

Pakistan Cricket



ZAKA ASHRAF

the new PCB Chairman

Taking over the helm in the most trying of circumstances, Zaka Ashraf's start has been quite promising

Zaka Ashraf's appointment as the 27th Chairman of the Pakistan Cricket Board came at a time, when Pakistan cricket was traversing a multitude of crises, and off-field matters shrouded anything and everything that the team conjured up on the field. He came with the task quite conspicuous there in front of him. He had to wipe off the off-field turmoil and only then matters on the field would have come to prominence. The new chairman's appointment begot buoyancy for a score of reasons. Even though, the man might not have been a former cricketer, but his association with the game and the requisite savoir fare was indubitable. The ability of the new chief and his

character what the principal protagonists in generating optimism amongst one and all.

Although the doubting Thomases obtained nourishment owing to what was ostensibly an absence of a veritable link to on field matters, considering the fact that Mr. Zaka Ashraf was not a professional; but his keenness a propos all things cricket and his management experience connotes that the man has all the dexterity to govern an enigma that Pakistan cricket has evolved into. Mr Zaka Ashraf's competence in management was divulged in his tenure at the helm of Zarai Taraqiati



Pakistan rout

Bangladesh

Led by our spinning repertoire, Pakistan conjured up their sixth ODI series win on the bounce

The inclusion of Malik has meant that we had a five-pronged spin attack in our landslide triumph in Bangladesh. And it was indeed the sheer wherewithal in our spin repertoire that helped us dominate matters. Pakistan overpowered Bangladesh in the sole T20 encounter and whitewashed them in the three ODIs as well – this in turn has ensured that we extend our winning streak over Bangladesh to over 12 years, since that low point in World Cup 1999.

Bangladesh wanted to cash in on their own spinning talent, and hence backed their indubitable strength by preparing wickets that aided spin bowling. However, in doing so they played into the strength of Pakistan, who now

undoubtedly hold the most daunting spin attack in the game. Hence even though our batsman didn't perform exceedingly well, but they did do enough to post respectable totals on the board – something that Bangladesh failed to replicate.

Without Mohammad Ashraful, it was Tamim Iqbal who had the onus on him to perform, but he failed to live up to expectations – scoring a grand total of four runs in the entire series. Shakib and Rubel Hossain worked hard without making a conspicuous mark on matters. With most of the bigger names failing to shine it was the all-round prodigy 20-year old Nasir Hossain who rose to prominence and conjured up the most runs in the series with most runs with 124 runs – one more than Umar Akmal.

Tamim Iqbal had earmarked Ajmal as the most intimidating prospect in the Pakistani lineup but it was actually Hafeez – the new number two in the ICC ODI bowling ranking – who caused them the most damage. Hafeez ended

up being the leading wicket-taker in the series with 6 wickets at 8.16 runs per wicket. Umar Akmal deservedly bagged the Man of the Series award having made two scores of over fifty and showcases maturity and responsibility.

However, the overall show by the batting was indeed worrisome. Apart from Umar Akmal and captain dependable Misbah-ul-Haq, none of the other batsman stood up to the plate. Hafeez is hogging the headlines for his bowling exploits but his patchy – at best – batting is not a buoyant picture. Making Asad Shafiq open the innings is the waste of his talent as a competent middle order batsman. And Malik's torrid time with the bat continued in the series, even though his bowling seems to be in or around its apogee.

Victory over Bangladesh is Pakistan's sixth series win on the trot. Misbah seems to have inculcated the winning habit in the side, and while there is a multitude of creases that need ironing, the performance begets buoyancy.



A couple of resounding Test triumphs round off the Bangladesh tour emphatically

Having already whitewashed Bangladesh in the ODIs, Pakistan duly complied with the form book in the Test series in overpowering the hosts 2-0 – courtesy victories by an innings and 184 runs in the first Test and seven wickets in the second.

The foundation of the emphatic first Test win was laid when Bangladesh was knocked out for 135 in its first outing, with Abdur Rehman and Saeed Ajmal in the vanguard with three wickets each. Massive hundreds by Mohamamad Hafeez and Younis Khan then propelled Pakistan to a gargantuan total of 594/5 dec.

Hafeez scored 143 at the top, but it was Younis' double ton that was the highlight of the match, winning him the Man of the Match award. Then Asad Shafiq also conjured up his maiden Test century.

Facing a deficit of 459, Bangladesh's batting crumbled under pressure. Though this time round its performance was a trifle more solid than the first innings, but the resistance could not be prolonged. Nazimuddin and Shakib Al Hasan scored half centuries as Rehman took

Brief Scores

1st Test, at Chittagong, Dec. 9-12, 2011

Bangladesh 1st innings: 135 all out (Nazimuddin 31, Nasir 41, Gul 2-13, Cheema 2-11, Rehman 3-6) & **2nd innings:** 275 all out (Nazimuddin 78, Shakib 51, Mushfiqur 49, Elias Sunny 68*, Cheema 2-7.3, Hafeez 1-7, Ajmal 2-25, Rehman 4-30)
Pakistan 1st innings: 594 for 5 wickets (Hafeez 143, Taufeeq Umar 61, Younis 200*, Asad Shafiq 104, Elias Sunny 3-47).
 Result: Pakistan won by an innings and 184 runs

2nd Test, at Dhaka, Dec. 17-21, 2011

Bangladesh 1st innings: 338 all out (Shahriar 97, Shakib 144, Mushfiqur 40, Gul 3-28, Cheema 3-26, Saeed Ajmal 2-24) & **2nd innings:** 234 all out (Nazimuddin 67, Mahmudullah 32, Nasir Hossain 79, Mushfiqur 53, Gul 2-13, Cheema 2-15, Rehman 4-27, Ajmal 2-23)
Pakistan 1st innings: 470 all out (Taufeeq 130, Azhar 57, Younis 49, Misbah 70, Asad 42, Adnan Akmal 53, Shakib 6-40, Sunny 1-27) **2nd innings:** (target: 103 runs): 107 for 3 wickets (Hafeez 47, Azhar Ali 34). **Result: Pakistan won by 7 wickets to take the series 2-0**
Man of the Match: Shakib Al Hasan (BD); Man of the Series: Younis Khan (Pak)

four wickets to bowl Bangladesh out for 275.

In the second Test it wasn't much different, though Pakistan romped home as the daylight faded. Batting first, Bangladesh did put up 338 on the board, which gave the bowlers some runs to play with. Shahriar Nafees was unfortunate to be caught behind three runs away from a landmark century. However, it was skipper Shakib who scored a wonderful 144. Umar Gul and Aizaz Cheema managed to take a trio of scalps each. Taufeeq Umar's 130 was the cornerstone of Pakistan's reply, and apt support from Azhar Ali (57) and captain Misbah-ul-Haq

(70) ensured that Pakistan ended up with 470 – a lead of 132.

