

Official Newsletter

# Pakistan Cricket



Preview: ICC World Cup 2011

## Pakistan on an upswing

The 2011 World Cup promises to be one of the most open since the event started in 1975. As many as seven teams, perhaps eight, should the West Indies decide to come to the party, would be fancying their chances. Pakistan is coming to the event on a bit of an upswing, having won the ODI series against New Zealand.

Had Pakistan had the services of the two Mohammads, Asif and Aamir, the two fast bowlers banished by the ICC Tribunal for match-fixing, the green shirts' prospects would have been even rosier.

Regardless, with a steady batting line up that is a blend of youth and experience and a bowling posse that can attack as well as restrict, Pakistan

would be feeling that they have a chance against anybody.

Pakistan has been drawn in the A Group with Australia, New Zealand and Sri Lanka, with Zimbabwe, Canada and Kenya bringing up the rear. Should Shahid Afridi and his charges perform reasonably well, unlike the previous two editions, Pakistan should be able to qualify for the second round along with the first three mentioned.

Zimbabwe might think otherwise, having experienced its own resurgence of sorts, as would Canada and Kenya, but a second round for these three might be a bridge too far.

The top eight teams would then figure in a knockout competition, with the top scoring team playing the fourth ranked team and so forth. It would



The unity and the harmony is clearly evident, making one confident that in this edition of the World Cup, Pakistan would leave behind the disappointments of the previous two in 2003 and 2007

be here that the World Cup would start getting really competitive.

The Pakistan team meanwhile has done rather well in both Test and ODI series in New Zealand, but in the context of the World Cup the form in the latter is important. So are the positive vibes emanating from the entire camp.

The green shirts must have had their backs to the wall for the last year or so but Pakistan has always managed to deliver in the face of adversity.

A closer look at recent performances shows that things are now falling in place for Pakistan just at the right time. There is that couple of calm accumulators in the middle order in Younus Khan and Misbah, ferocious hitters down the order in Afridi, Umar Akmal and Abdul Razzaq, and more importantly a set of reliable ODI openers in Mohammad Hafeez and Ahmad Shahzad, and it looks like a side that would give all comers a run for its money.

Young Shahzad seems to be exceptionally talented, and keen to explode in the World Cup.

Add to that the incredible depth in the bowling attack and you have a well rounded unit – a unit that none can write off peril.

Pakistan's World Cup squad is balanced. There aren't too many major surprises except for Mohammad Yousuf's omission. At the expense of Yousuf's experience and class have come Umar Akmal and Asad Shafiq, the two young guns who should be aiming to make this World Cup their



Imran Khan...triumph and glory



Wasim Akram...the second highest wicket-taker ever



Javed Miandad...the most appearances

With a steady batting line up that is a blend of youth and experience and a bowling posse that can attack as well as restrict, Pakistan would be feeling that they have a chance against anybody

stage, for both have loads of talent and hunger that would want to make the most of the sub-continental conditions.

Younus and Misbah would be the key factors for Pakistan. While Younus has had an average ODI series in New Zealand, he is too good a player to remain quiet for long. At the biggest stage in cricket, he would be a vital

cog in Pakistan's batting lineup. Misbah on the other hand is in the form of his life and has reignited his career. In New Zealand, he showed intelligence and calm, the must-have attributes in the World Cup cauldron. In New Zealand, his form straight down the ground was outstanding, and later in the innings he was able to improvise and pick the gaps square off the wicket at will.

He read the situations beautifully, and his intelligent knocks were a delight to watch.

Shoaib Akhtar heading the bowling attack is another good augury. His efforts against England and South Africa and then in New Zealand have been full of promise. Shoaib at his best, bowling quickly around 150 kmph, with late movement into the right-handers at closing stages, would be a very valuable asset. Then there is Umar Gul, who has matured into a world class performer. On his day, he is a match-winner. Wahab Riaz is improving day by day and will add a different angle to the bowling with his fast and whippy left-armers. Abdul Razzaq is always there with his truckloads of experience, adding all-round value.

Coming to the spinners, Pakistan has a

# Honor Board

## Pakistan's Best and Brightest

- Pakistan has won the ICC CWC on one occasion – in 1992, with Imran Khan as captain.
- Javed Miandad is the only player to appear in six ICC Cricket World Cup tournaments.
- Pakistan made the highest ICC CWC innings total without an individual century when it hit 338-5 against Sri Lanka in 1983.
- Pakistan is the only team to have won an ICC CWC match off the final delivery of the allotted overs when it defeated the West Indies in 1987.
- Imran Nazir is the joint record holder for most sixes in an innings when he struck eight of them on his way to 160 against Zimbabwe at the ICC CWC 2007.
- Saeed Anwar and Wajahatullah Wasti hold the record for the highest ICC CWC first-wicket partnership – this was achieved against New Zealand in 1999.
- Wasim Akram is the second highest wicket-taker in the ICC CWC history.

