**Pak vs WI: Multan braces to host International Cricket since 14 prolonged years**

MULTAN, Jun 07 (APP): Pakistan and West Indies cricket teams all set to play in Multan today to begin a new era for Pakistan cricket with the city hosting international cricket after fourteen long years.

The three One-Day Internationals (ODIs) are part of the Super League cycle and both sides are eager to secure crucial points to direct qualify in the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup, 2023. The two teams were entering the series with high spirits.

Pakistan defeated Australia with 2-1 in March, which was Pakistan’s first ODI series win over Australia in last 20 years. This is Pakistan’s fifth Super League series in which the team had defeated Zimbabwe, South Africa and Australia but lost to England.

As a captain, Babar Azam has been at the forefront of Pakistan’s successes as he climbed to the number one spot in the ICC ODI ranking for batters also leads the batting charts with 902 runs at a stratospheric average of 90.20.

He is the only batter to have smashed five centuries in the ongoing cycle with Ireland’s Paul Stirling behind him with three centuries to his credit.

Pakistan’s second best batter in the cycle has been Imam-ul-Haq, who enters the series with scintillating performance against Australia in which he scored two consecutive centuries and a breezy 89 not out.

The said performance by the left-handed opener was instrumental in the series win against the Kangroos, who were visiting Pakistan after a long wait of 24 years.

Imam-ul-Haq has scored 598 runs at 54.36 along with the two centuries and five half-centuries in this current year.

Fearsome pacers, Haris Rauf and Shaheen Shah Afridi were the leading wicket-takers for Pakistan in the Pakistan’s Super League tournament.

However, Haris’ average of 28.73 was a shade better than Shaheen’s 29.52.

The West Indies added 30 more points to their tally during their stopover in Netherlands, defeating the hosts 3-0.

Pakistan’s rank in ODI as of today is at the 5th spot, whereas the West Indies stands on the 9th spot.

“It is a really exciting moment for me to lead Pakistan in Multan for this all-important series. Multan is home to passionate cricket fans and it is great to be here. I am looking forward to the fans cheering the return of international cricket after a prolonged gap, and I am sure they will get to see some great cricket at the beautiful Multan Cricket Stadium,” Pakistan Skipper Babar Azam said.

“This is an important series for Pakistan to grab crucial Super League points. The players have been putting in a lot of effort to prepare themselves for the West Indies challenge and we are eager to win another series and bag maximum points to consolidate our chances for direct qualification in the 2023 World Cup” he added.

Whereas the West Indies captain Nicholas Pooran said that “It feels good to be here (Pakistan), the guys are confident after playing well in Netherlands and we are hoping to continue our good performances here in Pakistan.”

An ODI win in the ICC Men’s Cricket World Cup Super League fixture adds 10 points to a team’s tally.

The three ODIs will be played on 8, 10 and 12 June with the matches starting at 1600 (local time).

### [PM orders tax abolition for export industry’s raw material](https://www.app.com.pk/national/pm-orders-tax-abolition-for-export-industrys-raw-material/)

ISLAMABAD, Jun 8 (APP): Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif Wednesday directed the authorities concerned to abolish all taxes on the raw materials of the export industry, as part of his government’s vision to develop an export-oriented economy.

The prime minister, in a meeting with a delegation of the American Business Council, also directed the formation of task forces to attract investment in multiple sectors.

The task forces would be formed in the fields of tourism, pharmaceuticals, information technology, e-commerce, large-scale manufacturing, and agriculture.

He told the delegation that the government was making efforts to ensure the production of export quality agricultural products.

He said it was for the first time that the government was calling for the consistency of the policies as the subjects of the national economy and public welfare were above politics.

The delegation comprised representatives from pharmaceuticals, food processing, IT, e-commerce, retail, textile, sports, and logistics sectors.

The participants said the government’s policies had helped revive the investors’ trust and the pre-budget consultation with the stakeholders was a welcoming step.

The prime minister directed the secretary of commerce as well as the secretary of the Board of Investment to ensure immediate resolution of the issues faced by the investors and sought a compliance report within a week.

Federal ministers Syed Naveed Qamar, Makhdoom Murtaza Mahmood, Marriyum Aurangzeb and senior officers attended the meeting.

Coalition govt to announce a balanced budget keeping in view of economic indicators; Shazia Marri

ISLAMABAD, Jun 8 (APP):Federal Minister for Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety, Shazia Marri Wednesday said the people friendly coalition government was all set to announce a balanced budget keeping eye on all the economic indicators and taking all the stakeholders on board.

“Pakistan People’s Party believes in the people friendly policies and has advocated its stance of giving maximum possible relief to the masses in the upcoming budget,” she said while talking to media at One Window Center, G-7.

The federal minister said"The country is witnessing a complex economic situation due to the ineffective policies of the previous government which claimed to provide one million jobs, construct five million houses, not to take loan from IMF and raise tax."

Contrary to this, the country witnessed record inflation during the last four years and the former Prime Minister took a large amount of loan from IMF which has no precedent in the last 70 years.

