



Ayush Shetty stuns world no.1 Shi Yu Qi at Badminton World Championships

NEW DELHI, AUG 17: Only on day one, the BWF World Championships saw the biggest upset of the tournament, when India's rising badminton star Ayush Shetty stunned defending champion and current World No. 1 Shi Yu Qi.

Ayush, who was making his debut at the Worlds, outplayed the Chinese 21-14, 13-21, 21-19 to end his three-match losing streak against Shi. The final of the Badminton Asia Championships was the last time the duo had faced each other. The result was a one-sided 21-8, 21-10 victory for the Chinese No. 1.

On Monday, though, the current World No. 22, Ayush, looked in control for most of the match. He did look nervous towards the end, when he let a huge 17-6 lead in the third game slip, but then closed out the match 21-19 to announce to the world that he was here to stay.

The 73-minute match was a mixed bag for the 21-year-old. While he was supremely in control in the opening game, hitting his jump smashes and using clever net play to create openings against the Chinese, that control was far less evident in the second.

Ayush raced to a big lead in the opening game as Shi struggled to control the drift and committed many more unforced errors. The tall Indian led 11-5 at the mid-game interval and then relied on his jump smashes to win 21-14 with ease.

In the second game, it was Ayush's turn to struggle with the drift. Suddenly, the error column began to stack up. Shi, who led 11-9 at the mid-game break, raced to



an unassailable 19-13 lead as a combination of errors and indecision in his third-court judgement caught Ayush off guard. With the match tied at 1-1, it was looking troublesome for the young Indian star.

Instead of folding, Ayush went on the attack and quickly overwhelmed the Chinese with his clever drops and powerful smashes. From 11-5 at the break, he won seven straight points to race to a 16-5 lead.

However, Shi began using his deceptive shots and net play to force Ayush into errors. The Chinese closed the gap to three points at 18-15. Then, an error from Shi's racquet and a down-the-line smash from Ayush gave him five match points.

However, much to the anxiety of the crowd, Shi saved four straight to make it a nervy finish, with the score reading 20-19.

"I was telling myself to calm down. I was getting a

bit nervous because he was really catching up and the momentum was with him. And everything I did, he somehow managed to retrieve it. So I was trying to calm down and be aggressive," Ayush said after his memorable win.

Ayush Shetty's heroics came after PV Sindhu's facile win over Ireland's Sophia Noble. Sindhu, who is looking to win her first World Championships medal since 2019, packed off Noble 21-7, 21-11 in just 29 minutes. GeographicReference

Sindhu went for the kill from the first minute and raced to an 8-0 lead before conceding a first point to Noble. Her placement, court coverage and net play had Noble in all sorts of trouble, and the first game was won in 12 minutes.

In the second, Noble stayed a little closer to Sindhu, but the Indian's attacking game was too much for her. The 31-year-old

won nine straight points to close out the match from 12-10 to 21-10.

"I think overall, playing for the first time, it was important for me to get used to the court conditions and see how it is. Today, I think that was the first thing that came into my mind. But I think I managed it well and the court conditions are pretty good," Sindhu said.

In other matches, the men's doubles pair of MR Arjun and Hariharan Am-sakarunan beat Ireland's Scott Guildea and Paul Reynolds 21-16, 6-4 (ret'd) to open the winning streak for the Indians. Treasa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand were barely troubled by Spanish pair Paula Lopez and Lucia Rodriguez, winning 21-9, 21-13 in the women's doubles opening round.

Also winning were Kavipriya Selvam and Simran Singhi, who beat Nikol Carulla and Carmen Maria Jimenez 22-20, 21-14.

PV Sindhu says home crowd boosted her confidence after winning BWF World Championships R64 clash

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 17: Star Indian shuttler PV Sindhu said she focused on playing her own game and giving her best, while the strong support from the home crowd gave her added confidence after making a strong start at the 2026 BWF World Championships by beating Ireland's Sophia Noble in straight games. Sindhu won the women's singles Round of 64 match 21-7, 21-11.

After winning her opening match at the BWF World Badminton Championships, PV Sindhu said she was excited to play in the tournament in India and was motivated by the strong support from the home crowd. She stressed that her focus was on her own game, staying true to her style and giving her best, regardless of who her opponent was.

"It was important for me to just focus on what I do and what I play and how I play. I mean, I was excited to get onto the court happening here in India. I could see a lot of people



cheering and supporting me. I think that gave me a lot of confidence. Irrespective of whoever the opponent is, I had to just play my game and give my best," she told reporters after the win.

Coming to her match, Sindhu controlled the play from the beginning, using accurate drop shots and

powerful smashes. Noble struggled to keep up with Sindhu's speed and attacking play. Sindhu won the first game comfortably and continued her dominance in the second game. She stopped Noble's comeback attempts and finished the match with ease.

With this win, Sindhu has reached the Round of

32. She will next face Canada's Wen Yu Zhang on Tuesday.

Notably, Sindhu has an impressive record at the BWF World Championships, having won five medals, one gold, two silver, and two bronze, to equal China's Zhang Ning for the most women's singles medals in the tourna-

FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026: India surrender half-time lead to lose 2-4 to England

AMSTELVEEN, AUGUST 17: India let a two-goal advantage slip after half-time as England staged a strong comeback to register a 4-2 victory in their second Pool D match of the FIH Men's Hockey World Cup 2026 at the Wagener Stadium here on Monday.

The defeat extended India's wait for a World Cup victory over England to 32 years, with their last win against the European side coming in 1994.

India looked in control after a promising first half and went into the interval with a 2-1 lead. However, England produced a decisive turnaround after the break, scoring three times across the third and fourth quarters while India's defence struggled to deal with the pressure.