Vying for a draw, Bangladesh trotted along slowly in their second innings. The sixth wicket stand between Nasir (79) and Mushfiqur (53) frustrated Pakistan on the final day before Rehman wrapped up the tail for another four wicket haul.

With time running out, Hafeez (47) and Azhar Ali (34) provided quick run to seal the series in style. Pakistan is now eyeing a major scalp as England, the top-ranked side in the world, is the next challenge.



Review – Pakistan vs Sri Lanka

Pakistan shock and awe Sri Lanka for landslide victory

Misbah and his charges were dominant throughout the tour as the Sri Lankans looked short of answers in every format

Shrouded by the spot-fixing melodrama, our boys gave the ideal response by letting their cricket do the talking. Pakistan overwhelmed a side that was ranked above them in all three cricketing formats, and did this via unprecedented teamwork and camaraderie. It was a valiant effort from a squad that was being fired with more questions that there were answers in the past.

But, in a massive turnaround, skipper Misbah-ul-Haq and the boys dished out a lion-hearted riposte.

First Test:

The first Test match was a case of lost opportunities in more ways than

one. After dominating the Lankan team for most of the 15 sessions, the Test ended in a stalemate. Sri Lanka were bundled out in the first innings for 197, courtesy Junaid Khan's sublime pace bowling, and our batsmen piled on the runs in reply and declared at 511 for 6. However, the lowly strike rate ensured that the batsmen took more than their fair share of time, ensuring that Sri Lanka were under considerably less pressure in their second outing. Aided by a number of dropped catches, Sri Lanka weathered the storm easily.

Second Test:

The second Test showcased our side ironing out more of the creases that had hindered them in the first. Again bowling Sri Lanka out for a couple of mediocre totals, it was Azhar Ali's century and contributions



from Younus Khan and Asad Shafiq that ensured that we have a decent lead after our first innings. Saeed Ajmal shined with the ball and with decent backup from Gul, Pakistan romped to a comfortable nine wicket triumph.

Third Test:

The third Test match was all about consolidation. Going 1-0 up the final match connoted that we weren't going to lose the series but a series win was what we craved for. Sri Lanka made a positive start and ended up with 413 in their first innings. Our reply fell short by 73 runs, after which Sri Lanka left us with just over four runs an over in the final day to win the match. After going for the target initially with Hafeez showing his intent clearly, Misbah and Asad Shafiq shut up shop eventually to ensure that we bag a momentous series triumph.

First ODI:

After bundling out Sri Lanka for 131, thanks mostly to our spin wizards Afridi and Ajmal, our batsman amassed the total with ease with Imran Farhat and Younus Khan conjuring up half centuries. It was a convincing triumph that set the trend for the remainder of the series.

Second ODI:

The second ODI, much like the two matches that would follow it, proved to be a nail-biting encounter. Sri Lanka scored 235 for 7 in their allotted 50 overs, with robust contributions from Tharanga and Jayawardene. Pakistan in reply looked to be on track thanks to Umar Akmal's brilliant knock of 91. However Akmal departed playing a reckless shot at the most inopportune moment and was all went downhill from there.

Third ODI:

With the series on a knife's edge, the third ODI turned to be another encounter close encounter. After an enthralling opening partnership that took the total beyond the 150

run mark and it looked as if we would post a total around 300, the batting underwent a quasi collapse with none of the big hitters pulling off a blitzkrieg. Sri Lanka in reply came close, but our spinners and Gul dealt with their menace staunchly.

Fourth ODI:

The fourth ODI was the Afridi show. We were staring down the barrel at 97 for 6 when Afridi collaborated brilliantly with the tail and showcased unprecedented maturity to guide the total to 200, with the flamboyant all-rounder posting 75 by himself. In reply, Sri Lanka looked

poised for the win needing 46 to win from 76 balls with seven wickets in hand. Afridi again pulled the rabbit out of his hat and produced a five-for to guide Pakistan to victory single-handedly.

Fifth ODI:

Even after wrapping up the series, Pakistan continued to up the ante with in the final match. Restricting Sri Lanka to a miserly 218 for 9, Misbah and Umar Akmal made half centuries that saw the side through as we finished off the series in style. The 4-1 margin was thoroughly deserved and if anything, the only loss could've been turned around as well through some judicious thinking at the right moments.

Only T20:

After overpowering the Lankans in the Tests and ODIs, the onus was on the green shirts to replicate their dominance in a format that hadn't been bearing much fruit for them over the recent past. With Dilshan bludgeoning everything and Chandimal looking on song, Sri Lanka looked well and truly on their way to 200. However Cheema and Gul at the end put the break resoundingly and Sri Lanka managed only 141 runs.

Pakistan's reply was a rosy affair, with the match ebbing and flowing. At the end of the day it was captain fantastic Misbah and his calm aura at the crease that sailed Pakistan ashore. Misbah made 48 off 38 balls to see us through and ensure that the entire tour proves to be a monotonous landslide in Pakistan's favour.

Brief Scores

1st Test, Abu Dhabi Oct 18-22, 2011

Sri Lanka 197 (Mathews 52*, Junaid 5-38) and 483 (Sangakkara 211, P Jayawardene 120, Gul 4-64) drew with Pakistan 511 for 6 dec (Taufeeq 236, Hafeez 75, Ali 70) and 21 for 1. MOM: KC Sangakkara.

2nd Test, Dubai Oct 26-29, 2011

Sri Lanka 239 (Sangakkara 78, Ajmal 3-45, Gul 3-78) and 257 (Paranavithana 72, Mathews 52*, Ajmal 5-68) lost to Pakistan 403 (Azhar 100, Shafiq 59, Younis 55, Dilshan 3-57) and 94 for 1 (Hafeez 59*) beat by nine wickets. MOM: Saeed Ajmal.

3rd Test, Sharjah - Nov. 3-7, 2011

Sri Lanka 413 (Sangakkara 144, Dilshan 92, Ajmal 4-132) and 181 for 6 dec (Paranavithana 76*, Sangakkara 51) drew with Pakistan 340 (Younis Khan 122, Misbah 89, Azhar 53, Welegedara 5-87) and 87 for 4. MOM: KC Sangakkara. MOS: Saeed Ajmal (Pakistan) and KC Sangakkara (Sri Lanka).

1st ODI, at Dubai (DSC) - Nov. 11, 2011

Sri Lanka 131 (Afridi 3-27, Ajmal 2-21) lost to Pakistan 132 for 2 (Younis 56*, Farhat 50) by eight wickets. MOM: Shahid Afridi.

2nd ODI, at Dubai (DSC) - Nov. 14, 2011

Sri Lanka 235 for 7 (Tharanga 77, Jayawardene 50, Ajmal 3-61) beat Pakistan 210 (Umar 91, Malinga 3-36) by 25 runs. MOM: SL Malinga.

