



## Billie Jean King Cup: India drop just one game in dominant win over Mongolia; South Korea-Indonesia Clash in battle of top two

**NEW DELHI [INDIA], APRIL 10:** Team India dropped only one game collectively as they returned to winning ways resoundingly with a 3-0 win against Mongolia in the Billie Jean King Cup (BJKC) 2026 at the Delhi Lawn Tennis Authority Complex on Friday, according to a release.

Hosting the Group I - Asia/Oceania fixtures, India have lost two and won two of their matches so far and will conclude their campaign against Korea Republic on Saturday.

In the first-ever meeting between the two nations, Desai set the tone with a clinical performance, dismantling Anu-Vjin Gantor 6-0, 6-0 in just 37 minutes, barely giving her opponent a look in as she dominated from the baseline and controlled proceedings throughout. Yamalappalli followed with an equally commanding display, overwhelming Jargal Altansarnai 6-0, 6-0.

India's dominance extended into the doubles, where Adkar and Bhosale completed the rout with a 6-1, 6-0 win over Khongorzul Aldarkhishig and Jargal Altansarnai. The Indian pair combined seamlessly, asserting control early and never allowing their opponents to settle, capping off a



near-flawless outing for the hosts.

Elsewhere, Korea Republic faced Indonesia in a clash between the top two sides, with the head-to-head evenly poised at 5-5. Korea took the early lead as Dayeon Back continued her unbeaten run in the competition, edging Priska Madelyn Nugroho 7-5, 3-6, 6-2, with the remaining matches yet to be played.

Thailand, meanwhile, were on course for victory against New Zealand, leading 1-0 at the time of writing despite trailing 3-5 in their head-to-head. Anchisa

Chanta put them ahead with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Aishi Das. In the second singles, Patcharin Cheapchandej and Valentina Ivanov were locked in a decider, with the Thai player leading 6-2, 3-6, 4-0 after securing two breaks of serve.

All six teams continue to compete in a round-robin format through Saturday, with the top two nations advancing to the next stage.

**Thursday Results**  
India def. Mongolia 3-0  
Zeel Desai (IND) def. Anu-Vjin Gantor (MGL) 6-0, 6-0  
Sahaja Yamalappalli (IND) def. Jargal Altansar-

nai (MGL) 6-0, 6-0  
Vaishnavi Adkar/Rutuja Bhosale (IND) def. Khongorzul Aldarkhishig/Jargal Altansarnai (MGL) 6-1, 6-0  
Korea Republic vs. Indonesia

Dayeon Back (KOR) def. Priska Madelyn Nugroho (INA) 7-5, 3-6, 6-2

Other matches ongoing at the time of writing

Thailand vs. New Zealand  
Anchisa Chanta (THA) def. Aishi Das (NZL) 6-2, 6-3

Patcharin Cheapchandej (THA) vs. Valentina Ivanov (NZL) 6-2, 3-6, 4-0 (in progress)  
Doubles ongoing at the time of writing. (ANI)

## Barcelona dominance undone as red card hands Atletico control

**NEW DELHI, APR 10:** At the Camp Nou, the balance of a high-intensity Champions League quarter-final shifted in a matter of seconds. Atletico Madrid beat FC Barcelona 2-0 in the first leg, but the scoreline only tells part of the story.

For long periods, Barcelona were the better side. They controlled possession, created more chances and finished the game with significantly higher shot numbers.

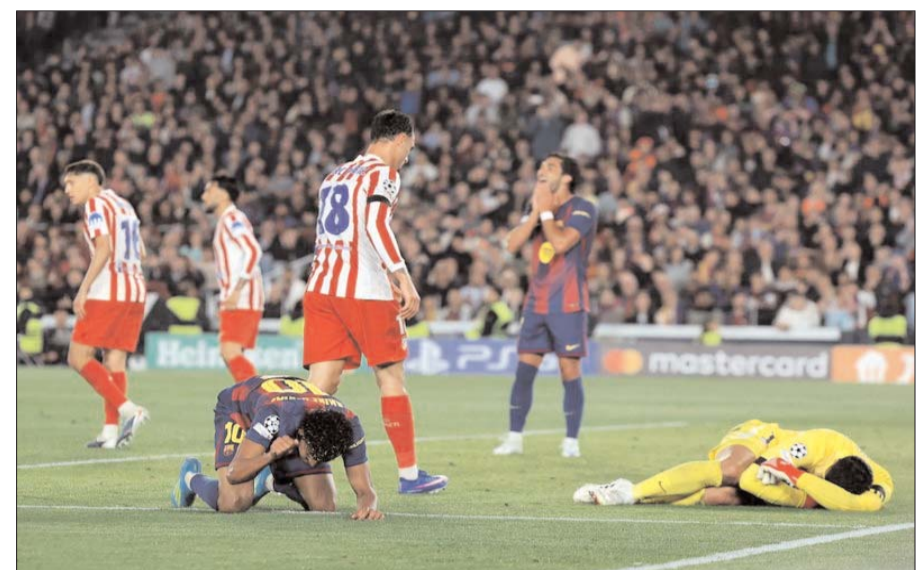
Marcus Rashford was central to that early dominance, forcing multiple saves from goalkeeper Juan Musso and even having a goal ruled out for offside. Lamine Yamal also stood out, completing several dribbles, creating chances and carrying the attacking burden almost single-handedly.

