



Harmanpreet Kaur urges Team India to "take responsibility" against Sri Lanka in Asia Cup final

DUBAI [UAE], SEPTEMBER 12: Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur has urged her team to step up and deliver when it matters most as India takes on Sri Lanka in the Women's Asia Cup final in Dubai on Sunday.

India have been heavily reliant on their opening pair, with Smriti Mandhana contributing 154 runs and Shafali Verma 168 in the tournament. With the title at stake, skipper Harmanpreet will hope the middle order rises to the occasion and shares the scoring burden in the all-important final.

"We know we have such a good batting line-up, and I think when you have such a good batting line-up, it is



only about whoever is doing well on that day," Harmanpreet said as per the ICC website.

That person should take responsibility and finish the game for the team. I think that is the key on this pitch," she added.

India have found match winners in different players this tournament, which is one aspect that has pleased the captain the most going into the final.

"It is good to see that

whoever gets the opportunity is coming up with solid performances," she said. We have managed to get runs on the board, and our bowlers are coming up with some really solid performances. So overall, I'm really happy with the way we have played so far."

Sunday's final is a repeat of the 2024 showpiece, in which Sri Lanka stunned India to lift the title, and Harmanpreet is bracing for a similarly tough contest.

"I think the last time we played against Sri Lanka, they came up with some really solid plans and performances. Winning in T20 cricket is all about who plays better cricket on the day," Harmanpreet said. (ANI)

Naman Dhir's explosive 91 powers Amritsar Soormas into Sher-E-Punjab T20 Cup final

MOHALI (PUNJAB) [INDIA], SEPTEMBER 12: Amritsar Soormas stormed into the final of the T20 Cup with a commanding seven-wicket victory over Mohali Kings in the first semifinal at the I.S. Bindra Stadium, riding on a sensational 91 from Naman Dhir.

Chasing 170 for a place in the final, the Soormas made light work of the target, reaching 172/3 in just 16.3 overs. Dhir produced a stunning display of clean hitting, smashing 10 fours and six sixes in his 37-ball 91 at a strike rate of 245.95, as per a press release.

Dhir first steadied the innings after the early dismissals of Sahaj Dhawan (3) and Jashanpreet Singh (1), before launching an assault on the Kings bowling attack. He added 106 runs for the third wicket with Abhay Choudhary, who contributed a brisk 48 off 38



balls.

With the chase firmly under control, Rahul Kumar provided the finishing push with an unbeaten 26 off 16 balls to take Amritsar into the title clash.

Jaipartap Singh Johal, who played a key role with

nals."

Earlier, Mohali Kings posted 169/7 in their 20 overs. Anmolpreet Singh led the way with a fluent 43 off 26 balls, while captain Ramandeep Singh struck 42 off 28, including four fours and three sixes. Harpreet Brar added an unbeaten 33 off 27 balls, while Sohraab Dhaliwal provided late impetus with a 26 off 13-ball cameo.

Amritsar's bowlers kept the Kings from running away with the innings. Johal was the standout bowler, claiming three wickets for 45 runs, while Akash Pandey picked up two wickets.

The Soormas' emphatic chase ensured the semifinal was settled well inside the allotted 20 overs, with Dhir's breathtaking knock proving decisive as Amritsar secured their place in the Sher-E-Punjab T20 Cup final. (ANI)

GCL: Ganges Grandmasters seal final berth despite losing to PBG Alaskan Knights

NEW DELHI [INDIA], SEPTEMBER 12 (ANI): Ganges Grandmasters advanced to the finals of the Global Chess League (GCL), in Bengaluru on Saturday, despite losing to PBG Alaskan Knights, while Alpine APL Pipers will have to wait for the final league match to know their fate after the defending champions went down against Triveni Continental Kings.

Both Alpine APL Pipers and Ganges Grandmasters went into the final round-robin matches with 18 match points, and a win against teams who were at the bottom of the standings would have been enough for them to ensure a final berth, as per a press release.

However, two-time champions Triveni Continental Kings threw the race to the final wide open as they became the first team in Season 4 to win both matches against the Pipers, winning 11-6 in the first match of the day.

