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## Babar Azam's T20 World Cup Insights: Key Highlights from PCB Podcast

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Lahore, 2 June 2024: Pakistan captain Babar Azam graced the 52nd episode of the PCB Podcast, discussing his team's excitement and preparations for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024. Here are the key takeaways from his conversation:

**Team Excitement and Preparations:** Babar expressed his enthusiasm for the World Cup, emphasizing the unique excitement that comes with playing in such a major event. He highlighted the team's preparations, the atmosphere in the camp, and their high confidence levels.

**Reflections on Past Performances:** Reflecting on Pakistan's performances in the last three T20 tournaments, Babar acknowledged the hurtful matches in the 2021 and 2022 World Cups. He spoke about the lessons learned from those experiences and the team's determination to

overcome past mistakes.

**Challenges in the USA:** Babar discussed the unknown conditions in the United States, where Pakistan will play their first-round matches. He mentioned that the team is gathering information from players familiar with those conditions to aid their preparations.

**India-Pakistan Rivalry:** Babar highlighted the significance of the 9 June match against India, acknowledging the global attention it garners. He emphasized the importance of staying focused, sticking to basics, and managing pressure in such high-stakes games.

**Captaincy and Responsibilities:** Babar reflected on the responsibilities of being a captain, including maintaining open communication with players and management. He stressed the importance of supporting and instilling confidence in his team to get the best performances out of them.

**Aspiration to Win an ICC Trophy:** Babar expressed his deep motivation and aspiration to lift an ICC trophy and present it to Pakistan. He noted that achieving this goal would elevate his achievements to a new level and bring immense pride to the nation.

**Key Matches and Learnings:** He revisited the semi-final loss to Australia in 2021, attributing it to fielding lapses, and the 2022 defeat to India, acknowledging it as a lost opportunity. The most

painful was the loss to Zimbabwe, especially after a commendable performance against India. He also mentioned Shaheen Afridi's injury in the final against England as a pivotal moment.

**Role of Gary Kirsten:** Babar praised the pivotal role of Gary Kirsten as the white-ball head coach, emphasizing his contributions to the team's development and strategy.

In conclusion, Babar's insights provide a comprehensive view of Pakistan's preparations, aspirations, and challenges ahead of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.