

# Pakistan Cricket



## The Kings of Asia

Pakistan prevails in the attritional battle of continental supremacy

A look back at the Asia Cup, scrutinising the performances of each of the four sides, with special emphasis on Pakistan holding their nerve at crunch time to notch up another memorable Asian triumph

In major international tournaments there is nothing more important than the end result. And for a team that has just been crowned the kings of Asia – the continent from wherein the previous World Cup traced its three semi-finalists, including the winner – it is quite an achievement.

When the fate of a victory this big rests on the final delivery of the last over of a cricket match, you know that particular moment gives terms such as ‘humdinger’ and ‘nerve-wracking’ a whole new meaning. Also, given that the two sides contesting the nail-biting finale were the lesser fancied teams out of the four participants – if the pre-tournament odds are anything to go by – the significance of those dying moments becomes all

the more humongous.

Plus, since the home side was one of those vying for continental supremacy, with the ‘winner takes all’ cliché bulging out of each of those six balls of the last Aizaz Cheema over, one could cut the tension in the atmosphere in and around the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium with a knife.

In the end it was Cheema who showed such remarkable control over his nerves, and pulled out as good a final over under pressure as you would want to see to script Pakistan’s second Asia Cup triumph in their history.

Sri Lanka, bowing out of a favourite

At the start of the tournament it was arguably the Sri Lankans who



## Cheema showed command over his nerves, and pulled out as good a final over under pressure as you would want to see to script Pakistan's second Asia Cup triumph in their history

were the favourites to lift the Asia Cup, following their exploits Down Under where they gave the number one side in the world a veritable jolt on their home turf. However, with a grand total of zero points in three matches, and also being the only side to be beaten by a bonus point margin, Sri Lanka seemed to be a good many light years away from even qualifying as their pale shadow.

Their batting came to the plate intermittently, with Mahela Jayawardene, Kumara Sangakara and Tillekaratne Dilshan at best producing a mixed bag. Even the Lasith Malinga-led bowling attack was run of the mill; and Malinga himself was regularly dispatched to all the proverbial corners of the park.

After an impressive showing in Australia, the Asia Cup capitulation must have been difficult to absorb for the Lankans.

### India, out of the finale

The time it took Sachin Tendulkar to finally score that coveted hundredth international ton made all the difference in the world for his side. The much awaited 'hundredth' for Tendulkar was finally behind him but it may have had a major say in India being dumped out of the tournament.

The ages Tendulkar took in traversing the nervous nineties and the seemingly endless eighties against Bangladesh, eventually meant that India instead of putting a total well in excess of 320 on the board was restricted to 290. A score of around 320 or thereabouts would've given even this new-look Bangladeshi batting powerhouse an intimidating mountain to climb. And of course had India not come second best in that particular match, they would've made it to the final, where they could pretty much fancy their chances against anyone.

All the same, the great man taking his time to reach the milestone might not have been such an issue had the Indian bowling sans Zaheer Khan not lack bite and penetration. And it was exploited to the maximum by the opposition by going on a run spree in the power plays and the last 10 overs.

India has easily the most daunting batting TNT in the game, and in Virat Kohli they have arguably the best young batsman in the limited-overs format. Kohli's 183 against Pakistan, which made going past the daunting 329 posted by Misbah's charges, must surely qualify as one of the great ODI innings. It's one thing scoring a huge century in ODIs but a completely different prospect doing it in a stiff run-chase in a crucial game against the archenemy.

A replay of the thrilling match in the finale may have been a mouth-watering prospect, but India couldn't make it. And it was not up to Pakistan to choose its opponent.

### Bangladesh, coming of age

The Bangladesh Premier League has worked wonders for the hitherto struggling Bangladesh squad. How a team that for ages has been the punching bag of all the Test playing nations and even as recently as December 2011 allowed Pakistan to roll them over in second gear, managed to conjure up such a blockbuster showing is beyond words. Playing with quality international stars and dealing with the pressure cooker situations day in, day out has completely rejuvenated a side that has for so long been dubbed as the Tigers but has just now earned the sobriquet, if not







wholly, quite substantively. In players like Tamim Iqbal – who scored four half-centuries on the trot – and Nasser Hussain they have two of the most dexterous ODI batsmen, especially in the sub-continent conditions; these two should be the batting lynchpins for Bangladesh in the years to come.

Shakib-al-Hasan – the Man of the Tournament – is easily one of the best cricketers in the world right now. His economical spin bowling, combined with explosive batting, makes him an archetypal modern-day limited-overs cricketer. Watching him pulverise some of the best bowlers in world cricket is an exhilarating sight, and expect the youngsters in Bangladesh to queue up in their quest to being the next Shakib-al-Hasan. Mushfiq-ur-Rahim proved himself to be an efficient captain, a competent wicket-keeper, with a bit of a dynamite to offer in the lower order as well. Bangladesh have a formidable spinner in Abdur Razzak too. All they lack is a genuine speedster; with the only one of notable speed Shahadat Hossain perhaps a bit too wayward. It was his final over that allowed Pakistan to take their total up to 236, and that turned out to be the difference in the end.

Anyway, there's no denying that Bangladesh has finally come of age, and one felt for them after the final. Cricket was already big in Bangladesh, but their groundbreaking run in the Asia Cup would absolutely blow the lid off the game's following. Something most welcome after having spent ages prowling around the periphery of cricketing fulfillment.

## Pakistan prevails

Winning our second ever Asia Cup after 12 long years made the fans back home ecstatic. And why not, this was one of Pakistan's brightest moments, and these have indeed been so few in the last decade or so.

Of late, on the back of several successes, expectation levels from this Pakistan squad were quite high. Even so after the wobble against England in the one-day internationals and losing to India in the nerve-wracking high-scorer, there were some doubts whether Pakistan will be able to

nudge itself past the post in the final against the rejuvenated hosts who had already beaten India and Sri Lanka and egged on by their compatriots wanted to continue the giant-slaying.

It may not have been vintage Pakistan, but in a game that literally went down the wire, Pakistan held its nerve to win by the thin margin of two runs – on the last delivery. This is how razor-thin was the difference between the victor and the also-ran.

There may still be a few creases that need to be ironed out for Pakistan to stamp its authority in the upper echelons of world cricket, but we did come back with some positives from the victorious campaign. One, Nasir Jamshed has quite possibly solved one part of Pakistan's opening conundrum. Two, Hammad Azam has showcased enough to suggest that he might have what it takes to being that lower order finisher that we lacked without Abdul Razaq, with the added quality of medium-pace as well. Though on the latter, our all-round prodigy will have to work some more.

Barring half a mediocre showing in the second half against India, Pakistan were easily the best – albeit not the most flamboyant – side in the tournament.

Our bowling, again, apart from the India match, was the principal protagonist of our success, and Cheema's impressive spell at the death in the final has vindicated his presence amongst possibly the most daunting bowling repertoire in the game. The middle order batting had its moments, some of them quite remarkable, with the old guard in Younus Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq reasserting its authority. Umar Akmal still seemed to be stuck in that no man's land between 'promising talent' and 'established batsman', but there were signs that this protracted transition would soon be over.

And to cap it, it was a good initiation for Dav Whatmore. He may have a few plans of his own for the forthcoming events, with a special eye on the tour of Sri Lanka in May and the Twenty20 World Cup in the Pearl Islands again in September.





Pakistan vs England Test Series 2012 UAE

# Whitewashed!

Enduring their nadir in the summer of 2010, it was poetic justice that Pakistan traced its zenith against the same side in one of the great moments in the history of our cricket

Pakistani spinners made a formidable batting lineup on paper look like rookies. Our awesome twosome of Saeed Ajmal and Abdur Rehman tormented the England's batting lineup throughout, returning rich series hauls of 24 and 19 wickets respectively. Ajmal was a special cause of concern for England, as the spinning maestro fittingly received the Man of the Series award owing to spellbinding bowling displays right from the word go.

And when it wasn't these two it was quite often Mohammed Hafeez (five wickets) who provided important breakthroughs while England's insipid approach towards batting was there for all to see throughout the series.

