Afghanistan-Pakistan ODI series shifted to Sri Lanka from UAE

KABUL: The three-match ODI series between Afghanistan and Pakistan will now be played in Sri Lanka's Mahinda Rajapaksa Stadium in Hambantota and not the United Arab Emirates, as confirmed by Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) on Saturday (July 24).

The series will be the first-ever bilateral face-off between the two Asian nations, which was speculated earlier this year after Afghanistan's star all-rounder Mohammad Nabi met with incumbent Pakistan Prime Minister and former cricketer Imran Khan and requested him to arrange a bilateral series between the two nations.

Reports earlier also suggested the Imran Khan contacted Pakistan Cricket Board to organize a bilateral series involving their neighboring nation.

Following later developments, the series was confirmed with UAE to play host. However, the postponement of the 14th edition of the Indian Premier League and the subsequent re-scheduling of the same in UAE means that the venues could not be used for the series in question.

"ACB has approached UAE and Oman for hosting the series against Pakistan but both countries failed to accommodate them due to the upcoming assignments. The remainder of IPL 2021 will be played in UAE in September and the country will also host the World T20 alongside Oman after the completion of India's premier T20 competition," reported Cricbuzz on July 24.

The Kabul Times

Lingard's future and loans needed for the kids: What we learned from Man Utd's pre-season defeat at QPR

In an ideal world for Ole Gunnar Solskjaer his Manchester United side would convincingly win all of their pre-season friendlies and the whole squad would come through unscathed fresh for the new season.

Quedra's Park Rangers spoiled that ideal outcome on Saturday, however, as they beat United 4-2 through a second-half attacking onslaught. But with more minutes for every member of the Red Devils' outfield squad it was still a worthwhile trip for Solskjaer's side with the start of the Premier League campaign just three weeks away. For Jesse Lingard it has been a case of picking up exactly where he left off last season while on loan at West Ham.

After an impressive performance in Manchester United's opening pre-season victory against Derby he was on the scoresheet within three minutes.

Mason Greenwood found Facundo Pellistri who slipped a ball through to the England international and he made no mistake side-footing his finish past Seny Dieng. The 28-year-old was keen to be involved in everything United did going forward, he constantly pointed to where he wanted the ball played and looked to make those dangerous runs in behind.

Solskjaer, whose new three year deal was announced a few hours before kick off, does not need these pre-season games to know Lingard's potential.

"Jesse has come back, been bright, he wants to fight for his place and there's nothing better than seeing players want to fight for their place," Solskjaer said after the win against Derby.

"He came seven or eight days later than the rest but he's a naturally fit boy. He's a man, he played with a few boys but he's one of the men."

While he has been one of the standout players in United's opening two pre-season fixtures the bigger question for Lingard is how, and if, he can fit into Solskjaer's first team plans when the competitive action starts in three weeks' time.

"What he did towards the end of last season, that's the true Jesse, that's what we know he's capable of and I think we saw towards the end that we lacked some options at times and Jesse is in the plans at the moment, yeah," Solskjaer said. It depends on what level Lingard features in those plans as to whether or not he's happy with what his manager has in store for him. It is understood Solskjaer is looking to play a more attacking 4-3-3 formation next season which could see them start with just one defensive midfielder and open up the opportunity for more attacking options. Which, on the face of it could be good news for Lingard.

But, this is, in his words, Jesse Lingard 2.0. And he wants to be a regular starter wherever he is playing. It is highly unlikely he will displace Bruno Fernandes from the team in his favoured No 10 position and while he can play out wide Solskjaer has a multitude of options there and it's not his ideal position. With a number of teams showing interest in signing him it will be a tough decision for both Solskjaer and Lingard as to what is best for him next season.

Centre-back Will Fish was the latest of United's young crop to secure a loan move with the club confirming on Friday he will join National League side Stockport County for the start of the new campaign. Fish got the last 10 minutes at Loftus Road but it was clear on Saturday afternoon's evidence that he is not the only young player who would benefit from a loan move. Goal

Badminton and Other Olympic Sports the USA Has Never Won a Medal

The United States is by far the winningest country in the history of the Olympic Games, taking home 1,022 gold medals since 1896. While the nation has dominated in the pool, on the track and throughout the Olympics as a whole, there are a handful of sports where no American has ever stepped on the podium.T

The U.S. will have chances to earn its first medals in several new events debuting in the Tokyo Olympics, including skateboarding and inaugral swimming races, but there are also older sports where the country is still chasing its first medals. Based on its Olympic history and Tokyo outlook, it could be a while before the U.S. bucks the trend, too.

