PCB ANNUAL REPORT
2022-23

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER'S REPORT

The period from January 2022 to June 2023 captures the highs, challenges and remarkable accomplishments of the busiest and most thrilling cricketing journey in the history of the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). The past 18 months have been incredibly demanding yet exhilarating for everyone at the PCB, as we collectively strived to enhance the institution's image and reputation as a structured and high-performing organisation. I am immensely proud of the strides we have made, both on and off the field.

From the seventh Edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League in January/February 2022 to the Regional Inter-District U19 One-Day Tournament in June 2023, the PCB planned, organised, and successfully delivered a grand total of 846 matches across 30 tournaments. This included 35 men's international, 288 men's domestic, 12 women's international, 46 women's domestic and 465 pathway cricket matches.

This is an outstanding achievement and reflects a whopping surge of 78.8 per cent in the number of matches held in Pakistan compared to the previous 18-month cycle. Being one of the very few cricket boards that successfully managed to deliver a complete domestic cricket schedule during the pandemic, PCB, in the period between 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2021, had organised 473 matches in 22 tournaments (14 men's international, 329 men's domestic, 21 women's domestic and 109 pathways).

Additionally, between 1 January 2022 and 30 June 2023, our men's, women's and emerging sides traveled across the globe and featured in 80 matches, including the ICC Women's World Cup 2022 in New Zealand, ACC Men's Asia Cup 2022 in the UAE, ACC Women's Asia Cup 2022 in Bangladesh, ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia, ICC U19 Women's T20 World Cup 2023 and the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023 (both in South Africa).

The above statistics and facts not only demonstrate outstanding event planning and delivery capabilities of the PCB and its professional staff, but also reflect the humungous volume of cricket activities that were created by the organisation to ensure the continuous growth and development of the game and that the economic wheel also continues to churn in these financially difficult times.

During this whirlwind 18-month period, the PCB also dealt with a few complex and sensitive matters, including hosting of the ACC Asia Cup 2023, and ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023. I am happy to note that nothing deterred the focus of the committed PCB staff from delivering all it's cricket obligations – a feat for which they earned worldwide appreciation and praise from elite international cricketers, broadcasters, commercial partners and influential journalists alike.

Apart from hosting Australia (after a hiatus of 24 years), England (twice, for the first time since 2005) and New Zealand (twice, after 2003), the PCB also welcomed various high-profile cricket board officials. These included: Nick Hockley (Chief Executive, Cricket Australia), Todd Greenberg (Chief Executive, Australian Cricketers' Association), Martin Darlow (Deputy Chairman, England and Wales Cricket Board), Warren Deutrom (Chief Executive, Cricket Ireland), Richard Holdsworth (Cricket Ireland – Director High Performance), David White (Chief Executive, New Zealand Cricket), Greg Barclay (Chairman, ICC), Geoff Allardice (Chief Executive, ICC) and Wasim Khan (General Manager – Cricket, ICC). Visits by these high-ranking officials was a testament towards the PCB's strong and healthy relationships with all ICC Members and stakeholders.

Successful execution of two HBL Pakistan Super League Tournaments, PCB's marquee asset, was an icing on the cake, which became even more memorable when Lahore Qalandars won both the 2022 and 2023 events at the Gaddafi Stadium to become the first side to win back-to-back titles.

The holding of high-profile international series as well as the HBL PSL 7 and 8 in Pakistan helped the PCB to improve its financial health through deployment of an aggressive commercial strategy, calculated investments and controlled expenses, as a result of which the PCB reserves presently sit in a very healthy state. The PCB was also able to substantially grow its fan-base due to creative and fan-engaging content that was generated in-house throughout the season, which led to an impressive digital media growth – 120 per cent increase in Facebook reach and impressions, 180 per cent surge in Twitter reach and impressions, and a 150 per cent rise in Instagram reach and impressions.

On the field of play, the Pakistan men's cricket team did exceptionally well in white-ball cricket.

The side reached the finals of the ACC Asia Cup 2022 and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, while they also won 13 of their 17 ODIs in this period to achieve the No.1 ICC ODI Team Ranking for the first time in it's history on 5 May after taking a 4-0 lead over New Zealand. However, they lost the fifth ODI to slip to No.3 before securing the No.2 spot following the ICC's Annual ODI Team Ranking Update. Furthermore, Pakistan qualified directly for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 after winning 13 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League ODIs.

However, the side's performance in red-ball cricket did not meet expectations. Pakistan had an excellent chance to qualify for the ICC World Test Championship final when it had eight home Tests against Australia, England and New Zealand. Unfortunately, Pakistan lost four and drew four to finish seventh in the nine-team ICC World Test Championship 2021-23. This is an area that the PCB aims to focus on moving forward.

Pakistan captain Babar Azam had a stellar year and won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year for 2022 to become the second Pakistani after Shaheen Shah Afridi to achieve the honour. He also won the ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year award for 2022.

While the women's side achieved mixed results as a team, good achievements were attained at an individual player level by Tuba Hasan, Nida Dar and Sidra Amin, who were adjudged as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for May, October and November, respectively.

Ireland women made their first-ever tour of Pakistan in October 2022, while the soft launch of the Women's League took place in March 2023 when 11 international cricketers from seven countries joined local stars to play three Women's League Exhibition Matches.

On the domestic front, renowned cricketers participated in high-quality red-ball and white-ball tournaments organised throughout Pakistan in an action-packed schedule. Northern won the premier Quaid-e-Azam Trophy; Central Punjab won the Pakistan Cup 50-over, four-day non-first-class Cricket Associations Championship, 50-over Cricket Associations Challenge and Cricket Associations T20; and Sindh won the National T20.

From hard-fought battles to unforgettable victories, the past 18 months will clearly remain something to remember and cherish for a very long time as our cricketers left an indelible mark on the cricketing landscape and became a source of happiness by bringing smiles on the faces of passionate Pakistan cricket fans, whose overwhelming support is highly appreciated by the national sides and the PCB, and makes all our efforts worthwhile.

On behalf of the PCB, I must express gratitude to all our commercial partners for their continued trust in the PCB and unwavering support for Pakistan cricket, and for enabling us to continue our pursuit of excellence. For the members of the media, thank you for using your platforms to highlight the positive and soft image of Pakistan and Pakistan cricket. Your shared passion for cricket has been instrumental in our success.

Last, but certainly not the least, my heartfelt congratulations and well deserved praise for the PCB staff to whom I am personally grateful as they worked flat-out by repeatedly and consistently burning the midnight oil and made a lot of personal sacrifices to ensure that Pakistan's flag continued to fly high. I hope they will continue to display the same commitment and professionalism in the upcoming 2023-24 cricket season especially in the lead up to delivery of a successful Asia Cup in September 2023, the 9th edition of the PSL in 2024, and the ICC Champions Trophy in February/March 2025.

Together, we have all forged an organisation that encapsulates the very essence of cricket - a sport that unites nations, breaks barriers, and ignites the spirit of competition. Let us take a moment to recognise all the challenges we have overcome, celebrate the remarkable milestones of the past 18 months, learn from our mistakes, and acknowledge the team spirit that has enabled us to grow and prosper while we get ready to embrace the endless possibilities that lie ahead as we strive to create a lasting legacy to keep on inspiring the next generation of cricketing heroes.

Pakistan Zindabad!

