



## Smriti, Renuka shine as India wallop Bangladesh by 10 wickets, enter Women's Asia Cup final

**DAMBULLA, JULY 26:** Pacer Renuka Singh's three-wicket burst followed by Smriti Mandhana's brisk unbeaten fifty underlined India's ruthless performance as the defending champions walloped Bangladesh by 10 wickets and marched into their record-extending ninth women's Asia Cup final, here on Friday.

India will face the winner of the second semifinal between Pakistan and Sri Lanka, in the title clash on Sunday.

Shafali (26 not out, 28b, 2x4) and Mandhana (55 not out, 39b, 9x4, 1x6) were on song from the word go, as India overhauled the target of 81 without breaking a sweat.

India ended up at 83 for no loss in 11 overs.

Mandhana and Shafali's knocks were filled with trademark shots around the ground as India motored to 46 for no loss in the Power Play.

Shafali, who was dropped on 21 off Rabeya Khan, played those powerful heaves across the line to find the fence.

Mandhana, at the other end, unfurled those ex-



quisite drives on the off-side, such as the one the left-hander played through the covers against pacer Marufa Akter.

Mandhana also displayed her power while pulling pacer Jahanara Alam for a six over deep square leg as India trotted to a victory that was a long-forgone conclusion once Bangladesh were limited 80 for eight.

Renuka (3/10) upfront and left-arm spinner Radha Yadav (3/14) rattled Bangladesh with excellent spells.

In fact, Bangladesh hardly recovered from the deep wounds inflicted by Renuka in the first six overs.

Renuka, who bowled four overs on the trot during her 3/10 spell, received

ample support from left-arm spinner Radha Yadav (3/14) after Bangladesh elected to bat first.

Renuka struck in the first over itself, dismissing Dilara Akter, whose slog sweep did not have enough power in it to clear Uma Chetry at deep mid-wicket.

In her next over, Renuka got the better of Ishma Tanjim with a delivery that stayed close to her body and a mistimed whip across the line was grabbed by Tanuja Kanwar at short third.

Renuka bagged her third wicket in as many overs with a slightly short of length delivery that Mursida Khatun slapped straight to Shafali at mid-wicket. At 25 for three inside the Power Play segment, Bangladesh were falling apart fast and their

real hope for a revival was the presence of skipper Nigar Sultana (32, 51b, 2x4), the third highest run-getter in the tournament.

Sultana hung around resolutely but even she could not offer a meaningful fight to the Indian bowlers, who gave away just seven runs across overs seven and 10 while losing Rumana Ahmed to Radha's quick arm ball.

There was also hardly any backing for Sultana and the excellent line of Indian spinners on the day meant that the right-hander could rarely play her preferred sweep shot.

The Indians, on their part, fielded vastly better compared to the previous games and Shafali was particularly impressive.

Her forward-diving catch to oust Rabeya off pacer Pooja Vastrakar was from the top draw.

There was a good little partnership of 36 runs for the seventh wicket between Sultana, who was dismissed for the first time in this tournament, and Shorna Akter (19 not out, 18b, 2x4) but it came way too late to have any match-course altering effect.

## I enjoy leadership, learnt a lot of things from different captains: Suryakumar ahead of Sri Lanka series

**NEW DELHI, JULY 26:** Newly-appointed Indian T20 captain Suryakumar Yadav says he has enjoyed being a leader on the field despite not donning the captain's hat, adding that he learnt the tricks of the trade from different skippers over the years.

Suryakumar was appointed India's T20 captain last week ahead of Hardik Pandya after Rohit Sharma's retirement from the format.

Suryakumar's first assignment will be the three-match T20 series against hosts Sri Lanka starting here on Saturday.

"I have always enjoyed being a leader on the field even though I was not the captain. I have always learnt a lot of things from different captains. It's a good feeling and a great responsibility," the swash-buckling middle-order bat-



ter told BCCI.TV.

Indian cricket is set to embark on a new era under Suryakumar and new head coach Gautam Gambhir.

Both Suryakumar and Gambhir share a strong bond since Kolkata Knight Riders days as they played together in 2014 for the franchise.

And Suryakumar, known for his aggressive batting and innovative shots, described his relationship with Gambhir as both special and strong.