But knockout football often turns on moments rather than patterns, and this game was decided just before half-time.

A long ball released Giuliano Simeone in behind the Barcelona defence. Pau Cubarsi, who had otherwise been composed, brought him down on the edge of the area. The referee initially showed a yellow card but upgraded it to red after a VAR review, leaving Barcelona a goal down and a man down in the same passage of play.

From the resulting free-kick, Julian Alvarez curled in a precise finish, giving Atletico the lead and complete control of the situation.

The officiating, however, became a major talking point. Beyond the red card, there was another contentious moment inside Atletico's box involving a possible second yellow situation that went unpunished, adding to Barcelona's frustration. While the red card decision followed VAR in-



tervention, the inconsistency in other calls shaped the narrative of the game.

At the same time, Yamal's performance stood out despite the result. The teenager completed multiple successful dribbles, created three chances and was among the most involved players on the pitch, constantly driving Barcelona forward. His individual display highlighted both his importance and the lack of finishing support around him.

From that point, the match changed in structure. Barcelona continued to push, but with 10 men, their control became more fragile. Atletico did not dominate possession but managed space effectively, staying compact and waiting for the right moment to strike again.

That second moment arrived in the final phase. Antoine Griezmann helped initiate a move from deep, the ball was worked wide, and Alexander Sorloth finished from close range after coming off the bench, doubling the advantage. Despite the result, Barcelona still created chances. Rashford hit the side netting and the crossbar, while Joao Cancelo and Yamal both went close. But the efficiency was

lacking. Atletico, by contrast, were clinical, converting limited opportunities into decisive goals.

The difference came down to efficiency and game management. Barcelona produced more, but Atletico executed better. Playing with a numerical advantage, Diego Simeone's side showed discipline and clarity, limiting risks while maximising their moments.

The tie now moves to the Metropolitan, where Atletico hold a two-goal advantage. For Barcelona, the task is clear but difficult, overturn the deficit away from home. For Atletico, it is about control once again. At this stage, they have not finished the job, but they have put themselves firmly in command.

Liverpool fail to respond in Paris

Paris Saint-Germain took firm control of their UEFA Champions League quarter-final with a 2-0 first-leg win over Liverpool FC, leaving the visitors with a significant task ahead of the return leg at Anfield.

The game was effectively decided early. PSG struck in the 11th minute when Desire Doue saw his effort take a heavy deflection off Virgil van Dijk and loop past goalkeeper Giorgi Mamardashvili, who was starting in place of the injured Alisson.

Liverpool struggled to respond. Set up with a five-man defence, they looked cautious and failed to register a single shot on target throughout the match. PSG, by contrast, controlled possession and created the clearer chances.

Mamardashvili kept Liverpool in the game with several important saves, including a strong stop to deny Khvicha Kvaratskhelia and another from Doue.

In the second half, Kvaratskhelia produced the decisive moment. Played through by Joao Neves, he rounded the goalkeeper and finished calmly to make it 2-0. PSG could have extended their lead further. Ousmane Dembele missed multiple chances, including an effort that struck the woodwork, while a penalty initially awarded against Liverpool was overturned after review.

For Liverpool, this was another concerning performance following their recent heavy defeat, with defensive uncertainty and a lack of attacking threat evident throughout.

The tie now shifts to Anfield, where Liverpool must find both goals and control to keep their European campaign alive.

## Asian Boxing Championships: Vishvanath strikes gold medal as India caps campaign with 5 golds

**ULAANBAATAR [MONGOLIA], APRIL 10:** India capped off a memorable campaign at the Asian Boxing Championships 2026 with Vishvanath Suresh clinching gold in the men's 50kg category, defeating Japan's Daichi Iwai by a dominant 5:0 margin in the final.