Here are the five Summer Olympic sports where the United States has never taken home hardware:

Badminton

The U.S. has had a tough time even advancing within the five badminton tournaments at the Olympics. Men's and women's singles and doubles have been full-medal events since 1992, while mixed doubles entered in 1996. In seven Olympics with the sport involved, the U.S. has only reached the quarterfinals of any tournament one time, as the men's doubles team of Howard Bach and Bob Malaythong reached the round of eight in the 2008 Beijing Games.

The country has one competitor in both the men's and women's singles tournaments, as well as a men's doubles duo, at the 2020 Games. Timothy Lam is the 41st-ranked men's player, while Beiwen Zhang is the 11th-ranked player entering the women's singles tournament. Brothers Phillip and Ryan Chew will also represent USA Badminton in the men's doubles tournament. Zhang offers the U.S. its best chance at winning a medal across any of these five sports.

Handball

The U.S. has not even qualified for the men's and women's Olympic handball tournaments since 1996, when it was the host nation for the Atlanta Games.

The men's squad has participated in the Olympic tournament six times with its highest finish in sixth place back in 1936 — when there were only six teams in the competition. The men's team has won four total games across its six Olympic appearances.

The women's squad has made it to the Olympics four times, all coming from 1984 to 1996. Its top finish was fifth place and came in that first appearance.

Rhythmic gymnastics

Rhythmic gymnastics made its Olympic debut as an individual event in 1984 and added a team event in 1996. Europe has completely dominated the sport since the beginning, with China and Canada as the only two countries from other continents to ever claim a medal across nine Olympics.

The United States' highest finish in the event is 11th place, reached by Valerie Zimring during the boycotted 1984 Games in Los Angeles and Laura Zeng during the 2016 Games in Rio. The team's appearance in the 2016 Games was its first since the group was given a host country spot in 1996. The team finished in 14th place out of 14 teams in Rio.

In Tokyo, Zeng and Evita Griskenas will compete in the individual event, while Isabella Connor, Camilla Feeley, Yelyzaveta Merenzon, Lili Mizuno, Elizaveta Pletneva and Nicole Sladkov will compete for the U.S. in the group event.

Table tennis

The U.S. has not won a medal in table tennis since it was introduced as an Olympic sport in 1988, but there will be six American competitors in Tokyo.

The U.S. table tennis squad features two marquee athletes: 21-year-old Kanak Jha in men's singles and team and 24-year-old Lily Zhang in women's singles and team. They are ranked 30th and 31st in the world in their respective singles events. Zhang, a five-time national champion, has better odds of earning a medal in Tokyo after finishing fourth in the 2019 Women's World Cup, but she is still considered a long shot. Nikhil Kumar and Xin Zhou join Jha for the American men, while Huijing Wang and Juan Liu complete the women's team.

Chen Wang owns the best American finish in Olympic table tennis history after reaching the women's singles quarterfinals in Beijing.

Trampoline

Trampoline will be making its sixth Olympic appearance during the Tokyo Games. Nine countries have combined to win the 30 medals doled out since 2000, but the U.S. has not taken home any of them.

Savannah Vinsant had the best finish of any American, placing seventh in 2012. The U.S. did not have a men's or women's finalist (top eight) in 2016, with Logan Dooley finishing 11th for the men and Nicole Alsinger finishing 15th for the women. Alsinger will represent the U.S. in the event once again in Tokyo, while Aliaksei Shostak will compete on the men's side. nbcsports

What you need to know about the four new Olympic sports

TOKYO (AP) — The Tokyo Olympics are introducing four new sports — skateboarding, surfing, karate and sport climbing. Each traveled its own unique path to the Games. Here, at a glance, from Associated Press journalists covering each sport, are the tales of how these sports reached Tokyo and what to watch for in each.

