
Pakistan gears up for Tri-Nation Series, Champions Trophy



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LAHORE: Fresh off a strong ODI streak, Pakistan begins preparations for the upcoming tri-nation series and ICC Champions Trophy with a training camp at Ghani Glass Ground on Tuesday, marking the first time the national team will train at the venue.

The tri-series, featuring South Africa and New Zealand alongside the hosts, kicks off in Lahore on February 8. Pakistan will then shift focus to the Champions Trophy, with their opening match

against New Zealand set for February 19 in Karachi.

A notable addition to the team setup is Hina Munawar, appointed as the team operations manager.

On deputation from Punjab Police, she becomes the first woman in Pakistan's men's team management, breaking the precedent of female staff working solely with the women's team.

The tri-series will also be the first international event at the newly renovated Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore and National Bank Stadium in Karachi. Pakistan enters the competitions with renewed confidence, having won their last three ODI series against Australia (2-1), Zimbabwe (2-1), and South Africa (3-0). However, the 15-player squad announcement raised eyebrows as the PCB included only one specialist spinner, Abrar Ahmad, leaving out Noman Ali and Sajid Khan despite their recent Test performances.

New Zealand will arrive in Lahore early Wednesday, with joint training sessions set for February 6. South Africa is scheduled to land on February 9. Pakistan plays the series opener before heading to Karachi on February 9, while New Zealand remains in Lahore for a match against South Africa on February 10.

Meanwhile, ticket sales for the tri-series begin Tuesday, available online and at select courier outlets.