Sachin (60 kg) added to the tally with a hard-fought silver medal, rounding off a strong showing for the men's contingent, according to a press release.

India finished second on the table with 5 golds, one fewer than Kazakhstan, but claimed the most medals overall, 16. The performance was headlined by a historic outing from the Indian women's team, who topped the medal charts with 10 medals, including four gold, two silver, and four bronze, marking one of their finest showings at the

Vishvanath's gold marks a significant milestone in his rapid rise through the ranks. Having emerged through the national circuit with consistent performances, he has quickly established himself on the international stage. His campaign in Ulaanbaatar was particularly impressive, highlighted by his victory over a world number one en route to the final, underlining his



temperament and ability to deliver against top opposition.

Speaking on the team's performance, Boxing Federation of India President Ajay Singh said, "This has been a remarkable campaign for Indian boxing and for our women who have topped the medal charts with four gold medals. Our men's team was impressive again, especially young Vishva with his gold, whose performance shows the strength of

our pipeline. What stands out is the depth of talent coming through—despite changes from the previous World Championships, this team has shown tremendous character and promise while claiming titles against some of the continent's toughest fighters. We are seeing a new wave of upcoming talent and multiple medal contenders stepping up on the big stage, which bodes extremely well for the future of Indian boxing."

Among the standout performers in the women's team, Minakshi (48kg), Preeti (54kg), Priya (60kg), and Arundhati (70kg) delivered gold medal-winning performances, showcasing dominance across categories. The team also saw strong contributions from Jaimine (57kg) and Alfian Pathan (80+kg), who secured silver medals, alongside four bronze medallists, underlining India's consistency across the draw.

## SSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol: Divya's 4th, Gajanan's fighting 5th highlights of India's day at Granada

**NEW DELHI, APRIL 10:** Divya TS's creditable fourth-place finish in the women's 25m pistol and Gajanan Khandagale's 25m pistol on India and World Cup debut in the men's 10m air rifle were the highlights of India's day at the ongoing International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup Rifle/Pistol at the Las Gabias

Shooting Range in Granada, Spain, on Thursday.

Divya shot 28 in her third individual World Cup final to finish just outside the medals, while Gajanan bowed out with an effort of 187.5 in the men's air rifle final. Rhythm Sangwan also made the women's 25m pistol to finish seventh, according to a

press release.

China's Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist Xiao Jiaruixuan won gold in the event after two rounds of shoot-offs were needed to separate her from her teenage compatriot and debutant Kong Jieru. Both had tied with 39 hits after the regulation 10-series of five rapid-fire shots. Paris Olympics bronze

medallist Camille Jedrzejewski edged out Divya for bronze and finished with 34 hits after the penultimate series.

Earlier, Rhythm was the stronger of the two Indians in qualifying, shooting 586 for a fifth-place finish. Divya shot 585 to take the seventh qualifying spot ahead of Poland's Agata Nowak.

## Yamal shines in defeat as Barcelona's main threat against Atletico

**New delhi, April 10:** Even in a 0-2 loss to Atletico Madrid, Lamine Yamal looked like Barcelona's most complete attacking outlet. Not just in moments, but across the full 90 minutes.

The numbers underline that impact. Yamal finished the game with eight successful dribbles, the most on the pitch, while also creating three chances and recording over 70 touches, showing how frequently Barcelona progressed through him. He also contributed defensively with eight ball recoveries, highlighting his involvement beyond just attacking phases.

Tactically, his role was clear. Starting wide on the right, Yamal constantly moved inside into half-spaces, forcing Atletico's compact block to shift. That created two key effects, either he isolated the full-back in one-v-one situa-



tions or dragged multiple defenders out of position, opening passing lanes for runners like Marcus Rashford.

In the first half, when Barcelona had control, most of their attacking sequences

flowed through Yamal. He repeatedly received under pressure, turned quickly and drove at the defence. One such move led to a major chance, while another phase resulted in a disallowed goal, again showing his involvement in key moments.

What stands out is how his influence did not drop after Pau Cubarsi's red card. Even with 10 men, Barcelona continued to rely on Yamal as their primary ball carrier.

He kept stretching the game, attempting progressive carries and forcing Atletico deeper than they would have preferred.

, the lack of support was evident. While Yamal advanced the ball consistently, Barcelona struggled to convert those situations into clear shots on target.

The team finished with higher shot numbers overall, but efficiency — not creativity — became the difference.

At 18, Yamal is already shaping Barcelona's attacking structure.

This was not just an impressive performance, it was one where he dictated how his team moved forward. On a night defined by a red card and missed chances, he was the one constant.