England's second-half surge completely changed the complexion of the contest and helped them main-



tain their perfect record in Pool D. They now sit at the top with two wins from two matches, while India have one win and one defeat.

The Indian side had edged

England in possession, holding 51 per cent compared to England's 49, and also registered 11 shots on goal against the opponents' 10. However, England

proved more clinical in front of goal when it mattered.

India had entered the contest on the back of a 3-1 win over Wales, while England had opened their campaign with an impressive 4-1 victory against Pakistan.

India's victory over Wales had seen captain Harmanpreet Singh score twice from penalty corners, while Sanjay had also converted a set-piece to give the side a winning start.

The result leaves India second in Pool D, with three points, behind England. Harmanpreet and Co. will next face arch-rivals Pakistan, while England will take on Wales.

India will be keen to bounce back in their final pool match as they continue their quest for a first World Cup title since their historic triumph in 1975. The side had finished ninth in the 2023 edition in Bhubaneswar. (ANI)

Spinners Suthar, Jadeja sparkle as India in command despite Dinusha's maiden hundred

GALLE, AUG 17: Indian bowlers met an unexpected obstacle in centurion Sonal Dinusha but the Manav Suthar-led unit carried enough grunt to establish a sizable 178-run lead over Sri Lanka on the third day of the first Test here on Monday.

Sri Lanka were bowled out for 284 in their first innings as Suthar (4/76) and Ravindra Jadeja (3/57) led India's attack with skill and verve. GeographicReference

Once the hosts were reduced to 99 for five at lunch, thanks to the early brilliance of left-arm spinner Suthar, the end seemed imminent for them.

But Dinusha, who made a crafty maiden international hundred of 100 off 168 balls, and the seasoned Niroshan Dickwella (80, 115b) added 146 runs off 216 balls for the sixth wicket to keep the rampaging Indian bowlers at bay.

They added 116 runs in the second session without losing a wicket.

Unlike their top-order colleagues, Dickwella and Dinusha were not in a hurry, showing a lot of judiciousness in shot selection on a still good to bat pitch.

Sweep was a preferred mode of scoring for both the batters against Indian spinners, and the two Lankans displayed good skills from dispatching the



balls from the stump line.

Dickwella, whose selection kicked up a lot of furore in local cricketing circles, reached his 50 off 67 balls, while his younger partner was much slower in reaching the little landmark in 92 balls.

However, Dickwella, who was dropped on 20 by KL Rahul at slip off Suthar, had a momentary lapse of concentration, edging pacer Prasidh Krishna to Rishabh Pant behind the stumps, a few minutes into the final session of the day.

However, Dinusha carried on and reached his hundred in 167 balls, but fell leg before to Jadeja in the very next ball.

The Dinusha-Dickwella alliance was a study class in remarkable temperament and adequate technique

while facing up to skillful spinners. GeographicReference

But the same cannot be said about the other batters in the Lankan top-order, who played with hard hands and drove away from body to get caught in awkward positions.

In the first session, the Indian bowlers led by left-arm spinner Suthar discovered immaculate lines to tear through the Sri Lankan top-order.

India resumed from overnight 460 for 9, and added only a couple of runs to finish their first essay on 462.

The Lankans needed a solid start for a strong pursuit of that total and they received anything but that.

Lead pacer Mohammad Siraj struck with his second

delivery of the innings to deal an early jolt to the Lankans.

Nishan Fernando, who was impressive for SLC XI in the warm-up match, could not handle Siraj's away swing and bounce, snicking him to Devdutt Padikkal at first slip.

At 0/1, the Lankans were on the back foot immediately, and their lot never really improved in the subsequent overs.

Suthar was at the forefront of the tormentors gang, generating lovely flight, dip and turn to trouble the batters.

The young spinner got into the act with his very first delivery, finding a faint outside edge from veteran Dinesh Chandimal, which nestled in the safe palms of Rishabh Pant.

Game Changers Lions beat Aussie Mavericks Jaguars to win their first World Padel League title

MUMBAI, AUGUST 17: Game Changers Lions ended Season 4 of the World Padel League as Champions after beating Aussie Mavericks Jaguars 19-10 in the final to win their first World Padel League title.

Earlier in the day, the Lions beat Vedanta Leopards 16-13, while the Jaguars edged VB Realty Cheetahs 15-11 in the Semi-Final, according to a press release from WPL.

The Finals saw Beatriz Gonzalez and Paula Josemaria of the Lions face Alejandra Alonso and Claudia Jensen of the Jaguars in the first set. The Lions made a strong start and took the opening set 6-3 after a closely fought contest.

Federico Mourino and Teodoro Zapata then took on Ignacio Piotto and Enzo Jensen in the second set. The Lions pair produced a strong performance to win 6-2 and put their team in control. The Jaguars fought back in the decider, with Pol



Hernandez and Guille Colado keeping the contest close against Gonzalo Alfonso and Sanyo Gutierrez.

Both pairs were involved in some close exchanges, but the Lions held their nerve in the final stages to take the set 7-5 and claim the title.

Earlier in the day, the first Semi-Final saw Paula Josemaria and Beatriz Gonzalez

of the Lions take the opening set 6-4 against Marta Ortega and Veronica Virseda of the Leopards. The Leopards fought back as Francisco Guerrero and Javi Ruiz beat Federico Mourino and Teodoro Zapata 6-4 in the second set. Sanyo Gutierrez and Gonzalo Alfonso then faced Miguel Deus and Nuno Deus in the decider.

The Lions pair took the set 6-3. In the second Semi-Final, Claudia Jensen and Alejandra Alonso gave the Jaguars the lead with a 6-3 win over Aranzazu Osoro and Carla Mesa. Jon Sanz and Jesus Moya levelled the match for the Cheetahs with a 6-3 win over Ignacio Piotto and Enzo Jensen. BookingHistorical Guided Tours