3rd ODI, at Dubai (DSC) - Nov. 18, 2011

Pakistan 257 for 8 (Hafeez 83, Farhat 70, Prasanna 2-39) beat Sri Lanka 236 (Dilshan 64, Ajmal 3-42, Gul 3-48) by 21 runs. MOM: Mohammad Hafeez.

4th ODI, at Sharjah - Nov. 20, 2011

Pakistan 200 (Afridi 75, Fernando 3-26) beat Sri Lanka 174 (Sangakkara 58, Jayawardene 55, Afridi 5-35) by 26 runs. MOM: Shahid Afridi.

5th ODI, at Abu Dhabi - Nov. 23, 2011

Sri Lanka 218 for 9 (Sangakkara 78, Mathews 61, Tanvir 4-34) lost to Pakistan 219 for 7 (Misbah 66, Umar 61*, J Mendis 3-36) by three wickets. MOM: Umar Akmal, MOS: Shahid Afridi.

Only T20I, at Abu Dhabi - Nov. 25, 2011

Sri Lanka 141 (Chandimal 56, Cheema 4-30) lost to Pakistan 142 for 5 (Misbah 48*, Shafiq 33) by five wickets. MOM: Aizaz Cheema.



Review – Pakistan in Zimbabwe

Pakistan trounce a resurgent Zimbabwe

The Test Match

Four wickets each for Saeed Ajmal and Aizaz Cheema couldn't prevent Zimbabwe from piling on the runs in the first innings – putting an intimidating 412 on the board. Pakistan replied strongly thanks to a brilliant century from Mohammad Hafeez and half centuries from the middle order trio of Azhar Ali, Younus Khan and Misbah-ul-Haq, as our team posted 466 in reply.

The Zimbabweans capitulated in their second innings thanks to four wicket hauls for both Aizaz Cheema and Mohammed Hafeez, with only Taibu providing any resistance as Zimbabwe scored 141, leaving Pakistan a target of 88 runs to clinch the test.

Pakistan duly reached the target, with the loss of three wickets to round off an impressive 7 wicket victory. Mohammed Hafeez for his

sterling all-round show was declared the Man of the Match. The match at Bulawayo also handed out debuts to Aizaz Cheema and Junaid Khan, and while Aizaz had a major hand in the victory courtesy his eight wickets in the match, Junaid Khan also showcased promise despite not being prominent on the wicket takers column.

The ODI Series

The first ODI at Bulawayo was a close affair. Batting first, Pakistan stuttered along to 247/7 in the allotted 50 overs thanks to half-centuries from the experienced duo of Younis and Misbah. Zimbabwe's valiant run chase took the match to the final over with Sibanda and Taylor both scoring fifties. However our side held on to their nerves as Zimbabwe fell short by 5 runs. Aizaz Cheema again starred, this time on his ODI debut, taking 3/38. Younus was declared the Man of the Match for his run-a-ball 78.

The second ODI saw Pakistan completely overwhelm their hosts. Zimbabwe posted 225

Pakistan in Zimbabwe 2011

Brief Scores

Only Test: Zimbabwe v Pakistan at Bulawayo – Sept. 1-5 Zimbabwe 412 (Mawoyo 163, Cheema 4-79, Ajmal 4-143) and 141 (Taibu 58, Cheema 4-24, Hafeez 4-31) lost to Pakistan 466 (Hafeez 119, Lamb 3-120) and 88 for 3 (Hafeez 38) by seven wickets. MOM: Mohammad Hafeez.

1st ODI: Zimbabwe v Pakistan at Bulawayo – Sept. 8 Pakistan 247 for 7 (Younis 78, Misbah 54, Price 2-39) beat Zimbabwe 242 for 7 (Sibanda 73, Taylor 84, Cheema 3-36) by five runs. MOM: Younus Khan.

2nd ODI: Zimbabwe v Pakistan at Harare – Sept. 11 Zimbabwe 225 for 6 (Masakadza 68, Tanvir 2-33) lost to Pakistan 228 for 0 (Hafeez 139*, Farhat 75*) by 10 wickets. MOM: Mohammad Hafeez.

3rd ODI: Zimbabwe v Pakistan at Harare – Sept. 14, 2011 Pakistan 270 for 5 (Younis 81, Shafiq 51, Chigumbura 2-36) beat Zimbabwe 242 for 9 (Chibhabha 62, Sibanda 59, Cheema 4-43) by 28 runs. MOM: Aizaz Cheema. MOS: Younus Khan.

1st T20I: Zimbabwe v Pakistan at Harare – Sept. 16, 2011 Pakistan 198 for 4 (Hafeez 71, Shafiq 38) beat Zimbabwe 113 (Coventry 30, Hafeez 4-10) by 85 runs. MOM: Mohammad Hafeez.

2nd T20I: Zimbabwe v Pakistan at Harare – Sept. 18 Pakistan 141 for 7 (Hafeez 51, Jarvis 3-14) beat Zimbabwe 136 for 7 (Taibu 37*, Hafeez 3-11) by 5 runs. MOM: Mohammad Hafeez.

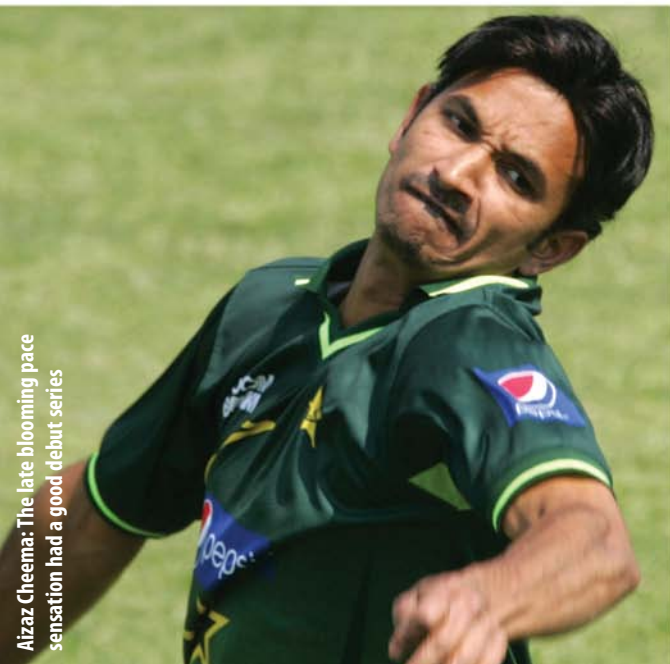
Mohammad Hafeez: With four out of six, hegemony on the Man of the Match Awards



Junaid Khan: Showcasing promise



Aizaz Cheema: The late blooming pace sensation had a good debut series



Younis Khan: Pretty good comeback for the veteran



on the board, with Masakadza and Taylor being prominent with a half-century each. Sohail Tanvir took two wickets as all of the Pakistani bowlers proved to be economical. Pakistan chased down the target with the loss of any wickets with Imran Farhat scoring an impressive 75 and Hafeez making a staggering century, scoring 139 off 147 balls and was deservedly named the Man of the Match.

