

Pakistan Hockey Players Decry Rs. 400 Daily Allowance as Insult

Lahore (News Desk): Pakistan hockey team players have voiced strong criticism, stating that being offered a daily allowance of Rs. 400 is nothing short of adding insult to injury. The players said, “Even a laborer does not earn such a small amount as a day’s wage, yet we are being told this is our daily allowance. This is a humiliation—what greater disregard can there be for our services?” They further lamented that they already face unemployment, and even the previously promised daily allowances were not paid on time, but now the announcement of Rs. 400 is extremely disheartening. Expressing frustration, they warned that if such conditions persist, they may be forced to quit hockey altogether. “This country has given us everything, and we owe everything to it, but hearing about Rs. 400 as our allowance has deeply hurt us,” the players said, adding that their households are struggling to make ends meet while authorities seem more concerned about withholding their allowances than supporting national athletes.

Shadab Khan Begins Rehab and Training After Shoulder Surgery



Lahore (News Desk): Pakistan T20 vice-captain Shadab Khan has resumed his rehabilitation and started physical training following recovery from a shoulder injury. Shadab underwent surgery on his right shoulder in England on July 5, after consultation with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) medical panel. Due to the injury, he was unable to join the national squad for the Asia Cup; however, he is now engaged in a rehabilitation program, including physical training and fitness exercises. A new Instagram reel shared by Shadab shows him performing recovery training and fitness workouts. In the video caption, he wrote, “Rehab continues, thank you all for your support and prayers.” The footage indicates that the all-rounder is making determined preparations for a strong comeback to the field.

UK Police Drop Rape Case Against Pakistani Cricketer Haider Ali



Manchester (News Desk): Manchester police have dropped the alleged rape case against Pakistani cricketer Haider Ali due to insufficient evidence. According to police sources, the case was dismissed as no charges could be substantiated. Following his acquittal, Haider Ali is expected to have his passport returned within the next few hours, enabling him to travel freely to and from the United Kingdom.

Virat Kohli’s London Fitness Test Sparks Controversy in Indian Cricket

Bengaluru (News Desk): A controversy has surfaced in Indian cricket after most players, including Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, and Mohammad Siraj, completed their fitness tests at the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Bengaluru, while Virat Kohli was the only player to undergo his test in London. According to Indian media, Kohli, who is currently in the UK with his family, obtained special permission from the BCCI to take his fitness test abroad. Reports from Hindi daily Dainik Jagran confirmed that he successfully cleared the test under the supervision of BCCI-approved judges, but the special exemption has sparked debate as no other player has been given such leeway. Media reports point out that questions are being raised over why only Kohli was granted this relaxation, as neither any other player made such a request nor was anyone offered such a facility. When questioned, a BCCI official stated that Kohli must have taken formal approval, but it remains unclear whether similar permission will be granted to others in the future. Meanwhile, the Indian team is preparing to leave for the UAE to participate in the Asia Cup 2025, which will be played in the T20 format. Kohli, however, will not be part of the squad, having retired from T20 internationals.



Hockey Players Won’t Play on Rs. 400 Daily Allowance, Says Federation Secretary

Lahore (News Desk): Pakistan Hockey Federation (PHF) Secretary General Rana Mujahid has stated that no hockey player will play for a daily allowance of Rs. 400. In an exclusive interview, he criticized the Sports Board for suggesting such a low allowance, questioning how a player could perform under these circumstances. He explained that while the federation provides players with an allowance close to USD 100, even that fails to satisfy them, as the PHF itself does not even own a stadium. Commenting on financial issues, Rana Mujahid admitted that although once there was a problem with unpaid bills during a foreign tour, it is not a routine occurrence. He said the Sports Board believes the PHF’s finances are not properly managed, while the federation claims to handle them according to its own rules. He emphasized the need for the PHF and the Sports Board to sit together and resolve financial matters, highlighting that the federation only manages the national team and sends it abroad for competitions. Rana Mujahid stressed that the PHF is working beyond its capacity and can only function smoothly if government funding is supplemented by private sponsorship. He further noted that players have been persuaded to return despite departmental teams shutting down, leaving athletes struggling to make a living. Talking about the upcoming Pro League, he said the national hockey team will participate with full preparation, acknowledging that while becoming champions among the world’s top ten teams will be difficult, Pakistan will aim to achieve good results.