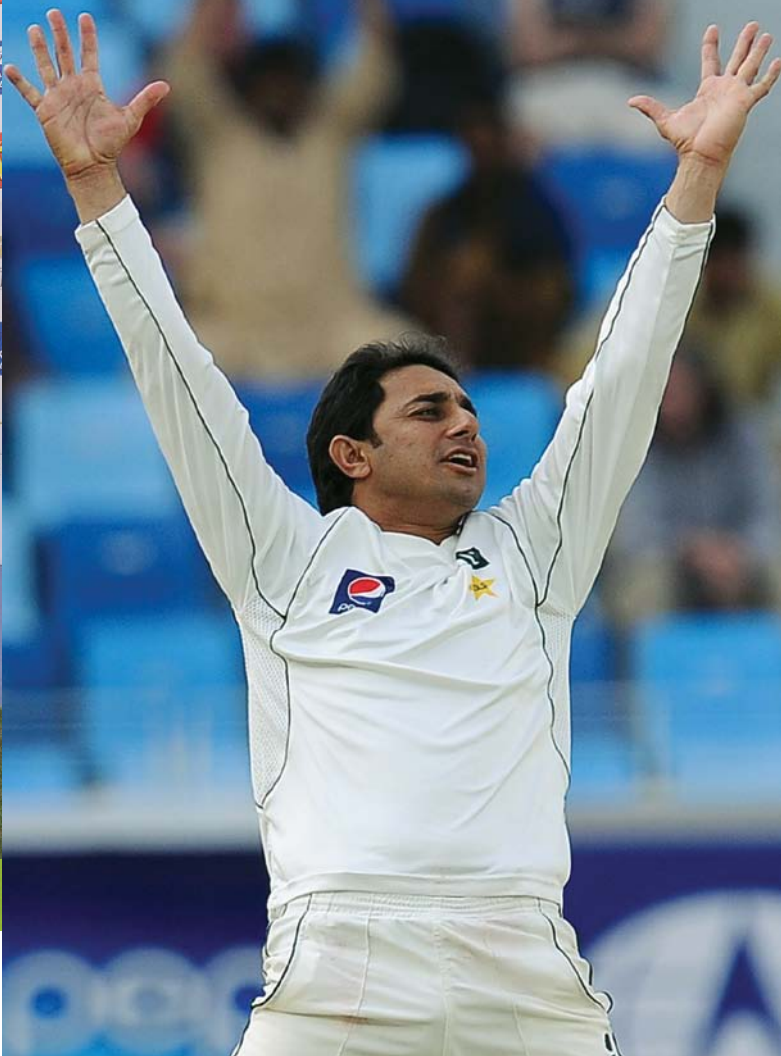
The series was the quintessential example of poetic justice. In the

summer of 2010 Pakistan had to traverse what was inarguably their cricketing nadir as three of our cricketers were accused, found guilty of spot-fixing and later punished. How fitting then, that our side traced its zenith against the same squad, against which it had to endure its lowest point. And 'zenith' is no misnomer. As far as triumphs in the realm of Test cricket are concerned, this 3-0 whitewash over the world's top team ranks amongst the biggest conquests ever for Pakistan. We humbled the numero uno, and did that courtesy the best spinning repertoire in the game.

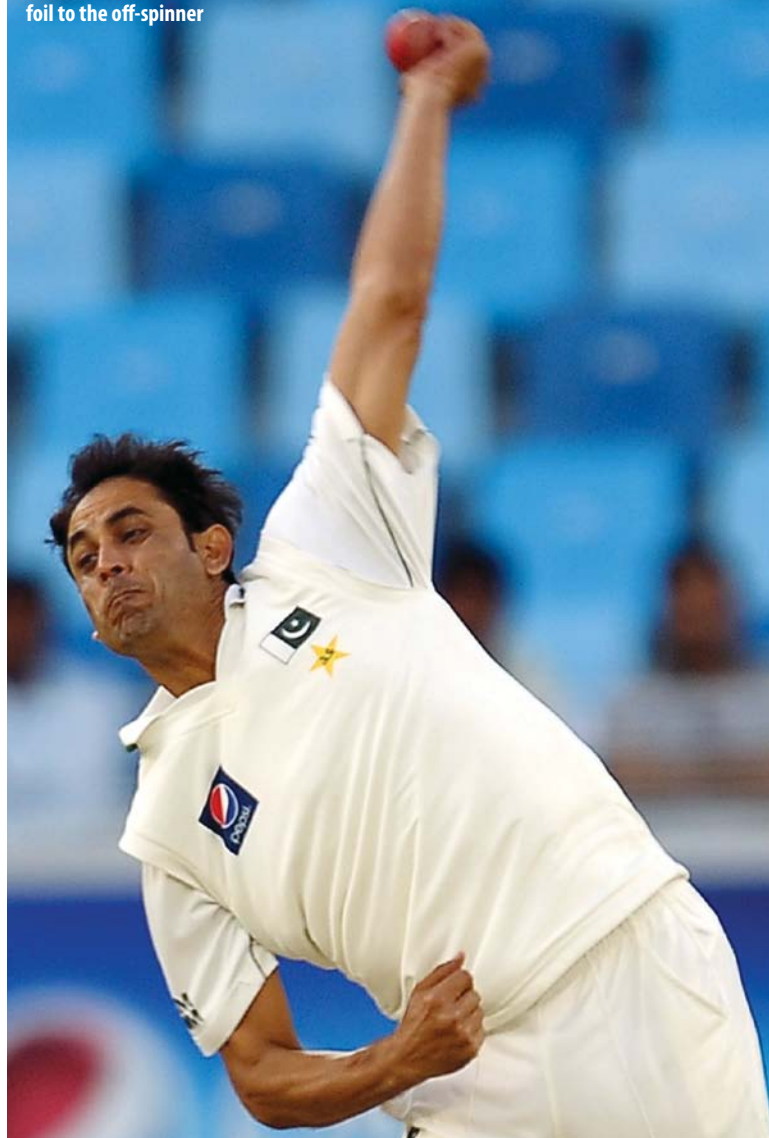
Though the spinners were in the vanguard of Pakistan cricket's recent upsurge in the international arena, the biggest credit in the turnaround in fortunes for our side undoubtedly goes to the captain. Misbah-ul-Haq has injected a welcome element of steadiness, calm, consistency and



**Saeed Ajmal: English batsmen failed to decipher his doosra**



**Abdur Rehman: The perfect foil to the off-spinner**



dependability in our team. In a prime example of leading from the front, Misbah's warrior-like innings in the second Test kept us in the game before Azhar Ali and Asad Shafiq in the second innings stood up when it was most needed.

Overall the batting might not have been as daunting as the bowling, but when the push came to shove one of our batsmen was always there slugging it out. Twice, in the second and third Test matches, it was Azhar Ali who played the decisive knocks and Asad Shafiq too played crucial innings to lead the team out of strife. The partnership of these two youngsters when Pakistan was under the gun in the second Test showcased a lot of mettle and the ability to cope with escalating pressure when the opposition is on the up. One feels that these two are going to be the backbone of our middle order in Test cricket for years to come.

Even if one ignores the recent crises, the win in the Middle East was one of our finest hours in cricket for about a decade, save perhaps the ICC Twenty20 World Cup win in 2009. Completely

## Brief Scores

### **First Test: England v Pakistan at Dubai (DSC) – Jan. 17-19, 2012**

England 192 (Prior 70\*, Ajmal 7-55) and 160 (Trott 49, Gul 4-63) lost to Pakistan 338 (Hafeez 88, Akmal 61, Swann 4-107) and 15 for 0 by 10 wickets. **MOM:** Saeed Ajmal.

### **Second Test: England v Pakistan at Abu Dhabi – Jan. 25-28, 2012**

Pakistan 257 (Misbah 84, Shafiq 58, Broad 4-47) and 214 (Azhar 68, Shafiq 43, Panesar 6-62) beat England 327 (Cook 94, Broad 58\*, Ajmal 4-108) and 72 (Rehman 6-25, Ajmal 3-22) by 72 runs. **MOM:** Abdur Rehman.

### **Third Test: England v Pakistan at Dubai (DSC) – Feb. 3-6, 2012**

Pakistan 99 (Broad 4-36) and 365 (Azhar 157, Panesar 5-124) beat England 141 (Strauss 56, Rehman 5-40) and 252 (Prior 49\*, Gul 4-61, Ajmal 4-67) by 71 runs. **MOM:** Azhar Ali, **MOS:** Saeed Ajmal.

dominating the number one side in the world, making a strong batting lineup look like school kids, becoming only the second side in the history of cricket to win the match after being bowled out for less than one hundred in the first innings and reemerging as a veritable cricketing power Team Misbah has pulled a rabbit, a giraffe and an elephant out of the proverbial hat in the Gulf. And all this without playing cricket at home for over three years now. This is why

Pakistan deserves all the praise in the world.

