

January to June 2021



- As part of the PCB Awards initiative, Babar Azam was named the Most Valuable Cricketer of 2020; Mohammad Rizwan was named as Test Cricketer of 2020; and Aliya Riaz was voted as Women's Cricketer of 2020. Complete list of winners is available on www.pcb.com.pk
- Pakistan beat South Africa by 2-0 to move to fifth in the ICC Test Team Rankings, their highest since 2017
- Nauman Ali took five wickets on his Test debut against South Africa at National Stadium, Karachi
- Hasan Ali took a career-best 10-114 in the second Test against South Africa at the Pindi Cricket Stadium
- Mohammad Rizwan scored his maiden T20I century against South Africa in 1st T20I at Gaddafi Stadium
- Fakhar Zaman scored 193 against South Africa in the second ODI in Johannesburg
- Pakistan became the first Asian team to win two ODI series in South Africa
- After third ODI against South Africa, Babar Azam became the number-one ranked ODI batsman
- Mohammad Hafeez completed his century of T20I appearances
- Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam stitched 197 runs partnership against South Africa in the third T20I at Centurion. This is Pakistan's highest partnership for any wicket in T20Is
- Babar Azam scored his maiden century (122) against South Africa in third T20I at Centurion
- Pakistan chased down a record target of 204 runs in the third T20I against South Africa
- Mohammad Rizwan was named Wisden Cricketer of the Year
- Fawad Alam became the first Asian and sixth batsman overall to convert his first four half-centuries into centuries
- Abid Ali scored his career-best 215 not out in the second Test against Zimbabwe in Harare. This is highest score by a Pakistan batsman in Zimbabwe

Satisfying first half of 2021 for Babar Azam's side

	Played	Won	Lost
Tests	5	4	1
ODIs	3	2	1
T20Is	10	7	3

The first half of 2021 has been a satisfying one for Babar Azam's side, though they could have done better with the talent and potential they possess in their ranks.

In the period between 1 January and 30 June, they played five Tests, won four and lost one, while they won two of their three ODIs. In T20Is, their success percentage stood at 70 per cent when they played 10 and won seven.

The year didn't start promisingly for Pakistan when they lost to New Zealand in Christchurch by an innings and 176 runs. However, they bounced back strongly to beat South Africa in Karachi and Rawalpindi by seven wickets and 95 runs, respectively, to jump to fifth in the ICC Test Rankings – their highest since 2017. They added two more victories in the Zimbabwe, winning the Harare Tests by an innings' margins.

While their 2-1 ODI series win was against Zimbabwe, their seven T20I victories were against South Africa and Zimbabwe. Pakistan lost games to South Africa in Lahore and at Centurion, and the opening fixture in Zimbabwe.

In Tests, Azhar Ali has remained Pakistan's most successful batsman with 407 runs with a century and two half-centuries at an average of over 58. Abid Ali (359) and Fawad Alam (333) are the other notable batsmen. Bowling honours were dominated by Hasan Ali with 26 wickets, followed by Shaheen Shah Afridi (19) and Nauman Ali (16).

In ODIs, Fakhar Zaman, with two centuries, led Pakistan's batting chart with 302 runs, followed by Babar Azam with 228 runs, including a century and a half-century. Haris Rauf with seven wickets was the most successful bowler, while Shaheen Shah Afridi was once again amongst wickets with six.



In T20Is, Mohammad Rizwan remained in blistering form, scoring a staggering 530 runs at a phenomenal strike-rate of just under 142 with an average of 106. This included a century and five half-centuries. Rizwan's opening partner Babar Azam was not too far behind. The world's No. 2 ranked batsman scored 354 at a strike-rate of over 128, while Fakhar Zaman's contribution was 110 runs at a strike-rate of 142. Hasan Ali continued to prove his worth when he finished with 13 wickets, followed by Usman Qadir (10) and Haris Rauf (nine).

In the second half of the year, Pakistan are scheduled to tour England, West Indies, Sri Lanka (for series against Afghanistan), United Arab Emirates (for ICC Men's T20 World Cup), while their home series will be against New Zealand, England and the West Indies.



