

# PCB Highlights

## 1 August – 31 October



### **PCB plays its part in highlighting the soft image of Pakistan**

The Pakistan Cricket Board used its global reputation, credibility and influence when they convinced Sri Lanka to visit Karachi and Lahore for a 13-day tour, comprising three ODIs and three T20Is. This was the longest tour by an international cricket team in more than 10 years.

As part of the PCB's forward-thinking strategy and to give a realistic ground experience that can play a pivotal role for Australia's and England's tour in 2021 and 2022, respectively, the PCB hosted top managements of the International Cricket Council, Cricket Australia, England and Wales Cricket Board and Cricket Ireland in Islamabad and Lahore, respectively.

These were the first-ever visits by these officials to Pakistan.

- At the end of his tour, CA chief executive Kevin Roberts said: "We share your desire to see international cricket return to Pakistan. We think it would be great for cricket and Pakistan." His complete interview can be found [here](#)
- ECB chief executive Tom Harrison, who watched the third T20I, said: "Now we need to take all that information home and start building towards a plan to put in place over the next few years to make it safe for us to consider coming here and fulfilling that obligation in the second half of 2022. In an ideal world, which we don't live in, obviously we want major cricketing nations to be playing most of their cricket or lot of their cricket at home. It's really important." His complete video interview is available [here](#)
- Cricket Ireland chief executive Warren Deutrom, who accompanied Harrison, said: "What we saw in Islamabad and Lahore is the extraordinary lengths to which the cricket authorities, the security authorities, the government and police, everyone has been working incredibly closely together to building that confidence. It begins to build a sense of OK, well, what are the reasons now to say why wouldn't we come if we have had all these sensitive comforts provided to us. So, it is the beginning, I believe, of a conversation." His complete interview is available [here](#)
- ICC deputy chairman Imran Khwaja attended the first T20I and said: "The ICC is keen to promote the game of cricket in all its member nations and it will continue to support Pakistan in resuming international cricket in the country. The visit of Sri Lankan team to Pakistan shows that the country is a safe place to host international matches and hopefully, it will continue to host more and more international series. I heartily congratulate Pakistan on hosting Sri Lankan team in a befitting manner."



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### Royal couple visits the National Cricket Academy

History was made on 17 October 2019 when the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, Prince William and Kate Middleton visited the state-of-the-art National Cricket Academy, a finishing school for future stars of Pakistan cricket.

This was the first-ever visit by the British royals to the academy since its birth in 2003.

The couple were received by the PCB Chairman Ehsan Mani and Chief Executive Wasim Khan, they spent around 60 minutes at the venue that has a proud history of producing some of the modern day stars.

They participated in a cricket match that also featured former Pakistan captain and ICC Cricket Hall of Famer Waqar Younis, Test batsman Azhar Ali, fast bowlers Hasan Ali and Shaheen Afridi, former women's captain and chair of national women's selection committee Urooj Mumtaz, and star all-rounder Sana Mir, as well as Dosti participants. Dosti is a programme that aims to create a difference by breaking social barriers and promoting community cohesion by making sports an integral part of the social life of youth.

Video package on the royal couple's NCA visit is available [here](#).



### Busiest international season in years and it continues

For the first time in over a decade, an international cricket team fulfilled its Future Tour Programme (FTP) commitment and in doing so, spent 13 days in Karachi and Lahore – longest since March 2009.

From 26 September to 9 October, Pakistan hosted Sri Lanka for three ODIs and as many T20Is in Karachi and Lahore, respectively in September/October. Pakistan won the ODI series 2-0, while Sri Lanka made a clean sweep of the T20I series.

The Gaddafi Stadium turned pink for the 9 October third T20I after the PCB joined hands with Pink Ribbon to create awareness about breast cancer. President Arif Alvi's message on the Pink Ribbon initiative can be found [here](#).

Thanks to the collaborated effort of all concerned government and civil agencies, which made the series a resounding success, Sri Lanka are expected to return for the World Test Championship fixtures in December. Although Cricket Sri Lanka is yet to formally accept the series schedule, Rawalpindi and Karachi are being prepared for the two matches.

Bangladesh have also showed their confidence in Pakistan's safety and security by sending their national U16 and women's teams.

