

PCB Announces 17-Member Squad for Asia Cup; Salman Ali Agha to Lead, Babar and Rizwan Left Out

Lahore (News Desk) – The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced a 17-member national squad for the upcoming tri-nation T20 series and the Asia Cup. Head Coach Mike Hesson and Chief Selector Aaqib Javed officially unveiled the squad during a press conference in Lahore on Sunday. In a surprising move, star players Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan have not been included in the squad. Instead, all-rounder Salman Ali Agha has been appointed captain, marking his first major assignment as team leader. The selected squad includes Salman Ali Agha (captain), Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Hasan Nawaz, Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Haris (wicket-keeper), Mohammad Nawaz, Mohammad Wasim Jr., Sahibzada Farhan, Saim Ayub, Salman Mirza, Shaheen Shah Afridi, and Sufiyan Muqeem. According to the selection committee, the squad represents a balance of youth and experience, aiming to inject fresh energy into the national side. The decision to exclude Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan has surprised cricket fans, as it is the first time in years that both players will miss a major international tournament.

Bangladesh Hockey Federation Agrees to Participate in Asia Cup, Likely to Replace Pakistan

Dhaka (News Desk) – The Bangladesh Hockey Federation (BHF) has expressed its willingness to participate in the upcoming Asia Cup. According to BHF sources, initial verbal communication has been made regarding their participation, while they now await an official written invitation. Speaking to a private TV channel, a BHF official stated that Bangladesh had initially been listed as the first reserve team and is awaiting a final decision. He added that confirmation is expected within the next 48 hours. Sources revealed that Bangladesh is being considered as a replacement for Pakistan, as the Pakistan hockey team is unlikely to travel to India under the current circumstances. The Pakistan Hockey Federation is also expected to make an official announcement within the next couple of days. It is pertinent to mention that the Asia Cup Hockey Tournament is scheduled to begin on August 27 in India.

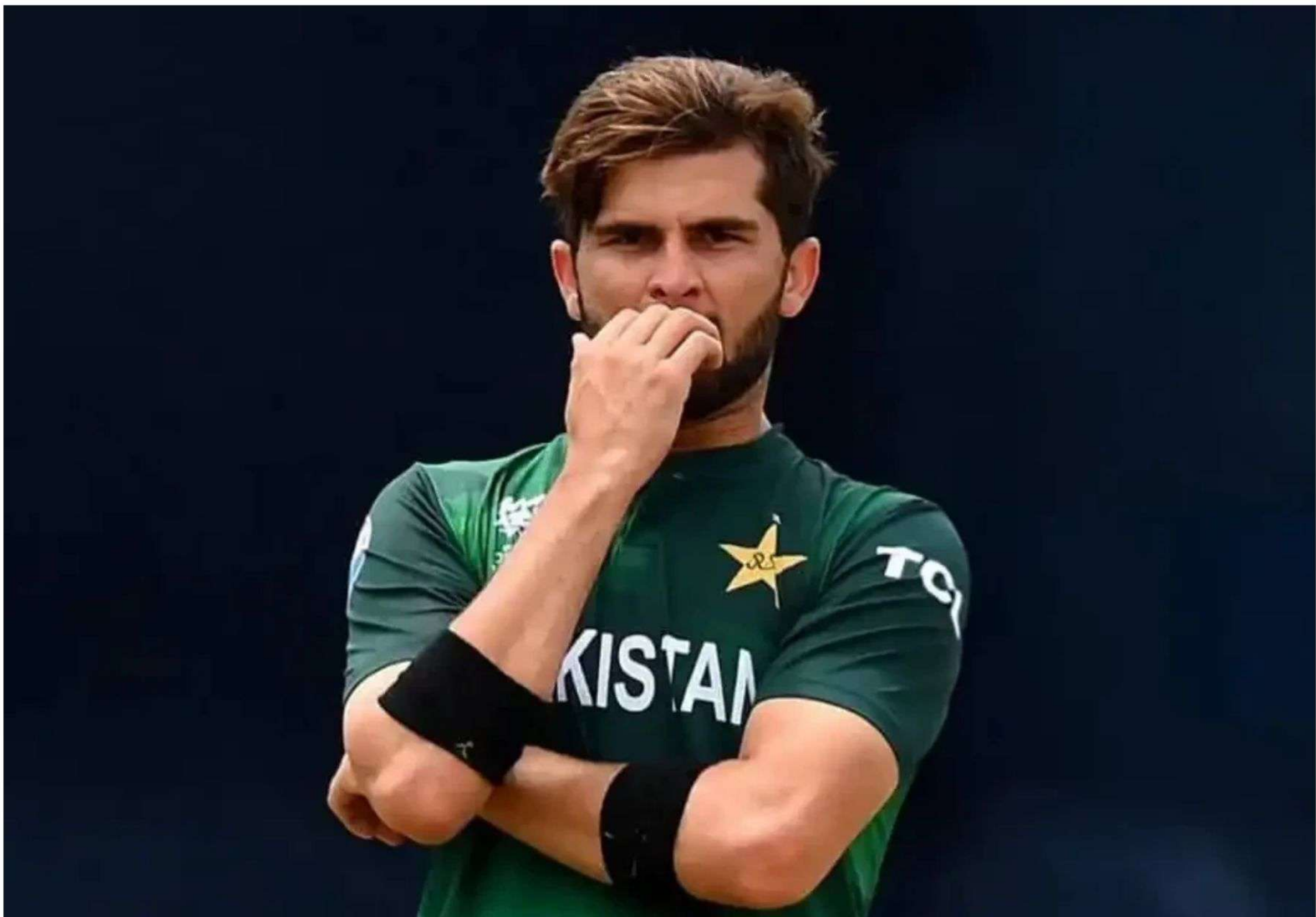
Changing Food Habits in China Trigger Badminton Shuttlecock Shortage Crisis