Their loss meant that Ganges Grandmasters needed to score just one game point against PBG



Alaskan Knights with black pieces to advance to the final on better game point score.

That target was achieved with Ian Nepomniachtchi drawing against Viswanathan Anand on the icon board and Stavroula Tsolakidou defeating Nino Batsiashvili to put the Grandmasters ahead.

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But Player of the Match Abhimanyu Mishra got the better of Luke Leon Mendonca in 32 moves on the

But it was Alireza Firouzja who ultimately put the brakes on Piper's march as the Frenchman forced world number one Magnus Carlsen to resign after 49 moves.

This was Carlsen's first loss in the competition and Firouzja's first win for Firouzja, keeping alive his team's hopes of at least making it to the third-place play-off.

Volodar Murzin's win over Pranav V on the prodigy board meant that Pipers at least scored six points and kept their chances of making it to the final alive.

It was a good game, and after a sharp opening I found some good moves, and when we went through time trouble, I managed to put pressure and win the game. As a team, we played very well today and made it difficult for them to win (the title) for the second time," said Firouzja.

FYERS American Knights can pip the Pipers for the final spot if they beat CheQ Mumba Masters in the final league game and score at least nine game points. (

Shelton's US Open dream lives on: Tiafoe beaten, Zverev awaits

NEW YORK, SEP 12: Ben Shelton and Frances Tiafoe had a packed crowd sprinkled with celebrities cheering equally for them, as the two fan favorites fought to reach their first major final.

The crowd figures to be almost entirely on Shelton's side Sunday, because now he's the American hope to end a lengthy Grand Slam drought.

Shelton pulled out a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 victory on Friday and will play No. 1 seed Alexander Zverev on for the U.S. Open title. The host nation hasn't had a men's major winner since Andy Roddick won in Flushing Meadows in 2003.

"I'm going for it here, and I'm going to leave it all on the court," Shelton said. "I hope you guys come and back me. Let's do it for the USA." The No. 8-seeded Shelton had plenty of energy left after ousting defending champion Carlos Alcaraz in a quarterfinal match that ended Wednesday at 3:33 a.m.,

the latest finish ever at the U.S. Open.

Now he needs to stop the French Open champion, who knows what's at stake for the other side.

Zverev beat Karen Khachanov 6-3, 7-6 (7), 7-6 (6) in the first semifinal.

Shelton and Tiafoe drew a star-studded crowd that included stars from sports, including Serena Williams, Jalen Brunson and of course U.S. soccer player Trinity Rodman, Shelton's girlfriend; and actors Salma Hayek, Ben Stiller and Rami Malek.

"This is where we want to be: at the tail end of this tournament," said Shelton, a 23-year-old from Georgia who was less than a year old when Roddick won his title. "This is both of our favorite tournament in the world, our favorite court in the world and to be able to light it up in front of (this crowd) is the best feeling that there is."

Tiafoe fell to 0-3 in the U.S. Open semifinals, the last two against fellow Americans. Taylor Fritz beat him in

2024 before losing to Jannik Sinner.

"I wanted to be in a Grand Slam final. Obviously it was a big match," Tiafoe said. "Ben played well tonight. Served really well tonight, which made it really tough on me." After a ceremony to mark the 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks in which a giant American flag was unfurled across the court, it was Tiafoe who played the cleaner tennis in the first set. He committed just three unforced errors to 14 by Shelton, whose double-fault at 4-4 gave Tiafoe the break he needed.

But after falling behind, Shelton started serving bigger, and finished with 20 aces.

Serving with new balls at 3-all in the second set, Shelton hit a 125 mph serve - Tiafoe got his racket up almost in self-defense and ended up getting knocked backward to the court - and followed it with serves clocked at 144, 139 and 140, the last two for aces that gave him the lead for good in the set.

