

Sports Authority of India

Bopanna-Sharan assured of silver; Ankita takes bronze; Good start in men's golf

Jakarta/ Palembang, August 23: The morning session of the fifth day of the 18th Asian Games brought good tidings from the tennis courts as Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan made the final of the men's doubles, while Ankita Raina picked up a bronze despite losing her semi-final to top-seeded Chinese Zhang Shuai.

In shooting, 15-year-old Shardul Vihan had entered the final of the men's Double Trap scheduled for later in the afternoon.

In men's golf, which began on Thursday, 17-year-old Aadil Bedi got off to a fine start with a 3-under 69 that placed him Tied-4th in the four-round competition, which will conclude on Sunday. There are four medals at stake, individual in men and women and the team events.

Among girls, the best Indian was Diksha Dagar, whose 1-under 71, positioned her Tied 8th.

Tennis – Rohan Bopanna and Divij enter men's doubles final; Ankita takes bronze

India's top-seeded men's doubles pair Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan entered the gold medal match of the men's doubles event, beating Japan's Kaito Uesugi and Sho Shimambukuro 6-4, 3-6, 10-8 in 72 minutes. The two pairs shared the first two sets and then the Indians won the Tie-breaker 10-8 to enter the final. They are now assured of silver medals.

Ankita Raina lost a close semi-final to top seeded China's Zhang Shuai and had to be content with a bronze medal in women's tennis at the 18th Asian Games. Ankita, who won her previous three matches without dropping a set, lost 4-6, 6-7 (8-6) in a match that last more than two hours. Bopanna, Sharan and Raina are all part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS).

Zhang, 29, is an experienced star and an Australian Open quarter-finalist in 2016. She won the singles at the Guangzhou International last year and this year she was part of the winning doubles pair at the BNP Paribas Istanbul Cup on the WTA circuit.

She was also part of the gold medal winning Chinese team at the 2010 Asian Games and the team that won silver four years ago in Incheon.

Ankita's bronze medal comes after Sania Mirza's silver in 2006 and the bronze in 2010.

Bopanna and Sharan's win in the semi-finals meant this is the fifth successive Asian Games, when an Indian pair has made the final of the men's doubles. Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi won the gold in 2002 and 2006, while Somdev Devvarman and Sanam Singh won gold in 2010. At Incheon Saketh Myneni and Sanam Singh lost in the 2014 final.

For Divij Sharan, the entry into the final is going one step better than his bronze medal in 2014, when he paired with Yuki Bhambri.

In 2014, India had one gold in mixed doubles (Saketh Myneni and Sania Mirza) besides one silver and three bronze.