But one must never forget that with highs, come lows, and we must be wary of complacency – something that Misbah has been keen on ensuring. It is only the beginning and there is a lot of hard work ahead. The team has made the nation proud, but they must remember something that Imran Khan once said, “Good teams learn from their defeats, but great teams learn from their victories.”

Magnificent knocks:  
Two centuries apiece by  
Alastair Cook and Kevin  
Pietersen decisively shut  
Pakistan out in all the  
four one-dayers



# England repays the compliment

## Having been 'Greenwashed' in the Tests, the English side blanks out Pakistan in the ODIs

After the euphoria of the Test 'greenwash', the reversal in the ODIs came as a shock. Since the English side had been comprehensively beaten in the traditional format it was widely believed that they would struggle against our spinners, in particular Saeed Ajmal, in the shorter format as well. However, it was Alastair Cook who led from the front in the ODIs, and along with Kevin Pietersen – who finally managed to regain his best form; and how! – laid the foundation of the 4-0 mauling of Pakistan. Both the English openers contributed two hundreds each, and put their earlier uncertainty facing the spinners behind them.

In the first ODI it was Cook's century that ensured that England posted a daunting total of 260/7, and in reply Pakistan crumbled for merely half the total giving England a much needed triumph to put the visitors on board on the tour. Also, the 130 run defeat re-instilled much needed confidence in the English side, which only gathered momentum in the remaining three ODIs. The second ODI proved to be a close affair, and chasing a similar target of 251, Pakistani batting fared much better, only to fall short at the most crucial time towards the end. Alastair Cook scored another century and was ably supported by Ravi Bopara's fifty to guide the team to 250/4. In reply Pakistan failed to build meaningful partnerships and 47 each from Imran Farhat and Captain Misbah-ul-Haq, were the highlights of an otherwise below par scorecard as Pakistan ended up with 230 – losing out by 20 runs.

Staring down the barrel in the third ODI, Pakistan batted first this time round and managed to crawl up to a total of 222, after Steven Finn and Stuart Broad had run through the top order. Half centuries each from Umar Akmal and Shahid Afridi brought some sort of respectability to the score. All the same, England overtook the total in next to no time, with a 170 odd run opening stand between Cook (80) and Pietersen (111) allowing England to cruise home with nine wickets to spare in 37.2 overs.

Pakistan's batting again faltered in the last ODI, and ended up with a

### Brief Scores

#### One-day Internationals:

**1st ODI at Dubai, Feb. 13:** England 260/7 (Cook 137, Ajmal 5/43); Pakistan 130 (Afridi 28, Finn 4/34). **Result:** England beat Pakistan by 130 runs.

**2nd ODI at Dubai, Feb. 15:** England 250/4 (Cook 102, Cheema 2/49); Pakistan 230 (Misbah 47, Finn 4/35). **Result:** England beat Pakistan by 20 runs.

**3rd ODI at Abu Dhabi, Feb. 81:** Pakistan 222 (Afridi 51, Finn 3/24); England 226/1 (Pietersen 111\*, Ajmal 1/40). **Result:** England beat Pakistan by nine wickets with 12.4 overs to spare.

**4th ODI at Abu Dhabi, Feb. 21:** Pakistan 237 (Shafiq 65, Dernbach 4/45); England 241/6 (Pietersen 130, Ajmal 3/62). **Result:** England win by four wickets with four balls to spare.

#### Twenty20 Internationals:

##### 1st T20I at Dubai, Feb. 23:

Pakistan 144/6 (20/20 ov) beat England 136/6 (20/20 ov) by 8 runs.

##### 2nd T20I at Dubai, Feb. 25:

England 150/7 (20/20 ov) beat Pakistan 112 (18.2/20 ov) by 38 runs.

##### 3rd T20I at Abu Dhabi, Feb. 27:

England 129/6 (20/20 ov) beat Pakistan 124/6 (20/20 ov) by 5 runs.

total of 237, batting first with Azhar Ali (58) and Asad Shafiq (68) scoring half centuries each. The fourth match proved to be the best fought of the lot and it went down to the final over. However, Kevin Pietersen's 130 runs had done enough to allow the lower middle order to scamper home, and thus seal the 4-0 whitewash over Pakistan.

It was a consistent and professional display from the English team, who proved their mettle and grit in bouncing back after the mauling in the Tests to present a whitewash of their own.

The subsequent three-match Twenty20 series too turned out to be a damp squib for Pakistan, though it won the middle of the three games but the self-assurance and authority of the Test rubber was somehow missing.





Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Division-I 2011-12

# One-sided in the end

## PIA eases to nine wicket win

**P**akistan International Airlines (PIA) won the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Cricket Tournament defeating Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited (ZTBL) by nine wickets to claim their seventh title on the fourth day of the five-day encounter, the final of the domestic Division-I at the National Stadium, Karachi.

This season's event was actually the 56th edition of this tournament, as during four seasons the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Championship could not be held for various reasons. The competition has been contested sometimes by regional teams, sometimes by departments, and sometimes by a mixture of the two. Karachi teams have won the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 19 times, PIA seven, National Bank five, the Lahore teams and United Bank four apiece, Peshawar, Bahawalpur, Punjab, Railways and Habib Bank twice each while ADBP, Faisalabad and Sialkot once apiece.

Chasing 108, PIA lost only one wicket with Agha Sabir top-scoring with 40 runs. Kamran Sajid (34) and Sharyar Ghani (36) being the other prominent scorers.

Earlier, the PIA bowlers spearheaded by Anwar Ali and backed by Ali Imran Pasha and Najaf Shah destroyed the ZTBL batting in a dramatic display in the last session of third day in the second innings.

Medium pacer Anwar emerged as the main architect of their win ending the match with a haul of eight wickets for 86 runs and being named

player of the final. PIA needed just 21.4 overs for their win.

Their other title-winning feats were achieved in 1969-70, 1979-80, 1987-88, 1989-90, 1999-2000 and 2002-03.

They took just two balls to wrap up ZTBL's second-innings for a mere 70 before their top order wasted little time in chasing down the target of 107, for the loss of opener Kamran Sajid.

ZTBL had not added to their overnight score of 70 when Anwar Ali had Iftikhar Anjum caught to claim his eight wicket of the match.

Then, with Agha Sabir playing the anchor role, Sajid went after the ZTBL bowlers, smashing eight fours in his 34 that came off just 29 balls. He was dismissed by Sohail Tanvir but Sheharyar Ghani made sure there would be no respite for the bowlers. He remained unbeaten with a 34-ball 36, while Agha Sabir atoned for his first-innings duck by contributing 40 off 65 balls with the help of five boundaries.

Earlier, PIA skipper Kamran Sajid had set the tone for a decisive outcome of what provided an anti-climax conclusion to a pulsating game which was within the control of the Imran Nazir-led ZTBL side for the best part of the first three days.

But Kamran led from the front in the chase for the target and stroked eight boundaries in a breezy 29-ball 34 until TV umpire Shozab Raza was called in to signal the end of his innings by confirming that the ball had



## Quaid-e-Azam Trophy Roll of Honor

1953/54 Bahawalpur; 1954/55 Karachi; 1956/57 Punjab; 1957/58 Bahawalpur; 1958/59 Karachi; 1959/60 Karachi; 1961/62 Karachi Blues; 1962/63 Karachi A; 1963/64 Karachi Blues; 1964/65 Karachi Blues; 1965/66 Karachi Blues; 1966/67 Karachi; 1967/68 Karachi; 1968/69 Lahore; 1969/70 PIA; 1970/71 Karachi Blues; 1972/73 Pakistan Railways; 1973/74 Pakistan Railways; 1974/75 Punjab A; 1975/76 National Bank; 1976/77 United Bank; 1977/78 Habib Bank; 1978/79 National Bank; 1979/80 PIA; 1980/81 United Bank; 1981/82 National Bank; 1982/83 United Bank; 1983/84 National Bank; 1984/85 United Bank; 1985/86 Karachi; 1986/87 National Bank; 1987/88 PIA; 1988/89 ADBP; 1989/90 PIA; 1990/91 Karachi Whites; 1991/92 Karachi Whites; 1992/93 Karachi Whites; 1993/94 Lahore; 1994/95 Karachi Blues; 1995/96 Karachi Blues; 1996/97 Lahore; 1997/98 Karachi Blues; 1998/99 Peshawar; 1999/00 PIA; 2000/01 Lahore Blues; 2001/02 Karachi Whites; 2002/03 PIA; 2003/04 Faisalabad; 2004/05 Peshawar; 2005/06 Sialkot; 2006/07 Karachi Urban; 2007/08 SNGPL; 2008/09 Sialkot; 2009/10 Karachi Blues; 2010/11 Habib Bank; 2011/12 PIA

