

Shaik Jafreen

Jury's Special recognition Award Sports - Female

Shaik Jafreen developed an interest in tennis since childhood. Her father Shaik Zaheer Ahmed recognised her potential and nurtured her talent. He sacrificed his all to encourage this gifted player. The father-daughter duo strode ahead with confidence to accomplish the mission.

The path was not all that rosy given that Zaheer Ahmed had to fight against odds as people would discourage him from sending his daughter into sports. Jafreen, on her part, lived up to her father's expectations and confidence by displaying exemplary performance in her sport. Opportunities came knocking at her door and Jafreen went on to take part in regional, national and international tournaments. But by then Jafreen's father had spent all that he had on nurturing her talent. He had even put his house on sale and had nothing left to raise money. At this juncture, Jafreen marched ahead with grit and determination to become a top ranking professional player in All India Tennis Association tournaments. Yet, nobody came forward to sponsor her. This did little to dampen the spirit of the father and daughter. Jafreen captained the Indian tennis team during the 2013 deaflympics in Bulgaria. After that, there was no looking back.

It was dream come true for both Jafreen and her dad when she won the Gold medal at 2017 deaflympics. The key aspect here is that Jafreen is hearing impaired, neither can she speak. Yet, this did not deter her from achieving her goals. Sakshi Media honours her with the Sakshi Excellence Jury Special recognition award in female category.