Afghanistan Defeats Pakistan by 18 Runs in Sharjah Tri-Nation T20 Series

Sharjah (News Desk): Afghanistan defeated Pakistan by 18 runs in the fourth match of the ongoing Tri-Nation T20 series in Sharjah. Batting first, Afghanistan posted 169 runs for the loss of five wickets in the allotted 20 overs, setting Pakistan a target of 170. In reply, Pakistan could only manage 151 runs for nine wickets. For Pakistan, Haris Rauf remained unbeaten with 34 runs off 16 balls, Fakhar Zaman scored 25, Salman Agha 20, and Sahibzada Farhan 18. Afghanistan’s Fazalhaq Farooqi, Rashid Khan, Mohammad Nabi, and Noor Ahmad each took two wickets. Following the loss, Pakistan’s performance came under criticism. During the post-match press conference, a journalist asked Faheem Ashraf whether Pakistan missed Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan during the defeat against Afghanistan. Faheem initially laughed and then responded that one doesn’t even miss family members while on the field, so how could he miss fellow players. The all-rounder added that the team’s focus is only on winning for Pakistan, but the lack of partnerships was the main reason for the loss.

South Africa to Play Test Matches in Pakistan After Four Years, Proposed Schedule Revealed



Lahore (News Desk): The South African cricket team will play Test matches in Pakistan after more than four years, with the proposed schedule for the all-format series now surfaced. According to sources, the first Test will be played from October 12 to 16 at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, while the second Test will be hosted by Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium from October 20 to 24. The ODI series will begin in Rawalpindi on October 28, followed by two matches at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad, on October 31 and November 2 — marking the return of international cricket to the city after a long gap. The T20I series is scheduled to start on November 5 in Multan, with the remaining two matches to be played on November 8 and 9 at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore. A South African delegation is currently in Pakistan to review arrangements and will return today. However, since the delegation did not visit Multan, the chances of a match there remain slim. The schedule is not finalized yet and will only be confirmed after discussions between both boards, with possible changes in dates and venues. Earlier this month, the South African women’s team was also scheduled to play three T20Is in Pakistan. It is worth mentioning that the Proteas last toured Pakistan in January–February 2021 under the captaincy of Quinton de Kock, where they suffered a Test series whitewash and lost the T20I series 1-2. More recently, South Africa was defeated by New Zealand in the semi-final of the ODI Champions Trophy held in March. Earlier in May, the first two T20Is against Bangladesh were announced to be held in Faisalabad after 17 years, but later all three matches were shifted to Lahore due to the rescheduling of PSL fixtures.

Former Cricketer Basit Ali Criticizes M. Haris, Says Even Coach Has Lost Trust

Karachi (News Desk): Former Pakistan Test cricketer Basit Ali has said that coach no longer trusts Mohammad Haris. Speaking on his YouTube channel after Pakistan’s loss to Afghanistan in the Tri-Nation series, Basit Ali stated that Haris is playing “mindless cricket” and has failed to learn from repeated mistakes. He criticized Haris for once again playing an irresponsible shot and getting out to Mohammad Nabi, adding that Nabi was specifically brought in to bowl against left-handers, yet Haris still gifted his wicket. Basit Ali said this shows Haris lacks cricketing sense, playing only for the sake of hitting a six and celebrating like a hero. He further noted that Haris’s consistently dropping batting order reflects the coach’s lack of confidence in him. Basit Ali remarked that heroes are made through hard work, not overnight, but Haris has been handed everything on a platter.