## Points Table

Teams	Mat	Won	Lost	Tied	Draw	Abd	Pts
PIA	11	6	1	0	4	0	57
ZTB L	11	6	4	0	1	0	57
WAPDA	11	6	3	1	1	0	53
State Bank	11	5	3	0	3	0	47
National Bank	11	4	1	0	6	0	41
Sialkot	11	4	4	0	3	0	39
Karachi Blues	11	4	5	0	2	0	36
Rawalpindi	11	4	5	0	2	0	36
Habib Bank	11	4	4	1	2	0	35
Abbottabad	11	3	7	0	1	0	27
Islamabad	11	2	4	0	5	0	27
Faisalabad	11	1	8	0	2	0	12

\*\*\*Two Top teams qualify for the final

## Prize Distribution:

Winner	(PIA)	Rs.1,000,000/-
Runners up	(ZTBL)	Rs.500,000/-
Man of the Final Match	(Anwar Ali-PIA)	Rs.50,000/-
Best Batsman	(Afaq Rahim-Islamabad)	Rs.50,000/-
Best Bowler	(Ali Imran Pasha-PIA)	Rs.50,000/-
Best Fielder	(Shahid Yousuf-ZTBL)	Rs.50,000/-
Best Wicketkeeper	(Zulqarnain-ZTBL)	Rs.50,000/-

## The Final: Brief Scores

**20,21,22, 23 December 2011 - day/night (5-day match)**

**ZTBL, 1st innings 337 in 120.3 overs:** (Sharjeel Khan 24, Imran Nazir 0, Yasir Hameed 80, 93 balls, 15 x4s, 1 x6s, Shahid Yousuf 13, Haris Sohail 112, 282 balls, 16 x4s, Zohaib Khan 21, Sohail Tanvir 6, Zulqarnain 36, 188 balls, 5 x4s, Junaid Zia 17, Iftikhar Anjum 11, Najaf Shah 1-45, Anwar Ali 4-55, Kamran Sajid 2-56, Akhtar Waheed 2-113)

**2nd innings: 70 in 27.2 overs** (Sharjeel Khan 8, Imran Nazir 8, Yasir Hameed 19, Shahid Yousuf 0, Haris Sohail 19, Zulqarnain 0, Sohail Tanvir 0, Najaf Shah 3-19, Anwar Ali 4-31, Ali Imran Pasha 3-16)

**PIA, 1st innings: 300 in 106.1 overs** (Agha Sabir 0, Kamran Sajid 13, Shaharyar Ghani 29, Faisal Iqbal 13, Fahad Iqbal 61, 119 balls, 10 x4s, Shoaib Khan 61, 157 balls, 7 x4s, Sarfraz Ahmed 70, 91 balls, 8 x4s, Sohail Tanvir 3-82, Rehan Riaz 3-44, Iftikhar Anjum 4-78)

**2nd innings: 110-1 in 21.2 overs** (Agha Sabir 40\*, 65 balls, 5 x4s, Kamran Sajid 34, 29 balls, 8 x4s, Shaharyar Ghani 36\*, 34 balls, 7 x4s)

**Toss:** PIA; **Result:** PIA won by nine wickets.

**Umpires:** Zameer Haider and Ahsan Raza; **Third Umpire:** Shozab Raza; **Referee:** Khateeb Rizwan





Named after Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, the Trophy was introduced in 1953 to help pick the squad for Pakistan's Test tour of England the following year

not bounced on the pitch as it scooped into the hands of Rehan Riaz.

Zakir Khan, PCB Director Domestic Cricket Operations, distributed the prizes as the chief guest at a simple ceremony.

The victorious PIA receive a cash award of Rs1 million along with the trophy. ZTBL got Rs500,000 and the runners-up trophy. Among individual prizes — each worth Rs50,000 — Islamabad's Afaq Raheem won the best batsman prize, Ali Imran Pasha of PIA was declared the tournament's best bowler and the ZTBL duo of Zulqarnain Haider and Shahid Yousuf got the best wicket-keeper and best fielder awards, respectively.

Named after Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah, the founder of Pakistan, the Trophy was introduced in 1953 to help pick the squad for Pakistan's Test tour of England the following year. Seven regional teams competed in the first edition. However, in 1956-57, it was decided that Karachi and Punjab would have to enter three teams each, in order to make the teams more evenly matched. Karachi teams have dominated the trophy, winning 19 times.







Faysal Bank One-day Cup 2011-12 Division-I

# PIA makes it two victories in a row

'Great people to fly with' are great at winning tournaments too

**P**akistan International Airlines clinched the 12-team Faysal Bank One-day Cup 2011-12 Division-1 on March 21 thanks to some nippy bowling by Zia-ul-Haq and Kamran Sajid and brilliant batting by former Pakistan captain Shoaib Malik.

The two top sides of the country reached the final after beating Sialkot Stallions and Islamabad Leopards in the semi-finals to lock horns for the title at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore.

Apart from these four teams, National Bank of Pakistan, Zarai

Taraqati Bank Limited, Rawalpindi Rams, State Bank of Pakistan, Water and Power Development Authority, Abbottabad Falcons, Karachi Dolphins and Faisalabad Wolves participated in the tournament featuring all the top players of the country.

These teams were divided into two pools with Pool A including PIA, HBL, State Bank, Zarai Taraqati Bank Limited, WAPDA and NBP while pool B had Sialkot Stallions, Islamabad Leopards, Faisalabad Wolves, Abbottabad Falcons, Rawalpindi Rams and Karachi Dolphins.





**Brilliant batting display  
by former Pakistan captain  
Shoaib Malik**

PIA and Habib Bank topped the Pool A while Stallions and Leopards were ahead of the pack in Pool B but both these pool teams lost in the semi-finals, setting the final date for PIA and HBL, with the ultimate winner being the Airlines.

Put in to bat, HBL bowlers did a remarkable job in restricting PIA to 237 in 49.5 overs.

Former test cricketer Danish Kaneria with his seven wickets haul jolted the PIA line-up. Only Pakistan's former captain Shoaib Malik could offer some resistance with the bat producing an unbeaten 80 off 88 balls. He got support from Faisal Iqbal (41 runs) after their openers Fraz Ali 30 and Kamran Sajid 33 had produced 65 runs for the first wicket.

However, all the good work done by Kaneria went in vain when his team's batting line up crashed to a PIA attack led by Zia and Kamran. These two bowlers shared three wickets apiece while Malik had two including the vital

## Brief Scores

**Pakistan International 237 in 49.5 overs:** (Shoaib Malik 80\*, 88 balls, 5x4s, 1x6, Faisal Iqbal 41, 60 balls, 2x4s, Kamran Sajid 33, 48 balls, 2x4s, Faraz Ali 30, 50 balls, 2x4s, Danish Kaneria 7-39)

**Habib Bank 201 in 47.1 overs:** (Kamran Husain 40, 50 balls, 4x4s, Taufeeq Umer 34, 43 balls, 4x4s, Hasan Raza 29, 65 balls, 1x4, Imran 28, 33 balls, 3x4s, Humayun Farhat 25, 23 balls, 4x4s, Zia-ul-Haq 3-23, Kamran Sajid 3-37, Shoaib Malik 2-33)

**Result:** Pakistan International won by 36 runs.

**Toss:** Habib Bank; **Umpires:** Zameer Haider & Riazuddin; **Third Umpire:** Nadeem Ghouri; **Match Referee:** Muhammad Anees.

wicket of Imran Farhat.

Kamran Hussain with 40 runs was the highest scorer from HBL while Taufeeq Umer scored 34 opening the innings with Farhat (28).

In the end the PCB COO Subhan Ahmed and Director Cricket Zakir Khan gave the prizes to the winners and other prominently performing players.

PIA with this win pocketed Rs500,000 with a trophy while HBL got Rs250,000. Shoaib Malik for his all round performance was named

the Man of the Match and received Rs50,000. He was also declared the Best Batsman of the tournament for scoring 353 runs and thus was richer by another Rs50,000.