She said"The former Prime Minister, who is saying the country will ruin, if he will not come into power, is unable to tell the masses about his four year performance."

“When he loses power, he starts commenting on nuclear asset of Pakistan to hide his own failures”, she added.

Why didn’t Imran Khan take all political parties and the parliament into confidence before signing the IMF dangerous loan conditions? she questioned.

“No matter how much Imran Khan abuses; his performance will be questioned by the same media whose freedom was curbed during his tenure. Media plays a role of a strong pillar of society and the downfall of any ruler starts when he silences the voice of media”, she observed.

The previous government claiming to provide jobs and houses to the masses snatched these rather misguided them in the name of foreign conspiracy.

“The sigh of poor masses expelled the former Prime Minister from power”, she said.

She said that the statements given by the selected former Prime Minister reflect his unpatriotic behavior. “Imran Khan who is addicted of five carat diamond, VIP culture and enjoying travelling through helicopter misusing the resources of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government cannot mention even a single achievement of his tenure”, she asked.

The people of Pakistan have suffered from terrorism and worst economic situations but raised the slogan of “Pakistan Zindabad”.

Shazia Marri said that the present government has taken the difficult decision of increasing petrol prices in wake of prevailing economic crisis owing to the ineffective policies of the previous government.

The relief package worth Rs. 28 billion has been approved to benefit a total of 14 million people including eight million existing BISP beneficiaries and another six million, having less than Rs. 40,000 monthly income, to be identified through the National Socio Economic Registry (NSER).

She urged the media to educate masses about the procedure of applying for the financial assistance of Rs. 2000 by sending their CNIC to the`786’ SMS service.

Responding to a question, the federal minister said that the government realizes that the amount to be given under the relief package will not resolve all the issues of people but atleast help reduce their burden to some extent. More targeted subsidies to provide relief to poor will be announced in future, she assures.

The BISP initiatives including Waseela-i-Haq and Waseela-i-Rozgar that were closed by the previous government would be revived that aimed at making the people self-reliant, she said.

To another question, she said that the former Prime Minister has given amnesty to the upper class and ignored the disadvantaged segments of society however the present government is focusing on providing maximum relief to the poor people.

To promote youth engagement in filmmaking, Marriyum inaugurates PTV Film, Pakflex projects

ISLAMABAD: Minister for Information and Broadcasting Marriyum  Aurangzeb  on Wednesday  inaugurated PTV Film Division aiming to promote youth engagement in filmmaking. The minister also inaugurated the PakFlex project to  make Pakistan Television drama and other content  in archives  available online for the benefit of viewers, especially those  living abroad. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, she said  the government was taking all possible  measures for revival of the film industry. She recalled that  in 2017, work had been  started on PTV Film Division and in  2018, with the approval of the Cabinet, Pakistan's first film policy was launched. The minister said that on the completion of 70 years of the independence  of Jamal Shah had formulated the first culture policy of Pakistan."In 2018, we not only formulated the film policy but for the first time we engaged the film and culture sector in it," she said adding "We had given a comprehensive draft to all the stakeholders in the film policy, giving industry status to the film sector.

The first ever  film policy, she said  included tax related incentives for the film industry and infrastructure incentives for cinemas, but unfortunately, in the past, the film policy could not be implemented in its letter and spirit. The present government wanted to provide a platform where all stakeholders come together for resolution of the problems of the industry. She said  that in the past  film was a popular medium due to its strong content, but now technology had become  advanced, cinematography  also better but there was a lack of content on the screen. She said that long-term reforms were necessary in the film sector and the first step should be to promote the content immediately.

Appreciating the role of PTV, she said it had maintained its reputation till date due to its strong foundations, integrity and credibility. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that the PTV screen formed narratives  for the society as its mandate was to formulate national narratives. The country has fought a war on the terror with a long history and there was a need  to protect the society, especially  the young generation from its negative effects.

She said that lack of children's content was a major issue in both television and film sector and Pakistani children were forced to watch foreign content due to lack of children's content at television  channels,movies, documentaries. Marriyum Aurangzeb said that steps were being taken regarding resolution of the problem of children's content in PTV. The minister said that it was  necessary to convey  the real facts through  the news for the awareness of the people of Pakistan. She said that efforts were being made to meet the demand for entertainment of the people as they were  weary of round the clock news content on the screen.

The minister  said   that all the archives of PTV and film would be available on PakFlex and  people sitting outside Pakistan would also benefit from it and the project was being launched on the occasion of Pakistan's 75th anniversary.

The Ministry of Information, she said, was  setting up a film directorate to facilitate the producers, directors and distributors of the industry. She said that the film was an important means of promoting tourism and the primary objective of PTV Film Division was to promote tourism.

Earlier, Federal Minister for Information Maryam Aurangzeb inaugurated the PTV movie by pressing a button. Secretary Information,Shahira Shahid, MD PTV Mubashir Tauqeer Shah and Other senior officials of the Ministry of Information were also present on the occasion.

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