Pakistan women qualify for Birmingham Commonwealth Games

Pakistan women's side qualified directly for the for the eight-team T20 event in the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, which will be held from 28 July to 8 August. England, being the host nation, progressed automatically, while the other six sides, who qualified according to their T20I rankings, are: Australia, India, New Zealand, South Africa, West Indies and Pakistan.

	Played	Won	Lost
ODIs	3	0	3
T20Is	3	1	2

Pakistan women's cricket team had previously featured in two Asian Games, winning gold in Guangzhou, China, in 2010 and in Incheon, South Korea, in 2014.

With later this year's ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier for next year's women's World Cup as well as the cricket event of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in sight, the girls tried to make the best use of the first half of 2021 despite restrictions and challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In January/February, Javeria Khan's side toured Africa for a series of three ODIs and three T20Is against South Africa and three 50-over matches and as many three T20Is against Zimbabwe.

In South Africa, Pakistan lost all three ODIs but managed to pull off victory in one of the three T20Is. However, their tour to Zimbabwe was cut-short when they had to return home after the airline decided to suspend flight operations after their win in the first 50-over competition

In the ODIs, Aliya Riaz was Pakistan's leading run-getter with 136 runs, while Nida Dar contributed 124 runs. In the bowling, Diana Baig took nine wickets, Nashra Sandhu took six wickets, while Nida Dar bagged three wickets.

In the T20Is, Ayesha Naseem with 111 runs was the leading run-getter, followed by Kainat Imtiaz (79). In the bowling, Anam Amin took four wickets, while Aiman Anwer and Nida Dar grabbed three wickets.

As part of their preparations for the upcoming global events, Pakistan women will tour the West Indies. The national side will play three T20Is and five ODIs. Pakistan Women 'A', who will also be on the tour, will play three 50-over matches and as many T20s against West Indies 'A'. Later in the year, Pakistan are expected to feature in a couple of bilateral series before proceeding for the World Cup qualifiers. They are also expected to feature in an Asian event at the backend of 2021.



Aliya Riaz of Pakistan Women during game two of the 2021 Women's ODI Series against South Africa



Nida Dar of Pakistan Women during game two of the 2021 Women's ODI Series against South Africa



Diana Baig of Pakistan Women during game one of the 2021 Women's ODI Series against South Africa



Multan Sultans win HBL Pakistan Super League 6

Multan Sultans – Winners

Peshawar Zalmi – Runners-up

Islamabad United – 3rd

Karachi Kings – 4th

Lahore Qalandars – 5th

Quetta Gladiators – 6th



Change in the venue from the National Stadium to Sheikh Zayed International Cricket Stadium changed Multan Sultans' fortunes when Mohammad Rizwan's side lifted from fifth position after the halfway stage to first progress to the Qualifier and then thump Peshawar Zalmi by 47 runs in the final to win their maiden HBL Pakistan Super League.

For the side that had entered in the PCB's marquee event in 2018, had a change of ownership after its maiden season and twice finished fifth in 2018 and 2019 before reaching the play-offs in 2020, it was an impressive achievement.

While Sultans celebrated their success and Zalmi came in second place, Karachi Kings, Islamabad United, Lahore Qalandars and Quetta Gladiators returned with more questions than answers. In fact, 2019 winners Gladiators were eliminated as early as in the 19th match after suffering their eighth defeat in 10 matches.

The exit of, particularly, Lahore Qalandars was surprising. They had arrived in the United Arab Emirates with three wins in four matches and then won their two back-to-back matches with five wins before losing their way and failing to reach the play-offs for the fifth time in six appearances.

The tournament tested the event organisation capabilities of the Pakistan Cricket Board to the limits. Following Covid-19 outbreak, the tournament had to be postponed on 4 March after 14 matches. On the request of the franchises, the tournament was rescheduled for Abu Dhabi, which lead to a number of logistical and operational challenges due to restrictions in the UAE capital.