**Coach: Waqar Younis**

**Bowling Consultant: Aaqib Javed**

**Manager: Intikhab Alam**

**Assistant Manager: Shahid Aslam**



healthy conundrum. While Saeed Ajmal has been the main spinner for almost two years now, the left-armer Abdur Rehman brings another dimension with his angle and thrifty approach. And he is a capable lower order bat too. Afridi always asks tough questions with his quickish leg-spin and there is Mohammad Hafeez chipping in with vital overs and lending balance to the side.

The Pakistanis can and will take enormous

confidence after their series wins in New Zealand. Pakistan has a tendency to endure rough times both on and off the field, and bounce back quickly. But this series win was most welcome for its timing. The unity and harmony was clearly evident, making one confident that in this edition of the World Cup, Pakistan would leave behind the disappointments of the previous two in 2003 and 2007.



ICC Cricket World Cup  
2011



# 'We will feature in the semis'

## Shahid Afridi upbeat about Pakistan's prospects

Pakistan's World Cup 2011 skipper Shahid Afridi is positive that if his charges "continued to build momentum the way we have been in the last four months, we will be able to have a crack at lifting the Trophy".

Flanked by manager Intikhab Alam and coach Waqar Younis at Pakistan cricket's headquarters, Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, before leaving for Dhaka where Pakistan plays warm-up matches and participates in the opening ceremony, Afridi answered media's questions at a farewell press conference. "Pakistan could win the 10th edition of world cricket's showpiece event by maintaining the same level of intensity, enthusiasm and team spirit that was on display in its outings against South Africa in the UAE and against New Zealand in New Zealand", said Afridi in reply to a question.

Afridi said that his boys were confident of making it to the semi-finals of the World

Cup after gaining the necessary momentum in winning the ODI series against New Zealand. "I'm confident that we would play the semi-finals," said Afridi, on the eve of the team departure for Dhaka. "We just need the same level of energy and passion that we displayed in New Zealand." After being beaten in the first ODI, Pakistan secured a 3-2 win to seal a series in New Zealand for the first time in 17 years – and their first in more than two years. "There we played like a team and we could win again by maintaining the same attitude. "We would be up against the best teams of the world. There are favourites such as India, Sri Lanka, Australia and South Africa, who are all playing well. It is going to be an uphill task for us. All we need is to focus on cricket." The experienced all-rounder, who has played 312 ODIs, also hinted the team will stick to the same combination that was formed during the New Zealand series. "There's no time for experiments. Only players who didn't get enough chance will be tested in the warm-up



### 'Focus on fielding':

**Waqar Younis** "The spot-fixing case is over. That episode is now consigned to the past. The focus from now on would be on the World Cup.

"We are batting and bowling well at the moment and my main focus is on fielding, where we need to improve. The momentum is with us. The team has the potential and we have a realistic chance of winning the World Cup."

matches," said the 30-year-old while welcoming fast-bowler Junaid Khan's inclusion in place of Sohail Tanvir. "Junaid is a promising bowler who impressed everyone on the domestic circuit. Waqar's presence would help him in picking up things quickly."



# Resurgent Pakistan win first Test series in five years

After their creditably drawn series against South Africa and now a series win over New Zealand, one that has come after a pretty long five-year gap, Misbah-ul-Haq's Pakistan team will have cause for optimism.

After a long time, the Pakistani batsmen are showing signs of staying at the crease for extended periods. The draw in the second Test that sealed the series, entailed batting out three sessions and the job was accomplished comfortably, with Younis Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq leading the way.

Both Misbah and Younis are mature, experienced cricketers with steady temperaments, characteristics that are vital for a top class Test batsman. In fact, the entire Pakistan batting lineup is showing signs of maturity. Azhar Ali, Taufiq Umar and Asad Shafiq, all have shown glimpses of similar temperament. This mix of youth and experience, if managed properly, could be the nucleus of the Test team for some time to come.

Though he is in the twilight zone, should Mohammad Yousuf find his way back in favour with the selectors, Pakistan could have a batting line up that would give the bowlers enough runs to play with.

In the absence of Mohammad Aamir and Mohammad Asif, Umar Gul has been bearing the brunt of the Pakistan bowling attack. He has been ably supported by Tanvir Ahmed and Abdul Rehman. Rehman is a canny spinner who deals mostly in change of pace and variation rather than turn. He gets good pace off the wicket and should have been a regular in the team were it not for Saeed Ajmal.

## Brief Scores

Pakistan tour of New Zealand 2010/11

1st T20I: New Zealand v Pakistan at Auckland – Dec. 26, 2010

Pakistan 143 for 9 (Southee 5-18) lost to New Zealand 146 for 5 (Guptill 54) by five wickets.

