



Afghanistan forward Amiruddin Sharifi celebrates after scoring in the 48th minute. Bangladesh defender Tapu Barman (L), however, scored a late equaliser to hold the Afghans to a 1-1 draw in the World Cup and Asian Cup Qualifiers match at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha yesterday.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK/BFF

Bangladesh earn a draw

SPORTS REPORTER

Veteran defender Tapu Barman's 84th-minute strike earned Bangladesh a 1-1 draw against Afghanistan as the Group E fixtures of the World Cup/Asian Cup Qualifiers got underway in Doha, Qatar yesterday.

The 26-year-old centre-back brought Bangladesh rousing back after Amiruddin Sharifi's 48th-minute goal had given Afghanistan a deserved lead at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in a contest largely dominated by Anush Dastagiri's men.

The Bashundhara Kings centre-back struck from the centre of the box, pirouetting on his heels after chesting down fellow centre-back

Riyadul Hasan Rafi's header on a cross inside the box.

The equaliser came as Bangladesh coach Jamie Day injected a host of attacking options, desperate to earn at least a point, which had looked a far cry till that point given the possession enjoyed and attacking threats posed by the Afghans.

Despite the draw, Bangladesh stayed at the bottom of the group with two points while Afghanistan consolidated third position with five points.

Bangladesh started with a familiar 4-2-3-1 formation with Matin Mia playing in the centre-forward position and Mashuk Mia Johnny playing in an advanced role in front of the double pivot of Jamal Bhuiyan and Sohel Rana. Rakib Hossain and Biplu Ahmed played on the wings.

Topu and Rafi were trusted with the centre-back roles while Rahmat Mia played as left-back and Finland-born Tariq Raihan Kazi made an impressive debut for the national team in his preferred right-back position.

Anisur Rahman Zico donned the gloves for Jamie Day's men.

Although Afghanistan enjoyed the majority of possession right from the beginning, they found it hard to break a disciplined Bangladesh defence all through the first 45 minutes.

However, all that changed in the second half, thanks to that wonderful goal from Sharifi. The forward stabbed home at the far corner of the net with a deft touch following a brilliant cutback from David Najem.

Bangladesh were increasingly cornered ever since that goal but

managed to stay in the game before Jamie Day made three attacking subs, bringing on Mohammad Jewel, Rimon Hossain and Mohammad Abdullah. The latter almost gave Bangladesh the equaliser with his first touch in the 80th minute, latching on to a breathtaking long-ball from another substitute, Manik Molla, only to be denied by the stretched right foot of Afghanistan goalkeeper Ovays Azizi.

The pressure paid off, though, four minutes later as Topu's goal sparked life into the Bangladesh players and helped them leave the field with some pride.

Bangladesh will take on India on Monday before wrapping up the second round of the qualifying campaign against Oman on June 15.

Alauddin and Saifuddin prevail on a gloomy day

SPORTS REPORTER



Alauddin Babu from Brothers Union and Abahani's Mohammad Saifuddin set the tone for victories of their respective sides during their Bangabandhu Dhaka Premier Division T20 encounters on an overcast day at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

Both matches were seemingly low-scoring in light of modern T20 standards as neither of the teams who batted first in both matches surpassed 140.

On the first match of the day, Legends of Rugganj won the toss and elected to bat first. However, their batting wasn't as good as the luck on the toss as they gave away their first wicket in the opening over to right-arm medium pacer Alauddin.

Rugganj's eminent batting lineup kept on collapsing, giving away easy wickets to their opposition at regular intervals. Alauddin ended up with a lethal hat-trick as he finished the innings with 4 wickets, giving away only 21 runs in 3.1 overs, well exceeding his career-best T-20 figures.

This hat-trick becomes an exceptional feat for the medium pacer, which may allow him to override his bitter memory of an unwanted world record of conceding 39 runs in an over, during his side's DPL game against Sheikh Jamal Dhanmondi Club at the same venue.

While chasing 112 runs, Brothers skipper Mizanur Rahman smashed a quick-fire 52-ball 74, laced with eight boundaries and three sixes, to help his side chase down the target with 27 balls and eight wickets to spare.

Later on the day, Abahani's bowling allrounder Mohammad Saifuddin's rejuvenated batting and composed bowling display guided his team to victory of 22 runs against OLD DOHS in a rain-curtailed

19-overs-a-side match.

Abahani's formidable batting lineup had an excruciating start, giving away early wickets, as OLD DOHS gained the upper hand picking up 5 wickets in 13 overs.

Saifuddin's amazing capability of using the long handle proved vital as his blazing 19-balls 40 with two fours and three sixes guided Abahani to 135 for six in 19 overs [D/L method].

Chasing a pursuable total, OLD DOHS came down with a questionable leisurely batting approach -- their opening pair remained till the 9th over, yet maintained



a very low strike rate, scoring only 36 runs in the process.

Opener Rakin Ahmed scored 43 runs off 44 while playing a few great cricketing shots, however his low strike rate limited his team from chasing the target. In the end, DOHS ended up scoring only 113 runs in 19 overs, despite having 7 wickets in hand.

In the last match, Mohammedan Sporting Club (158 for 4 in 17.4 overs) beat Partex sporting club (157 for 5 in 20 overs) by six wickets in Mirpur. Mohammedan's Irfan Sukkur hit unbeaten 52 off 29 balls that saw five fours and two sixes.