Nevertheless, the PCB was up to task and with a collective approach and wisdom, and overcame all obstacles to ensure the tournament was resumed and completed without any matches being comprised. This not only reflected the professionalism within the PCB ranks, but also indicated the significance and importance of the HBL Pakistan Super League in the domestic calendar.

The Karachi-leg matches were held at the National Stadium from 20 February to 3 March, while the Abu Dhabi-leg was played from 9-24 June.

Multan Sultan not only lifted the glittering trophy, but also swept most of the individual awards and also had a number of players making into the HBL PSL Team of 2021.

Sohaib Maqsood won the player of the final award for his 65 not out, and also added the player and best batsman of HBL PSL 2021 trophies to his collection for his 428 runs at a strike-rate of 156.77. Rookie fast bowler Shahnawaz Dahani was adjudged the best bowler and emerging cricketer with 20 wickets, while Mohammad Rizwan walked away with the best wicketkeeper's trophy for his 20 dismissals.

Apart from Mohammad Rizwan, Shahnawaz Dahani and Sohaib Maqsood, other players to be selected in the Team of the Tournament were Hazratullah Zazai, Wahab Riaz (both Peshawar Zalmi), Babar Azam (Karachi Kings), Colin Munro, Asif Ali, Hasan Ali (all Islamabad United), Rashid Khan and Shaheen Shah Afridi (Lahore Qalandars).

The Team of HBL PSL 2021 was selected by David Gower, Pommie Mbangwa, Ramiz Raja and Sana Mir, with PCB Director - High Performance, Nadeem Khan, as the Chair of the Event Technical Committee.

Busy times for the BoG and PCB Cricket Committee

- o BoG meetings
 - o 61st meeting – 27 February
 - o 62nd meeting – 10 April
 - o 63rd meeting – 30 June
- o CricCom meetings
 - o 1st meeting of 2021 – 12 January
 - o 2nd meeting of 2021 – During HBL PSL 6 (postponed)
 - o 3rd meeting of 2021 – 18 May

The Board of Governors held three meetings in the first half of the year. The 61st meeting was held in Karachi, while the 62nd and 63rd meetings were held via videoconference.

Below are some of the key decisions that were made by the PCB’s Board:

- Approved compositions of the First Boards of the six Cricket Associations for a one-year term
- Approved the Election Regulations and proposed amendments to the domestic cricket bylaws
- Approved the resumption of the HBL PSL 6 in Abu Dhabi with revised schedule and subsequently congratulated the PCB’s CEO and the management team on the successful completion of the event in the UAE
- Approved the launch of the PCB Hall of Fame
- Approved two amendments to the Model Constitution for Cricket Clubs following feedback from the relevant stakeholders in an effort to encourage, incentivise and recognise individuals supporting their clubs
- Approved PKR8.997billion activity-based 2021-22 budget

In the meantime, the BoG was kept abreast of all international and domestic cricket developments and progress, was provided regular updates on national teams’ performances and achievements, and kept in the loop on issues relating to governance, real estate, constitution and legal.

Meanwhile, on 12 January at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, the PCB Cricket Committee met under the chairmanship of Saleem Yousuf. The committee, while expressing dissatisfaction on the team’s performance on the New Zealand tour, unanimously agreed to support and back the team management.

The second PCB Cricket Committee meeting was scheduled to be held during the HBL PSL 2021 but was rescheduled for 18 May in which the members reviewed the team selections and performances in the home and away series against South Africa and Zimbabwe, and also enquired about their plans for the ICC T20 World Cup that will take place in October/November.



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa dominate 2020-21 domestic season



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa completed a hat-trick of First XI domestic cricket titles in the 2020-21 season when they won the Pakistan Cup One-Day Tournament. They defeated Central Punjab in the final at the State Bank Stadium in Karachi by seven wickets.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, coached by former international all-rounder Abdul Razzaq, had earlier won the National T20 Cup and later shared the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy with Central Punjab after their thrilling and nail-biting five-day final at the National Stadium had ended on equal scores and points.