2nd T20I: New Zealand v Pakistan at Hamilton – Dec. 28, 2010

New Zealand 185 for 7 (Guptill 44, Franklin 40, Ajmal 3-35) beat Pakistan 146 for 9 (Hafeez 46, McCullum 4-16) by 39 runs.

3rd T20I: New Zealand v Pakistan at Christchurch – Dec. 30, 2010

Pakistan 183 for 6 (Shehzad 54, Razaq 34\*, Franklin 2-12) beat New Zealand 80 (Styris 45, Afridi 4-14, Razaq 3-13) by 103 runs.

1st Test: New Zealand v Pakistan at Hamilton – Jan. 7-9, 2011

New Zealand 275 (Southee 56, McCullum 56, T Ahmed 4-63) and 110 (McCullum 35, Rehman 3-24, Gul 3-28) lost to Pakistan 367 (Shafiq 83, Misbah 62, Arnel 4-95) and 21 for 0 beat NZ by 10 wickets. MOM: Abdul Rehman.

2nd Test: New Zealand v Pakistan at Wellington – Jan. 15-19, 2011 New Zealand 356 (Vettori 110, Gul 4-87) and 293 (Guptill 73, Gul 4-61) drew with Pakistan 376 (Misbah 99, Martin 4-91) and 226 for 5 (Younis 81, Misbah 70\*). MOM: Misbah-ul-Haq.

Another good sign is the 'keeper Adnan Akmal, yet another model from the Akmal assembly line. With his footwork far more assured, he looks more of a natural than his brother Kamran.

An important point to note was Misbah's captaincy: his understated yet commanding style was most impressive indeed.

Another good omen for Pakistan is that there seems to be some vision, transparency and consistency in the selection process. That is one reason why most of the players that have been selected have performed well. The selectors' job is a powerful and crucial one in moulding a team's fortunes. Yet this is a job that gets more brickbats than bouquets. But since this set of selectors has done it right, one must acknowledge that.

Pakistan now play a five game ODI series against New Zealand. This would be the final opportunity for the team to settle down and play itself into an effective combination before the World Cup 2011.



The victorious Pakistan squad celebrates...series win great for bonding

## ODI Series

**1st ODI:** New Zealand v Pakistan at Wellington - Jan 22, 2011

Pakistan 124 (Misbah 50, Southee 5-33) lost to New Zealand 125 for 1 (Ryder 55) by nine wickets. MOM: Tim Southee.

**2nd ODI:** New Zealand v Pakistan at Queenstown - Jan 26, 2011

Pakistan 31 for 0 v New Zealand. Abandoned due to rain  
**3rd ODI:** New Zealand v Pakistan at Christchurch - Jan 29, 2011

Pakistan 293 for 7 (Hafeez 115, Afridi 65) beat New Zealand 250 for 9 (Styris 46, Williamson 42, Gul 2-33) by 43 runs. MOM: Mohammad Hafeez.

**4th ODI:** New Zealand v Pakistan at Napier - Feb 1, 2011  
New Zealand 262 for 7 (Franklin 62, N McCullum 53\*, Riaz 3-51) lost to Pakistan 264 for 8 (Misbah 93\*, Styris 3-40) by two wickets. MOM: Misbah-ul-Haq.

**5th ODI:** New Zealand v Pakistan at Hamilton - Feb 3, 2011

Pakistan 268 for 9 (Shehzad 115) beat New Zealand 227 (Taylor 69, Guptill 65, Riaz 3-51) by 41 runs. MOM: Ahmed Shehzad.

**6th ODI:** New Zealand v Pakistan at Auckland - Feb 5, 2011

New Zealand 311 for 7 (Ryder 107, N McCullum 65, Abdul Razaq 2-23) beat Pakistan 254 (Kamran 89, Bennett 4-46) by 57 runs. MOM: Jesse Ryder.

# Psychological advantage for Pakistan

Pakistan won the recent six-match ODI series against the Kiwis 3-2 with great degree of confidence. And since the playing conditions in the sub-continent will be much easier than those encountered in New Zealand, in that sense the victory over the Black Caps may hopefully have something of a 'force-multiplier' effect for the Pakistanis in the ICC World Cup 2011.

Misbah-ul-Haq performed head and shoulders above the rest both in the Test and ODI versions, though the youngster Ahmed Shehzad proved his mettle in making 115 in the fifth ODI. Ahmad, who has risen via the domestic cricket ranks, displayed guts and skill in his compact batting displays on the tour and may well cash in on the opportunity provided by the banned Salman Butt.

An increasingly productive Mohammad Hafeez appears set to not just calm nerves as an opener but in bowling too. Wahab Riaz too seems a promising star in the making, and he puts his all in his bowling, and could already be compared with India's leftie, Zaheer Khan. Can he become our lynchpin in the years ahead? From the little we have seen of him so far, he seems to be improving with every outing and this reflects his growing confidence at the international level.