BARRISTER SALMAN NASEER

HIGHLIGHTS (1 JANUARY 2022 - 30 JUNE 2023)

JANUARY 2022

Mohammad Rizwan won the PCB's Most Valuable Cricketer of the Year award following a stellar 2021 in which he scored 455 Test, 134 ODI and 1,326 T20I runs

PCB announced squad for the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022 in New Zealand

PCB joined hands with Fox Sports to telecast its home international fixtures and the HBL Pakistan Super League matches in Australia

HBL PSL 7 began in Karachi with defending champions Multan Sultans defeating Karachi Kings by seven wickets

FEBRUARY 2022

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa won the National U13 Cup 2021-22

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites won the National U16 Cup 2021-22

PCB Level-2 Coach Education Course conducted at Multan's HPC

Lahore Qalandars won the HBL PSL 7 for the first time when they defeated Multan Sultans by 42 runs

Australia arrived in Islamabad on their first tour of Pakistan in 24 years for 3 Tests, 3 ODIs and 1 T20I; the PCB and the CA announced the Test series will be played for the Benaud-Qadir Trophy

MARCH 2022

Imam-ul-Haq scored two centuries, Abdullah Shafique scored his maiden Test century and Azhar Ali scored 185 as the first Test between Pakistan and Australia ended in a draw in Rawalpindi

Babar Azam batted 603 minutes for his 196 in the second innings of the Karachi Test as Pakistan, chasing 506 for victory, finished at 443 for seven

Pakistan lost their last nine wickets for 98 runs in the second innings of the Lahore Test as they slipped from 170 for one to 268 all-out to hand Australia 115 runs victory. Usman Khawaja was named as the Player of the Series, while Pat Cummins was named as the Player of the Match

Pakistan women's team participated in the ICC Women's World Cup in New Zealand and their only victory was against the West Indies – their first win in a World Cup in 13 years

Shahid Mahboob and Wasim Haider were appointed heads of High Performance Centres in Karachi and Multan, respectively

Travis Head was named player of the match for his 101 as Australia won the first ODI by 88 runs

Babar Azam scored 114 and Imam-ul-Haq scored 106 as Pakistan chased down the 349 runs target for the loss of four wickets in 49 overs in the second ODI. This was Pakistan's highest run-chase in ODIs

APRIL 2022

A 190-run unbroken second wicket partnership between Babar Azam (115 not out) and Imam-ul-Haq (89 not out) helped Pakistan beat Australia by nine wickets to win the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League series 2-1. Babar Azam was named as the Player of the Match and Player of the Series

Balochistan won the Pakistan Cup 2021-22 when they defeated defending champions Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by eight wickets

Aaron Finch was named as the Player of the Match for his 45-ball 55 as Australia (163/7) defeated Pakistan (162/8) in the one-off T20I in Lahore

Babar Azam was named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for his excellent performances in March

PCB and Engro Corporation Limited collaborated for the development of cricket at the grassroots level

BRB Group announced it will offer contracts to 100 junior cricketers under the PCB Pathway Cricket Programme

PCB released details of the Pakistan Junior League

MAY 2022

PCB announced a 77 per cent increase in home international series rights for the 2022-23 season

PCB announced an increase of PKR100,000 across all three pension categories under the Players' Welfare Policy

Pakistan Women beat Sri Lanka Women by 3-0 to win the T20I series

PCB announced women's squad for the Birmingham Commonwealth Games

JUNE 2022

Pakistan Women beat Sri Lanka Women by 2-1 to win the ODI series, which was part of the ICC Women's Championship

Babar Azam followed up his 114 and 105 not out against Australia in Lahore with 103 against the West Indies in Multan to become the first batter to twice score three ODI centuries in a row

Pakistan beat the West Indies 3-0 in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League series in Multan, Babar Azam completed the fastest to 1,000 ODI runs as captain and also became the quickest to 17 ODI centuries

Tuba Hassan was named as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for May for her outstanding T20I debut series against Sri Lanka Women

PCB General Body meeting held

PCB announced red and white-ball central contracts for its men cricketers for the 2022-23 season

JULY 2022

PCB announced central contracts to 20 women cricketers for the 2022-23 season

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites won the National U19 Cup 2022-23

Abdullah Shafique was adjudged as the Player of the Match for his 160 not out in Pakistan's four wickets victory over Sri Lanka in the first Test in Galle, before the hosts won the second Test by 246 runs to level the two-Test series. Fast bowler Shaheen Shah Afridi suffered a knee injury and was ruled out from competitive cricket for, at least, two months

As part of their Birmingham Commonwealth Games preparation, Pakistan women's side played in a T20I tri-series against Ireland and Australia in Dublin

Pakistan women's side participated in the Commonwealth Games Women's Cricket Competition and lost all three matches to Australia, Barbados and India

(From left): ICC CEO Geoff Allardice, PCB CEO Faisal Hasnain, CA CEO Nick Hockley and ACA CEO Todd Greenberg speaking with the media in Rawalpindi during the first Pakistan v Australia Test

(From left): Chair of the PCB Management Committee, Mr Najam Sethi, ICC Chair Mr Greg Barclay and ICC CEO Geoff Allardice photographed on 30 May ahead of their meeting at the Gaddafi Stadium

Mr Wasim Khan (ICC General Manager, Cricket), Mr Adnan Ali (PCB Senior Manager - International Cricket) and Mr David White (CEO, New Zealand Cricket) watching Pakistan v New Zealand ODI in Karachi

Pakistan women cricketers presenting signed shirt to Malala Yousafzai - the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize laureate during her visit to Lahore, Pakistan

Cricket Ireland CEO Mr Warren Weutrom (right) in discussions with Richard Holdsworth (Cricket Ireland - High Performance Director) during a Pakistan Women's v Ireland Women's ODI in Lahore

AUGUST 2022

PCB confirmed England will undertake their first tour of Pakistan since 2005 with the seven T20Is to be played in Karachi and Lahore from 20 September to 2 October and three Tests to be held in Rawalpindi, Multan and Karachi from 1-22 December

PCB announced match officials' panels for the 2022-23 domestic cricket season

Pakistan beat the Netherlands by 16 runs, seven wickets and nine runs in the three ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League ODIs in Rotterdam from 16-21 August to qualify for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023

PCB announced it will host 10 Test playing nations between 2023 and 2027. Pakistan to play, at least, 27 Tests, 47 ODIs and 56 T20Is during the four-year period

Central Punjab U19 won the inaugural women's U19 tournament

PCB announced five elite cricket coaches will work at the Engro Cricket Coaching Project under the PCB Pathway Cricket Programme

Sindh Blues won the National U19 Championship 2022-23

Daren Sammy, Colin Munro, Imran Tahir, Shahid Afridi, Shoaib Malik and Viv Richards were named as team mentors for the Pakistan Junior League with Javed Miandad as the overall tournament mentor

SEPTEMBER 2022

Pakistan participated in ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup in the UAE and lost to Sri Lanka in the final by 23 runs. Pakistan narrowly lost the opener to India with two balls remaining before winning the return match by five wickets

PSL Governing Council meeting held in Lahore

PCB and BS Sports signed a year-long MoU for the delivery of cricket equipment and playing kits for the participants of the PCB Pathway Programme

Mohammad Rizwan became the number-one ranked T20I batter for the first time in his career

PCB confirmed Matthew Hayden as team mentor for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022

ACC Level 2 Women Coaching Course held at the NHPC

PCB provisionally suspended Asif Afridi for breaching the Anti-Corruption Code

Pakistan name Shaheen Shah Afridi in squad for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022

GEO News announced as PCB's Official Content Partner

Sindh defeated defending champions Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by eight wickets in the final of the National T20 2022 at the Multan Cricket Stadium

PCB announced schedule of the Pakistan Junior League with 15 matches to be played in Lahore from 6-21 October. Gujranwala Giants, Mardan Warriors, Hyderabad Hunters, Bahawalpur Royals, Rawalpindi Raiders and Gwadar Sharks confirmed as the six participating sides

Central Punjab won the Cricket Associations T20 2022-23

BOG approved an increase in retainers and match fees of 192 cricketers for the 2022-23 season

PCB announced six foreign coaches, including two former England international cricketers – Paul Nixon and Paul Franks – to work in the 2022-23 domestic cricket season

PCB and Faysal Bank joined hands to strengthen cricket at the grassroots and domestic level

Six-team 31-match Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23 commenced on 27 September

OCTOBER 2022

England won the T20I series by 4-3. Mohammad Rizwan was the most successful batter with 316 runs, followed by Babar Azam (285) and Player of the Series Harry Brook (238). Haris Rauf took eight wickets, while Sam Curran and David Willey bagged seven wickets apiece

Mohammad Rizwan was named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for September for his stellar performances

PCB partnered with BRB Group to sponsor monthly stipends of 100 players involved in the PCB Pathway Programme

Pakistan women's team participated in the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup and lost to Sri Lanka in the semi-final by one-run. In the six league matches, Pakistan won five, including a 13-run victory over India and five-wicket victory over Sri Lanka

PCB and Bank Alfalah entered into a four-year partnership for schools cricket

PCB and Beaconhouse join hands for the Pathway Scholarship Programme

Pakistan won the T20I tri-series in Christchurch, beating New Zealand in the final. Pakistan played five matches in the tournament and won four

PCB announced details of New Zealand's first-leg of Pakistan tour with both the Tests and three ODIs to played in Karachi from 26 December to 13 January

Pakistan's first Test captain Abdul Hafeez Kardar and the country's most successful Test batter Younis Khan inducted into the PCB Hall of Fame

Bahawalpur Royals won the inaugural Pakistan Junior League

PCB announce women's squad for ODI and T20I series against Ireland Women

Pakistan made a poor start to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, losing to India and Zimbabwe before beating the Netherlands