The Bangladesh U16 side arrived in Islamabad on 22 October to play two three-day and three 50-over fixtures at the KRL ground in Rawalpindi from 25 October to 8 November, while the Bangladesh women arrived in Lahore on 23 October to play three T20Is and two ODIs at the Gaddafi Stadium from 26 October to 4 November.

The successes of the U16 and women's series has given credence to PCB's position as Pakistan being as safe as any other country, while also strengthening its stance of hosting Bangladesh for two Tests and three T20Is in January 2020.

If this series takes place, the 2019-20 season will go down as the PCB's busiest domestic international series in many years.



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### Cricket on new and traditional media

On-field cricket was finally back on the front pages of the national dailies and headlines on TV news channels as the 2019-20 season commenced on 14 September with the quality-based six-team four-day first-class Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

An integral part of making the domestic structure more appealing and attractive as well as taking it to the audiences, the PCB decided to live-stream the fixtures. In an unprecedented decision, the PCB will live-stream one match from each round. This means 10 out of 30 matches will be live-streamed on the PCB Youtube channel.

Furthermore, the final of the National Triangular One-Day Women's Cricket Championship as well as Pakistan versus Bangladesh women's series was also live-streamed.

The PCB took the coverage of the National T20 to greater heights when it was produced by the PTV and live-telecast by the PCB media partner Ten Sports as well as PTV Sports.

The coverage of all the domestic matches to date on the PCB social media channels has been like never before. There are live updates, action images, digital packages, match highlights and daily round-ups, which are being widely followed by the fans and being used by media houses. These initiatives have not only enhanced the profile of the events, it has contributed immensely in providing coverage to the high-performing cricketers and helping their claims for call-ups in the national sides.

Till 31 October, five rounds of Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, have been played with Central Punjab leading the pack with 78 points. They are followed by Southern Punjab (60), Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (53), Balochistan (45) and, Sindh and Northern (44 apiece).

The Quaid-e-Azam Trophy took a two-week break after the fourth round during which the National T20 Cup was held in Faisalabad and Karachi. Northern completed a double when their first XI defeated Balochistan by 52 runs in Faisalabad, while their second XI beat Southern Punjab by 40 runs to win the second XI competition in Karachi.

With one eye on next year's ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2020, the National U19 three-day and one-day competitions started on 1 and 5 October, respectively. The six cricket association sides are featuring in the three-day matches, while the 50-over fixtures are being played with a day's gap. Both the events are being played on a single-league basis with the one-day final to be played on 6 November and the three-day tournament final, to be played over four days from 9-12 November.

In the meantime, the Pakistan U19 side's preparations for next ICC U19 Cricket World Cup continues. After Pakistan defeated Sri Lanka 3-2 and then South Africa 7-0, they featured in the ACC U19 Cricket Tournament in Colombo, where their only victory was against Kuwait.





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### Pakistan women continue their upward movement

As part of its strategic plan and commitment, the PCB continued to create opportunities and investment on the promotion, growth and development of women's cricket. In this regard, a number of activities took place during the period from 1 August to 31 October and below is a bird's eye view of those initiatives:

- Nine women umpires including Afia Amin, Humaira Farah, Nazia Nazir, Nuzhat Sultana, Riffat Mustafa, Sabahat Rasheed, Samera Aftab, Saleema Imtiaz and Shakila Rafiq attended PCB Panel Umpires & Match Referees Annual Workshops, which were organised in August/September.
- Six women's umpires namely Afia Amin, Humairah Farah, Nazia Nazir, Riffat Mustafa, Sabahat Rasheed and Shakila Rafiq were named to officiate in the National Triangular One-Day Women's Cricket Championship.
- The National Triangular One-Day Women's Cricket Championship was held from 17-26 September. In the final, PCB Blasters beat PCB Challengers by six runs.
- Rameen Shamim was named as Pakistan women's team captain for the ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup 2019, which was held in Colombo from 22 to 27 October.
- Abbottabad's Atika Sabir Khan, Lahore's Fareeha Mahmood, Shehla Bibi from Wah Cantt and Tasleem Bano from the Gaizer district of Gilgit Baltistan attended the three-day ACC Level 1 Women Coaching Course, which was held in Lahore from 17 to 19 October.
- Nida Dar became the first Pakistan woman cricketer to feature in a foreign league after she was selected by Sydney Thunder as their overseas professional player in Australia's Women's Big Bash League, which will be played from 18 October to 8 December.