Just as in this series, the Akmal brothers would have to temper their cavalier attitude to perform commensurate to their undoubted talent. But if only skipper Shahid Afridi is able to display only a glimmer of his past form and performances, which he did in a couple of games in New Zealand, he apart from scoring runs, could well gain the all-important psychological advantage for Pakistan during the World Cup.



Ahmed Shehzad...establishing his credentials



Review: Faysal Bank National T20 Cup

# Cricket-starved sp

## Special Report

The Faysal Bank T20 Cup final in the middle of October turned out to be a self-assuring landmark for Pakistan cricket. The sheer number of spectators, a record in domestic cricket, was indeed a triumphant vindication for Pakistan cricket.

The crowd turn out made a point that Sri Lanka attack tragedy may have left Pakistan bleeding all over, but cricket here would survive everything from Ijaz Butt's most ignominious management to the ICC's intervention.

The setting was ideal for a final when two traditional rivals met at a packed to its 25,000 capacity Gaddafi Stadium – the venue had quite

a few queuing out without luck for the space had run out. Those who had made it to the stands, or even standing room, were treated to top quality cricket.

Only if the PCB brought the ICC Task Force here and showed them that in terms of passion for the game, Pakistan had no rival, even surpassing that of India's.

The Faysal Bank T20 Cup carried all the paraphernalia the format originally promised to bring.

The old foes, Karachi Dolphins and Lahore Lions who were led by the present and former national captains, Shahid Afridi and Mohammad Yousuf, went for some fabulous hitting and the Lions emerged victorious. Interestingly this was Lahore's first title in any format in nearly two decades. The Lahore Lions first posted a



## Spectators turn it on



mammoth 221, beating Dolphins by 37 runs.

Razzaq reinforced the solid contribution of the openers Ahmed Shahzad and Nasir Jamshed that powered Lions to their second highest total of the T20 Cup, which in the end was enough, even for the strong batting line-up of the Dolphins. The three destroyed the Dolphin's dream of lifting the trophy for the first time ever – this was fourth final appearance with any success.

A total of 378 fours were hit and 106 sixes were smashed. The bounty on offer from Faysal Bank on each boundary was Rs 500 and for every six Rs 1000. And this went to the government's flood relief fund. Even before the knockout stage, a total of Rs377,500 had already been contributed to that kitty. Afterwards it increased the amount to Rs1000 for every four hit and Rs 2000-a-six for the semi-finals and finals. This resulted in a higher windfall, Rs176,000 from three games alone.

As many as 13 teams from 11 regions participated in the event. Abbottabad Rhinos came with some surprise package. Although they won just one match but they kept the other teams on their toes with their fighting spirit. The disappointment of sorts turned out to be the contenders – Sialkot Stallions and Faisalabad Wolves bowing out with just one win apiece. Peshawar Panthers, Karachi Zebras, Quetta Bears and Lahore Eagles had a 'perfect' zilch record.

Shahzaib Hasan's century in the final was the only one of the event and it also earned him a recall for the series against South Africa in the UAE along with Wahab Riaz.

Riaz was also declared the Best Bowler while Abdul Razzaq muscled his way to the top by hitting 71 in the final to claim the Man of the Final award.



Pakistan vs South Africa 2010 – Dubai, Abu Dhabi

# Pakistan stout against South Africa

After the tour of England, Pakistan played what would have been their home series against South Africa but played in the UAE due to security concerns. The horrors of the England tour were still fresh in the minds of players and fans alike. This series against a formidable South African consisted of two T20s, five ODIs and two Test matches.

Shahid Afridi was captain Pakistan for T20 and ODIs while Misbah-ul-Haq was made the captain for the Test team.

Pakistan was missing quite a few players who had played against England in the summer. Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir were missing due to the ICC's suspension owing to the spot-fixing allegations while wicketkeeper Kamran Akmal wasn't picked as he had had an appendicitis operation. The other players to miss out were Danish Kaneria and Shoaib Malik who were dropped due to poor form.

## T20I

The series started with the two T20 internationals, both of which

South Africa won comfortably by six wickets. In the first match Pakistan were all out for just 119 while South Africa chased down the target with little trouble with the loss of only four wickets. Pakistan's batting effort didn't improve much in the second game as well where they managed 120-9 which the proficient Proteas managed with six wickets still in the bag. This was Pakistan's fourth successive T20 loss and the main fault lay with the batsmen who didn't play up to their potential.

## One-day Series

Two days later the ODI series kicked off with the first game at Abu Dhabi. Batting first, Pakistan were looking good at 140-2 but in a worrisome collapse the middle order capitulated in the face of some tidy South African bowling and were all out for just 203. Mohammad Hafeez top scored with 68, while for South Africa Lonwabo Tsotsobe took 4-27. In reply South Africa had little trouble overcoming the meager target when they achieved the total in the 40th over with the loss of only two wickets.