Shaheen Afridi eyes Test comeback, says red-ball cricket always "priority"

NEW DELHI [INDIA], SEPTEMBER 12 : Shaheen Shah Afridi has made it clear that reclaiming his place in Pakistan's Test side remains a priority, as he featured in the President's Trophy on Saturday, marking his first competitive red-ball appearance in domestic cricket since 2019.

The left-arm pacer is currently out of the Test setup after being left out of Pakistan's squads for the tours of the West Indies and England. Since making his Test debut in 2018, Afridi has claimed 126 wickets in 34 matches, and will now look to use his domestic return to stake his claim for a Test comeback.

Red-ball cricket is always my first priority," Afridi said, as per the ICC website.

"I've always loved it. I didn't get enough time to play because of international cricket, but I haven't been playing much cricket for the last couple of months. So it's an opportunity to play red-ball cricket," he added.

Pakistan will be hoping that Afridi's comeback trail bodes well for the Test side that's coming on the back of



a 3-0 ICC World Test Championship series defeat against England.

A packed international calendar across all three formats has kept Afridi away from red-ball rhythm for long stretches in recent times. He remains captain of Pakistan's ODI side, and a home tri-series against England and Sri Lanka is next on the calendar, followed by a home Test series against Sri Lanka and New Zealand later in the year, assignments he will have his sights set on.

"I learned a lot from my elder brother Riaz Afridi,

Afridi acknowledged that stepping away from Test cricket while remaining busy across white-ball formats brings its own challenges when it comes to switching gears.

"I've not played red-ball cricket for the last few months. Before that, I'd been playing red-ball cricket continuously," he said.

"If you play international cricket, then coming back to domestic cricket can be challenging. Because you've been playing international cricket constantly in all three formats, it keeps you busy. When you're free, you should play domestic cricket."

Afridi has continued to show his class with the ball in ODI cricket too, finishing as the leading wicket-taker in the recently concluded Champions Cup, a tournament he also led his side to win, registering bowling figures of 7/36 in the final.

Pakistan are currently ninth in the WTC Standings, having won only two of their nine games so far in this cycle.

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI , SEPTEMBER 12 : Sports are not merely an extra-curricular activity but an integral part of education, and every student should be encouraged to participate in sports, Tamil Nadu and Keralam Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar said on Saturday.

Governor Arlekar inaugurated the national workshop on "NEP 2020 – Redefining Sports and Physical Education in Higher Education" held at National College (Autonomous) in Karumadampallam, Tiruchirappalli.

Rtn. AKS Er Murugananandam M (MMM), Rotary International Vice President 2026-27 and President, Physical Education Foundation of India (PEFI), Tamil Nadu Chapter, participated as the Guest of Honour.

Academicians, physical education experts, sports professionals and representatives from various higher educational institutions are participating in the workshop.

Welcoming the initiative, Governor Arlekar said educational institutions usually conduct seminars focusing on academic development, and appreciated the workshop for highlighting the importance of physical education and sports in higher



education.

He stressed that participation in sports should not be restricted to winning medals and prizes.

"Winning medals and prizes is secondary. Every student must participate in sports," he said, according to a statement by the Tamil Nadu and Keralam Governors' office.

Referring to the growing use of mobile phones and laptops, he said education should not be confined to classrooms.

"Sports is not some extra-curricular activity; it is an important part of our education," he said, urging parents and educational institutions to ensure that

children regularly engage in outdoor activities.

The Governor said the sports sector was also keeping pace with technological developments, citing the use of rubber mats instead of traditional mud grounds in Kabaddi.

Speaking about Gen-Z youngsters, he said they possessed immense talent and potential, but their energy should be channelled in the right direction.

"Gen-Z youngsters have all the talent, but their energy should not be used in the wrong way. Parents and educational institutions must create an environment that guides them in the right direction," he said.

The workshop is focusing on the role of sports and physical education in the holistic development of students and ways to integrate sports and physical education into higher education in accordance with NEP 2020.

Governor Arlekar appreciated the organisers for conducting the workshop and assured that he would extend support from Lok Bhavan.

Earlier, he was accorded a ceremonial welcome by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) at National College. Students presented a parade salute to the Governor upon his arrival at the college. (ANI)