

## *PHF President Denies Withdrawal from Asia Hockey Cup, Awaits Government Decision*



Lahore (News Desk) – President of the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF), Tariq Bugti, has rejected claims made by Hockey India that Pakistan has refused to participate in the upcoming Asia Hockey Cup. Speaking to a private TV channel, Tariq Bugti stated that no decision has been made regarding non-participation, and there has been no communication with Hockey India. He clarified that PHF only maintains contact with the Asian Hockey Federation, not Hockey India. “We have neither had contact with them before nor now,” Bugti said. Regarding Hockey India’s statement about inviting Bangladesh to replace Pakistan, he said the PHF has no knowledge of such an invitation and emphasized that the decision to travel to India or not will be made by the Government of Pakistan. He further added, “Whatever decision the government makes, we will follow it. We are currently waiting for the government's announcement.” His response comes after an Indian newspaper quoted a Hockey India official claiming that Pakistan had declined participation in the tournament, prompting an invitation to Bangladesh.

## *West Indies Announces 15-Member ODI Squad for Pakistan Series, Alzarri Joseph Rested*



Trinidad (News Desk) – West Indies have announced a 15-member squad for the upcoming three-match ODI series against Pakistan. The squad includes captain Shai Hope along with Jeavor Royal Andrew, Jayden Blades, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Akeem Jordan, Shamar Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Gudakesh Motie, Sherfane Rutherford, Jayden Seales, and Romario Shepherd. The three ODIs between Pakistan and West Indies will be played on August 8, 10, and 12 respectively. Notably, West Indies have rested fast bowler Alzarri Joseph for the series to manage his workload. In his place, all-rounder Romario Shepherd has been recalled to the squad. Shepherd last played an ODI in December 2024 and was not part of the team during the recent series against England and Ireland.

## *Over 150 Palestinians Martyred in Gaza; Former Football Captain Among Victims*



GAZA (News Desk) – Israeli barbaric attacks on Gaza continue as over 150 more Palestinians were martyred within the last 24 hours, including 90 who were waiting for aid. Among the victims was Palestinian footballer Suleiman Al-Obeid, who was martyred by Israeli firing while waiting for food. He was also a former captain of the Palestinian national football team. According to media reports, a total of 662 athletes from various sports have been martyred in Israeli attacks so far. Additionally, Israeli forces diverted aid trucks towards bombed roads, causing several to overturn, leading to the martyrdom of 20 more Palestinians.

## *Pakistan to Take on West Indies in First ODI Today at Brian Lara Stadium*

Jamaica (News Desk) – The first match of the three-match One Day International (ODI) series between West Indies and Pakistan will be played today, August 8, at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad. The match will be a day-night encounter held under floodlights. Ahead of the series, the Pakistan team has been actively engaged in training sessions, focusing on batting, bowling, and fielding drills. The coaching staff has assigned specific net practice tasks to the players, especially to those newly included in the ODI squad, keeping in view the local conditions to better prepare them for match scenarios. Batters have emphasized power-hitting techniques and practiced a variety of shots from different angles to develop an aggressive strategy against the West Indies bowlers. Cricket fans are eagerly awaiting this ODI series, which follows a completed three-match T20I series that Pakistan won 2-1. During this Caribbean tour, the Pakistan team is scheduled to play three T20Is and three ODIs against the host team. Star wicketkeeper-batsman Mohammad Rizwan will lead the Green Shirts in the ODI series.



## *Pakistan Withdraws from Asia Hockey Cup 2025 in India Citing Security Concerns*

New Delhi (News Desk) – An official of Hockey India has claimed that the Pakistan national hockey team will not be participating in the upcoming Asia Cup 2025 scheduled to be held in India. Speaking to an Indian newspaper, the official stated that the Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) has declined to send its team to India due to security concerns. According to the Hockey India official, the PHF submitted a letter to the Asian Hockey Federation on Wednesday, officially stating that they would not be able to compete in the Asia Cup because of security reasons. The official also mentioned that the Indian government was willing to issue visas to the Pakistani team, and that visa applications had been submitted by the end of July. With Pakistan opting out, Hockey India has now extended an invitation to Bangladesh to participate in the tournament. Meanwhile, Pakistan’s participation in the Junior Hockey World Cup, scheduled in India for November-December, also remains uncertain. The Asia Cup is scheduled to take place from August 29 to September 7 in Rajgir, India.

## *Hassan Nawaz and Saim Ayub Jump in ICC T20 Rankings, Abhishek Sharma Retains Top Spot*

Dubai (News Desk) – The International Cricket Council (ICC) has released the latest T20 player rankings, with India's Abhishek Sharma maintaining his top position among batters. Australia's Travis Head and India's Tilak Varma are ranked second and third, respectively. Pakistan's Hassan Nawaz and Saim Ayub made significant progress in the T20 batter rankings, with Hassan Nawaz climbing 24 places to reach 30th and Saim Ayub moving up 25 places to secure the 38th position. However, Babar Azam slipped three spots to rank 17th. Meanwhile, India's Yashasvi Jaiswal improved by one rank to break into the top 10 at 10th place, while Australia's Tim David advanced two places to reach 16<sup>th</sup>. In the bowlers' rankings, Pakistan's young pacer Sufiyan Muqeem soared 69 places to land at 35th, while Mohammad Nawaz jumped 51 spots to reach 56th position, marking a positive shift for Pakistan in both batting and bowling rankings.

## *New Zealand's Will O'Rourke Ruled Out of Second Zimbabwe Test Due to Injury*



Harare (News Desk) – New Zealand fast bowler Will O'Rourke has been ruled out of the second and final Test against Zimbabwe due to fitness issues. The 24-year-old pacer is suffering from a back injury, which has sidelined him for the crucial match. New Zealand currently leads the two-match Test series 1-0, having defeated Zimbabwe by 9 wickets in the first Test. Earlier, all-rounder Nathan Smith was also ruled out due to an abdominal issue, and newcomer Zakary Foulkes was brought into the squad as his replacement. With O'Rourke unavailable, left-arm pacer Ben Lister has been called up to the Test squad. New Zealand captain Tom Latham had missed the opening Test due to a shoulder injury, with Mitchell Santner stepping in as captain. It remains uncertain whether Latham will be fit in time for the second Test, starting Thursday, August 7, at Queens Sports Club, Bulawayo.