The 2020-21 season was held during the Covid-19 pandemic and the Pakistan Cricket Board became the only board to successfully deliver a complete season that comprised nine tournaments and 220 matches. All these matches were held under strict Covid-19 protocols.

In the second XI tournaments, Central Punjab defeated Northern by seven wickets to win the National T20, Sindh finished on top of the points table to annex the Quaid-e-Azam trophy, while Balochistan defeated Central Punjab by nine wickets to win the Pakistan Cup.

Sindh dominated the pathways events as they defeated Northern in both the three-day and one-day Under-19 finals. Sindh won the three-day final by 194 runs, while they clinched the one-day title by 53 runs.

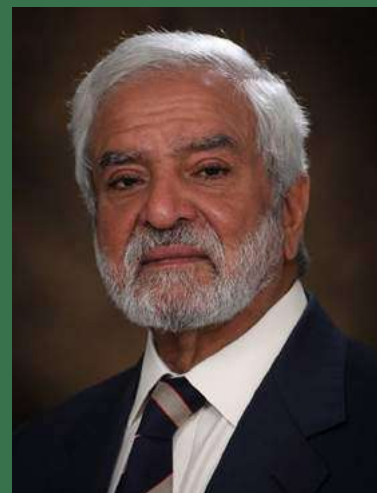
Curtains fell on the 2020-21 season with the National U16 tournament, which was held from 13-23 February in Rawalpindi. Central Punjab defeated Northern by five wickets in the final.

“This is a monumental achievement by the High Performance department to successfully deliver 220 matches across nine events. When presentation on the 2020-21 domestic season was made in September, it looked like an over-ambitious and a nearly impossible objective because of all the challenges and difficulties that were posed by the uncertain Covid-19 pandemic.”

“But the cricket operations, medical teams, security, finance, HR and marketing departments and the logistics wings of the PCB got together to ensure High Performance department’s targets of successfully delivering a complete 2020-21 season were achieved. This is a matter of great pride for the PCB that has significantly enhanced its image and profile globally.”

“The leadership provided by the High Performance department, which was excellently and thoroughly supported by all the players and match officials during the Covid-19 pandemic, truly reflected the nation’s passion for this great game and rightly summed up the season’s #HarHaalMainCricket hashtag.”

Ehsan Mani
Chairman PCB





Rizwan and Fawad rewarded for the consistency

The PCB, as part of its policy of rewarding consistently high-performing players, promoted Mohammad Rizwan and Fawad Alam in the PCB Central Contract Lists 2020-21. Rizwan was promoted from Category B to Category A, while Fawad was elevated from A+ domestic contract category to Category C.

Between 13 May 2020 and 24 February 2021, the two players showed remarkable consistency with the bat. Rizwan, who was voted as PCB Test Cricketer of the year 2020, was Pakistan's leading run-scorer in Tests with 529 runs and third leading run-scorer in T20Is with 325 runs.

Fawad, in contrast, scored centuries against New Zealand and South Africa, and aggregated 320 runs in 11 innings of six Tests. His 102 against New Zealand in the Boxing Day Test earned him the PCB Individual Performance of 2020 award.

Subsequently, when Central Contracts List for 2021-22 was announced, Rizwan was retained in Category A, while Fawad Alam was promoted to Category B.

In the men's central contract list, Hasan Ali returned to Category A, joining Babar Azam and Shaheen Shah Afridi, while Emerging Category contracts were offered to Imran Butt, Shah Nawaz Dahani and Usman Qadir.

Other newcomers were Faheem Ashraf (Category B), Mohammad Nawaz, Nauman Ali (both Category C), while Haris Rauf and Mohammad Hasnain were promoted to Category C from the Emerging Category.

Meanwhile, in the women's Central Contract List for 2021-22, two more players were added to increase the pool of centrally contracted players to 20.

Bismah Maroof and Javeria Khan were placed in Category A, while Ayesha Naseem, Kaynat Hafeez, Muneeba Ali Siddiqui, Najiha Alvi, Rameen Shamim, Saba Nazir, Sadia Iqbal and Syeda Aroob Shah were awarded Emerging contracts.