Danish Kaneria with 20 wickets was named the Best Bowler while Taufeeq Umer was the Best Fielder for taking seven catches, while Humayun Farhat (HBL) and Mubeen Mughal (Sialkot Stallions) shared the Best Wicket-keeper's award for 13 dismissals each – all these toppers were awarded Rs50,000 each.





Report – Annual General Body 2012

# New beginning, fresh vision

A full house of 112 members, who had come from all parts of the country, from the main urban centres to the remotest of the remote districts, was in attendance at the PCB's Annual General Body Meeting held on April 8 in Lahore. The AGM was chaired by the PCB Chairman, Ch. Zaka Ashraf.

Five former chairmen also most graciously attended the meeting in their capacity as honorary members.

The agenda of the second AGM under the new constitution consisted of three most substantive points. These were to consider the Annual Report 2011 and Future Programmes as devised by the Governing Board; to consider the Audited Accounts and Budget Estimates and to make appropriate recommendations to the Governing Board for the promotion of cricket in Pakistan.

All three items were discussed threadbare in a candid and informed manner by the members and the requisite approvals were granted. Each of the five former chairmen present – Khalid Mahmood, Zafar Altaf, Lt. Gen. (Retd) Tauqir Zia, Sheharyar M. Khan and Ijaz Butt – gave a most decent input. Though the words differed, the views of the quintet were unanimous on three counts. All five individually appreciated and acknowledged the most noticeable upsurge and consistency in the team's performance in

recent months, all five were all support on the Board's endeavour to bring back international cricket to Pakistan and also on the PCB's policies and management.

Mr Khalid Mahmood suggested that apart from full members, the PCB should also try to invite the associate members. Mr Zafar Altaf suggested that Pakistan cricket be marketed more aggressively so that it remains financially viable. Gen. Tauqir Zia promising support to the present chairman and the management, reiterated the need to invite the ICC's associate members for short series. Mr Sheharyar Khan also had a word of praise for the Pakistan women's team, which also has gone places in recent times. He also appreciated the fact that the agenda of the meeting had been circulated well in advance, helping members to come prepared. Mr Ijaz Butt, other than the Board's efforts, acknowledged its chief patron Mr Asif Ali Zardari's raising the issue of recommencing bilateral ties between the two leading sub-continental nations at the highest level, with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in India on his recent visit.

In his address the PCB Chairman, who had earlier especially welcomed members from Balochistan, noted that all Pakistanis should contribute towards bringing international cricket to Pakistan. All such efforts are welcomed by the Board.





## Excerpts from PCB Chairman Ch. Zaka Ashraf's address to the AGM:

"I believe we have performed excellently on the cricket front, as is evident from the consistently appreciable results, especially in the Test series against England, the world's top-ranked side, and the recent Asia Cup triumph after 12 years. These achievements have induced self-confidence in the team and morale quite understandably is upbeat and positive.

"But I believe we need to keep things in perspective, some self-analysis of the situation in the not-too-distant past is in order. We have had spells of success before, but never the consistency that is the hallmark of great teams. When we are winning, we allow smugness and complacency to take over, and that is when the degeneration sets in.

"This time round we have to be on our guard against it. "Not just that, my vision actually is perpetual improvement all round. That means, not just by our national representative cricket teams – senior, women's 'A' and the age-group squads – but also the way our cricket in all spheres is managed and run.

"The mantra is: nothing short of excellence is acceptable and here is how we're going to achieve it.

"We are determined to bring international cricket back to Pakistan, by guaranteeing the terms that visit us with watertight security. Afghanistan has already been here. And I myself and my management team have striven very hard to convince the Bangladesh Board to visit us by reassuring them that Pakistan is a safe destination for cricket.

"While bringing back international cricket

remains the foremost priority, there are equally important other issues that have to be addressed.

"To ensure enduring excellence, throughout my time in-charge, I have emphasised three prerequisites: i) strict adherence to merit; ii) no compromise on discipline; iii) zero tolerance for corrupt practices.

"The current dispensation at the PCB remains committed to continuously purge and cleanse, to instill discipline and make Pakistan cricket a meritocracy comparable with the best in the world. It is a must if we need to win not matches and tournaments but also the respect and admiration of the cricketing fraternity and ensure that the embarrassing incidents of 2010 in England are never again repeated.

"The Board will provide the best and the most seasoned coaches, support staff and other facilities to the Pakistan team. The appointment of Dav Whatmore, who has proven credentials spread over two decades and more, as Pakistan's national coach is a first step towards realisation of that objective.

"Whatmore's presence is definitely likely to make the outlook of our team a whole lot more professionally oriented. He would also be provided with world standard backup to ensure quality in coaching. That his appointment was made after the Committee made for the purpose thoroughly vetted and advised his hiring, reflects a pronounced desire to follow transparent procedures.

"The aim of the current PCB management is that Pakistan's first class cricket should be just that: first class, and in every sense of the word.

Steps are afoot to achieve that. And this involves not just lots of endeavour but a great deal of expense too. While a committee comprising former cricketers has already been formed and tasked to give its recommendations for the revamp of our domestic cricket, to implement these PCB plans by considerably enhancing the marketing yield by aggressively pursuing for more from the existing revenue streams and creating new ones as well.

"From the razzmatazz in the final of our Faysal Bank Super8 Twenty20 event that concluded on April 1, 2012, it should be obvious that we want to get best mileage from our local events by enhancing their value as a spectacle.

"Our auxiliary aims are to provide more opportunities to our women cricketers who are also winning laurels for the country. The PCB has already taken a lead in maximum exposure of the physically impaired cricketers by inviting foreign teams to Pakistan. It is my heartfelt desire that all our efforts in any sphere should eventually lead to enhancing our country's and our cricket's image.

"And last but not the least, we are actively engaged in launching Pakistan Premier League, on the line of such events elsewhere. The PCB is working on it, and I shall soon be able to share something concrete with the General Body on this.

"Let's all strive to make Pakistan the No 1 team across all three formats. We have the potential to return with honours from wherever cricket is played. It is about time we realised that potential."





Review – Faysal Bank Pentangular Cup 2012

# Punjab's maiden title

Punjab completed an emphatic 511-run crushing win over Sindh to clinch the Pentangular Cup title for the first time on the final day of the event at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

**P**entangular Cup is one of the most important of Pakistan's first class calendar, owing to its competitive nature – involving crème de la crème of talent in five regional teams representing the four provinces and the Federal Areas. This year, Punjab inflicted an emphatic 511-run defeat over Sindh in the final to clinch the title – its first – on the last day of the event at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium.

Resuming their second innings at 367 for six, Punjab managed to push forth to 412 thanks to Mohammad Zohaib's half-century. Leg-spinner Danish Kaneria spun the tail out to return with three wickets while medium fast bowler Tanvir Ahmed had the best figures of four for 87.

Faced with a target of 674, Sindh's best bet would have been to bat out the time in order to earn a draw, but their batsmen collapsed, their re-

sistance lasting mere 54 overs. Ali Asad managed 33, their highest score, with just another two batsmen going past 20. Upcoming Bilawal Bhatti replicated his first-innings haul by capturing another four-wickets, while Raza Hasan, bowling orthodox slow left-arm, picked up three wickets before Sindh eventually folded up for 162.

Punjab's Aamer Sajjad was the standout player, his marathon 252 laying the foundation of Punjab's triumph. It was a measure of Punjab's dominance that the entire Sindh XI could not make that many in either innings.

The Punjab captain Taufiq Umar collected the winners' cheque, a huge award of Rs1 million, along with the customary trophy. Kaneria received the runners-up trophy and Rs500,000 for Sindh. Aamer Sajjad was the recipient of the Rs50,000 Man of the Match award for his wonderful



knock of 252 in Punjab's first innings. Former Pakistan captain and outstanding wicket-keeper batsman of the 1950s, Mr Imtiaz Ahmed was the chief guest.

The other individual prizes, of Rs50,000 each, were awarded to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Yasir Hameed (Best Batsman, 461 runs at 65.85 in four matches), Raza Hasan for being the Best Bowler, while his team-mate Zohaib was adjudged the Best Wicket-keeper for his 20 dismissals (all caught) and Bazid Khan of Federal Areas was declared the Best Fielder for his seven catches in his two appearances in the competition.

In the first round, at Karachi a six-wicket haul by Mohammad Sami helped Sindh defeat Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa by five wickets. KPK had given itself a chance to get away with a draw on the third day, reaching 218 for 3 after following-on. But penetrative bursts from Sami and fellow fast bowler Tabish Khan opened the game up for Sindh.