WHY IT'S IN THE OLYMPICS NOW: Because it's coming home for its Olympic debut. The martial art that spread across Japan in the early 20th century and soon became ubiquitous worldwide has been a candidate for Olympic inclusion since the 1970s, but organizers never found its case compelling until the Tokyo Games presented an opportunity to showcase its blend of striking combat and rigorous discipline from its homeland.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: The three days of competition at the famed Nippon Budokan will feature dozens of talented kumite (sparring) competitors in three weight divisions, along with the fascinating precision of kata (forms demonstration, often compared to a floor exercise in gymnastics). With karate currently on another upswing due to its resurgent popularity in movies and television, viewers are hoping to see excitement in a sport that isn't always as violent as casual sports fans probably believe.

STARS TO WATCH: Japan's greatest fighters will be under pressure to deliver. Naoto Sago's competition against France's Steven Da Costa and the best of the 67 kg field could be an opening day highlight. Miho Miyahara could kick off the women's competition on the same day with another gold for Japan. Ken Nishimura is a favorite at 75 kg. The women's kata competition is almost certain to be close between Spain's Sandra Sánchez and Japan's Kiyou Shimizu.

WHEN IT DEBUTS: Sunday, July 25, with the men's street competition.

WHY IT'S IN THE OLYMPICS NOW: An Olympic debut sport recruited by organizers to attract young audiences.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: High-flying tricks and stunts; an astounding age-range, with competitors aged 12 to 47.

STARS TO WATCH: U.S. skater Nyjah Huston, in men's street, is arguably the best-known skater; in women's park, 13-year-old Sky Brown has been making waves for Britain with her girl-power bravado, recovery from injury and social media footprint.

WHEN IT DEBUTS: There will be at least three days of competition over an eight-day period, beginning Sunday , though the events are determined the day of based on surf conditions.

WHY IT'S IN THE OLYMPICS NOW: The International Surfing Association has been lobbying the International Olympic Committee since 1995, though the effort to include the sport dates back to the 1912 Summer Games in Stockholm, when Duke Kahanamoku, the five-time medalist in swimming and Hawaiian icon revered as the godfather of modern surfing, first pushed for it to become an Olympic sport.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Most maneuvers are either types of turns, airs or barrels. Whereas the men's competition typically dazzles with explosive airs, the women's game often features a more dance-like rhythm that showcases the speed, power and flow of the ride.

STARS TO WATCH: Reigning world champion Carissa Moore of the U.S. looks to be the woman to beat, as well as the Australian Stephanie Gilmore, whose record-tying seven world titles makes her the most decorated female surfer in competition today. The Brazilians are expected to dominate the men's side, with Gabriel Medina and Italo Ferreira known as the masters of aerial maneuvers.

WHY IT'S IN THE OLYMPICS NOW: Climbing has reached new heights in recent years, both in the professional ranks and recreationally. The documentary "Free Solo" — Alex Honnold is not in the Olympics — added to climbing's popularity, as has the social media expertise of the sport's top climbers.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR: Sport climbing has been dubbed the epitome of the Olympic motto "citius, altius, fortius" (faster, higher, stronger). Climbers scale a 15-meter wall filled with a variety of holds in the lead discipline. Bouldering involves smaller "problems" and dynamic movements. Speed is a race to the top on predetermined holds.

STARS TO WATCH: Czech climber Adam Ondra has completed some of the most difficult outdoor climbs in the world and is a favorite to earn gold in the sport's debut. Slovenian Janja Ganbret has a similar resume and has dominated the World Cup Circuit.

Since when is skate an olympic sport and why?

The Tokyo Olympic Games will be the first time that skateboarding is an Olympic discipline. After the Rio 2016 games, the IOC accepted that skateboarding, baseball, surfing, karate and climbing will be present at the Tokyo 2020 Games.

Skateboarding will be an Olympic sport for the first time in Tokyo due to the growing interest in urban sports. Skateboarding was first practiced in the 1940s and has increased in popularity until today.

Being an urban sport, music is very important and will be present during the competition.

What categories does Olympic skateboarding have?

Olympic skateboarding in Tokyo 2021 is under the supervision of the World Skateboarding Federation. This means that it will have two modes: Street and Park.

Street mode: This discipline consists of a straight circuit with obstacles such as curbs, railings, walls and benches. Each skateboarder must show his best moves in each obstacle to get the best score.

Park mode: this discipline takes place on a circuit with difficult slopes and curves. Sometimes the walls are almost vertical and the skaters must bring out their best skills to complete the circuit in the shortest time possible. **as**