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Australia progresses to Champions Trophy semi-finals after rain-abandoned match



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Australia secured their spot in the Champions Trophy semi-finals after their Group B match against Afghanistan was abandoned due to heavy rain in Lahore.

Afghanistan posted a competitive total of 273 in their 50 overs, with Sediqullah Atal leading the charge with a solid 85 from 95 balls, including three sixes and six fours. Azmatullah Omarzai contributed 67 off 63 balls, hammering five sixes. Ben Dwarshuis was the standout bowler for

Australia, claiming 3-47, while Spencer Johnson and Adam Zampa took two wickets each.

In response, Australia came out aggressively. Travis Head, who had a stroke of luck early after surviving a dropped catch, raced to 59 off 40 balls. With Australia at 109-1 in 12.5 overs and requiring 165 runs from 37.1 overs, they looked poised for a chase before the rain halted play, making the pitch unplayable.

The abandonment of the match meant Australia earned four points and will advance to the semi-finals. They will top Group B if England defeats South Africa. Afghanistan still has a slim chance to qualify, but it hinges on a significant victory by England to improve their net run rate.

With the weather affecting the competition, both semi-finals and the final have reserve days to ensure the matches can proceed despite possible disruptions.