In the next match, at Islamabad, a curtailed fourth day denied Federal Areas the opportunity to push for an outright win, and Punjab took three points on the first-innings lead.

In the second round, at Karachi, Sindh won their second Faysal Bank Pentangular Cup match in as many games, thumping Balochistan by an innings and 114 runs. The Sindh bowlers shared the wickets between them, but the most damage was done with the new-ball by Tabish Khan, as he knocked over Baluchistan's top four. At Lahore, Punjab eased to a ten-wicket win over Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. After K P had been bowled out for 241 on the third day, Punjab were left with a target of only 75. Raza Hasan captured his maiden first-class 10-wicket haul, with a five-for in each of the two innings.

In the third round, at Lahore, Punjab picked up their second win of the competition, inflicting a second straight defeat on Balochistan. Following-on after being bowled out for 107, Balochistan began the third day on 10 for 1. Seamers Mohammad Khalil and Prince Abbas shared five wickets, helping bowl out their opponents in 81.1 overs and sealing the win inside three days.

At Peshawar, Federal Areas' slim hopes of qualifying for the final were washed out on when the last day of their match against KPK was abandoned without a ball being bowled.

In the fourth round, at Multan Rahat Ali took five for 36 to help Balochistan bowl out Federal Areas for 121 in the final innings and secure a 149-run victory on the third day. At Lahore, Raza Hasan completed a five-wicket haul to dismiss Sindh for 331 in their second innings, setting Punjab a small target, which they chased with seven wickets in hand.

In the last and final round, at Peshawar, Baluchistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa ended in a tame draw. At Rawalpindi, Sindh and Federal Areas kicked off the action on the final day. Federal Areas opted to bat first and put on 221 for three, with Afaq Raheem (72) and Umair Khan (49) the main run-getters. The umpires called off the day after 56 overs to declare a draw.

Punjab and Sindh qualified for the final of the Pentangular Cup after finishing at the top on the points table, leaving Balochistan, Federal Areas and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa out of contention.



## Pentangular Cup

### Roll of Honour

1973-74 PIA; 1974-75 National Bank; 1975-76 PIA; 1977-78 Habib Bank; 1978-79 Habib Bank/PIA; 1979-80 PIA; 1980-81 PIA; 1981-82 Habib Bank; 1982-83 Habib Bank; 1983-84 United Bank; 1984-85 PACO; 1990-91 United Bank; 1994-95 National Bank; 1995-96 United Bank; 2005-06 National Bank; 2006-07 Habib Bank; 2007-08 Sind; 2008-09 NWFP (now Khyber Pakhtunkhwa); 2009-10 SNGPL; 2010-11 Sindh; 2011-12 Punjab

### Points Table

Teams	Mat	Won	Lost	Draw	Pts
Punjab	4	3	0	1	30
Sindh	4	2	1	1	18
Balochistan	4	1	2	1	9
Federal Areas	4	0	1	3	3
Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa	4	0	2	2	

Top two teams to qualify for the final

### Brief Scores – Final

#### Punjab vs Sindh

February 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22 2012

Played at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

**Punjab (1st innings):** 496 in 155.2 overs: (Aamir Sajjad 252, 462 balls, 32x4s, Usman Salahuddin 57, 141 balls, 5x4s, Taufiq Umar 51, 93 balls, 7x4, Raza Hasan 36, 59 balls, 4x4s, 1x6, Danish Kaneria 6-160, Faraz Ahmed 2-116)

**2nd innings:** 412 in 87.3 overs (Haris Sohail 150, 140 balls, 24x4s, 3x6s, Muhammad Ayub 123, 153 balls, 15x4s, Muhammad Zohaib 50\*, 98 balls, 6x4s, Taufiq Umar 26, 44 balls, 5x4s, Tanvir Ahmed 4-87, Danish Kaneria 3-124, Tabish Khan 2-98)

**Sindh (1st innings):** 235 in 63.1 overs (Faraz Ahmed 48, 100 balls, 10x4s, Fahad Iqbal 44, 95 balls, 7x4s, Ali Asad 33\*, 72 balls, 4x4s, Sarfraz Ahmed 24, 49 balls, 3x4s, Muhammad Khalil 5-73, Bilawal Bhatti 4-79)

**2nd innings:** 162 in 54 overs: (Ali Asad 33, 57 balls, 7x4s, Saeed Bin Nasir 28, 49 balls, 6x4s, Khurram Manzoor 20, 94 balls, 2x4s, Bilawal Bhatti 4-74, Raza Hasan 3-23)

**Toss:** Punjab

**Result:** Punjab won by 511 runs

**Umpires:** Shakeel Khan, Rasheed Bhatti

**Referee:** Musaddaq Rasool





Faysal Bank Super8 Twenty20 Championship

# Super Stallions bounce back to top

After last year's aberration Sialkot wins its seventh title out of eight

**A**t the premier domestic Twenty20 title, Sialkot Stallions has virtually dominated the scene since this version of the game was introduced in this country in 2004. So far the PCB has organised eight National Twenty20 championships, and the Shoaib Malik-led Stallions have had a virtual monopoly on the champions' tag – winning seven times, five times in successive years between 2005-06 to 2009-10, losing just once.

The only one that got away was in 2010-11, when the Lahore Lions' roar landed them their first major national title in 20 years.

This period of triumph for the Stallions included a winning streak of 25 consecutive games, a world record for a top-level Twenty20 competition! It was broken only when they lost to Karachi Dolphins in the semi-final of the event in 2011.

The recently-concluded edition of the T20 Cup not only turned out to be a feast for the cricket-starved fans, and they immensely enjoyed the quality contests in well-organised entertaining ambience. No wonder the people thronged the stadium on all nights.

Pakistan's newly-appointed head coach, Dav Whatmore and fielding coach Julien Fountain were present at most games and both the rookies and the senior pros were eager to catch their eye and the attention of the selection committee for possible inclusion in the upcoming international fixtures and, of course, the Twenty20 World Championship – to be held in September in Sri Lanka.

This year's Twenty 20 Cup not only proved to be a resounding success for the Sialkot Stallions but may well be a platform for the resurrection of Shoaib Malik's international career and his return to the national team. Over the years of the Stallions repeated success he was their inspiration and lynchpin, earning 'the man of the match' award during many of their seven titles. Quite a few batting and bowling performances were pretty impressive, raising hope that the national team may emulate its triumph in 2009 later this year in Sri Lanka.

Much superior to other contesting outfits, the Sialkot Stallions indeed were a champion side, in every sense of the word. Karachi Dolphins gave a performance very much in line with the character associated with the mammal they're named after, intelligent and friendly – they batted intelligently and their bowling was nothing but friendly as the Stallions cruised to victory in the final chasing a total of 167!.

The Stallions' victory comes as less of a surprise when you look at the top batsmen and bowlers of the tournament. Raza Hasan of the Stallions was the highest wicket-taker with 12 wickets – and second highest was Shoaib Malik, with seven. Khalid Latif of Dolphins topped the batting charts with 243 runs at an average of 60.75 while the second highest and third highest run scorers, Imran Nazir and Harris Sohail, too were from Stallions. The batsman with the second best average in the tournament was Shoaib Malik with 50.50. He was also named the Best Fielder of the tournament.



# PCB publishes Annual Report 2011

## A wealth of information and statistics

**T**he titled publication released on the occasion of the PCB's Annual General Body meeting on April 8 not only takes care of the premier national cricket body's corporate responsibility, it also contains a mass of information on the country's cricket scene during 2011, while the statistical minded will also revel in its mass of detail.

Of special attention is PCB Chairman Ch. Zaka Ashraf's report which sets out his vision for Pakistan cricket which is in effect a mission statement in which he reiterates his determination to bring international cricket back to Pakistan and also warns of smugness and complacency in success.

The performance of Team Green in 2011 in all three formats, Tests, ODIs and the Twenty20 genre have been documented along with the batting and bowling records in each case. An interesting addition is the month-wise breakup of the team's records and milestones 2011, including matches and personalities.

The domestic cricket report is a comprehensive review of 15 top events of the year, as well as an appraisal of Women's cricket and Blind cricket.

An in-depth assessment of Game Development activities and the role of the National Cricket Academy have also been included. The publication



also includes the Marketing Report and Chief Financial Officer's Report, including the balance sheet, which lends an element of transparency to the way the PCB is run.