NBP earned naming rights for the National Stadium. The venue will be called as the National Bank Stadium

NOVEMBER 2022

Nida Dar named as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for October for her contributions to Pakistan's semi-final surge in the ACC Women's T20 Asia Cup

Pakistan convincingly defeated South Africa and Bangladesh by 33 runs and five wickets, respectively in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. After the Netherlands shocked South Africa, Pakistan progressed to the semifinals where they defeated New Zealand by seven wickets. In the final, England beat Pakistan by five wickets with six balls remaining. Sam Curran took three for 12 and Ben Stokes scored a 49-ball 52 not out

Bangladesh U19 toured Multan for a four-day match, three 50-over games and two T20s. The four-day match was drawn, while Bangladesh U19 won the 50-over series 2-1. The T20s ended in a 1-1 draw

Ireland Women made their first tour of Pakistan. In the first ODI, Sidra Amin scored 176 not out, recording the highest individual score by a Pakistan Women batter. Pakistan won the three-match ODI series by 3-0, while Ireland won the three-match T20I series by 2-1

Pakistan's legendary leg-spinner Abdul Qadir inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame

PCB announced details of 2022-23 domestic player contracts

Central Punjab won the Cricket Associations Championship 2022-23

Northern defeated Sindh by an innings and 55 runs to win the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy final, which was held at the Gaddafi Stadium from 26-29 November. Mubasir Khan was named as the Player of the Tournament for the second successive season

DECEMBER 2022

Sidra Amin was named as the ICC Women's Player of the Month for November for her 277 runs during the ODI series against Ireland

England returned to Pakistan for the three Test series and won the hard-fought matches by 74 runs in Rawalpindi, 26 runs in Multan and eight wickets in Karachi. Babar Azam with 348 runs was his side's leading run-getter, while Abrar Ahmed, in his debut series, captured 17 wickets in two Tests. Harry Brook struck three successive centuries and finished with a series aggregate of 468 runs to win the Player of the Series award. This was the first time Pakistan lost all three Tests of a series at home.

Pakistan Cup one-day tournament commenced in Karachi on 10 December

PCB and UNAID joined hands to spread awareness about AIDS

Blasters won the Women's T20 cricket tournament

On 22 December, the Federal Government constituted a PCB Management Committee with Mr Najam Sethi as the Chair to manage the affairs of the PCB with full executive powers with the aim of effecting the restoration of departmental cricket structure and other allied matters, including the nomination of a Board of Governors and election of Chairman, as stipulated in the 2014 Constitution

The first Test between Pakistan and New Zealand in Karachi from 26-30 December ended in a draw with Kane Williamson adjudged as the Player of the Match for his 200 not out

Central Punjab won the Cricket Associations Challenge 2022-23

JANUARY 2023

Central Punjab defeated Balochistan by 50 runs to win the Pakistan Cup One-Day Tournament

Mr Najam Sethi, the Chair of the PCB Management Committee, formally approved notifications for the restoration of Departments/Services Organisations, Regions and District/Zonal Cricket Associations

Sarfaraz Ahmed scored 118 in the fourth innings as New Zealand fell short by one wicket and Pakistan by 15 runs in the drawn second Test in Karachi. Sarfaraz Ahmed was named as the Player of the Match and Player of the Series for his series tally of 335 runs

New Zealand won the three-ODI ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League series by 2-1. Mohammad Rizwan topped the batting chart with 182 runs, while Kane Williamson scored 164 runs. Naseem Shah bagged eight wickets, while Mohammad Nawaz and Tim Southee picked six wickets each

Pakistan U19 Women participated in the inaugural ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup and beat Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Ireland. They bowed out of the tournament in the Super Six stage

Pakistan women's team left for Australia for three-match ODI and three-match T20I series

Former Pakistan batter Haroon Rashid appointed as the Chair of the men's National Selection Committee

Pakistan's most celebrated woman cricketer, Sana Mir, most successful Test captain, Misbah-ul-Haq, leading Test batter, Younis Khan, and an all-format star, Shahid Afridi, were amongst 10 former international cricketers who were honoured by having the Bugti Stadium enclosures in their names

Babar Azam won the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year and the Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year award

Selection committees for men's senior and junior teams announced

FEBRUARY 2023

Asif Afridi banned from all cricket for two years for breaching the PCB Anti-Corruption Code

Pakistan women's team participated in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa and failed to progress to the semi-finals. They beat Ireland by 70 runs in their group match, which saw Muneeba Ali become the first batter for Pakistan women to hit a T20I century

The HBL PSL 8 commenced in Multan with a glittering opening ceremony. Defending champions Lahore Qalandars overcame Multan Sultans by one-run in first of the 34 matches

MARCH 2023

Bismah Maroof stepped down as Pakistan women's captain. Bismah was named as Pakistan's all-format captain in September 2017 and under her leadership, the side won 16 out of 34 ODIs and 27 out of 62 T20Is

PCB released details of three Women's League exhibition matches to be played on 8,10 and 11 March at the Pindi Cricket Stadium in Rawalpindi

PCB Patron and Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, in accordance with Article 29 of the PCB Constitution 2014, appointed Mr Ahmed Shehzad Farooq Rana as the PCB's Election Commissioner

10 foreign players from seven countries, including three national captains, named in squads for Women's League exhibition matches

Inter-region U13 and U16 tournaments commenced

Amazons beat Super Women to win the Women's League exhibition matches series by 2-1

Ahsan Raza replaced Aleem Dar on the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires

Lahore Qalandars became the first side to defend the HBL Pakistan Super League title when they defeated Multan Sultans by one-run in a thrilling final at the Gaddafi Stadium

Saad Baig and Imran Butt named U19 and Pakistan Shaheens captains for the tours of Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, respectively

Afghanistan won their maiden T20I series against Pakistan when they won 2-1 in Sharjah

APRIL 2023

New Zealand arrived for the second-leg of the Pakistan tour, comprising five ODIs and five T20Is

Nida Dar appointed as the Pakistan women's team captain, Mark Coles confirmed as the head coach while former Test cricketer Saleem Jaffar named as the chair of the Women's Selection Committee

The PCB partnered with Minus2Degrees (M2D) to use its reach to create awareness about the need to reduce carbon emission

Haris Rauf named player of the first T20I against New Zealand for his four for 18 as Pakistan won in Lahore by 88 runs

Babar Azam scored 101 not out, his third T20I century, as Pakistan took a 2-0 lead over New Zealand with a 38-run victory in the second T20I in Lahore

New Zealand bounced back to draw the series 2-2 in Rawalpindi by winning the third and fifth T20Is, while the fourth match was washed-out. Gate money from the fifth T20I was donated to Turkiye-Syria earthquake victims

Mickey Arthur confirmed as Director - Pakistan men's cricket team

PCB Management Committee given two-month extension

Pakistan U19 departed for Bangladesh and Pakistan Shaheens left for Zimbabwe

In the first ODI against New Zealand in Rawalpindi, Fakhar Zaman scored 117 to help Pakistan record its 500th ODI win. Fakhar followed up with 180 not out in the second ODI to become the fourth Pakistan batter to score three ODI centuries in a row

MAY 2023

Spinners Ali Asfand and Arafat Minhas shared seven wickets between them as Pakistan U19 beat Bangladesh U19 by 10 wickets in the only four-day match in Chattogram. The side later won the 50-over matches series 4-1 and the only T20 by four wickets

Peshawar region won the U13 Inter-Region Tournament

After Imam-ul-Haq made 90 in the third ODI in Karachi to help Pakistan win by 26 runs and take a 3-0 lead, Babar Azam scored 101 in the fourth ODI on 5 May that earned Pakistan a 101-run victory and No.1 position in ICC ODI Team Rankings for the first time

On 7 May, New Zealand earned a consolation 47 runs victory in the fifth ODI that also stripped Pakistan of the No.1 ODI ranking

ICC announced annual updates of the ICC Team Rankings, according to which Pakistan was ranked sixth in Tests, second in ODIs and fourth in T20Is

FATA Region won the U16 Inter-Region Tournament

Omair Bin Yousuf scored an unbeaten 250 not out, Mohammad Huraira scored 178 and Mehran Mumtaz took match figures of 11 for 157 as Pakistan Shaheens beat Zimbabwe A by eight wickets in Kwekwe.