The second game was played at the same venue and this time South Africans batted first and posted a stiff total of 286-8 built upon Colin

Ingram's even 100. In reply Pakistan were down in the dumps at 136-5 but from there on Abdul Razzaq played an innings of a lifetime as wickets kept on falling at the other end. The dashing all-rounder single handedly bludgeoned the Proteas attack, hitting 10 sixes and seven fours to score an unbeaten 109 off a mere 72 balls as he took Pakistan to victory by only one wicket.

The series came alive after the riveting second game as Dubai hosted the third ODI. South Africans batted first but were tied down by tidy Pakistani bowlers apart from Hashim Amla's magnificent unbeaten 119 no other batsmen managed more than 26 as Shoaib Akhtar bowled well taking 3-39 with South Africa managing 228-9. Pakistani reply wasn't smooth either as wickets kept falling on regular intervals. Fawad Alam held the fort for Pakistan with an unbeaten 59 but wickets kept on falling regularly and Pakistan managed 226-9 in 50 overs, losing by just two runs.

With Proteas 2-1 up in the series Pakistan needed to win the fourth ODI to keep the series alive. Younus Khan set up Pakistan's successful runs chase (73 off 115 balls) and there was good support for him down the order. Pakistan always stayed ahead of the Proteas' run rate with four needed of the last over, which they achieved with the last pair at the crease Pakistan drew the series 2-2 with another nail-biting finish.

The final game was also played in Dubai. This time round South Africans gave a solid batting performance, piling up a huge 317-5 with Jacques Kallis leading the way with 83. In reply, Pakistan were off to a good start as Mohammad Hafeez (59) and Shahzaib Hasan (39) added 82 runs for the first wicket. However, the introduction of Jacques Kallis turned the tide for Proteas as he picked up three wickets including the two bigwigs Younus and Mohammad Yousuf as Pakistan's chase dwindled. Umar Akmal put up some resistance with 60 but the required rate kept on creeping and wickets kept on falling as Pakistan were all out for 260 to lose by 57 runs as South Africa won the match and took the series 3-2. Pakistan made a reasonable effort in the series and took Proteas to the wire but in the end Graeme Smith and his men proved to be the superior side in the end.

## Test rubber

Having won the ODI leg of the tour, South Africans were keen to repeat it in the five-day format. Pakistan, on the other hand not having won a Test rubber for quiet a while, intended to make a fist of it under new captain Misbah ul Haq. In the first Test at Dubai, the Proteas batted first and were contained to 380 despite a superb opening stand of 153 between Graeme Smith (100) and Alviro Petersen (67). Taking three wickets apiece, Umar Gul and Abdur Rehman bowled well for Pakistan.

Pakistan's reply was not much impressive. An opening stand of 105 between Mohammad Hafeez (60) and Taufeeq Umar (42) was frittered away. As Morne Morkel found his rhythm to notch a five-for 54, Pakistan tottered to a wholly insufficient 248.

Pakistan was given another lesson in batting with Jacques Kallis (135\*) and Hashim Amla (118\*) stroked centuries to allow Smith the luxury of declaring at 318-2, setting Pakistan a highly improbable 451 to win. Pakistan lost its openers early but Younis Khan held fort to ward off the threat with a positive unbeaten 131, with valiant support from skipper Misbah's unconquered 76 and Azhar Ali's 63. Pakistan batted out the final day, and as the game meandered to a draw scoreboard read 343-3.

Despite debutant Tanvir Ahmed's 6-120, on another flat track in Abu Dhabi, built mainly around AB de Villiers' career-best 278, the Proteas posted a mammoth 584-9 declared. Kallis also chipped in with a fine 105.

With the middle order getting amongst the runs – four half centuries by Azhar Ali (90), Misbah ul Haq (77), Asad Shafiq (61) and Abdur Rehman (60) – Pakistan replied well by making 434, as Dale Steyn took 4-98. Proteas in the second outing searched for quick runs to declare early. That they did at 203-5, setting Pakistan 354 to win. Time was short and despite the loss of three wickets in quick succession, Misbah (58) and



Younis Khan... magnificent comeback hundred

## Brief Scores

### Pakistan v South Africa T20I Series 2010/11

**1st T20I: Pakistan v South Africa at Abu Dhabi – Oct. 26, 2010** Pakistan 119 (Tsotsobe 3-16, Botha 3-31) lost to South Africa 120 for 4 (Ingram 46\*, Duminy 41, Akhtar 2-29) by six wickets. MOM: JP Duminy.

**2nd T20I: Pakistan v South Africa at Abu Dhabi – Oct. 27, 2010** Pakistan 120 for 9 (Theron 4-27) lost to South Africa 125 for 4 (Smith 38, Ingram 32, Duminy 20\*) by six wickets. MOM: J Theron, MOS: J Botha.