**To keep abreast of the situation in the less developed cricket regions of the country, the PCB Chairman Ch. Zaka Ashraf keeps in touch with association officials from those areas. In the two pictures, he is seen meeting representatives of the FATA and Balochistan.**







SHAHEED  
MOHTARMA  
BENAZIR  
BHUTTO

WOMEN  
CRICKET  
CHALLENGE TROPHY

2012

In line with the vision of Chairman Ch. Zaka Ashraf, continuing on its recent endeavour of promoting women's cricket in Pakistan, the PCB organised the inaugural Shaheed Benazir Bhutto Women Cricket Challenge Trophy between January 22 and January 24

2012. The event was the brainchild of the Ch. Zaka Ashraf, who had impressed upon the previous PCB management to launch it. Once he became the Chairman himself, he took no time in making it a reality – in the process also finding a sponsor for it in ZTBL.

The tournament proved to be a massive success, as some of the most dexterous ladies in our neck of the woods, flaunted their repertoire of top-drawer cricket and enthralled the viewers with some sublime skills. The tournament is being touted as an apposite medium for not only promoting women's cricket in Pakistan, but also projecting a soft, positive image of the country. This view also echoed in Federal Minister for Information and Broadcasting Firdous Ashiq Awan's speech: "The women's cricket initiative would dispel the negative image of Pakistan. It would create a soft image of Pakistan internationally."

"It's the first step towards economic empowerment of women in the country. And women cricketers would serve as ambassadors of an enlightened, moderate and progressive country," she added.

The first edition of the tournament featured six teams, and the entire event was staunchly supported by ZTBL – and their own team justified their pre-tournament billing of being the favourites for the cup. ZTBL enthralled one and all with their awe-inspiring performances throughout the tournament and they were by far the most domineering side of the six that participated in this ground-breaking venture of the PCB. ZTBL were led by national team's captain Sana Mir, who led from the front – just like in the national colours – and ensured that her team faces off against Punjab in the final.

In the final ZTBL overpowered Punjab by 93 runs to bag the Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto Women Cricket T20 Challenge Trophy 2012. ZTBL – with a spine of national players – posted a daunting total of 174 for the loss of four wickets in the final; with Nida Dar pulling off a 64 run blitzkrieg off 47 balls,





# ZTBL bags inaugural Shaheed Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto trophy

The first edition of the tournament was a groundbreaking success, as the cream of women cricket flaunted their sublime skills



with nine boundaries. Nida Dar was well supported by a robust show from Qanita Jalil, who struck 50 from merely 37 balls as ZTBL piled on the misery for Punjab in the final. In reply Punjab could only muster 81 runs for the loss of five wickets – to round off a one sided triumph for the tournament favourites. Skipper Sana Mir picked up 2 for 12, as Punjab never really got going in their pursuit of, what was a gigantic total. Nida Dar was awarded both the player of the match and the player of the tournament awards. Sana Mir, whose triumphant side collected prize money worth Rs 100,000 acknowledged the effort of PCB in holding the event and promoting women's cricket. "Credit goes to the chairman who gave the idea

of such a tournament back in 2009 and then made it happen as soon as he took office," said Mir. "Female players get huge exposure from such tournaments since a lot of people came to watch us play. Some players were playing such an event for the first time and the exposure will help their confidence level and that's good for the future of Pakistan cricket. I hope more events are held so that we can become competitive for the international tournaments as well."

Meanwhile, Punjab captain Sana Gulraz praised her team's effort in reaching the final in the six-team tournament.

"The team played well to reach the final," said Gulraz. "But we should take responsibility for not winning the tournament. ZTBL played really well but I

think we weren't up to the mark in making this final a more competitive one."

Marium Hasan Shah (Federal Capital) was named the best batswoman, Sana Mir (ZTBL) best bowler, Arman Khan (Balochistan) best fielder Sidra Nawaz (Federal Capital) best wicket-keeper and Qanita Jalil (ZTBL) best all rounder and all of them were awarded Rs. 10,000 each.

Sindh, Khyber Pakhtoonkhaw, Balochistan and Federal Capital were the other challengers vying for this historic trophy. And with the tournament becoming a ground breaking success, ZTBL has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure that this event becomes an annual feature in Pakistan's cricketing calendar.





## Review: National Women's Championship 2011-12

# ZTBL conquers another crown

**T**he seventh National Women's Cricket Championship 2011/12 consisting of 14 teams vying for the top spot was played in four stages and the ultimate winner turned out to be Zarai Taraqiati Bank Limited (ZTBL) which beat Higher Education Commission by 181 runs in the final played at the Diamond Ground, Islamabad.

These 14 teams had been divided into three zones with 'A' including Lahore, Multan, Islamabad, Quetta and Abbottabad, 'B' consisting

of ZTBL, Pakistan Education Board, Rawalpindi, Peshawar and Sialkot and Zone 'C' comprising Higher Education Commission, Karachi, Faisalabad and Hyderabad. And out of the 14, ZTBL, HEC and Lahore reached the final round. During that stage they played two games each and Lahore was the ultimate loser while the finalists won one match each to make their way to the finals. Put in to bat in the final, ZTBL piled up 331 for five in 50 overs, thanks mainly to an 88 balls 104 from Nain Abdi, while Sana Mir, Qanita Jalil and Bismah Maroof hit half centuries to

consolidate their team's position.

In reply HEC was bundled out for 150 runs. Sukhan Fiaz was their only batter who reached double figures. Sana Mir of ZTBL was declared the best batswoman and player of the tournament while Nain Abdi also of ZTBL was the best fielder, Madhiya Rajput of Lahore the best wicketkeeper and Elizabeth Khan also of the Lahore team the best bowler

### Tournament Awards

Best Batter: Sana Mir, ZTBL  
 Best Fielder: Nain Abdi, ZTBL  
 Best Wicket-keeper: Madhiya Rajput, Lahore  
 Best Bowler: Elizabeth Khan, Lahore  
 Best Player: Sana Mir, ZTBL

### Brief Scores:

ZTBL 331-5 in 50 overs: (Nain Abdi 104 88 balls, 10x4s, 3x6, Sana Mir 69, Qanita Jalil 64, Bismah Maroof 71, Sukhan Fiaz 2-71)  
 HEC 150 in 36.3 overs: (Sukhan Fiaz 28 not out, Mariam Hassan Shah 4-21, Bismah Maroof 2-21)  
 Player of the match: Nain Abdi - ZTBL  
 Result: ZTBL won by 181 runs.  
 Toss: HEC, electing to field first; Umpires: Samera Aftab & Afia Amin; Match Referee: Tanveer Afzal.







## Review: The British Universities Charity XI Visit

# A most meaningful step



**T**he journey of a thousand miles begins with one small step, goes the much-clichéd Chinese proverb. And the new management of the PCB took that small step, but in reality a giant leap forward to ending its cricket pariah status on April 4 when it hosted a 50-over ODI match featuring a visiting British Universities Charity XI team at Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium. The familiar venue welcomed a foreign team for the first time since March 2009, when the terrorist attack on the touring Sri Lankans resulted in a curtain drop on home series on Pakistan soil. Indeed a sight for sore eyes!

No doubt the British Universities XI boys were no match for the under 19 squad fielded by the PCB (they lost the first ODI by 302 runs) but the significance of the matter lay in the fact that a foreign team was willing to take the plunge for the first time since that day of infamy in 2009.

The two 'official' matches with the PCB under-19 were also charity matches meant to raise money for education purposes in backward or war torn countries like Afghanistan. The British Universities XI captain Kamal Alam, of Durham University, has his vocation cut out for him: if not a cricket pro, he would make an excellent diplomat.

Kamal made just the right noises, said the most apt things and heartened his hosts by stressing that Pakistan was a perfectly safe place for foreign nations to visit – which fact he promised to convey to the MCC back home.

At a press conference, Kamal was of the opinion: "When you see the picture from the outside in the media, it is distorted in many ways until you come to the country and see for yourself what is going on and then realize there is nothing to worry about and it is only the hype and propaganda".

He made further purring noises, "one of the main things of the tour is not just cricket, but more to show Pakistan really needs cricket because the game is the most important thing in the country and it keeps everyone going.

"It is almost like taking the oxygen out of the country when you don't have international cricket".

At the reception for the visitors, the PCB Chairman reiterated his commitment to the revival of international cricket at home. "I know we are going through difficult times. I know Pakistan cricket fans are very disappointed at foreign teams not visiting this country. But we are in constant touch with other cricket boards and we are hopeful the ice will break soon", said Zaka Ashraf.