Haseebullah's 117 helped Pakistan Shaheens beat Zimbabwe A by an innings and 41 runs in the second four-day match at the Mutare Sports Club in Mutare as Pakistan Shaheens won the two four-day match series by 2-0. Zimbabwe Select bounced back to win the 50-over matches series by 4-2

Fakhar Zaman named as the ICC Men's Player of the Month for May

Grant Bradburn appointed as the head coach of the Pakistan men's cricket team

PCB confirmed Pakistan will play three Tests against Australia in Perth (14-18 Dec), Melbourne (26-30 Dec) and Sydney (3-7 Jan

PCB confirmed appointments of Hassan Cheema, Mickey Arthur and Grant Bradburn to national men's selection committee)

ICC Chairman Greg Barclay and Chief Executive Geoff Allardice visited Lahore

JUNE 2023

Dynamites beat Challengers by 132 runs to win Pakistan Cup Women's Cricket Tournament

Spinners, fast bowlers and batters camp was held at the National Cricket Academy from 10-21 June

Pakistan women failed to qualify for the final of the weather-marred ACC Women's Emerging Teams Asia Cup. They beat Nepal by nine runs and lost to Bangladesh by six runs, while matches against Hong Kong and India were washed-out

PCB announced match officials' panels for the 2023-24 domestic cricket season

The Regional Inter-District U19 One-Day Tournament 2023 commenced on 15 June with over 2,080 players from 16 regions taking part

The Asian Cricket Council approved the PCB's hybrid model for the ACC Asia Cup 2023. Pakistan will host, at least, four matches with the remaining to be played in Sri Lanka. The PCB will remain as the event host

PCB announced a busy schedule of international cricket for the women cricketers. Pakistan will play ICC Women's Championship series against South Africa, West Indies (both home), Bangladesh, New Zealand, England (all away)

Shaheen Shah Afridi named in the Pakistan Test squad for the two-match series against Sri Lanka, which will be part of the ICC World Test Championship 2023-25

PCB Management Committee dissolved after it approved the composition of the BOG members. Election Commissioner became the acting PCB Chairman

Mohammad Haris named Pakistan Shaheens captain for the ACC Men's Emerging Asia Cup 2023

The Election Commissioner formed the BOG in line with the IPC letter and notification, and also announced PCB Chairman's election, which will be held on 27 June at the cricket headquarters

Following the interim order of the Honourable High Court of Balochistan, Quetta, 27 June election of the PCB Chairman was postponed

The ICC announced the schedule of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 in India. The PCB maintained it required the Government of Pakistan's clearance for any tour to India, including the match venues, and as soon as it heard more, it will update the ICC

OBITUARIES AND RETIREMENTS

(1 JANUARY 2022-30 JUNE 2023)

OBITUARIES

24 January 2022 - Former Test batter Aftab Baloch, who made his Test debut at the age of 16, passed away at the age of 69

14 February 2022 – Raees Mohammad, eldest of the Mohammad brothers, passed at the age of 90. He played 30 first-class matches for East Pakistan and Karachi

11 April 2022 - Former Test bowler Mohammad Hussain passed at the age of 45. He played two Tests and 14 ODIs for Pakistan

5 August 2022 - Former PCB media manager Khalid Butt passed away

14 September 2022 - Former ICC elite panel umpire Asad Rauf passed at the age of 66. He officiated in 64 Tests, 139 ODIs, 28 T20Is, 11 WT20Is

30 September 2022 - Former first-class cricketer Shehzad Azam Rana passed away. He played 95 first-class matches for Islamabad

14 December 2022 - Former first-class cricketer and assistant coach of Balochistan Raj Hans passed at the age f 57. He played 55 matches for Allied Bank, Quetta and Islamabad. He also served as a match referee in domestic cricket

12 April 2023 - PCB's former director Brig (R) Munawar Rana passed away

2 June 2023 - Former International umpire Ikram Rabbani passed away. He officiated in one Test and six ODIs

RETIREMENTS

3 January 2022 - Former captain Mohammad Hafeez announced his retirement from international cricket 18 years after making his debut in Sharjah against Zimbabwe on 3 April 2003. He represented Pakistan in 392 international matches, scoring 12,780 runs and taking 253 wickets, besides also captaining the side in 32 international matches. He was a member of the Pakistan side that won the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 in England and Wales

24 November 2022 - Mohammad Saad retired from domestic cricket. Saad played 124 first-class, 58 List A and 4 T20 matches

16 December 2022 - Azhar Ali retired from Test cricket after the third Test against England. In 97 Tests, he scored 7,142 runs with 19 centuries with 302 not-out against the West Indies in Dubai as his highest. Azhar also captained Pakistan in nine Tests

7 February 2023 - Kamran Akmal announced his retirement from all forms of cricket. He played 53 Tests, 157 ODIs and 58 T20Is. He was a member of the Pakistan side that won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2009

6 March 2023 - All-rounder Sohail Tanvir announced his retirement from international cricket. He played 2 Tests, 62 ODIs and 57 T20Is. He was a member of the Pakistan side that won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2009

15 June 2023 - Nahida Khan, the only female cricketer from Balochistan, retired from international cricket 14 years after making her ODI debut. She represented Pakistan in 120 international matches, scoring 2,014 runs and taking one wicket. She featured in three 50-over World Cups (2013, 2017 and 2022) and in four T20 World Cups (2012, 2014, 2016 and 2018).

MEN'S CRICKET OVERVIEW

The period from January 2022 till May 2023 was one of the busiest in the history of Pakistan men's cricket. The Babar Azam-captained side played 61 international matches – across all three formats – of which it won 31 and lost 25, while four ended in draws and one was a no result.

Pakistan played 34 T20 Internationals; won 17, lost 16 and one ended in no result; 17 One-Day Internationals, won 13 and lost four; and 10 Test matches of which it won one, lost five and drew four.

Pakistan became the top-ranked ODI side for the first time in history after taking a 4-0 lead against New Zealand in Karachi on 5 May.

Pakistan's first international assignment in the period was three Tests against Australia at home. The tour marked the return of the Aussies to Pakistan after the 1998 tour and was followed widely in the country and around the world. A new Test series named the Benaud-Qadir Trophy was launched by the Pakistan Cricket Board and Cricket Australia to mark Australia's return.

Pat Cummins' Australia bagged the first iteration as they won the third and final Test in Lahore after the first two matches were drawn in Rawalpindi and Karachi. That followed three ODIs - all played in Lahore – and Pakistan, after losing the first one, made a thumping comeback to win the series 2-1. Pakistan's win in the second ODI was especially sweet as they recorded their highest run chase in the history by scoring 349 with six wickets and as many balls to spare. Australia's tour concluded with the tourists winning the solitary T20I.

International cricket returned to Multan for the first time in 14 years in June 2022 when the West Indies toured the city for three ODIs. The ODIs were attended by jam-packed crowds and the series turned out to be a memorable one as Pakistan defeated the tourists 3-0 at the Multan Cricket Stadium.

The success in the one-dayers was followed by an outstanding win in Galle, Sri Lanka, when Pakistan became the only side to scale a target of over 300 (344) on a venue widely considered to be a kryptonite for chasing sides. The hosts bounced back in the second match to square the series.

Pakistan played their first-ever bilateral ODIs in the Netherlands in August and the team recorded another clean sweep by defeating the hosts 3-0.

The team's next destination was the United Arab Emirates in late August and early September for the ACC Men's T20 Asia Cup. Babar Azam's men displayed extraordinary talent and skill to reach the final, where they were beaten by Sri Lanka on 11 September. Pakistan won against Hong Kong, India and Afghanistan on 2, 4 and 7 September.

Pakistan then hosted England for seven T20Is in late September ahead of the all-important ICC Men's T20 World Cup. This tour marked England's return to Pakistan after 17 years. The two sides played seven T20Is, which the tourists won 4-3, but it was one of the most competitive limited-overs series the two sides had ever played.

The first four matches were played in Karachi and the two teams moved to Lahore with the scoreline 2-2. The tourists sealed the series in the final match.

Pakistan headed to Christchurch in October for a tri-nation series. Pakistan played New Zealand and Bangladesh at Hagley Oval and won four out of the five matches to win the event, with their only defeat against New Zealand in the double round robin stage.

Pakistan's next stop was Australia for the much-anticipated ICC Men's T20 World Cup in October and November. Pakistan made an epic comeback in the tournament to play the final after losing to India at Melbourne and Zimbabwe at Perth. Pakistan then won four matches in a row, beating the Netherlands at Perth, South Africa at Sydney, Bangladesh at Adelaide and New Zealand at Sydney to book a berth in the final at Melbourne against England.

It was a low-scoring affair at Melbourne on 13 November and Pakistan had a firm grip on the match till the dying moments of the run chase but an injury to Shaheen Shah Afridi left Babar short of an important bowling option. Pakistan finished the tournament as runners-up after having reached the semi-finals of the previous edition held in the United Arab Emirates.