### Key Cricket Appointments

- Misbah-ul-Haq was confirmed as Pakistan men's national team head coach and chief selector in all three formats on a three-year contract. He captained the Pakistan national team in 56 Tests – more than anyone else – is the only captain to lead Pakistan to Test series victory in the West Indies and won 26 Tests as captain – more than any other Pakistan captain. He led Pakistan to the number-one position in the ICC Test Championship in 2016 and held that position for two months. He also won the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award in 2016 "for inspiring his side to play the game in its true spirit".
- As part of the PCB innovative thinking and in line with Misbah-ul-Haq's appointment, the head coaches of the six cricket associations' first XI sides were also confirmed as selection committee members. They are: Abdul Rehman (Southern Punjab), Arshad Khan (Balochistan), Azam Khan (Sindh), Ijaz Ahmed Junior (Central Punjab), Kabir Khan (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) and Mohammad Wasim (Northern). Apart from coaching players and watching games, they will provide invaluable input to the chief selector and selection committee coordinator.
- Former Test batsman Ijaz Ahmed was appointed as the head coach of the Pakistan U19 cricket team on a three-year contract. He played 60 Tests and 250 ODIs between 1986 and 2001, scoring 3,315 and 6,564 runs, respectively.
- Former Test spinner Nadeem Khan was appointed as Coordinator – National Selection Committee. The 49-year-old played two Tests, two ODIs and 153 first-class matches in a career spanning between 1987 and 2002.
- Two-time former head coach and ICC Cricket Hall of Famer Waqar Younis was appointed as bowling coach of the Pakistan men's national side on a three-year contract.



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- Former first-class cricketer Iqbal Imam was appointed Pakistan national women team's interim head coach following the departure of New Zealand's Mark Coles. The recruitment process is already underway in appointing a full-time coach and the process is expected to be completed before the team departs late November for Malaysia to play England in the ICC Women's Championship fixtures

- The International Cricket Council named PCB Chairman Ehsan Mani in its Governance Working Group to consider future governance structure of the game's governing body. The group also includes Earl Eddings (chairman), Tony Brian (Scotland), Chris Nenzani (South Africa) and Ricky Skeritt (West Indies)

- As part of the PCB's forward-thinking approach and taking into account the recent and present form, Azhar Ali was named as Test captain for the six World Test Championship Tests to be played from now until January 2020, while world's best T20I batsman Babar Azam was appointed captain of the T20I side until next year's ICC T20 World Cup Australia 2020



## A glance at major corporate decisions

To introduce professionalism and strengthen governance in PCB's structures, the management took a number of important and big decisions during the period from August to October. Some of the major decisions included:

- On 7 August and on the recommendation of the PCB Cricket Committee, the PCB decided not to extend the contracts of head coach Mickey Arthur, bowling coach Azhar Mahmood, batting coach Grant Flower and trainer Grant Luden
- Implementation of the new PCB Constitution 2019, which superseded the PCB Constitution 2014. The new constitution, which came into effect on 19 August, is available [here](#)
- The 55th Board of Governors meeting was held on 30 August. Among other matters, the BoG constituted a three-member Nominations Committee comprising Mr Asad Ali Khan, Mr Shahrez Abdullah Khan and Mr Bakhtiar Khawaja (independent) as members. The committee will be responsible for making recommendations to the BoG on the appointment of four independent directors to the BoG, including one female director, Election commissioner, Deputy election commissioner and adjudicators
- The PCB presented the revamped, highly competitive and quality-based domestic cricket to the Pakistan cricket media on 30 August, before it was introduced on 14 September
- On 20 September, the PCB announced it will offer two-month contracts to the 243 curators and groundsmen, who were employed by the 16 Regional Cricket Associations (RCAs), which have been replaced by six cricket associations under the new PCB Constitution 2019. The PCB Domestic Cricket Department is presently carrying out a detailed assessment of all the grounds and a report in this regard will be released in due course
- The HBL Pakistan Super League General Council met in Karachi on 30 September in which both the PCB and the franchises renewed the commitment of holding the entire HBL PSL 2020 edition in Pakistan