The third ODI saw Pakistan scoring 270/5, batting first with Younis being the main-stay, scoring 81. He was well supported by Asad Shafiq's 51. Zimbabwe presented a decent run chase, with their top order firing. Openers Sibanda and Chibhabha scored a half-century each before the middle-order and the lower middle-order collapsed resulting in Zimbabwe managing 242/9 in their reply. Aizaz Cheema bagged another 4 wicket haul resulting in him being named the Man of the Match, and owing to his consistent displays in the middle order Younis Khan was awarded the Man of the Series Trophy.

The T20 Series

The first T20 saw Pakistan posting a daunting 198/4 with a spanking

71 off 48 balls by Mohammed Hafeez, who was well backed by his new opening partner Asad Shafiq who made 38 off 23 balls. In reply Zimbabwe were bundled out for merely 113 in 15.2 overs, with Hafeez backing up his strong show with the bat by taking 4 wickets in 14 deliveries and being justifiably named the Man of the Match.

Pakistan 198/4 (20 overs); Zimbabwe 113 (15.2 overs) Pakistan won by 85 runs

The second T20 was a much closer affair as Zimbabwe restricted Pakistan to 141/7. Hafeez struck another half-century, scoring 51 off 38 balls. But the middle-order didn't back his innings up with any meaningful contributions. Jarvis had impressive figures of 3 wickets for 15 in his 4 overs. Zimbabwe's reply centered round the lower-order between Taibu (37*) and Chigumbura (24) as they managed to make a match of it, falling 5 runs short. Hafeez again put on a magnificent show with the ball taking 3 for 11 in his 3 overs to cap off an amazing all-round show for the all-rounder in Zimbabwe.



Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2011-12 (Division II)

Peshawar Region take the honours

Peshawar Region clinched the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2011-12 (Division II) title. Peshawar remained undefeated throughout the competition as they won nine out of 10 games including the final.

Akbar Badshah (54* off 105 balls) and man-of-the-match Jamaluddin (58* off 99 balls) helped Peshawar to complete their chase of 153. Peshawar stuttered early in their chase and slipped to 43 for 4.

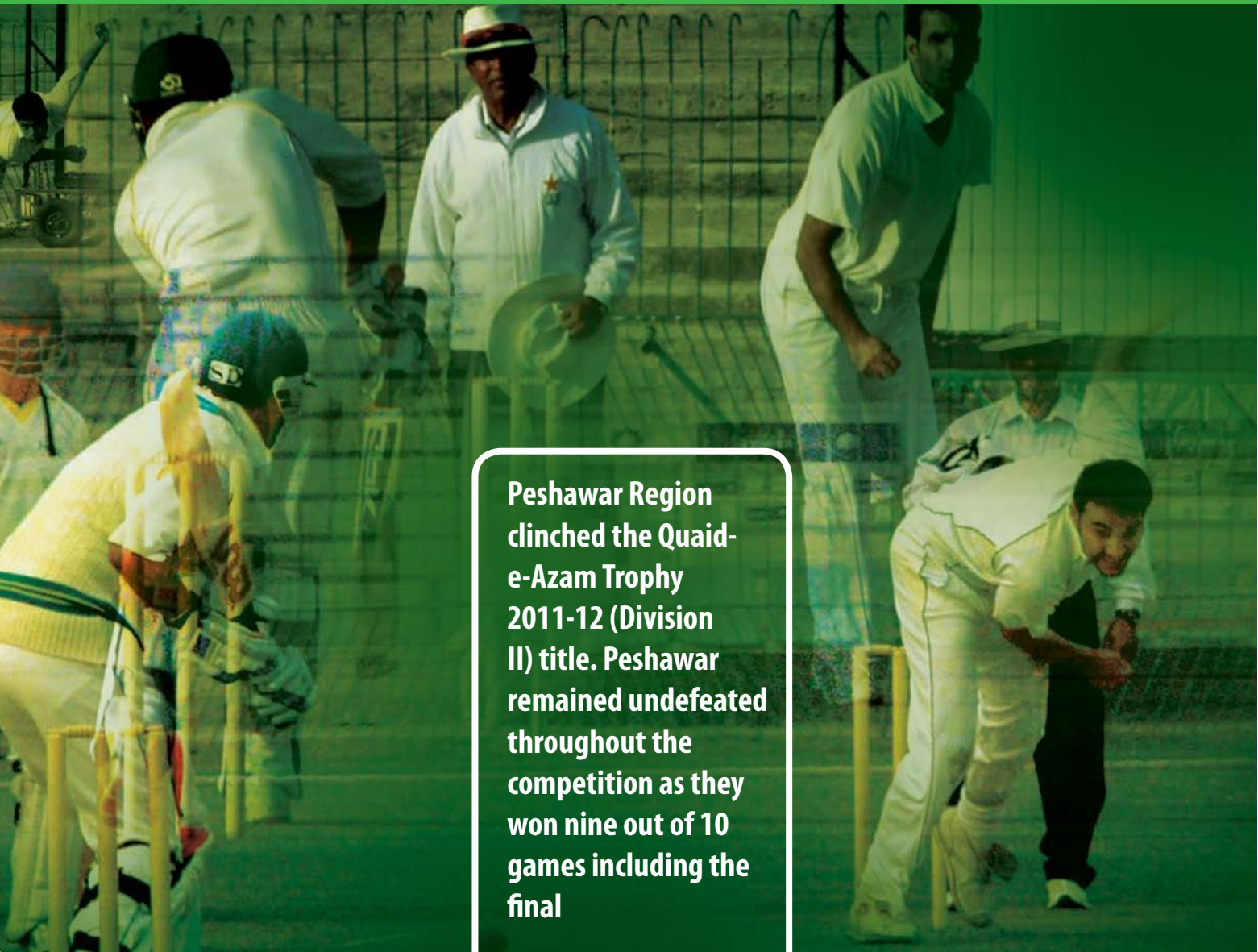
Badshah and Jamaluddin had shared a century partnership in the first innings and repeated the feat, putting on 110 unbeaten runs to take Peshawar out of trouble and to a win. Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) had started the fourth day on 277 for 8 and managed to add another 24 runs to their total. Seamer Waqar Ahmed took the last two wickets to finish with 6 for 92 in the innings and nine wickets in the match.