England made another visit to Pakistan and arrived in the country towards the end of November to play three Tests in December at Rawalpindi, Multan and Karachi. England secured a sweep and registered wins in all three matches.

New Zealand's tour of Karachi followed the three Tests and Kane Williamson's side played two Tests and three ODIs. While the two Tests ended in draws, the tourists bounced back to win the ODI series 2-1.

Following a break in international schedule because of the HBL Pakistan Super League 8, Pakistan returned to action in March for three T20Is against Afghanistan at Sharjah. The national selection committee provided rest to the senior players and gave opportunities to the top performers of the HBL PSL 8 as part of their efforts to enhance the bench strength. While that series provided much-needed exposure to the up and coming cricketers, Afghanistan won the series 2-1 after securing wins in the first two matches.

Pakistan's final assignment of the 2022-23 season was five T20Is and as many ODIs against New Zealand at home. The tour commenced with three T20Is in Lahore. Pakistan won the first two matches and New Zealand won the third. The next two T20Is were played in Rawalpindi and New Zealand were able to level the series by winning the fifth and final contest after the hailstorm abandoned the fourth match. Pakistan won the first two ODIs in Rawalpindi before the action move to Karachi. Pakistan won another two games in Karachi and became the number one side in the ICC Rankings, a feat which they achieved for the first time in history. The Kiwis won the final match of the five-match series.

Pakistan finished seventh in the ICC World Test Championship and fifth in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League.

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES

Pakistan's leading run-getter in this period was Babar Azam with 3,204 runs at an average of 52.52. He struck 10 centuries and 21 50s. Mohammad Rizwan scored the second most runs with 2,103 at 42.91. He smashed one century and 17 half-centuries. With 1,628 runs at 56.13, Imam-ul-Haq was the third best for Pakistan. The left-hander scored five centuries and 10 half-centuries.

Haris Rauf took the most wickets with 68 in 43 innings. His average remained 23.05 and his best figures were four for 18. Naseem Shah was the second best with 60 scalps in 38 innings. He averaged 25.58 and his best bowling figures were five for 33. Spinner Mohammad Nawaz took 50 wickets in 42 innings. He averaged 28.34 and his best figures were six for 106.

Pakistan's leading run-getters in Tests were Babar Azam (1,235 at 65), Imam-ul-Haq (932 at 54.82) and Abdullah Shafique (842 at 46.77). Pakistan's leading wicket-takers were Abrar Ahmed (28 at 33.64), Naseem Shah (22 at 30.40) and Noman Ali (18 at 47.05).

Babar Azam led the list of most ODIs runs for Pakistan with 1,104 at 69. He was followed by Fakhar Zaman (823 at 51.43) and Imam-ul-Haq (696 at 58). Pakistan's leading wicket-takers in ODIs were Haris Rauf (25 at 27.88), Mohammad Wasim Jnr (24 at 24.20) and Naseem Shah (23 at 15.04).

Keeper-batter Mohammad Rizwan, with 1,158 at 46.32, scored the most runs in T20Is. Babar Azam scored 865 at 33.26 and Iftikhar Ahmed made 556 at 26.47.

Haris Rauf bagged the most wickets in the shortest format with 42 at an average of 18.88. He was followed by Shadab Khan (31 at 22.90) and Mohammad Nawaz (22 at 25.63).

DOMESTIC CRICKET

The Pakistan Cricket Board organised 288 matches in nine tournaments namely, HBL Pakistan Super League 7, HBL Pakistan Super League 8, Pakistan Cup 2021-22, Pakistan Cup 2022-23, National T20 2022-23, Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23, Cricket Associations T20 2022-23, Cricket Associations Championship 2022-23, Cricket Associations Cup 2022-23.

Lahore Qalandars lifted HBL PSL 7 and HBL PSL 8 trophies in 2022 and 2023 after beating Multan Sultans in the two finals at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore.

In the HBL PSL 7, Mohammad Rizwan won player of the tournament and best wicketkeeper, Fakhar Zaman won best batter, Shadab Khan won best bowler, Khushdil Shah won best fielder and all-rounder and Zaman Khan won emerging player of the tournament award.

In the HBL PSL 8, Ihsanullah won player of the tournament and best bowler awards, Mohammad Rizwan won best batter and best wicketkeeper, Kieron Pollard won best fielder, Abbas Afridi won emerging player and Imad Wasim won best all-rounder award.

The 2021-22 iteration of the Pakistan Cup (one-day tournament) was won by Balochistan with their captain Yasir Shah leading from the front and winning best bowler and player of the final award. Young wicketkeeper-batter Haseebullah was named player of the tournament and best batter. Mohammad Haris won the best wicketkeeper award.

Sindh bagged the National T20 2022-23 after rolling over Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by eight wickets at the Multan Cricket Stadium. Fast bowler Sohail Khan was the player of the final, while Saim Ayub bagged the best player of the tournament award. Sahibzada Farhan and Sohail won best batter and best bowler awards respectively, while Sarfaraz Ahmed was named best wicketkeeper of the tournament.

Central Punjab defeated Balochistan by 50 runs in the 2022-23 iteration of the Pakistan Cup as Tayyab Tahir won the best batter and player of the final. Amad Butt won player of the Pakistan Cup award. Usama Mir was named best bowler and Haseebullah won the best wicketkeeper award.

Umar Amin's Northern won the four-day Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23 after beating Sindh at the Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore with Mohammad Huraira being the player of the final. Spin all-rounder Mubasir Khan was named player of the tournament and his teammates Huraira (best batter) and Rohail Nazir (best wicketkeeper) also won the awards. Sindh's Abrar Ahmed was the best bowler.

Central Punjab dominated the second XI tournaments winning the Cricket Associations T20, Cricket Associations Championship and Cricket Associations Cup.

PATHWAYS CRICKET

Ten series/tournaments under the Pathways Cricket Programme were held in the period from 1 January 2022 to 31 May 2023.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa defeated Southern Punjab in both the 30-over National U13 Cup and 45-over National U16 Cup finals, which were held between 27 January and 7 February 2022, respectively; Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites won the 50-over National U19 Cup and Sindh Blues clinched the three-day National U19 Championship, which were held from 28 June to 8 July and 30 July to 28 August, respectively; Bahawalpur Royals were crowned the PJL champions; Peshawar and FATA regions won the Inter-Region U13 and Inter-Region U16 One-Day Tournament 2022-23, respectively that were held on 5 and 6 May in Faisalabad, respectively; Pakistan played a home and away U19 series against Bangladesh and Pakistan Shaheens visited Zimbabwe for two four-dayers and six 50-over matches.

TOP 3 TEST BATTERS

NAME	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVE	SR	100	50	0
Babar Azam	10	1235	196	65	55.2	4	7	0
Imam-ul-Haq	9	932	157	54.82	47.52	3	4	1
Abdullah Shafique	10	842	160*	46.77	41.13	3	2	2

TOP 3 TEST BOWLERS

NAME	MATS	WKTS	BBI	BBM	AVE	ECON	SR	5	10
Abrar Ahmed	4	28	7-114	11-234	33.64	3.94	51.1	2	1
Naseem Shah	6	22	4-58	5-81	30.4	3.6	50.6	0	0
Noman Ali	6	18	6-107	6-107	47.05	3.33	84.7	1	0

TOP 3 ODI BATTERS

NAME	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVE	SR	100	50
Babar Azam	17	1104	114	69	88.1	4	9
Fakhar Zaman	17	823	180*	51.43	89.45	4	2
Imam-ul-Haq	13	696	106	58	91.94	2	6

TOP 3 ODI BOWLERS

NAME	MATS	WKTS	BBI	AVE	ECON	SR	4	5	10
Haris Rauf	14	25	4-77	27.88	5.78	28.9	2	0	1
Mohammad Wasim Jnr	14	24	4-36	24.2	5.32	27.2	1	0	0
Naseem Shah	8	23	5-33	15.04	4.73	19	0	2	0

TOP 3 T20I BATTERS

NAME	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVE	S. RATE	100	50
Mohammad Rizwan	30	1158	98*	46.32	125.05	0	12
Babar Azam	31	865	110*	33.26	126.27	2	5
Iftikhar Ahmed	32	556	60	26.47	130.82	0	3

TOP 3 T20I BOWLERS

NAME	MATS	WKTS	BBI	AVE	ECON	S. RATE	4	5	10
Haris Rauf	28	42	4-18	18.88	7.58	14.9	2	0	1
Shadab Khan	28	31	4-8	22.90	6.98	19.6	1	0	0
Mohammad Nawaz	27	22	3-5	25.63	7.55	20.3	0	0	0

CENTRAL CONTACTS

The Pakistan Cricket Board handed 33 central contracts for the 2022-23 season in June. For the first time, the board handed separate red and white ball contracts with five players – Babar Azam, Mohammad Rizwan, Shaheen Afridi, Hasan Ali and Imam ul Haq earning both contracts. The contracts saw 10 per cent increase in match fee across formats and the fee for non-playing members was increased to 70pc from 50pc.