While the British Universities XI were brave enough to prove to the world that Pakistan is a safe place to visit and to play cricket for any foreign side, owing to the PCB's concerted efforts, the first cracks have already started to appear – despite Bangladesh's pulling out at the last moment from an agreed two-match visit at the fag end of April due to a court's unnecessary intervention in Dhaka.



Ch. Zaka Ashraf... 'He was a visionary'



# Tribute to a Legend

## PCB pays its homage to Air Marshal Nur Khan

**A**ir Marshal Nur Khan, a man famous both for his exploits as a flyer and as the architect of the country's global ascendancy in cricket, hockey and squash during his stewardship passed away in Rawalpindi on December 15, 2011. He was the president of the Pakistan Cricket Board, formerly BCCP, from 1980-84, and the present management to its credit wasted little time in organising a grand ceremony to recall his myriad achievements and to laud his brilliant contribution as a sports administrator.

The present PCB chief Zaka Ashraf brought together a glittering list of personalities from cricket, hockey and the Pakistan Air Force on this nostalgic occasion. They included Pakistan Hockey Federation president Qasim Zia, former PCB chairmen Khalid Mahmood, Shehryar M. Khan, Lt. Gen (Retd) Tauqeer Zia and Ijaz Butt, former cricketers Imtiaz Ahmed, Rameez Raja, Intikhab Alam, Aaqib Javed, Ijaz Ahmad, PCB chairperson women wing Bushra Aitzaz, women cricket team captain Sana Mir, cricketer administrators Azhar Khan, Shafqat Rana, Shafiq Papa and Azhar Zaidi, writer and poet Amjad Islam Amjad, Nur Khan's companions in the PAF – Air Marshal and Vice Chief of Air Staff Tahir Rafique Butt (now promoted to the Air Force Chief), Air Marshal (Retd) Zafar Chaudhry, Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Tahir Khalid and Air Vice Marshal (Retd) Farooq Umar – as well as other dignitaries graced the ceremony and paid rich tribute to Nur Khan for his services to the PAF, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), Pakistan hockey Federation (PHF), and Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB).

Zaka Ashraf in a glowing tribute remarked, "He was a vision-

ary. He brought professionalism, accountability, and the cleanest of intentions to Pakistan's cricket administration. His far-reaching achievements include making the Asia Cup an enduring reality, and being an important part of the initiative that brought the World Cup to the subcontinent for the first time.

"We have gathered here today to pay our respects to the most cherished administrator of the country.

"As a soldier, he brought laurels for the country and as an administrator he took sports to new heights.

"Nur Khan accepted all the challenges and handled them with wisdom. His vision and foresightedness was of a great administrator. We can go on and on praising his achievements and that won't end. I found a similarity in today's state of affairs with those of his times. He made the challenges a reality. He was a tireless person as the saying goes 'success comes to those who take the pain'. He was the true ambassador of the country.

"He not only brought revolutionary changes in the country's sports but also had great influence on the ICC as he introduced various things in the field of cricket. His services are unforgettable," said the PCB chief. The PHF president Qasim Zia remarked that though Pakistan hockey was facing tough times now, yet they could not forget the remarkable era of Nur Khan which was full of achievements and successes. "It was during his era that Pakistan won all the hockey titles including the Champions Trophy, the 1968 and 1984 Olympic Games, as well as the World Cup. We can never forget those glorious moments. We will try our best to follow the golden rules of Nur Khan which will surely help us in winning



The present and former PCB chairmen, the PHF Chief and the PAF stalwarts lineup with Nur Khan's picture



new laurels at the international level.”

AV Marshal Farooq Umar remarked, “Heroes like Nur Khan are born after centuries. He was a great leader and a fearless man and seeing his great achievements even Indian air force leaders came to Pakistan to meet him and appreciated him a lot.”

Former PCB chairman Sheharyar Khan said: “Nur Khan was my relative and he was a person who won success in every field of life. He was also a great player of cricket, hockey, football and squash. Being a great organiser, he earned marvellous fame in the field of cricket and hockey. He had the Midas touch – whatever he touched turned into gold.”

Air Marshal (Retd) Zafar Chaudhary pointed out that Nur Khan believed in performance and results. “He was undoubtedly the supreme administrator and lived a resoundingly successful and glorious life,” he added. Air Marshal Farooq Umar used a slide show to highlight his colourful life, although the slideshow was in black and white but Air Marshal Umar added colour with his commentary to the show. AVM Nazir Mirza said that Nur Khan taught us how to be leaders and he was a fine friend. “He has gone but will live in our hearts.”

At the end of the moving and impressive event, PCB chief Zaka Ashraf thanked the participants of the ceremony and hoped that all the sports organisers will learn from Nur Khan and try their best to emulate him in promotion of sports across the country.



Sheharyar M. Khan... 'Whatever Nur Khan touched turned into gold'



Qasim Zia... 'During his time Pakistan had won every hockey title'



A star-studded audience came to pay its respects to Nur Khan



Choppers in the air: ready for any contingency



# On the Bangladesh tour



Stadium. Besides the board officials, DIG Operations Punjab Sohail Khan, CCPO Ahmed Raza Tahir, DIG operations Lahore Ghulam Mahmood and secret service officials were present on the occasions.

## PCB, BCB Chairmen talk

At the National Cricket Academy at Lahore, the PCB Chairman Ch. Zaka Ashraf said, “the visiting brothers from Bangladesh must be feeling at home here, just as I did when I went over to Bangladesh. The visit by a foreign team shall be a milestone for us, and we would do everything to provide a sense of total security to any team that agrees to tour Pakistan”.

The BCB Chairman Mr Mustafa Kamal praised the PCB’s support in the development of Bangladesh cricket, and also for the Bangladesh first getting the ODI and then Test status from the ICC. “The presence of Pakistani cricketers in the Bangladesh Premier League enhanced the event, to the extent of changing its complexion.

“Without the PCB’s support we would not be there where we are now in international cricket. The PCB’s unconditional support to Bangladesh in the ICC’s election is also praise worthy.

“And now that the Pakistan cricket is suffering for the last three years, I feel it’s our responsibility to bring international back to Pakistan as soon as possible..

“We want to send our team to Pakistan. From our side everything is okay. And we’re communicating this to the ICC”, he said.

## Two-match tour agreed

By the middle of April 2012, the Bangladesh Cricket Board had conveyed to the PCB that it shall send its team for a short tour – two back-to-back games on April’s last weekend at Lahore.

This would have been a major breakthrough for cricket-starved Pakistan. But the tour was not to happen. It was abruptly postponed following a Dhaka High Court order that set a four-week embargo on the Bangladesh team’s plans after a petition had been filed against the tour.

Giving its reaction on the development, the PCB issued this press release: “It is astonishing to note that a matter lacking any legal angle has been dragged in the court by petitioners who appear to have vested interest and want to jeopardise Pakistan-Bangladesh cricketing relations. It is extremely disturbing to note for the PCB and Pakistan cricket fans and world cricketing nations that such an adverse order has been passed to block a bilateral cricket series.”

**B**angladesh security delegation visited Pakistan in the first week of March 2012 to ascertain the security. The Bangladesh team’s tour of Pakistan was contingent on this delegation’s satisfaction with regards to the security arrangements.

Federal Interior Minister, Mr Rehman Malik also met the delegation in his office in Islamabad, assuring it of presidential-level security.

A part of the delegation first visited the National Stadium to inspect the situation and security arrangements at Pakistan’s biggest metropolis.

Imtiaz Hussain and Farrukh Zaman, the two members of the delegation, were given a briefing by the police high-ups, and later by the Sindh Home minister Manzoor Wassan, on the security arrangements both during the passage from hotel to the National Stadium and back and at the venue itself. The security delegation remained at the stadium for some time and visited the players’ dressing room, the main pavilion and stands at the ground. They also inspected the periphery of the stadium, and the team’s route from hotel to stadium.

Onwards to Lahore, a similar exercise took place at the Gaddafi Stadium and the delegation also met the Chief Minister Punjab, Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and the Governor Punjab, Muhammad Latif Khosa and was briefed about the security plans for the cricket team.

The officials later visited Gaddafi Stadium with a proper security escort, with two Army helicopters doing surveillance rounds in the air, and later displaying a rescue operation as the choppers landed at the Gaddafi