The format remained the same as last season's, with 22 first-class teams – both Regional and Departmental – competing in a two-Division event. Teams are promoted and relegated each season on the basis of

performance. The two bottom teams of Division I – one departmental and one regional – is to be demoted to Division II for the next season. Likewise, the leading regional and departmental sides from Division II will make the grade to Division I. The departmental side finishing lowest in Division II will be relegated to Grade II for the upcoming season.

Earlier, Peshawar bowled SNGPL out for 202 on the first day of the final, chose to bat but lost a wicket off the second ball, Riaz Afridi dismissing Naeemuddin. After a 62-run partnership between Azeem Ghuman and Ali Waqas, wickets fell regularly. Afridi and Waqar ripped through the top order, and then Afaq made sure the tail did not wag. Peshawar got off to a blazing start in their response, with the openers putting together a partnership of 82 runs in just 12.1 overs. Israrullah was dismissed for 36 and Iftikhar Ahmed fell for a first-ball duck to give SNGPL some respite at the end of the day.

On day two, Jamaluddin scored a brisk century to lead Peshawar to a commanding position. He made 124 off 154 balls to set up teams' total of 351, taking a decisive first-innings lead of 149.



Peshawar Region clinched the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2011-12 (Division II) title. Peshawar remained undefeated throughout the competition as they won nine out of 10 games including the final

Points Table

Teams	Mat	Won	Lost	Draw	Pts
Peshawar Region	9	8	0	1	72
SNGPL	9	8	1	0	72
Karachi Whites	9	6	2	1	57
Khan Research Labs	9	5	4	0	42
United Bank Limited	9	4	3	2	36
Lahore Ravi	9	3	3	3	33
Hyderabad Region	9	2	5	2	18
Quetta Region	9	1	5	3	15
Lahore Shalimar	9	1	7	1	9
Multan Region	9	0	8	1	0

***Two top teams qualified for the final

Brief Scores

Final: Peshawar v SNGPL

Played at Arbab Niaz Stadium, Peshawar

December 8,9,10 & 11, 2011

SNGPL 202 in 56.2 overs (Azeem Ghuman 26, Ali Waqas 37, Khurram Shahzad 30, Usman Arshad 41, Mohammad Awais 37, Umar Akmal 7, Riaz Afridi 4-55, Waqar Ahmed 3-80, Afaq Ahmed 3-48) and 301 in 83.4 overs (Ali Waqas 74, 141 balls, 10 x4s, Umar Akmal 93, 155 balls, 13 x4s, Usman Arshad 31, Riaz Afridi 4-83, Waqar Ahmed 6-92)

Peshawar 351 in 89.1 overs (Mohammad Fayyaz 47, 47 balls, 6 x4s, Akbar Badshah 52, 151 balls, Jamal-ud-din 124, 154 balls, 23 x4s, Mohammad Rizwan 46, 96 balls, 5 x4s, Bilawal Bhatti 3-74, Imran Ali 4-74, Asad Ali 2-103) and 153-4 in 50.5 (Akbar Badshah 54*, 105 balls, 8 x4s, Jamal-ud-din 58*, 99 balls, 5 x4s, Bilawal Bhatti 2-62)

Result: Peshawar won by six wickets.

Toss: SNGPL

Umpires: Zameer Haider & Ahsan Raza

Referee: Ishtiaq Ahmed

Man-of-the-Match: Jamal-ud-din (Peshawar)

SNGPL's openers faced 3.1 overs in their second innings and added nine before stumps.

On third day, Riaz Afridi and Waqar Ahmed, who troubled SNGPL in the first innings, took four wickets apiece in the second. SNGPL lost their openers cheaply, but their captain Umar Akmal (93 off 155 balls) and Ali Waqas (74 off 141 balls) put on a 155-run third-wicket stand

that raised their hopes of posting a respectable target for Peshawar.

The Division-II winners Peshawar went home richer by Rs500,000 cash prize plus the trophy while SNGPL received Rs250,000. Zakir Khan, the PCB's Director of Domestic Cricket Operations, was the chief guest.

The Awards

There were individual awards of Rs50,000 each also for Best Batsman (Usman Salahuddin of Lahore Ravi: 975 runs @ 81.25; best bowler (Tabish Khan of Karachi Whites: 61 wickets @ 15.54; best fielder (Mohammad Fayyaz of Peshawar: 25 catches and best wicketkeeper (Mohammad Zohaib of Lahore Ravi: 38 dismissals, 35 catches and three stumpings).



Along with showcasing a wide repertoire of talent and skill, the national side also flaunted an extremely professional approach, which enabled them to perform at their optimum level



Review – World Cup 2013

Pakistani v

Pakistan is now ranked in the top six and look like continuing their upsurge in the



Penetrating all the way to the final in the World Cup qualifiers, the national women cricket team qualifies for the mega event in style.

After the national women cricket team bagged the Asian Cup, the doubting Thomases were not convinced. Since ostensibly none of the big shots participated in the tournament, they said. However, the team has shushed all the sceptics via a truly momentous showing in Bangladesh. After qualifying for the World Cup, the national team has also risen up to sixth spot in the world rankings.

The qualifiers were divided into two pools of five teams each, with

Pakistan drawn in the same pool as Bangladesh, Ireland, Japan, Holland and the mighty West Indies. Pakistan won all but one of their matches in the lead up to the decisive encounter against the Netherlands – and that was against the overwhelming favourites West Indies. Pakistan needed a win against the Europeans to secure a berth in the World Cup since all four semifinalists were to qualify for the main event.

Owing to the mammoth 193-run win over Netherlands, Pakistan secured their place among the Who's Who of women cricket teams. The staggering triumph was followed up by another momentous triumph against the South African side in a closely fought encounter by three wickets. Led by Asmavia Iqbal, the Pakistani attack ensured



Qualifiers

women do it in style

and with the performance showcased in Bangladesh, our women
 the global pecking order



that South Africa were restricted to 180, while chasing Javeria Wadood Khan played an instrumental role in the chase with a top score of 47.

After having already qualified for the World Cup, the triumph against the South Africans boosted our ranking and in turn laid the platform for us for the World Cup itself.

The daunting Windies side faced our girls in the final and as expected their power and tenacity proved to be too hot to handle as the West Indian side won by 130 runs. Nevertheless the point of the event was qualification for the main event that would feature the top eight sides in the world. And the national team completed that task resoundingly.

Along with showcasing a wide repertoire of talent and skill, the

national side also flaunted an extremely professional approach, which enabled them to perform at their optimum level. After 19 of the girls in the national squad were handed contracts by the PCB, the women's game has gone from strength to strength in our neck of the woods. It is heartening to note that the opulent reservoir of talent is found on both sides of the gender divide. And hence the PCB's objective of continuing to tap into that reservoir and encourage the women as well is indeed laudable.

Pakistan is now ranked in the top six of world cricket and with the performance showcased in Bangladesh, our women's cricket looks like continuing their upsurge in the pecking order of the global game. The future looks luminous and long may this precipitous ascent continue.