RED BALL CONTRACTS

WHITE BALL CONTRACTS

EMERGING CONTRACTS

The Pakistan Cricket Board awarded improved and enhanced contracts to 191 domestic cricketers from 51 cities.

The 15 Category A+ players earned retainers of PKR300,000 following a PKR50,000 increase, while 35 players under Category A received PKR200,000 (up by PKR15,000).

Forty-eight Category B players got PKR185,000 per month (increase by PKR10,000), 70 Category C players earned PKR170,000 per month (up by PKR5,000), while 24 Category D players received PKR150,000 per month (up by PKR10,000).

HONOURS/ACHIEVEMENTS

Shaheen Shah Afridi became the first Pakistan cricketer to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year for 2021. Babar Azam was named ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year and Mohammad Rizwan bagged the ICC Men's T20I Cricket of the Year award.

Babar Azam bagged two prestigious awards in 2023 as he won Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for the ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year for 2022 and ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year award for 2022.

Abdul Qadir was inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. He became the seventh Pakistan cricketer after Hanif Mohammad, Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Zaheer Abbas.

AH Kardar, Pakistan's first Test captain, and Younis Khan, Pakistan's record-breaking Test batter, were inducted into the PCB Hall of Fame where they joined Abdul Qadir, Fazal Mahmood, Hanif Mohammad, Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Zaheer Abbas.

ICC RANKINGS

Pakistan finished sixth in Tests, second in ODIs and fourth in T20I following the annual update of the ICC Team Rankings, which took place in May 2023.

When May 2023 ended, Babar Azam was the highest-ranked Pakistan Test batter in fifth position, while Shaheen Shah Afridi was the highest-ranked bowler in fifth position. In the ODIs, Babar was ranked number-one, followed by Fakhar Zaman (third) and Imam-ul-Haq (fourth), while Shaheen featured in 10th spot amongst the bowlers. In T20Is, Mohammad Rizwan and Babar Azam were second and third, respectively, while Haris Rauf (12th), Shadab Khan (15th) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (16th) featured inside the top-20.

PCB PLAYERS' WELFARE POLICY

Under the PCB Players' Welfare Policy, the PCB announced an increase of PKR100,000 across all three pension categories. This means cricketers who have played in 10 or less Tests will now receive a monthly pension of PKR142,000, players who have played between 11 and 20 Tests will receive PKR148,000 and players who have featured in 21 or more Tests will receive PKR154,000.

In a major amendment to the policy, the PCB also announced the pension will be transferred to the widow in the unfortunate event of a Test cricketer's demise. Previously, the legal heirs of the cricketer were only entitled to receive a onetime payment equivalent to 12 months' benefit calculated according to the bracket under which the pension was being paid to the cricketer.

APPOINTMENTS

As part of the Pakistan Cricket Board's initiative to provide top-level coaching staff to the national side, Mickey Arthur was appointed team director and former New Zealand spinner Grant Bradburn was named the head coach. Former South African batter Andrew Puttick was named the batting coach of the men's side. Rehan Ul Haq, who served as Islamabad United's General Manager, was named team manager.

The outgoing team management included Saqlain Mushtaq (head coach), Mohammad Yousuf (batting coach) and Shaun Tait (bowling coach). Matthew Hayden, like the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, was the team mentor for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022.

Shahid Afridi was appointed chair of the interim men's national selection committee that also included Abdul Razzaq and Rao Iftikhar Anjum with Haroon Rashid as the Convenor. Haroon was then appointed the Chair of the selection committee that first included Mohammad Sami and Yasir Hameed, when then Mickey Arthur, Grant Bradburn and Hassan Cheema, manager analytics and team strategy for national men's side, as secretary.

Aizad Syed and Haroon Rashid were appointed as Acting Directors – Academies and Domestic cricket, respectively, while Zakir Khan retired as Director – International Cricket on 12 May after nearly 23 years of service but was re-employed as Consultant – Special Projects.

WOMEN'S CRICKET OVERVIEW

A year of significant progress and players' development

Women's cricket in Pakistan has progressed in a significant way in the last one year. With the concerted efforts of the women's wing under the auspices of Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) the standard of play, facilities and interest amongst girls has increased manifold.

That could be gauged from the fact that 1,000 women appeared in the nationwide trials.

In former captain Bismah Maroof's words women's cricket in Pakistan has earned more recognition and respect. "There were times when no one or very few people would know that the Pakistan women's cricket team exists," said Bismah.

"With more matches and live coverage, we have earned recognition and respect. I hope it will keep getting better and we'll be getting as much facilities and recognition as the other top teams do. Especially getting more competitive games, participation in the different leagues as well as an organised domestic structure for our female cricketers is the need of the hour," added Bismah.

Bismah herself completed her respected journey as skipper to usher a new era in women's cricket in Pakistan.

Nida Dar, another veteran and top wicket-taker in women's T20I cricket, has taken over and will make way for a young captain sooner rather than later. Pakistan women's team gained a world of experience on their bilateral tour of Australia and despite results not going their way it was one the best things to have happened to the side.

The year 2022-23 saw a bumper women's cricket season with the Ireland and Sri Lankan teams touring Pakistan. Both the teams and their respective Boards appreciated the security arrangements and facilities provided by Pakistan Cricket Board.

Pakistan women's team competed in various international events including the inaugural U19 women's T20 World Cup, the Twenty20 World Cup and Commonwealth Games showing signs of improvement. There were multiple events -- inaugural U19 Twenty20 tournament and two Twenty20 events - to select the players for the events. The selected players were also coached and trained in special coaching clinics.

Pakistan women international players also attended Asian Cricket Council (ACC) Level 2 coaching courses, enabling them to take up the role in future.

Although results at the international level were not favourable for the national team but new players like Fatima Sana, Ayesha Naseem, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Syeda Aroob Shah , Tuba Hassan, Muneeba Ali, Eyman Fatima, Gull Feroza, Sadaf Shamas, Zamina Tahir, Rida Aslam and Haleema Dar came and made their mark. That augurs well for Pakistan women's cricket as the pool of players has increased which will allow the selectors to have more choices than before.

Of the new players Fatima Sana made an early impact as she was declared ICC's emerging women's cricketer in 2022. Fatima has progressed by leaps and bounds and has shown remarkable tendency to learn and improve with every match she plays. Her inclination to learn was also seen on the tour of Australia when she met star Australian all-rounder Ellyse Perry and picked her brain on how to improve her skills.

Sidra Amin scored the fifth highest ODI score in women's cricket when she hit 176 against Ireland in Lahore. Her 277 runs in the series earned her ICC Player of the Month Award in November, a month after Nida Dar won the same award for her stellar performance in the Women's Asia Cup in Bangladesh. Earlier, Tuba Hassan was named ICC Player of the Month in May for her outstanding debut series against Sri Lanka.

These individual awards got Pakistan women's team international recognition.

Pakistan women's team toured Australia to prepare for the Twenty20 World Cup and although they lost all three ODIs and two Twenty20 internationals (one washed out) the experience itself gave them a sense of how teams like Australia play and how to compete against the top teams. It was a great initiative and will bear fruits in the longer term.

Pakistan started off well in the Twenty20 World Cup, giving a scare to arch-rivals and formidable team India but in the end, luck eluded them. Pakistan managed to win only one game and that was against Ireland. Pakistan hosted Sri Lanka and beat them 2-1 in ODI series while they blanked their opponents in a three-match T20I series 3-0. Pakistan women's team also competed in a tri-series in Ireland in July 2022 where they got to play Australia and the hosts. It was another beneficial experience for women as they played in different and difficult conditions and against the world's top team.

The Commonwealth Games in Edgbaston was also a useful outing for the national team as they competed against Australia, India and Barbados. Despite losing all three matches it allowed the women's team to gain quality experience.

October 2022 saw Pakistan featuring in the ACC Women's Asia Cup in Bangladesh. Here too, the Pakistan team gave a good account of themselves. After being upset by minnows Thailand, they came back strongly to beat arch-rivals India. After registering wins over the United Arab Emirates and Sri Lanka, Pakistan qualified for the semi-finals. But luck ran out in the pre-finals as they were outlasted by Sri Lanka by a mere one run.

