's going to but it hasn't been said yet."

Liverpool won this sea-son's top-flight title with four games to spare and host second-placed Arsenal on Sunday (16:30 BST) with the Gunners 15 points behind them going into the final three games

Slot confirmed Northern Ireland international Conor ons on a free transfer when his contract runs out Bradley, 21, will start at right-back against Arsenal

as the Reds boss prepares for Alexander-Arnold's exit in a situation he was used to at his previous clubs. "Like everybody who is a fan of Liverpool we're disappointed for him leaving because not only a good human being is leaving the club but also a very, very good full-back is leaving us as well," said Slot as he spoke for the first time on Alexander-Arnold's decision to leave.

"I also worked at clubs like AZ Alkmaar and "For me, it's impossible to comment on where s going and if that is a club that is going to play the Club World Cup.

Feyenoord where every season a good player, or multiple good players have left the club. I'm a bit more used to players leaving.





All four of McIlroy's vic-

which hosts next week's US