Beijing (News Desk) – Changing dietary habits in China have created a crisis in the sport of badminton, with fears of a looming shortage of shuttlecocks. According to media reports, this shortage has alarmed players, organizers, and manufacturers alike. Reports highlight that high-quality shuttlecocks, which are made from duck and goose feathers, are rapidly depleting. Those who currently hold stocks are also facing uncertainty. The issue arises because demand for duck and goose meat in China.

Pakistan Cricket Board Set to Reshape Central Contracts 2025–26 Based on Performance

Lahore (News Desk) – The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) is finalizing consultations on the upcoming Central Contracts 2025–26, with players’ performance set as the primary criteria. According to sources, several underperforming cricketers are likely to lose their contracts, while many new and talented players are expected to be included for the first time. PCB’s coaches, directors, and finance department are in detailed discussions to finalize the list. Players failing to secure consistent spots across the three formats will not be considered. Reports suggest that Hasan Nawaz, Mohammad Haris, Sufiyan Muqeem, Hasan Ali, Faheem Ashraf, and Fakhar Zaman are likely to secure contracts, while names like Hussain Talat, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Nawaz, and Sahibzada Farhan are also under review. On the other hand, Amir Jamal, Mohammad Huraire, Haseebullah, Usman Khan, and Mohammad Ali may struggle to find a place. It has been noted that this marks the final year of the PCB’s current three-year financial model, and the official list will be announced after the approval of the PCB Chairman.

Shaheen Afridi Appeals for Support to Flood Victims in Pakistan



Lahore (News Desk) – Pakistan’s fast bowler Shaheen Afridi has appealed for assistance to flood-affected families. Taking to social media, Shaheen expressed grief over the devastation and extended his prayers for those affected by the floods. In his message, he urged the public to help the victims in every possible way, emphasizing unity during this difficult time. Meanwhile, heavy rains and flooding in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa have claimed more than 320 lives so far.

PCB Announces Women’s Cricket Talent Hunt Program 2025

Lahore (News Desk) – The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has announced the Women’s Cricket Talent Hunt Program 2025-26. According to the PCB statement, trials for under-19 and emerging women cricketers will commence from August 21 in Karachi and will continue nationwide until September 3. The trials will be held in major cities including Lahore, Karachi, Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Mardan, Quetta, Multan, and Bahawalpur. In Lahore, the trials are scheduled for August 25 at the LCCA Ground. PCB further stated that selected players will get the opportunity to participate in the National Under-19 Tournament, with the minimum age for under-19 participants set at 12 years.



PM Youth Program & Lahore Qalandars Cricket Trials Reach Jhelum

Jhelum (News Desk) – The Prime Minister’s Youth Program and Lahore Qalandars cricket trials reached Jhelum, drawing thousands of youngsters eager to showcase their talent at the stadium. National cricketer Haris Rauf and U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission in Pakistan, Natalie A. Baker, attended the event, receiving a warm welcome along with the Lahore Qalandars family. Lahore Qalandars CEO Atif Rana and owner Sameen Rana, accompanied by Minister of State Bilal Azhar, also toured the stadium with Natalie A. Baker. During the occasion, Atif Rana announced the establishment of a Lahore Qalandars High Performance Center in Jhelum. After the completion of the two-day trials in Jhelum, the cricket trials journey will move towards Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.



Fast Bowler Ahmad Daniyal Ruled Out of Australia Tour



Lahore (News Desk) – Pakistan Shaheens’ fast bowler Ahmad Daniyal has been ruled out of the Australia tour after suffering an injury. According to sources, Ahmad Daniyal injured his right thumb during a fielding session ahead of the Top End T20 Series. Reports suggest that a replacement player may be sent to Australia in his place. Following the injury, the fast bowler is no longer under consideration for the upcoming Tri-Nation T20 Series.

Strong Squad Discussions for Asia Cup and Tri-Nation T20 Series

Lahore (News Desk) – A detailed meeting was held at the National Cricket Academy Lahore regarding squad selection for the Tri-Nation T20 Series and the Asia Cup. According to sources, selectors, the head coach, and the captain participated in the consultation. Owing to the importance of the Asia Cup, discussions were centered on forming a strong squad. The names of former captain Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan were also considered, with emphasis on utilizing senior players’ experience for crucial matches against India. Sources revealed that the squad for the Tri-Nation T20 Series,