Review – Faysal Bank National T20 Championship

Stallions clinch sixth National T20 title

Sialkot edge out Rawalpindi in a nail-biting finale after another successful National T20 event

Sialkot Stallions have bagged their sixth Faysal Bank National T20 Champions' Crown in eight tournaments to rubber stamp themselves as the biggest force in our local T20 circuit. Stallions edged out the relentless Rawalpindi Rams – after a truly nail-biting contest – by 10 runs.

The tournament kicked off on the 25th of September in National Stadium Karachi, after the dengue threat had forced it to be shifted from Lahore. The 14 teams were divided into 4 groups: A: Karachi Zebras, Lahore Eagles,

Abbottabad Falcons and Quetta Bears; B: Rawalpindi Rams, Multan Tigers, Faisalabad Wolves and Afghan Cheetahs; C: Sialkot Stallions, Lahore Lions and Hyderabad Hawks; D: Karachi Dolphins, Islamabad Leopards and Peshawar Panthers.

One team from each group was to qualify for the semi-final stage, scheduled for October 1 and 2.

After a round of tightly contested group matches, Lahore Eagles – unbeaten in Group A – soared into the semifinals, spearheaded up top by the flamboyant batting of Imran Farhat. In Group B Rawalpindi Rams – the winners of the

Scores:

1st Semifinal: Lahore Eagles 167 (19.3 overs), Sialkot Stallions 171-4 (18.5 overs); Stallions won by 6 wickets with 7 balls to spare; Man of the Match: Shoaib Malik

2nd Semifinal: Rawalpindi Rams 168 (19.5 overs), Peshawar Panthers 91 (16 overs); Rams won by 77 runs; Man of the Match: Umar Amin

Final: Sialkot Stallions 180-6 (20 overs), Rawalpindi Rams 170-8 (20 overs); Stallions win by 10 runs;

Man of the Match: Raza Hassan

Tournament Awards:

Best batsman: Yasir Hameed (218 Runs)

Best bowler: Mohammad Rameez (11 wickets)

Best wicket-keeper: Jamal Anwar (5 dismissals)

Best fielder: Azhar Ali (6 catches)



inaugural Super Eight T20 Cup in Faisalabad in July – outdid the more fancied Faisalabad Wolves by 7 runs in a crucial matchup to qualify for the semis. Umar Amin was the star performer for the Rams throughout the tournament.

Group C had a straight head-to-head between the most successful side in our T20 history, Sialkot Stallions and the star-studded Lahore Lions. Sialkot however tamed the Lions easily to progress into the semis. Group D saw Peshawar Panthers outplay Afridi's Karachi Dolphins, after putting on a good show with the bat, and led aptly by Umar Gul.

In the first semifinal, Captain Shoaib Malik's bludgeoning 88 off 49 balls have his Stallions a commanding victory over Lahore Eagles. Eagles had posted 167 on the board, after their openers set the tone early on. Imran Farhat carried on with his rich vein of form and combined well with Taufeeq Umar to bring about the Eagles' 50 in merely 4 overs. However after the opening partnership broke, Eagles self-imploded and with four of the 10 dismissals being run-outs, their imprudence stopped them from posting what looked like a nailed on 200 score. In reply Malik and Shahid Yousuf put on a 127 runs stand as the Stallions chased down the target with 7 balls to spare.

In the second semifinal Rawalpindi Rams outclassed Peshawar Panthers with Umar Amin's all-round performance taking his side in to the final. Batting first, the Rams had contributions from most of their batsmen as everyone chipped in take the total to 168. Umar Amin top scored with 30, supported well by Sohail Tanvir's 26 off 17. In reply the Panthers were bundled out for merely 91 with Umar Amin and Hammad Azam ripping through Peshawar's batting with 3 wickets each.

The final was a real humdinger. Batting first the Stallions posted 180 on the board, after another

impressive partnership between Shoaib Malik (43) and Shahid Yousuf (32) guiding Sialkot to their total, with valuable contributions from Shakeed Adnan (39) and Qaiser (44). The Rams' chase looked on target with Naveed Malik's 67 up top looking good to take them all the way and he was well supported by his opening partner Awais Zia with 32. However following Naveed Malik's dismissal, and Umar Amin going cheap as well Rams fell short by 10 runs as the Stallions held on to their nerves in a final that when down to the wire. Raza Hassan was declared the man of the final for his outstanding bowling and fielding.



**PCB's gesture:
Reward and
appreciation for
Aleem Dar**



Pakistan win record equalling fifth Super Sixes title

Under the leadership of Abdul Razzaq, Pakistan overpower all before them in Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Super Sixes final between Pakistan and England was a clash between the two heavy weights of this particular format. Pakistan stood second with four titles and was superseded by England's five titles. Batting first, a couple of blitzkriegs by Captain Abdul Razzaq and Sohail Tanvir – both conjuring up half centuries- led Pakistan to a daunting total of 154. Razzaq bludgeoned 63 off 17 deliveries, and Sohail Tanvir hit 58 off 14 balls as Pakistan piled on the runs. In reply, wickets regularly tumbled for England who never managed to put together a run to pose a veritable scare in their run chase.

At the start of the tournament Pakistan found themselves in Pool C, along with archrivals India, South Africa and hosts Hong Kong.

With all three of Hong Kong, Pakistan and India locked at four points each, the former two qualified by dint of a better Net Run-Rate. Pakistan then overcame Ireland in the quarter final, by chasing down a target of 87 comfortably. In the semi final against the host, it was our powerful batting line up that posted a mammoth 114 in the allotted five overs and Hong Kong in reply struggled from the onset.

The final against England was an intriguing affair. England won the toss and elected to bowl first, and were on the receiving end of

a monstrous blitzkrieg. Pakistan posted a gargantuan 155 in five overs to virtually bat the opposition out of the game. Even though England put on a valiant show and posted 119 in reply, it was Umar Akmal's surprise three wicket haul that sealed the deal.

Pakistan and England now sit at the summit of the Super Sixes format with five titles each. Umar Akmal was declared the man of the series being both the leading run scorer and the joint leading wicket taker. Akmal scored 254 runs in the tournament – a record that easily surpassed the previous best by English cricketer Peter Trego in 2009. Umar Akmal along with Razzaq and England's Rory Hamilton-Brown was the leading wicket taker with six wickets each.

Aleem Dar, the Impeccable

The respected Pakistani completes a hat-trick of 'the ICC Umpire of the Year' Awards in 2011 to cement his place as an all-time great

Ever since the dawn of the modern era in Sports, it has been deemed inevitable that one day the task of officiating would be under the complete domination of technology and review systems – just so we could get close to being flawless in terms of just decision making. Nevertheless, one man has redefined the term 'perfection' and that too from within the jurisdiction of human limitations – he's our very own Aleem Dar.