Other players to receive the contracts were Aliya Riaz, Diana Baig and Nida Dar (all Category B) and Anam Amin, Fatima Sana, Kainat Imtiaz, Nahida Khan, Nashra Sandhu, Omaira Sohail and Sidra Nawaz (all Category C).

Reorganising domestic structures



The board continued its journey towards the decentralisation of the cricket structure following the implementation of the 2019 Constitution for the growth, promotion and development of the game in every nook and corner of the country. In this relation, the First Boards of the six Cricket Associations were formed to carry out functions attributed to the management committees in the Model Constitution for City Cricket and Cricket Associations, which includes managing and running day to day affairs, supervising the first registration of Cricket Clubs under each City Cricket Association as per applicable regulations/by laws and monitoring and organising cricket events and activities within their respective jurisdictions.

In the online club registration process, which commenced all across the country from 10 March, over 4,000 clubs applied for registration through a transparent process and the next phase of the process will commence in due course.

Following the club registration and reviving cricket at the grassroots level, the High Performance department conducted open trials for the City Cricket Association Tournament (Senior and U19) 2021-22 in all parts of the country. The trials were supervised and conducted by the coaching staff from First XI, Second XI and U19 –in their respective jurisdictions.

Following the conclusion of trials, the senior tournament was scheduled to commence at different venues across the six Cricket Associations from the third week of July.



For the first time at this level, the PCB appointed 93 qualified coaches who are aligned to the overarching cricket strategy under the national framework.

Separately, this also integrates former cricketers into the system besides providing employment opportunities. This is expected to further attract cricketers, who have just retired from competitive cricket, ensuring they remain connected with the game, besides transferring their experience and knowledge.

PCB fulfils its duty of care

The Pakistan Cricket Board was one of the first cricket organisations in the world to initiate a comprehensive Covid-19 vaccination campaign for its players and coaching staff. This was done with the support of the National Command and Operation Centre (NCOC), keeping in mind the cricketers' international commitments as well as their health and wellbeing.

The process had commenced in the first week of March 2021 in Karachi during the first phase of the HBL Pakistan Super League 6. Until the end of June, the PCB had fully vaccinated its men's and women's players which included most of the domestic contracted players.

In the second phase, the PCB got its entire staff vaccinated for Covid-19. In this relation, the Lahore-based staff got vaccinated at a local hospital, while employees outside Lahore were vaccinated at their bases in accordance with the plan and arrangements that were designed at head office.

Furthermore, the PCB also unveiled its Parental Support Policy that was targeted to motivating and championing professional cricketers in their journey to parenthood – throughout pregnancy and even after childbirth when they return to play and are required to balance their parental responsibilities with the demands of their cricketing career.

According to this policy, women cricketers are also entitled to take up to 12 months of paid maternity leave and will be guaranteed a contract extension for the following year, in line with their existing contractual arrangements. Upon conclusion of the maternity leave, the player will be reintegrated into cricketing activities and provided adequate medical and physical support in respect of their post-childbirth rehabilitation.

Men cricketers, who are expectant or new fathers, will also be entitled to up to 30 days of fully paid leave, which will need to be taken within 56 days of the birth of their child, as part of the paternity rights covered under the Policy.

Obituaries

Muhammad Nasir (died 22 January 2021)

worked as a ground staff at the PCB since December 2003

Said Shah (died 5 February 2021)

umpired in one Test and six ODIs. He carried out umpiring duties in 90 First-class matches and remained in the PCB panel for training of umpires match referee of PCB after his retirement

Ali Sher (died 2 March 2021)

worked as a gardener at the National High Performance Centre in Lahore for more than a decade

Falak Sher (died 11 April 2021)

worked as executive assistant at the PCB since August 2015

Hafiz Bilal Khan (died 11 April 2021)

worked as assistant Domestic Cricket at the PCB since January 1999

Ashiq Masih (died 25 April 2021)

worked as foreman at the National High Performance since December 2003