

ICC Releases Latest ODI Player Rankings, Babar Azam Remains Third

Dubai (News Desk) – The International Cricket Council (ICC) has released the latest ODI player rankings. In the batters’ list, India’s Shubman Gill retains the top spot, followed by Rohit Sharma at second and Pakistan’s Babar Azam at third. Australia’s Travis Head moved up one place to 11th, while Pakistan’s Mohammad Rizwan advanced two places to 25th. Among other movers, Australia’s Mitchell Marsh climbed four places to 44th, Josh Inglis rose 23 places to 64th, and Cameron Green jumped 40 places to 78th. In the ODI bowlers’ rankings, South Africa’s Keshav Maharaj remains first, while West Indies’ Gudakesh Moti moved up one place to 10th. South Africa’s Lungi Ngidi advanced six places to 28th. No Pakistani bowler is currently in the top ten; however, Shaheen Afridi improved one place to 14th.



Australian Cricketer Usman Khawaja Urges Immediate Action to Stop Violence in Gaza



Sydney (News Desk) – Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja has once again raised his voice for Palestinians, demanding an immediate end to the killing of innocent children and widespread famine. In a statement shared on social media, Khawaja said he plans to address the issue of Gaza in parliament tomorrow and will also speak about gambling in sports. He emphasized that as Australians and, more importantly, as human beings, they must stand for justice. Khawaja called for halting atrocities in Gaza and ensuring the delivery of humanitarian aid, insisting that Israel should face sanctions until these demands are met. “We cannot trade with any country that does not respect human rights and international laws,” he added.



Pakistan Hockey Federation Faces Financial Crunch Despite Government Support

Lahore (News Desk) – Despite receiving government support of PKR 250 million for the Pro Hockey League, the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) is struggling with financial difficulties. Sources revealed that the federation is finding it challenging to arrange funds, especially as players’ daily allowances remain unpaid. For just one edition of the Pro League, an additional PKR 100 million is required. The Pakistan hockey team is scheduled to participate in next year’s World Cup Qualifiers and the Asian Champions Trophy, and if qualified, will also compete in the Asian Games and the World Cup. Participation in Olympic Qualifiers is also on the calendar, along with events for the national invitational, junior, and age-group teams. Sources indicate that the PHF requires PKR 300–350 million annually for these events, and a minimum of PKR 450 million must be raised for the year. They added that if the federation fails to prove its financial capability, it will have to rely on the government. Due to the large sums involved, the Pakistan Hockey Federation remains caught in financial difficulties.

PCB to Cover Educational Expenses Alongside Cricket Training for Young Players



Lahore (News Desk) – The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has decided to cover educational expenses for young cricketers alongside their training. Sources revealed that children from under-15 to under-19 age groups will receive both cricket coaching and formal education, staying year-round at PCB academies. Academies in Sialkot, Faisalabad, Multan, and Karachi will provide education and cricket training. The Sialkot academy will focus on under-15 players, Faisalabad for under-17, and Multan for under-19, with selection based on regional cricket performance. The PCB will cover all school and college enrollment fees, as well as other educational costs for the students. The Karachi academy has been designated for Pakistan women cricketers, as well as activities of the Shaheens and A teams.

PCB Awards Domestic Contracts to 65 Women Cricketers

Lahore (News Desk) – The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has awarded domestic contracts to 65 women cricketers. Among them, 20 players have been included in the Gold category and 45 in the Silver category, with contract durations set from July 2025 to June 2026. The contracted players include 6 international, 23 underage, and 19 emerging cricketers. Selection was made by members of the National Women’s Selection Committee, Asad Shafiq and Batool Fatima, considering performance, talent, and potential. The PCB stated that additional players may earn contracts in the future based on strong performances.



Two Counties Approach Babar Azam for County Championship, Offer Declined

Lahore (News Desk) – Two counties have reportedly approached Pakistani cricketer Babar Azam to play the remaining matches of the County Championship. Sources revealed that Babar Azam declined the offer due to several reasons. Playing just a few matches would complete his NOC quota for two leagues for the year, which influenced his decision. Sources added that Babar is interested in playing full seasons in the Big Bash and other leagues, and he is currently in contact with other franchises. It is notable that Babar Azam, along with Mohammad Rizwan and Naseem Shah, has not been included in the announced Pakistani squad for the upcoming tri-nation T20 series and the Asia Cup.

Hasan Nawaz Confident Ahead of Asia Cup Clash Against India

Dubai (News Desk) – Young middle-order batsman Hasan Nawaz of the national cricket team has expressed confidence in performing under pressure. Speaking to the media in Dubai, Hasan said he will treat the upcoming Asia Cup match against India as a challenge and will thoroughly enjoy it. He added that he feels no burden, having played series before, and that performing well under pressure comes naturally to him. “I have confidence in myself and, God willing, I will play well,” he said. Hasan noted that in the last two to three series, he has not been dismissed for a duck and is learning a lot from coach Mike Hesson. He aims to give his best in the tri-series as well. Commenting on UAE conditions, Hasan said that it’s not possible to hit every ball; one must play the game strategically, which is how match-winning innings are made. He emphasized adapting to pitch conditions and acknowledged the pressure in every match but added that he enjoys it. Hasan concluded by saying preparations are complete, and he will enjoy the match against India.



ICC ODI Rankings: Mohammad Rizwan, Shaheen Afridi See Improvement

Dubai (News Desk) – Pakistan’s ODI captain Mohammad Rizwan and fast bowler Shaheen Afridi have improved their positions in the latest ICC One-Day International (ODI) rankings. According to the ICC, Mohammad Rizwan has moved up from 27th to 25th with 592 rating points, while Fakhar Zaman remains steady at 28th with 584 points. All-rounders Salman Agha and Imam-ul-Haq hold 38th and 40th positions, respectively. Saeem Ayub is placed 55th with 503 points, while Abdullah Shafiq dropped one position to 99th with 419 points. In the batting rankings, India’s Shubman Gill (784 points) and Rohit Sharma (756 points) lead the chart, with Pakistan’s Babar Azam in third place with 739 points. In the bowling rankings, Shaheen Afridi advanced one spot to jointly hold 13th position with India’s Mohammad Siraj at 593 points. Haris Rauf is 29th, Abrar Ahmed 39th, and Naseem Shah improved one spot to 45th with 491 points. Spinner Mohammad Nawaz slipped to 67th, while fast bowler Mohammad Wasim Jr. is 75th with 410 points. South Africa’s Keshav Maharaj remains the top-ranked bowler, followed by Sri Lanka’s Maheesh Theekshana in second and India’s Kuldeep Yadav in third.