Pakistan also played host to Ireland in November 2022. The three-match ODI series was a one-sided affair as Pakistan registered a clean sweep. Opener Sidra Amin established her credentials with a hundred and 91. The Twenty20 series was a different story as the visitors clinched the three-match series 2-1.

Three exhibition matches played during PSL 8 in March marked a new era for women's cricket in Pakistan as the local talent shared dressing rooms and playing fields with a host of foreign stars. The matches took place at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on 8, 10 and 11 March.

The matches were declared as "women's cricket festival". Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had been planning concrete and extensive steps for the promotion of women's cricket in the country. The exhibition matches, a standalone project, is the soft launch for the women's league planned for next year.

New Zealand's Mark Coles will return to help Pakistan women's cricket for the future events. His contributions during the first stint as coach were remarkable and there are hopes that Pakistan women players will get their talent honed and mature under Coles. The national women's team will improve and give a good account of themselves in future international events.

A number of other projects are also in pipeline, reiterating PCB's stance to lift Pakistan women's cricket to further heights. As they say, " when there is a will, there is a way."

A strong will is definitely there, and with it new avenues will open for Pakistan women's cricket.

TOP 3 WOMEN'S ODI BATTERS

NAME	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVE	SR	100	50
Sidra Amin	16	737	176*	52.64	75.35	3	2
Bismah Maroof	16	508	78*	50.80	66.93	0	4
Muneeba Ali	11	343	107	34.30	69.15	1	1

TOP 3 WOMEN'S ODI BOWLERS

NAME	MATS	WKTS	BBI	AVE	ECON	SR	4	5
Fatima Sana	16	23	4-26	25.73	4.87	31.6	1	0
Nida Dar	15	17	4-10	30.29	4.67	38.8	1	0
Nashra Sandhu	11	16	3-41	26.50	4.46	35.6	0	0

TOP 3 WOMEN'S T20I BATTERS

NAME	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVE	SR	100	50
Muneeba Ali	25	485	102	20.20	92.20	1	0
Nida Dar	22	480	61	36.92	115.94	0	3
Bismah Maroof	24	433	68*	25.47	84.24	0	1

TOP 3 WOMEN'S T20I BOWLERS

NAME	MATS	WKTS	BBI	AVE	ECON	SR	4	5
Nida Dar	22	23	2-5	18.26	5.91	18.5	0	0
Nashra Sandhu	13	19	4-18	14.84	5.42	16.4	1	0
Tuba Hassan	21	17	3-8	20.23	5.74	21.1	0	0

NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY

Located in Lahore, right next to the headquarters of Pakistan cricket, the National Cricket Academy has remained a vital cog in the development of cricketers and growth of the game since its formation in 2003. As such, the last 18 months were incredibly busy at the NCA as it continued to deliver and serve cricketers, umpires and coaches round the clock.

Otherwise known as the nursery of Pakistan cricketers, the NCA strived to provide state-of-the-art facilities to players of all rungs and workshops/coaching courses to umpires and coaches. The NCA boasts one of the best lodging, dining, gym, pool and rehabilitation facilities around the world.

The academy organised age-group domestic tournaments, hosted cricketers from around the country for specialised conditioning camps and rehabilitation, along with arranging accredited coaching and umpiring courses.

Senior and junior men and women cricketers remained a feature at the academy as they honed their skills under the watchful eyes of the highly qualified coaches and received treatment for various injuries by highly skilled doctors and physiotherapists.

The following is the list of activities:

- PCB National U16 One-Day Tournament: 12 teams, two each from a Cricket Association, featured in this event in Multan from 14-25 Jan 2022
- PCB National U13 One-Day Tournament: Six Cricket Association sides featured in this event in Karachi from 14-24 Jan 2022
- Condition camp of senior men cricketers in Lahore: 15-25 May 2022
- Condition camp of senior men white-ball cricketers in Lahore: 28 May till 10 June 2022
- Player development programme: 1 July 2022 till 30 June 2023
- Continuous injury prevention and rehabilitation programme: 1 July 2022 till 30 June 2023
- 100 Pathway Players Development Programme in Lahore: 21 August 2022 till 4 September 2022
- U19 specialised training camp in Lahore: 5-28 September 2022
- PCB Level-I Coaching Course: Peshawar (29 participants, 15-18 Jan 2022), Rawalpindi (30 participants, 15-18 March 2022), Multan (27 participants, 28-31 March 2022), Peshawar (31 participants, 22-25 December 2022), Rawalpindi (30 participants, 26-29 December 2022), Multan (31 participants, 23-26 Jan 2023), Quetta (17 participants, 6-9 March 2023), Karachi (29 participants, 11-14 March 2023).
- PCB Level-II Coaching Course in Multan: (28 participants, 9-14 Feb 2022)
- ACC Level-II Women Coaching Course in Lahore: (24 participants, 12-18 September 2022)
- PCB/ICC Level-III Coaching Course in Lahore: (35 participants, 17-22 November 2022)
- PCB/ICC Level-I Tutor Training Course in Lahore: (18 participants, 14-16 November 2022)
- PCB Level-II Umpiring Course in Lahore: (65 participants, 30 May-2 June)
- Specialised camp for senior men spinners in Lahore: 9-15 June 2023
- Specialised camp for senior men fast bowlers in Lahore: 16-21 June 2023

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT'S OVERVIEW

COMMERCIAL RIGHT SALES

When compared to the previous commercial cycle, the overall commercial revenue generated by these rights increased by over 70 per cent. This expansion can be attributed to the PCB's efforts in forging partnerships with new companies such as Pepsi, Global Broadcast Partners, Engro, and Bank Alfalah, among others

COMMERCIAL PARTNERS

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GROUP
NBP

BROADCAST & PRODUCTION

The PCB successfully sold global broadcast and live-streaming rights for the 2022-2023 season. More than 10 leading and world-class broadcasters, such as Sony, Sky, Fox, SuperSports, ICC Live, PTV Sports, AryZap, Daraz, Flow Sports, Sky NZ, Asports and BBC Radio, partnered with the PCB to provide pictures from historic series against Australia, England and New Zealand as well as other high-profile domestic tournaments, including the HBL Pakistan Super League.

TV PRODUCTION & LIVE STREAMING

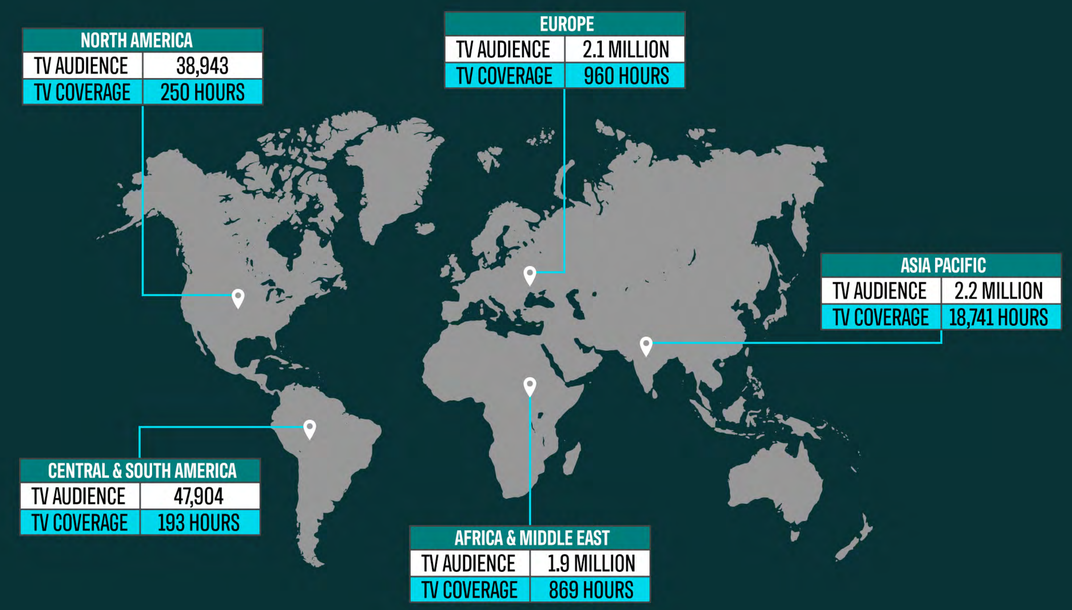
205	143	908	913
TOTAL MATCHES PRODUCED	TOTAL BROADCAST DAYS	TOTAL BROADCAST HOURS	TOTAL LIVE STREAMING HOURS

The PCB's Commercial department's in-house TV production team has had an outstanding year, successfully producing a total of 908 broadcast hours and 913 Live streaming hours spread over 205 matches.