"This relationship is spe-

cial because in 2014 I played under him in KKR. It was special because from there only I got opportunities. The relationship is still strong.

"He (Gambhir) knows how I work, what is my mindset when I come to practice sessions. I also know how he tries to work as a coach. It's all about the lovely relationship we have and very excited to see how it goes forward," the Mumbai batter said.

By his own admission, Suryakumar wants to re-

main humble and grounded while leading the side on the field as he looks at cricket just as a sport, not life.

"I think most important thing what I have learned from this sport is how humble you are after achieving or even after not doing well. I have learned when you do something on the ground you have to leave it on the ground," he said.

"This is not your life; this is just a part of your life. So you can't be when you are doing well you stay on the top and when you are not doing well you are under-ground.

"That's one thing which you shouldn't do ever as a sportsman, that's one thing which I have learned and that's what helps me create balance in my life. If you are a good person, everything happens good."

## Former India youth international among 10 footballers banned by Delhi football on suspicions of match-fixing

**NEW DELHI, JULY 26:** The Delhi Soccer Association, during its Executive Committee Meeting this week, imposed a lifetime ban on 10 Indian footballers on account of suspicions of match-fixing on multiple occasions.

Among the players is a former youth Indian international, who represented the country in the AIFF (All India Football Federation) Youth Cup in 2016 and was in the squad in the subsequent BRICS U-17 Football tournament, wherein he was a torchbearer.

Tamal Naskar, the goalkeeper of Delhi Premier League side Tarun Sangha, was the first name in the list of players submitted by DSA, in a letter to the All India Football Federation.

He had previously pled his trade in the reserve sides of Bengaluru FC and Chennaiyin FC.

Other names on the list, from the same club, include Satish Singh, Abhi-



jit Das, Muslim Molla, Saddam Hossain and Sanik Murmu.

Delhi football was mired in controversy earlier this year when a DPL match between Rangers Sports Club and Ahabab Football Club, on February 19, saw two weird own goals late in the second half, sparking suspicions of fixing in domestic football.

The guilty club, Ahabab FC, was suspended by the DSA soon after the match, while the Delhi Premier League Sub Committee's Chairman Rizwan Ul Haq was served a show-cause notice.

While the DSA chief Anuj Gupta, along with the AIFF president Kalyan Chaubey, lodged a complaint at the Anti-Corruption Bureau in New Delhi about fixing in the league, legal movement in the case has not happened so far.

On July 24th, the DSA wrote to the AIFF, stating that it had imposed a permanent ban on players they had found suspicious about match-fixing.

"I would like to request you to ban these players on AIFF CRS from registering with/transferring to any club in Delhi," read

the letter, a copy of which Sportstar has seen.

"We didn't take any action just because it seemed that it was all fixed to the naked eye. We took action based on the reports," Anuj Gupta, the president of DSA, told Sportstar.

Anuj added that there were multiple 'Red Flag' reports about these 10 players, given by Genius, a Singapore-based company that detects cases related to the possibility of fixing or betting.

The 'Red Flag' reports were given, he said, for the possibility of match-fixing in more than two games or if the players had been banned outside the duration of Delhi.

"For instance, there were a couple of players (who played in DPL last season) who went and played in Bhutan, where they got banned. Then there were some who went from here to Calcutta and got banned there," he explained.

## DC Kishtwar attends ongoing Inter Zonal District Level Tournament

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JULY 26**

The Department of Youth Services & Sports in Kishtwar is thrilled to announce the ongoing success of the Inter Zonal District Level Tournament, which has now entered its third consecutive day. The event continues to bring together a vibrant community of young athletes, showcasing their talents and sportsmanship.

Today's proceedings were marked by the presence of the esteemed District Development Commissioner, Dr. Devansh Yadav, who attended as the chief guest. A grand welcome from students and sports employees alike reflected the excitement and enthusiasm surrounding the event.



In his inspiring address to the participants, Dr. Devansh Yadav underscored the importance of supporting sports development in the region. He emphasized the need for providing essential infrastructure, including

sports hostels, to nurture and develop young talent. His commitment to improving sports facilities resonated with the audience, encouraging the athletes to pursue excellence and take full advantage of the opportunities

available to them.