### Pakistan v South Africa ODI Series 2010/11

**1st ODI: Pakistan v South Africa at Abu Dhabi – Oct. 29, 2010** Pakistan 203 (Hafeez 68, Younus 54, Tsotsobe 4-27) lost to South Africa 207 for 2 (Kallis 66 ret'd, de Villiers 51) by eight wickets. MOM: LL Tsotsobe.

**2nd ODI: Pakistan v South Africa at Abu Dhabi – Oct. 31, 2010** South Africa 286 for 8 (Ingram 100, Amla 65, Duminy 54, Wahab 2-43) lost to Pakistan 289 for 9 (Razzaq 109\*, Afridi 49, Alam 48) by one wicket. MOM: Abdul Razzaq.

**3rd ODI: Pakistan v South Africa at Dubai – Nov. 2, 2010** South Africa 228 for 9 (Amla 119\*, Akhtar 3-39) beat Pakistan 226 for 9 (Fawad 59\*, Morne Morkel 4-47) by two runs. MOM: HM Amla.

**4th ODI: Pakistan v South Africa at Dubai – Nov. 5, 2010** South Africa 274 for 6 (Smith 92, Hafeez 2-37) lost to Pakistan 275 for 9 (Younus 73, Hafeez 42, M Morkel 3-48) by one wicket. MOM: Younus Khan.

**5th ODI: Pakistan v South Africa at Dubai – Nov 8, 2010** South Africa 317 (Kallis 83, Amla 62, Afridi 2-59) beat Pakistan 260 (Akmal 60, Hafeez 59, Kallis 3-30) by 57 runs. MOM: JH Kallis, MOS: HM Amla.

### Pakistan v South Africa Test Series 2010/11

**1st Test: Pakistan v South Africa at Dubai – Nov. 12-16, 2010** South Africa 380 (Smith 100, Amla 80, Gul 3-100) and 318 for 2 dec. (Amla 118\*, Kallis 135\*) drew with Pakistan 248 (Hafeez 60, Azhar 56, M Morkel 5-54) and 343 for 3 (Younus 131\*, Misbah 76\*). MOM: Younis Khan.

**2nd Test: Pakistan v South Africa at Abu Dhabi – Nov 20-24, 2010** South Africa 584 (de Villiers 278, Kallis 105, Tanvir 6-120) and 203 for 5 dec. (Amla 62, Prince 47\*, Abdur Rehman 3-81) drew with Pakistan 434 (Azhar 90, Shafiq 61, Rehman 60, Steyn 4-98) and 153 for 3 (Misbah 58\*). MOM: AB de Villiers, MOS: JH Kallis.

Azhar Ali (28) managed to bat out as Pakistan ended at 153-3. The series ended in a draw but Pakistan would have gained much confidence as despite having a weak side they managed to remain unbeaten against a top notch Test side like South Africa.



Review – Quaid Trophy Final 2010-11

# The future is Orange

## Habib Bank triumph breaks 22 - year old jinx

For the first time in the country's domestic cricket history the final of the premier domestic tournament, the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, was played under lights with an orange-coloured ball in operation.

The PCB has been putting increased focus on making the domestic cricket structure more entertaining and competitive.

The tournament was played under a new format with the participating teams split into two divisions with relegation and promotion at stake for the top and bottom-placed teams.

From January 13 to 17, the domestic powerhouses Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and Habib Bank Limited (HBL) faced off in the day-night final at the National Stadium, Karachi.

Testing out the new ball and conditions, PIA opted to bat first. The HBL seam attack made early inroads while leg-spinner Danish Kaneria skittled the lower order out for 228.

The PIA captain Kamran Sajid held up one end, and his dogged innings of 90 prevented a total collapse. In reply, HBL rallied around a superb century from Imran Farhat to post 313 for a first innings lead of 85 runs. In their second outing, the PIA batsmen failed to build on some solid starts and managed just 319, setting a victory target of 235 for the bankers.

The HBL was in trouble as they lost three top order wickets including Farhat with the score yet to touch 60. However, opener Aftab Alam and skipper Hasan Raza ensured that there were no further hiccups as the bankers won the Quaid-i-Azam Trophy for the first time since 1977-78. The experiment with the new ball and day night conditions was appreciated by all.

The ICC General Manager Cricket Dave Richardson also specially flew in to witness the final. It is safe to say that with the success of the final, the new orange coloured ball, and day-night format has a bright future in the longer version of the game.



Faysal Bank One Day National Cup Division One

# HBL complete the magnificent double

After winning the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Division One, Habib Bank Limited (HBL) completed the rare and magnificent double when it defeated National Bank of Pakistan (NBP) in the final of Faysal Bank One-day National Cup Division One at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore.

In an all-bank final, the HBL won the toss and elected to bat first. Built upon solid contributions by Shan Masood (76 off 81 balls) and veteran Salim Elahi (63 off 90 balls), HBL posted a more than reasonable 273-9. For National Bank, seamer Uzair-ul-Haq took 4-55.

