

ICC T20 World Cup 2026 Scheduled in India and Sri Lanka with 20 Teams



Dubai (News Desk) – The International Cricket Council (ICC) is likely to conduct the T20 World Cup next year from February 7 to March 8, with India and Sri Lanka set to host the matches featuring 20 teams. According to cricket websites, at least five venues in India and two in Sri Lanka will host the matches. The ICC T20 World Cup final will be played in Ahmedabad or Colombo, depending on Pakistan's qualification for the final. The Pakistani team is expected to play all its matches in Sri Lanka, while the ICC is finalizing the schedule for this mega event. Fifteen teams have already confirmed participation, including Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, South Africa, England, New Zealand, West Indies, USA, Ireland, Canada, Netherlands, and Italy. Additionally, two teams will come from the Africa Regional Qualifier and three from the Asia & East Asia-Pacific Qualifier. The tournament will follow the 2024 format, with 20 teams divided into four groups; the top two from each group will advance to the Super Eight stage. In the Super Eight, teams will again be split into two groups, with the top two from each group qualifying for the semi-finals, culminating in the final between the winning teams.

Pakistan Announces National Football Squad for AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2026 Qualifiers

Lahore (News Desk) – The Pakistan Football Federation has announced the national team for this month's AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers in Dammam. For the first time in history, Pakistan will participate in an international football competition. The squad includes goalkeepers Muhammad Zaid and Muhammad Tahir; defenders Muhammad Hamza Khan, Hamza Nusrat, Zaheer Altaf, and Asif Ahmed; right wingers Hassan Zafar, Abdul Hanan, Yusuf Ahmed, and Shams Taj; left wingers Moez Sajjad, Muhammad Bin Masood, and Ariz Mahmood; and strikers Muhammad Adnan, Muhammad Ali Riaz Khan, and Zaidullah Khan. Pakistan is in Group D alongside Iraq, Taiwan, and host Saudi Arabia. The national team will play its first match on September 20 against Iraq, the second match on September 22 against Saudi Arabia, and the group stage finale on September 24 against Taiwan. All matches will be held in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. In the AFC U-23 Asian Cup 2026 qualifiers, Pakistan faced defeat in its third match as well, losing 1-0 to Oman in Group G matches held in Cambodia. Following defeats against Iraq and host Cambodia, this marks Pakistan's third consecutive loss, with the team scoring only one goal while conceding ten in the three matches.

Shahid Afridi Urges Support for Flood Victims, Stresses Service Over Business

Islamabad (News Desk) – Former Pakistani cricket team captain Shahid Afridi stated that governments should focus on serving the people rather than running businesses. Speaking at an event in Islamabad, Shahid Afridi said that he personally witnessed the hardships faced by mothers, children, and animals during the devastating floods. He shared that he saw children and animals forced to drink water from the same source and people walking 10 kilometers carrying water in containers. Afridi appealed to everyone to meet the flood victims, embrace them, and assist them in this difficult time. He added, "I speak less and work more; I played cricket for myself at the start of my career, but there comes a time in life when we must rise for others, and now we have begun this journey." He further urged everyone to join in helping the flood-affected people.



Red-Ball Cricket Camp Kicks Off in Lahore Under Azhar Mahmood

Lahore (News Desk) – The Red-Ball Cricket Camp has officially begun in Lahore, with interim head coach Azhar Mahmood overseeing the training sessions. The camp started at the National Cricket Academy in Lahore and features 11 participating players. During the morning session, the players received briefings from the coaches and also took part in fielding and net practice sessions. The camp will continue until September 28, and participating players include Babar Azam, Abdullah Shafique, Ali Raza, Azaan Owais, Kamran Ghulam, Muhammad Ali, Muhammad Harirah, Muhammad Salman, Rohail Nazir, Sajid Khan, and Shamil Hussain.



Ahmed Shehzad Distributes Relief Items to Flood Victims in Kamalia

Kamalia (News Desk) – National cricketer Ahmed Shehzad distributed relief items among flood-affected people in Kamalia. Speaking to a private TV channel after the distribution, Ahmed Shehzad said that the recent floods have caused massive destruction. He praised the services of the Pakistan Army and rescue teams during this time of crisis. Ahmed Shehzad emphasized that everyone must play a role in the rehabilitation of the flood victims.



Former All-Rounder Iftikhar Ahmed Shares Stylish Photo Amid Pakistan Squad Updates



Karachi (News Desk) – A Pakistani cricketer currently away from the national team recently shared a striking photo on his social media pages. While the Pakistan cricket team is in the UAE for the Asia Cup, several prominent players, including former captain Babar Azam, ODI captain Mohammad Rizwan, and Naseem Shah, were dropped from the squad. However, one player, long absent from the national team, continues to make headlines through his social media presence. The player in focus is all-rounder Iftikhar Ahmed, popularly nicknamed "Chacha" within the team. Many videos of him in the dressing room with teammates have also gone viral on social media. Today, 35-year-old Iftikhar Ahmed posted an attractive photo on social platforms. In the image, he is seen wearing a grey tracksuit, stylish sunglasses, and carrying a travel bag. While the location is unspecified, it appears he might be traveling abroad for a cricket tournament. His unique caption adds charm to the post, stating, "Believe me! I am not a Hollywood actor." Iftikhar Ahmed has represented Pakistan in 4 Test matches, 28 One Day Internationals (ODIs), and 66 T20Is. In Tests, he scored 61 runs and took 1 wicket; in ODIs, he amassed 614 runs with one century and one half-century, including a high score of 109 not out, alongside 16 wickets and a five-wicket haul in a match. In T20Is, he scored 998 runs and claimed 16 wickets while representing Pakistan.

Bowling Coach Morné Morkel Reveals India's Winning Formula for Asia Cup

Dubai (News Desk) – Bowling coach Morné Morkel has shared India's winning formula for the Asia Cup, emphasizing the importance of all-rounders in the squad. According to Indian media reports, Morkel stated that players who can contribute in both batting and bowling will prove crucial. He highlighted Shreyas Iyer as an example of a player who can bowl four overs, stressing that all-rounders should work hard on both skills. Morkel added that having genuine all-rounders brings balance to the team and provides the management with more strategic options. He further explained that while India has frontline bowlers capable of attacking, developing part-time bowlers who can perform specific tasks offers multiple options for team combinations. Morkel emphasized that players must work on these abilities daily to improve, noting that although the team has not played many T20 matches recently, the focus during training has been on maintaining high intensity.