DYSSO Kishtwar, Jaffer Haider Sheikh, also took the stage to address the participants. In his motivating speech, he highlighted the meticulous preparations undertaken for the tournament and encouraged the young athletes to give their best performance.

He also reiterated the department's commitment to promoting sports and nurturing young talent in the district.

The tournament has been a platform for showcasing remarkable talent and dedication from participants across the district. The Department of Youth Services & Sports remains committed to fostering a vibrant sports culture in Kishtwar through such initiatives, aiming to support and uplift young athletes.

## Inter-District Provincial Level Handball Competition continues in Baramulla

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JULY 26**

The inter-district provincial level handball competition, encompassing all age groups for both boys and girls, continues with great enthusiasm at the Indoor Stadium, Baramulla.

Following the successful completion of the under-19 boys' competition, today's spotlight shifted to the under-17 boys' category.

The under-17 boys' provincial level competition saw participation from almost 10 districts across the Kashmir province. The teams exhibited remarkable skills,



teamwork, and sports-

manship, making the event a showcase of talent and competitive spirit.

District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) of Baramulla while addressing the gathering highlighted the importance of such competitions in promoting sports at the grassroots level and providing a platform for young athletes to excel.

He appreciated the efforts of the participants, coaches, and organizers, urging everyone to continue striving for excellence.

The competition will continue tomorrow with more matches scheduled, promising another day filled with thrilling handball action and excitement.

## Vibrant Cricket matches, Baseball Selection trials enthuse young Athletes in Ganderbal

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JULY 26**

The Youth Services and Sports (YSS), District Ganderbal, is abuzz with activity as inter-school zonal level competitions and district level selection trials continue to inspire young athletes across the district.

In an energetic display of cricketing skills, Zone Ganderbal hosted an inter-school zonal level cricket competition for boys under 19 at MS Fatehpore ground. The event saw participation from various government and private schools.

The first day featured intense quarter-final and semi-final matches, with Qamaria HSS Saloora Ganderbal and New Dreamland Educational



Institute emerging as the finalists. The eagerly awaited final match is set to take place tomorrow.

Simultaneously, Zone Kangan commenced its inter-school zonal level cricket competition for girls under 17 at the Zonal Office ground in Kijpara, Kangan.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation

from 76 student players. Additionally, Zone Kangan organized a similar competition for boys under 19 at BMS Prang, Kangan, where the quarter-final and semi-final matches were held.

Zone Tullamulla conducted a similar activity for boys under 19 years at BHSS Safapora, with semi-final matches taking place

on the second day of the competition.

Moreover, Zone Hariganiwan conducted an inter-school zonal level cricket competition for girls under 19 years at BHSS Hariganiwan ground, where BHSS Hariganiwan emerged victorious by defeating BHSS Kullana. Trophies were distributed among both teams by senior officials.

Adding to the sports fervor, YSS Ganderbal conducted district level selection trials for baseball for boys and girls under 14 years at MM Stadium, Ganderbal.

A total of 70 enthusiastic student players showcased their talent during the trials. The selected players will represent the district in the upcoming provincial competition.

## District-Level Sports Competition promotes 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' initiative in Reasi

**HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, JULY 26**

Department of Youth services & Sports Reasi in collaboration with District Social welfare office organised District level Sports competition in the discipline of Kho-Kho, Kabaddi, Volleyball at General Zorawar Singh Stadium Reasi under the theme Beti Bachao Bati Padoo. On the occasion Sukhdev Singh Sambyal Addl. District Development Commissioner Reasi was the chief guest along with Sachin Sharma District Officer Social Welfare officer was the Guest of Honour. Tasem Singh District Officer



Youth Service and sports Reasi provided a detailed briefing about the scheduled program and the significance of the event total 240 girls from 8 block of district Reasi participated in District level sports competition.

While speaking on the occasion, ADDC said Beti Bachao Bati Padoo is an initiative taken by Govt. of India to

balance the sex ratio of female child. Today, as we witness this sports competition, we see a beautiful example of what our daughters can achieve when given the right opportunities. Sports teach discipline, teamwork, and resilience—qualities that are essential for personal and professional success.