On its turn, National Bank batsmen had simply no answer to the tight seam bowling of seasoned seamer Shahid Nazir as he took the first four wickets to fall including recognized domestic players like Nasir Jamshed, Umar Amin and Rashid Riaz as NBP were soon tottering at 44-4. The Pakistan ODI player Fawad Alam made a valiant knock of 82 but with little support from the other end he too fell trying to consolidate as NBP innings was wrapped up for 209 in the 44th over, Habib Bank winning its second major title of the season by 64 runs. Shahid Nazir was named man of the match for his fine spell of 4-22.

Earlier in the two semi-finals, Habib Bank defeated Water and Power

## Brief Scores

### Final at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

Habib Bank Limited 273-9 (Shan Masood 76, Salim Elahi 63, Uzair-ul-Haq 4-55) beat National Bank of Pakistan (Fawad Alam 82, Shahid Nazir 4-22) by 64 runs. Player of the Final: Shahid Nazir (HBL)

### Second Semi-final at Iqbal Stadium, Faisalabad

National Bank of Pakistan 248-7 (Sarmad Bhatti 73\*, Mohammad Talha 49, Anwar Ali 4-37) beat Pakistan International Airlines 216 all out (Shoaib Khan snr 71, Uzair-ul-Haq 4-44) by 32 runs.

### First Semi-final at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

Water and Power Development Authority 205 all out (Sohaib Maqsood 87, Fahad Masood 2-24) lost to Habib Bank Limited 206-3 (Imran Farhat 89) by seven wickets.

Development Authority (WAPDA) to qualify for the finals while National Bank defeated Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to contest for the title.

It was a good tournament overall in which domestic players got a good chance to showcase their talents while playing with some of the first team discards. With 476 runs at 79.33, Imran Farhat of Habib Bank was the highest run-getter of the tournament. National Bank's attack duo Mohammad Talha and Uzair-ul-Haq ended as the tournament's joint highest wicket-takers, both bracketed with 21 wickets apiece in seven games.



Faisal Iqbal... captain of the Pakistan 'A' team

# Testing the backup talent

Pakistan A's tour to the Caribbean was a great opportunity to have an update on the bench strength's skill-set and temperament

The purpose of raising the national 'A' teams is to prepare the backup for the senior outfits, in order to create talent that could fill the gap once there is a need. That is why all cricketing setups give 'A' teams the importance that is its due. And it has over the years turned out to be a valuable resource for selectors to gauge the depth in their cricketing setups.

In this context, the Pakistan 'A's tour of the West Indies turned out to good in terms of assessing the players on the cusp of national selection. Faisal Iqbal was named as captain of a side that consisted of players who had made an impact on the domestic circuit and were considered as future prospects for the senior outfit.

The tour began with Pakistan and West Indies clashing in two T20 contests. Perhaps owing to the Pakistanis lack of familiarity with the conditions and the superb form exhibited by the hosts, both games were won by the West Indies. The first game of the one-day series brought the tour to life as it ended in a thrilling tie. Batting first, the Pakistan lineup failed to take advantage of the solid start provided by openers Umair Khan and Khurram Manzoor, and finished with a score of 227-9. But fast bowler Anwar Ali made early inroads into the Windies to bring Pakistan back in the game. Despite a defiant 89 from Kirk Edwards, the West Indies failed to overtake Pakistan, and at the finish nothing separated the two sides.

Perhaps having acclimatised to the conditions by now, the Pakistan 'A' squad then won both the following matches to take the series 2-0. In the second game, the Pakistani side managed a low total of 172 however their left arm combination of fast bowler Junaid Khan and spinner Zulifqar Babar destroyed the Windies lineup to give Pakistan a huge 71 run victory. The last game was rain affected and being set a target of 166 in 27 overs the Pakistanis were in deep trouble at 32-4. However batsman Aamer Sajjad and Captain Faisal Iqbal rose to the challenge, striking fifties as Pakistan achieved the target in the final over.

Two four-day Tests followed the one-day and T20 series. In the first game rain badly affected conditions and both sides could not complete their first innings. With over two days lost to rain, quite predictably the game petered out in a draw. The second Test, first innings saw Pakistan bowled out for 261. The West Indies then piled on the pressure as they put up a score of 357 in reply. Khurram Manzoor and skipper Faisal Iqbal then dropped anchor as Pakistan ensured that a fighting draw.

The tour displayed the ability of the backup talent of both countries to perform under pressure. For Pakistan, Khurram Manzoor, Faisal Iqbal, Junaid Khan, Yasir Shah, and Zulifqar Babar showed tremendous promise. It can be safely said that Pakistan and West Indies cricket both seem set to benefit from the talents of the players on display in the series.



