

Draw against Bangladesh diminishes Afghanistan's hope for Asian Qualification

KABUL: The 1-1 draw between Afghanistan and Bangladesh diminished the qualification hopes for both teams with the Afghan side moving to five points while Bangladesh are on two points.

Afghanistan will face Oman on June 11 while Bangladesh will face India on Monday. Their hopes of automatically advancing to the third round of the Qualifiers for

the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 hang in the balance.

In this match, Afghanistan dominated the early possession with a three-pronged attack by Fawaz Shamsi, Ahmad Omani, Idris, and Amir Sharif.

The first chance for Afghanistan was in the 13th minute when they had a freekick but Shamsi could not use it to score a goal

against Bangladesh.

There was a small chance for Bangladesh in the 16th minute when Muzahid Khan found a way past his markers down the left flank, but he was stopped by Mital Jitnar.

Afghanistan had another small chance in the 23rd minute but David Ahmed Nigari's shot was only saved by Bangladesh goal-

keeper Asrar Rahman.

The match's first goal was scored by Mohammad M. Shahi eight minutes after the start of the match. Bangladesh's Subul Rana nodded down a cross into the path of Fawaz Shamsi, who scored the only goal for his team that ended the match 1-1.

The Kabul Times



Phoebe Graham says learning from England's Katherine Brunt, Lauren Winfield-Hill, Nat Sciver is priceless

We had a shining team full of knowledge, a Diamonds squad happy to learn and our first Northern position came through it in the end. There were five hits, sixes, some 'up', five and nail-biting as it all unfolded.

It was a spectacular occasion at Emerald Headingley on Saturday as we took on Central Sparks. As always, the staff welcomed us with open arms and Cade (our operations manager) ensured the special little moments were just right to make the ground feel like home.

With England great Katherine Brunt, the ever-valiant Lauren Winfield-Hill back in action last night (23rd match), but, as Lauren says, the only source of knowledge is experience. Training and playing alongside world-class internationalists isn't a bad gig as it was time to pick up the knowledge.

It was a pleasure spending time with Brunt in the dugout. Her knowledge is priceless and she has given me total confidence going into the season.

I can take pride in being her thought and getting them into my cricket strategy. My only criticism, I know, knows about warms as we build and that I must get on the property market - points credited by track record, property investor by night.

We got off to a flying start with Lauren Winfield-Hill smashing 115, hitting seven into the stands for us. We batted an absolute dream setting 279.

We had Sports Direct, it felt like we were on the way to our first win.

NFL reviewing Black players' injury claims after bias charges



The National Football League (NFL) has pledged to halt the use of "no-winners" - a phrase that accused Black players started out with lower cognitive functioning when deciding whether to provide retired players with compensation for brain injury claims.

The standards were designed in the 1990s in hopes of offering more appropriate treatment to dementia patients, but critics faulted the way the NFL used them to punish legal challenges, saying it was unfair for Black players to lose a ticket and quality for an award.

Wednesday's announcement comes after a pair of retired Black players filed civil rights lawsuits over the practice, which had been used to determine pension as part of a \$1.5 billion settlement reached between the NFL and players in 2013.

Medical experts had also raised concerns and a group of NFL families last month dropped 50,000 petitions at the federal court in Philadelphia, where the civil rights lawsuit had been thrown out by the judge overseeing the settlement.

"The senior US District Judge Anderson Brady took the case at step of asking for a report on the issue. Black retired players hope it will include a breakdown of the nearly \$800m in payouts so far by race, but they have raised concerns the data will never come to light."

"Ranks are cheap. Let's see what they do," said former Washington running back Ken Stabler, who with Andy Lewis led the protest drive on behalf of NFL

players struggling with cognitive problems. Jankins, an insurance executive, has a five-year record of 4,000 psychiatric referrals.

More than 2,000 NFL players have appeared in the past 10 years in court, according to a report by ESPN. The NFL said it is reviewing the data and will report back to the court by the end of the year.

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Rashid Khan declines T20I captaincy ahead of T20 World Cup 2021



KABUL: Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has changed a number of national team captain over the last couple of years. It all started from Asghar Afghan being named as the captain ahead of the World Cup 2019 and Gulbadin Hush being named as the batsman and the skipper for the T20is and T20is then. But after the disastrous World Cup campaign, Rashid was named the captain across all formats.

It didn't stop here and in December 2019, Asghar Afghan was appointed the skipper across all formats, again. However, 15 months into his stint, a few days ago, ACB asked him again and approving the right captaincy, according to the board.

He has named the captain of the T20is and ODI side while the board is still looking for an able leader in the shortest format.

Interestingly, Rashid Khan has now revealed that he was offered the captaincy role in T20is but he declined it stating he would be better off focusing on a player than a leader. However, he is ready to take up the role of a vice-captain and help the skipper. "I am very much clear in my mind that I am better off as a player. I am good in the captaincy wherever I am needed."

"I want to do well for the team as a player and my performance is what matters most to the committee than on thinking about different things being a captain," the skipper said while speaking to ESPNcricinfo.

Rashid way of captaincy affecting his performance.

Rashid Khan understands that

it will take time for him settle into the captaincy role. Moreover, with the T20 World Cup approaching now, he is reluctant to add to the field which is more important. "The captaincy takes time, and right now the most important thing is the World Cup which is quite near and I feel it is too much for me to have."

"I am glad it might affect my performance for the team which is a key as I am very happy as a player and wherever the decision board and selection committee make I am fully behind it and will support it," he 22-year-old further added. Rashid Khan is currently in the United States for the second leg of the Pakistan Super League (PSL). He will feature for the Lahore Qalandars in the tournament.

The Kabul Times

Ollie Robinson 'embarrassed' by racist, sexist tweets he sent in 2012 as he makes his England Test debut

Ollie Robinson has apologized "unreservedly" for a number of racist and sexist messages he posted on Twitter in 2012, adding that he was "embarrassed" by the social media posts that resurfaced on the day he made his England Test debut.

"No the biggest day of my career so far, I am embarrassed by the racist and sexist tweets I posted on Twitter in 2012, which have today become public," Robinson said. "I want to make it clear that I'm not racist and I'm not sexist."

"I deeply regret my actions, and I am ashamed of making such comments. I am sorry, and I have certain-ly learned my lesson today."

Robinson's offending tweets were sent when the cricketer was 19 years old, but they came to light when he was making his England Test debut on a day in which England and New Zealand players took part in a "Moment of Unity" before the start of play.

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Japan's hosting of Olympics amid COVID pandemic 'not normal'

Hosting the Olympics during the current state of coronavirus infections in Japan was "not normal", Japan's most senior medical adviser has said in one of the strongest warnings yet about risks from the troubled Games.

Doctors have said the Olympics, due to start on July 23, offer a "preliminary" from last year, would again a health crisis, already seeing record numbers in critical conditions.

Japan has reported more than 750,000 cases of the coronavirus since the start of the pandemic, including 13,170 deaths as of June 2.

Only 2.7 percent of Japan's population has been fully vaccinated, and the current phase including other adults is not scheduled to finish before the Games start.

The pace of new infections has, however, slowed. Addressing a parliamentary committee on Wednesday, medical adviser Shigeru Imai said organizers should explain to the public why they are going ahead in the middle of a pandemic.

"It's not normal to hold the Olympics Games in a situation like this," said Imai.

"We are going to hold the Olympics under these circumstances. I think it's the Olympics organizers' responsibility to dominate the scale of the event and strengthen communication, not to increase as much as possible," Imai added, **agrees**.