In the recently concluded ICC Awards Ceremony in London, Aleem Dar bagged his third consecutive 'Umpire of the Year' Award – or the David Sheppard Trophy, as it has been recently named – cementing himself as the best umpire in the modern game, and one of the greatest of all-time. Aleem Dar averted challenges from other esteemed umpires – like five-time winner Simon Taufel, Ian Gould and Steve Davis – to complete his hat-trick.

Debuting just over a decade ago, in a Pakistan-Srilanka ODI at Gujranwala in 2000, Aleem Dar consistently climbed the ladder of success. He entered the ICC's Panel of Umpires as early as 2002 and followed it up by officiating in his first Test Match and the World Cup in 2003. The following year he became the first Pakistani Umpire to be a part of ICC's Elite Umpire Panel, and was nominated for ICC's 'Umpire of the Year' in 2005 and 2006.

Standing in the 2006 Champions' Trophy Final, and then the 2007 World Cup Final – Dar gradually started asserting himself as one of the very best in the business. The years 2008-2010 bore more fruit as Aleem Dar proved his credentials as the top umpire in the game and received due recognition from the ICC as he won the 'ICC Umpire of the Year' Trophy in 2009 and again in 2010 – fending off stiff competition from Taufel on both occasions.

However the year 2011 has witnessed the prime of Aleem Dar as the leading light in umpiring. The 2011 World Cup was undoubtedly the highlight of his career thus far, where all 15 of the DRS reviews against him proved to be incorrect. While our on-field performances continue to be a mixed bag, the officials from our neck of the woods continue to make a name for themselves at the International Stage.

Asad Rauf is another Pakistani representative in ICC's Elite Panel of Umpires and has made a name for himself, courtesy an unflustered presence on the field and his undoubted composure. Asad Rauf has also received recognition, for being one of the best in the modern game, by being nominated by the ICC for the annual 'Umpire of the Year' Award. His career is seeing new heights and if he continues to follow his recent trend of judicious accuracy there could be scores of accolades awaiting him in the future.

Even Ahsan Raza, our nominated third umpire on the ICC's International Panel of Umpires and Referees has a bright future ahead of him. Ahsan Raza was severely wounded in the attack on the Sri Lankan Cricket Team in 2009, but has since recovered well and is looking forward to fulfilling his potential as a competent International Level Umpire.

However it is Aleem Dar, who is the benchmark for not only our umpires but for officials all over the globe. Not only has he proved to be in incredibly astute decision maker, but owing to his commanding presence and calm persona – he has gained the respect of fellow officials, players and the cricket loving fans all over the world.



The winning Lahore team with Chairman PCB



Under-19 Women Cricket 2011-12

Lahore triumph time on the trot

The PCB Women Wing introduced the U19 Women Cricket programme in 2009. Since then the Women's domestic season each year commences with the Under-19 women cricket events. The entire Under-19 programme is divided into two segments: a) The U19 Inter-District Tournament, (b) U19 National Women Cricket Championship.

This year both the tournaments were completed on a successful note. The U19 Inter-District tournaments were held in nine regions only. Two of the regions namely Hyderabad & Abbottabad were unable to organise the Inter-District tournaments due to natural calamities. They therefore had to conduct open trials to form their regional U19 teams.

After the completion of the Inter-District tournament, the U19 National Women Cricket Championship was held from November 21



The runner-up side, Rawalpindi poses with Chairman PCB



‘Women Cricket in Pakistan is teeming with talent at Under-19 level which is capable to beat any international side’

The benchmark

It is pertinent to mention that the current National Women Cricket Team also comprises of some of the players who were selected from the preceding years U19 tournaments, like the left-handed opener Bismah Maroof, Rabiya Shah, who bats left-handed and keeps wickets, Kainat Imtiaz, who bowls right arm fast medium.

Since Women Cricket in Pakistan does not have any club cricket infrastructure, therefore the U19 tournament is the benchmark and first step towards the primary selection at grassroots level. The PCB Women's Wing is also planning to introduce more such tournaments with different formats to increase the competition level. It may be noted that the Women Cricket in Pakistan is teeming with talent at Under-19 level which is capable to beat any international side but unfortunately at present the International Cricket Council (ICC) does not have any U19 Women Cricket Programmes as it is only considered an amateur part of the game.

to December 4, 2011 at Lahore Country Club, Muridke where all eleven regional U19 teams – Lahore, Karachi, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Multan, Sialkot, Hyderabad, Abbottabad, Peshawar, Faisalabad and Quetta – participated.

Lahore's stranglehold

As per the format of the championship, all the matches were of twenty-overs-a-side and the teams were divided into two Pools. The top two teams of each pool – Karachi and Multan from Pool 'A' & Lahore and Rawalpindi from Pool 'B' – played cross semi-finals before contesting for the top slot. This year the final was played between Lahore and Rawalpindi, with the former retaining its stranglehold on the Trophy by winning it for the third consecutive time in

a row.

The Event was a huge success as lots of potential budding talent was spotted. The Final was televised live on PTV, while the Chairman PCB Mr Muhammad Zaka Ashraf was the chief guest.

The U19 Women Cricket tournament is an important part of the Women Cricket setup in Pakistan. The programme is significant for the talent hunt scheme as the National Selection Committee watches each and every game so that outstanding talent can be spotted which is eventually brought to the National Cricket Academy under the supervision of expert coaches so that the backup pool for the National Women's Team can be increased.

Pakistan team, stars climb up the rankings table

Emphatic wins over Sri Lanka, Bangladesh see Pakistan move into the fifth spot on the ICC Test Championship table

Owing to their whitewash over Bangladesh, Pakistan have moved up a spot in the Reliance ICC Test Championship table and are now

at the fifth spot with 99 points. The team that we have supplanted from the fifth spot, also the team that we overpowered in October, Sri Lanka also find themselves on 99 points. However, when the mathematical calculations are taken beyond the first decimal point it's Pakistan who come out on top – such is the flimsy margin enjoyed by Pakistan over Sri Lanka as things stand on the table. An even more crucial stat, this is the first time that Pakistan has moved up in the table since March 2009.

After beating Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in the limited-overs formats as well convincingly – both in the ODIs and the T20s – Pakistan have also moved up the respective tables. However, it is the rise in our Test performances that has been the biggest relief and has been the biggest cause of buoyancy.

Ajmal on top, Hafeez second best

Of our players, Saeed Ajmal and Mohammed Hafeez are now at the first and second spot on the ODI table. Ajmal has also climbed up to the 8th spot in Tests as well owing to his tally of 50 wickets in the ongoing calendar year. The off-spinning wizard has undoubtedly been at the vanguard of Pakistan's recent upsurge in all formats and his ability to outfox has made him the most intimidating weapon in our bowling arsenal. Hafeez has also coupled his impressive shows with the bat, with an awe-inspiring brand of spin bowling – and quite often with the new ball as well. Afridi's presence in the top 10 has ensured that Pakistan's spinning repertoire is indubitably the most formidable in the cricketing world.