## PCB's reaction to ICC Tribunal's verdict

# 'Regrettable but a sad reality'

In its official reaction on the ICC Tribunal's banning of three of its cricketers on charges of spot-fixing February 5, the PCB has termed the verdict "as regrettable and a sad reality which must be faced".

The press release continued: "The PCB has full confidence in the process followed by the tribunal culminating in the sanctions on the three players under the ICC Anti-Corruption Code." In August 2010, when this issue surfaced the three players were under contract with the PCB. As their employer, the PCB provided them with legal support in the United Kingdom at that time. However, after they were provisionally suspended by ICC under the Anti-Corruption Code, the players had to face the Tribunal in their individual capacity.

"The PCB thereafter implemented the clause 4.6.4 of the ICC Anti-

Corruption Code which states that no player may play, coach or otherwise participate or be involved in any capacity in any international match or any other kind of match, function, event or activity during the period of Provisional Suspension." The PCB Chairman Mr. Ijaz Butt said: "The time since August last when spot-fixing came to light, has been an extremely painful one for Pakistan cricket. I now hope that this unfortunate saga is put to rest and we can concentrate on cricket. We will continue to work with the ICC on this sensitive matter in future also. We will also see how we can help the three players with their education and rehabilitation programme." The PCB, said the press release, if required will make further comments after reviewing the detailed judgment of the Anti-Corruption Tribunal.

## Younis achieves 6,000 ODI run milestone



Younis Khan became the eighth Pakistani and 42nd batsman overall to score 6,000 runs in limited-overs international cricket. The right-handed batsman from Mardan, achieved his feat during his 21-run knock in the fifth match of the six-match series against New Zealand at Seddon Park, Hamilton on February 3. It was 205th innings of his 212th appearance in an ODI. The former Pakistani captain who made his international debut against Sri Lanka at Karachi on February 13, 2000, took 10 years and 355 days to reach this milestone. Other Pakistani batsmen who have achieved the landmark are: Inzamam-ul-Haq (11,739 runs in 350 matches), Mohammed Yousuf (9,720 runs/288 matches), Saeed Anwar (8,824 runs/247 matches), Javed Miandad (7,381 runs/233 matches), Salim Malik (7,170 runs/283 matches), Ijaz Ahmed (6,564 runs/250 matches) and Shahid Afridi (6539 runs/ 311 matches).



16th Asian Games 2010 at Guangzhou

# Pakistan women's team makes the nation proud

## Our girls clinch surprise gold while men finish with bronze

The Pakistani women cricketers wrapped themselves in glory at Guangzhou by clinching the first-ever gold on the game's debut in the premier Asian sporting spectacle.

The men's team, favourite to clinch the title, finished third on the podium after losing to Afghanistan in the semi-final.

Our girls in green did it with a measure of aplomb, coasting to victory without the loss of a wicket. In fact, such was the dominance of our women that in four wins on course to the title, only as many wickets were lost. This was impressive stuff.

Though it remains a point of conjecture whether Pakistan would have risen up to the gold standard had better endowed outfits like India and Sri Lanka been in the field, still it should not detract anything from the win. The performance is indeed significant and may inspire our women to achieve even greater feats.

The victory handed Pakistan its first gold of these Games and prevented Bangladesh from claiming its first ever. Japan won the bronze match by beating hosts China by seven wickets.

"It is a great achievement... We made history," said captain Sana Mir, after defeating Bangladesh by 10 wickets in the tournament's final.

"Women in Pakistan are very strong and they are encouraged to be involved in sports and that's the reason why the team could make it this far," she added.

"I couldn't be more proud of the girls," said Syed Arif Hasan, president of the Pakistan Olympic Association, after presenting the gold medals. "Everyone is so excited about it back home."

Pakistan, the tournament's No 1 seed, easily won its game against newcomer China by nine wickets, but that sparkling effort was not what truly impressed Mir.

"We never get this kind of media coverage... I am just so glad the sport made it to the Asian Games," said the 26-year-old Pakistan captain. "There is always TV coverage when the men's team plays in Pakistan because it is huge, but you never see us playing on big screens or TVs," she said. Team manager Ayesha Ashhar said women's cricket in Pakistan has improved rapidly over the past two to three years, thanks to an effective domestic structure which helps players to train and progress at a young age. "The team's performance at the international level wouldn't be as good as it is now without that."

President Asif Ali Zardari announced award of Rs.500,000 rupees (about 5,900 U.S. dollars) each to the players of the team

President Zardari announced the cash award at a reception hosted for the team players at the Presidency to felicitate them on their win.

"Ours is a talented nation," said the President, "with potential to rise in every field. The important factor is how the talent is groomed and guided to maximise its true potential."

Zardari, while interacting with the team members, congratulated them for their historic victory and hoped that they would continue to make their mark in the field and win more laurels for themselves and the country.

He said that the whole nation was proud of the young athletes not only for their victory but also for introducing Pakistani women as a symbol of talent and great potential.