

Press Clip

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By **Shaghil Bilal** in New Delhi

TO FINISH runner-up after leading the field at one stage on the final day of the BILT Open in Greater Noida two weeks ago had left Delhi golfer Vikrant Chopra disappointed.

So when he sets out for the four remaining events on the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) calendar this year, his priority will be to achieve his goal of laying his hand on the winner's trophy for the first time in his professional career.

Chopra was in joint lead till the 13th hole before a triple bogey on par-3 14th and a bogey on the closing hole shattered his title dream at the BILT Open. Though he finished the tournament one stroke behind the winner, Chiragh Kumar, he had to content with a joint runner-up spot with Anirban Lahiri.

As Chopra prepares for the TATA Open (Jamshedpur) and Indian Oil Masters (Digboi) in November, and CG Open (Mumbai) and PGTI Year Ending event in December (venue not decided), he has firmly fixed his eyes on the win-

Determined Chopra keen to win a PGTI title before year is over



Vikrant Chopra

ner's trophy. "It was a little disappointing after finishing in the second position, but all I took were only positives from the BILT Open. There are three big prize money tournaments just round the corner and I'll try to raise my game and register the elusive victory," Chopra said at the launch of the third Albatross International Junior Golf Championships here

on Monday. "I have finished in top-10 many times in last two years, but it is the victory which has ditched me. I hope I taste it soon," said the 31-year-old golfer. "I have been struggling with my form in the first half of the year but I worked simultaneously on the short and the long game and the hard work is finally paying off as I have maintained consistency

in the last few events and want to improve on it in future."

HUGE PARTICIPATION

A total of 167 junior golfers from 10 countries including India, China and Thailand will adorn the field at the third edition of the Albatross Trophy which gets underway at the Classic Golf Resort in Mewat from Nov 23.

Some of the finest golfers from South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei and South Africa will be seen in action. Golfers as young as six years in six different age groups will be vying for the title. The tournament will be played over 54 holes and will be a three-day affair.

Europe's major golfing destination Sweden and African powerhouse South Africa have sent their junior golfers for the first time to compete in the championship. "Albatross World Championships has got immense popularity overseas and a lot of countries are showing interest to send their teams in the tournament," said Rajiv Talwar, director, Albatross Junior Tour.