

World Badminton Championship: Saina Nehwal beats nemesis Wang Yihan, assured of Bronze Medal

- **Indian ace Saina Nehwal on Friday entered maiden World Badminton Championship Semi-final after beating her Chinese nemesis Wang Yihan in three gruelling sets in Jakarta, Indonesia.**

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Jakarta: Indian ace Saina Nehwal on Friday entered maiden World Badminton Championship Semi - final after beating her Chinese nemesis Wang Yihan in three gruelling sets in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Second-seeded Saina won the match 21-15, 19-21, 21-19 in one hour and fifteen minutes. Before the match, the former World number one from China had an intimidating 8-2 overall record against Saina.

After winning the first set comfortably, Saina conceded the second set, with her Chinese opponent gaining momentum. In the deciding third set, both players produced some heart-stopping relays and pick-ups to the applause of a packed Istora Stadium crowd.

After a long rally at 19-18, Yihan won the point. But the Indian ace produced a nerve-wrecking service return cross-court smash to set up the match point at 20-19. She won the match after a tight rally, with Yihan failing to return a cross-court play.

Saina had lost to Yihan in the Semi-final of 2012 London Olympics. Saina's most recent and second win over her Chinese opponent came in March, in the Semi-final of 2015 All England Championships.

A semi-final appearance assures Saina of at least a Bronze Medal. Saina will play Lindaweni Fanetri of Indonesia, who defeated Tai Tzu-ying of Chinese Taipei in another Quarter-final.

All England Champion and top-seed Carolina Marin of Spain had already booked her last-four spot after beating seventh-seeded Wang Shixian of China. She will play Sung Ji-hyun, who had defeated PV Sindhu in another three gruelling sets 21-17, 19-21, 21-16 earlier in the day.