Injured Barty retires from French Open

REUTERS

World number one Ash Barty retired from her second round match at the French Open on Thursday with an injury, leaving the women's draw at the claycourt Grand Slam without its top two seeds following Naomi Osaka's earlier withdrawal.

Second seed Osaka, a four-time Grand Slam winner, pulled out after her first round following a row over her decision to boycott post-match media duties citing mental health concerns.

Australia's Barty, who lifted her maiden major at Roland Garros in 2019, was trailing 6-1 2-2 against Poland's Magda Linette when she decided she could no longer continue, having started the match with taping on her left thigh.

She had also struggled with the injury during her opening win.

Conway sets new record at Lord's

AGENCIES



New Zealand were bowled out for 378 in the first innings after lunch on day two as England's fast bowlers cleaned up the middle order and tail on Thursday but not before opening batsman Devon Conway smashed a double century and nearly carried his bat.

The visitors started the day on 246-3 but lost wickets at regular intervals as Mark Wood picked up three for just seven runs in a fiery spell in the first session while Ollie Robinson finished with 4-75 on his test debut.

Conway, who set a record for the highest score on Test debut at Lord's in the opening day, was in danger of missing out on a first double ton on Test debut at Lord's when New Zealand were nine down but he received support from their number 11 Neil Wagner who frustrated England with 25 off 21 balls.

Conway became only the seventh batsman to score a double century on debut, reaching the milestone with a



six over long leg, before he became the last wicket to fall when he was run out by mere millimetres.

Conway and his cool and calm stroke play dominated the British media's review of the first day of the opening cricket Test.

Making his long-awaited debut in Test cricket, the 29-year-old Conway wasted little time proving his worth at the top of the order for New Zealand with a masterful performance.

Englishman Mike Atherton - a top-class opening batsman during his international career from 1989 until 2001 - told Sky Sports UK Conway's innings was as good as he's ever seen. "I can't think of an opener in this country, on debut, who has played better in recent times," he said.

"He [Conway] was incredibly assured and skilful. If you think back to the start of the day, there were bound to be some nerves jangling around, he was starved of the strike for 20 minutes but he didn't look like that affected him at all."

The Guardian's Simon Burnton said Conway's debut in the red-ball game was worth the wait for fans.

'A tournament of emotions' for Pandev

AFP, Skopje



When Goran Pandev stabbed home the winning goal that sent North Macedonia to a European Championship for the first time, he was merely capping his status as the country's greatest sportsman.

Euro 2020 may well be the swansong for the 37-year-old captain, who won the Champions League with Jose Mourinho's Inter Milan in 2010. He has already hinted as much, telling journalists recently: "It will for sure be a tournament of emotions because for me these are the last matches."

Never say never. Pandev has tried to quit the national team before but he was persuaded to rejoin after two years away. Apart from that break, he has been a fixture of the national team for 20 years, scoring a record 37 goals in 118 caps. Among them was a tap-



They had never even been close to qualification before.

For many fans, Pandev is the key to this sporting miracle. He is the "backbone" of the current team who motivates the rest of the players, says Erol Shakiri, a fan from the capital Skopje. "Pandev is our best football player of all time and we worship him," writes one Twitter user. "He is loved by both coaches and teammates. He understands football, he has it in his pocket."

Pandev is a modest and understated professional who largely limits his public comments to football. Even his social media is a low-key affair, dominated by pictures of his family and football, with one commenter summarising the general opinion of his countrymen: "Legend and amazing person."

Euro 2020 is the peak of my career," he says, adding that he will "probably" end his career after the tournament.

'Games 100 per cent on'

AFP, TOKYO

The Tokyo Olympics are "100 percent" certain to go ahead, the chief organiser said Thursday, but warned that a major coronavirus outbreak mid-Games could slam the door shut on fans.

Tokyo 2020 president Seiko Hashimoto made the comments exactly 50 days before the pandemic-postponed Olympics, which remain plagued by public opposition. "I believe that the possibility of these Games going on is 100 percent that we will do this."

Request for Proposal (RFP) (RFP-BD-2021-015)



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Bangladesh is inviting Request for Proposal from interested Firms for Programme Evaluation of National Resilience Programme (NRP) of UNDP Bangladesh (RFP-BD-2021-015).

This procurement process will be conducted through online e-tendering system of UNDP. Interested firms/organizations who wish to submit the RFP document must register in the system to access the bidding document (RFP). To register please visit the link: <https://etendering.partneragencies.org> and use the user name and password provided below to start the registration:

Username: event.guest Password: why2change

Once registered, bidders have to insert under the field "Event ID" the following: "BGD10" in the first box, and "RFP-21-015" in the second box and click the Search button.

The complete user guide and bidding document (RFP) can be found at UNDP Bangladesh website in the link below: <https://procurement-notices.undp.org/viewnotice.cfm?noticeid=79094>.

Pre-proposal conference will be conducted online on Monday, June 07, 2021, 11:00 AM (LOCAL BD TIME). Link to online conference is provided in the bidding document. The deadline for submission of proposal is Monday, June 14, 2021, 4:30 PM (LOCAL BD TIME).