Younis soars up the Test table

On the batting front, veteran Younis Khan has soared up the Test table and is now at the 5th spot owing to his emblematically dependable

Highest Run-getters for Pakistan in Tests

Batsman	M	I	N.O	Runs	AVG	H.S	100	50	0
Javed Miandad	124	189	21	8832	52.57	280*	23	43	6
Inzamam-ul-Haq	120	200	22	8830	49.60	329	25	46	15
Mohammad Yousuf	90	156	12	7530	52.29	223	24	33	11
Younis Khan	72	126	10	6036	52.03	313	18	26	13
Saleem Malik	103	154	22	5768	43.69	237	15	29	12



performances against Sri Lanka and then against Bangladesh – where he scored a breathtaking double ton.

Younis' 6,000-run landmark in Tests

Younis Khan became the fourth Pakistan and 54th batsman overall to score 6,000 or more runs in Tests. The right-handed top order batsman from Mardan achieved this feat during his unbeaten 96-run knock on the second day of the first Test against Bangladesh at Chittagong on Dec. 10.

Reliance ICC Test Championship Table (as on 21 December)

1. England	125
2. India	118
3. South Africa	116
4. Australia	103
5. Pakistan	99
6. Sri Lanka	99
7. West Indies	88
8. New Zealand	83
9. Bangladesh	09



'PCB gesture the best thing for Blind Squad'

—Syed Sultan Shah

At the PCB reception to greet the victors, the PBCA Chairman Syed Sultan Shah said, the PCB's gesture to honour the series-winning Blind squad was the best thing to have happened to it.

"It would boost the morale of the players and they will continue earning good name to the country."

He further said that the Chief Minister Punjab Mian Shahbaz Sharif has ordered to make more than 100 cricket grounds but unfortunately no ground was allocated to the blind cricketers when they really deserved it.

"I request Punjab CM to make some cricket grounds for blind cricketers who are world champions and we are hoping soon that he will provide us these facilities," he added.



'For Women Cricket, PCB support critical'

—Mrs. Bushra Aitzaz

The PCB Women's Wing Chairperson, Ms. Bushra Aitzaz on the occasion said: "Pakistan women's team has raised country's flag high by qualifying for the World Cup. And if the PCB continues supporting the players to the same degree, affording them the opportunity to play more and more cricket at the national and international level, then the time is not far when Pakistan women team will win the World Cup."

She also thanked the Punjab Chief Minister for providing a separate cricket ground to the women. "It has a great pavilion and good pitches and it's one of the best cricket academies as well in the city," she added.



Pakistan to take on Bangladesh in opener

Bangladesh will meet Pakistan in the opening match of the four-nation Asia Cup cricket tournament starting in Dhaka in March, according to the schedule released on Dec. 26.

The Sher-e-Bangla National stadium will host all the matches, including the inaugural fixture on March 12 and the final on March 22, said the Asian Cricket Council COO, Syed Ashraf Huq.

"All teams including India and Pakistan have confirmed their participation," said he.

India won the winners of the last edition of the continental showpiece at Dambulla in Sri Lanka in June 2010.

Schedule:

- March 12: Bangladesh v Pakistan**
- March 13: India v Sri Lanka**
- March 15: Pakistan v Sri Lanka**
- March 16: India v Bangladesh**
- March 18: India v Pakistan**
- March 20: Sri Lanka v Bangladesh**
- March 22: Final**
- March 23: Reserve day**

Pakistan vs England Schedule

(3 Tests, 4 ODIs, 3 Twenty20 Internationals)

Jan. 17-21, 2012	1st Test, Dubai Cricket Stadium, Dubai
Jan. 25-29, 2012	2nd Test, Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi
Feb. 3-7, 2012	Third Test, Dubai Cricket Stadium, Dubai
Feb. 13, 2012	1st ODI, Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi
Feb. 15, 2012	2nd ODI, Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi
Feb. 18, 2012	3rd ODI, Dubai Cricket Stadium, Dubai
Feb. 21, 2012	4th ODI, Dubai Cricket Stadium, Dubai
Feb. 23, 2012	1st T20I, Dubai Cricket Stadium, Dubai
Feb. 25, 2012	2nd TWI, Dubai Cricket Stadium, Dubai
Feb. 25, 2012	3rd 20I, Sheikh Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi



From title page

Zaka Ashraf – the new PCB Chairman

Bank Limited, which saw unprecedented growth in agriculture and in turn generating contentment among the farmers community. His management prowess was there for all to see.

Mr Zaka Ashraf is a quick decision maker and showcases a big heart towards cricketers and matters pertaining to cricket. Abdul Razzaq, skipper of the victorious Super Sixes team heaped praises on the new PCB chairman who he said was the driving force behind ZTBL's upsurge as a cricketing power and also helped the flamboyant all-rounder at a time when his own career was threatening to nose dive into oblivion. It portrays the new chairman's ability in propelling teams towards prominence and also his man management skills – which is probably the biggest task that any one at the helm of PCB faces.

Apart from having the apposite credentials Mr Zaka Ashraf has the temperament to maintain tranquility in the bowling cauldron that Pakistan cricket had become over the recent past. Mild, cool as a cucumber and focused on his job, Zaka Ashraf has all the ingredients to when the appetite of cricket aficionados in our neck of the woods.

The first task that greeted the newly appointed chairman was the spot-fixing scandal which has marred the cricketing realm for over a year now. Citing this regretful incident and the recent trend of 'conditional retirement' Zaka Ashraf has made it crystal clear that discipline would not be compromised. Discipline has probably been the Achilles' heel of Pakistan cricket over the years and hence if the chairman manages to curb this menace Pakistan cricket might retrace its zenith and achieve stability.

Speaking of stability, matters under new captain Misbah-ul-Haq have been as stable as they come for Pakistan. The man is yet to lose a test series and in Bangladesh he orchestrated Pakistan's sixth consecutive ODI series triumph. With wins over Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, there might be a U-turn on the recent dip in form in T20s for Pakistan cricket as well. With triumphs in all three formats over Sri Lanka – a team ranked above us in all the aforementioned formats as well – the start for Mr Zaka Ashraf has been promising indeed.

The stable and calm aura that the new chairman and the current skipper Misbah don is indeed reflecting on matters on the field. Pakistan overpowered Sri Lanka and is doing the same to Bangladesh as well, while the start is brilliant, with England up next and bigger challenges to follow the team might need the composure that Zaka Ashraf possesses to ensure that it purges the unwarranted antics of the field and focuses on prolonging the recent upsurge in fortunes.