GLOBAL BROADCAST PARTNERS

SPORTS
ARY ZAP
Tamasha
Vidly.tv
tapmad
sky sports
FOX Sports
FLOW SPORTS
WILLOW
sky SPORT
etisalat
STARZPLAY
SuperSport
SONY SIX
106.2

GLOBAL MARKETS
TV AUDIENCE & COVERAGE OVERVIEW



STADIUM NAMING RIGHTS

National Bank earned the naming rights of the National Stadium, Karachi, and was rebranded as the National Bank Stadium. This collaboration between the PCB and NBP provided significant financial benefits as well as increased brand visibility for both the partners.

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL DEPARTMENT'S OVERVIEW

In the period from 1 January 2022 to 30 June 2023, the PCB planned, arranged and delivered 846 matches across 30 tournaments, including 35 men's international matches, 288 men's domestic matches, 12 women's international matches, 46 women's domestic matches and 465 pathway matches. In addition to these, Pakistan men's, women's and emerging cricketers were also involved in 80 away international matches across the globe.

The PCB Media, Communications and Digital (MACD) department was once again at the forefront and extended complete support to the organisation's various departments by providing extensive, in-depth and comprehensive coverage of these events, initiatives and activities that contributed in highlighting and promoting team and player performances, enhancing the profile and image of Pakistan and Pakistan cricket, and substantially increasing its fan-base by attracting new audiences across all social media platforms through high-quality fan-engaging and behind the scenes content.

The following is a bird's-eye view of the Media, Communications and Digital Department's performance in the period under consideration:

ACCREDITED MEDIA

218 ELECTRONIC MEDIA

213 PRINT MEDIA

149 CAMERAPERSONS

65 BLOGGERS/YOUTUBERS

128 PHOTOGRAPHERS

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

808 BILINGUAL RELEASES

10 PODCASTS

239 PRESS CONFERENCES

DIGITAL MEDIA GROWTH

FOLLOWERS COUNT

	JUNE 2019	JUNE 2020	JUNE 2021	JUNE 2022	JUNE 2023
	7.27M	7.45M	8.13M	10.5M	12.6M
CORPORATE	1.8M	2.46M	3.26M	4.72M	6.18M
	605K	1.01M	1.5M	1.82M	2.51M
	1.13M	1.84M	2.82M	3.68M	4.73M
	-	-	-	213.8K	1.14M
LIVE	-	14.3K	35.9K	82.3K	108.2K
MEDIA	9.5K	129K	332K	538K	824K

REACH AND IMPRESSIONS

1 JAN 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023

769.38M	↑ 120% GROWTH
685.1M	↑ 180% GROWTH
1,167.2M	↑ 150% GROWTH
5,248.3M	↑ 30% GROWTH
1,853.9M	JOINED ON APRIL 2022
23M	↑ 24% GROWTH
38.2M	↑ 35% GROWTH

49M
MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON FACEBOOK

5M
MOST VIEWED VIDEO ON YOUTUBE

MEN'S HOME SERIES

SERIES	VIEWS		WATCH TIME		SUBSCRIBERS		IMPRESSIONS	
	f	▶	f	▶	f	▶	f	▶
Australia tour of Pakistan 2022 (Tests, ODIs & T20I)	494.1M	78.4M	3.841M	4.47M	221.7K	211K	53.18M	720M
West Indies tour of Pakistan 2022 (ODIs)	99.9M	14M	883K	1.1M	80.8K	55K	22.99M	167M
England tour of Pakistan 2022 (T20Is)	291.6M	45M	3.285M	45M	262.7K	166K	60.4M	466M
England tour of Pakistan (Tests)	247.1M	27M	2.4M	1.77M	114.1K	43K	53.95M	257M
New Zealand tour of Pakistan (Tests & ODIs)	292.4M	33M	3.2M	2.7M	165.2K	61K	47.88M	326M
New Zealand tour of Pakistan (T20Is & ODIs)	304.7M	61M	5.066M	5.6M	240.3K	163K	56.14M	624M

WOMEN'S HOME SERIES

SERIES	VIEWS		WATCH TIME		SUBSCRIBERS		IMPRESSIONS	
	f	▶	f	▶	f	▶	f	▶
Sri Lanka tour of Pakistan (ODIs & T20Is)	25.3M	1.3M	330K	80K	40.355K	2.9K	13.655M	2.3M
Ireland tour of Pakistan (ODIs & T20Is)	38.85M	5.3M	476.66K	3.86M	60.59K	14.8K	20.51M	73.74M
Women's League Exhibition Matches 2023	20.2M	2.9M	153.33K	174.1K	23.49K	4.8K	23.315M	18.1M

MEN'S
INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

AUSTRALIA IN PAKISTAN (3 TESTS, 3 ODIS, 1 T20I)

One of the PCB's major accomplishments of 2022 was hosting Australia in an all-format series, the country's first in 24 years. Pat Cummins-led tourists played the three ICC World Test Championship and ICC Men's Cricket World Cup ODI Super League matches before capping off the 37-day tour with a one-off T20I at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore.

The two teams had a fierce battle on the field, yet enjoyed a fantastic relationship off the field as players from both sides struck a chord with fans in the country and those following the broadcast all over the world with their respect, camaraderie and banter with each other.

The tour was well received by the passionate Pakistan fans across the three venues – Rawalpindi, Karachi and Lahore. The Tests were well attended with the fans offering a warm welcome to the Australian side with generous applause and colourful posters.

The Islamabad-born Usman Khawaja, David Warner and Marnus Labuschagne remained the crowd favourites while the rest of the players were also admired an appreciated for their cricketing skills. At the back of a hugely successful HBL Pakistan Super League 7, the tour of Australia was nothing less than an icing on the cake for the PCB as it paved the way for two more major tours – England and New Zealand for a total of five Tests, eight ODIs and 12 T20Is over two phases each.

The Australian Test team arrived in Islamabad on 27 February, the first Test was staged at the Pindi Cricket Stadium from 4 to 8 March. Pakistan opener Imam-ul-Haq scored twin centuries in his return to the side, while talented opener Abdullah Shafique registered his first Test hundred as the Test ended in a draw after nearly a day was lost due to rain and bad light. Left-arm-spinner Noman Ali took a six-wicket haul in Australia's lone innings.

The second Test will be remembered as long as the longest format of the game is alive for the batting heroics of Pakistan captain and ace batter Babar Azam.

Babar produced a once in a generation, back against the wall innings of 196 to defy the tourists' victory push on day four and five. Babar stonewalled for 603 minutes in his 425-ball stay (21 fours, one six) and added 228 runs with Abdullah (96) and 115 with Mohammad Rizwan (104 not out) to defy the visitors who had set Pakistan a 506-run target.

Australia went onto seal a 1-0 series win - courtesy a splendid all-round performance in the third and final Test in Lahore. Cummins took eight wickets in the series decider while off-spinner Nathan Lyon took five for 83 in the second innings to lead the victory charge, Australia prevailed by 115 runs on the final afternoon.

TOP PERFORMERS

Abdullah Shafique
397
Most runs in the Test series for Pakistan

Shaheen Shah Afridi
9
Most wickets in the Test series for Pakistan

TOP 3 BATTERS IN TESTS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	HS	AVG	100/50
Usman Khawaja	Australia	3	5	496	160	165.33	2/2
Abdullah Shafique	Pakistan	3	6	397	136	79.4	1/2
Babar Azam	Pakistan	3	5	390	196	78	1/2

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN TESTS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	4WL	5WL
Pat Cummins	Australia	3	12	5-56	22.50	0	1
Nathan Lyon	Australia	3	12	5-83	136	1	1
Shaheen Shah Afridi	Pakistan	3	9	4-79	196	1	0

The ODI series was the Babar-Imam show at the GSL. The two batters pulverised the visitors with four hundreds between them in a space of three matches as Pakistan won the series 2-1 after losing the opening match. Babar was named the player of the series for his 276 runs at 138, Imam scored 298 runs at 149

Imam-ul-Haq
298
Most runs in the ODI series

Shaheen Shah Afridi
6
Joint-most wickets in the ODI series

The lone T20 match went Australia's way with captain Aaron Finch leading the way with a 55 off 45 balls, Pakistan fought all the way before the visitors succeeded in pulling off the chase for the loss of seven wickets with five balls to spare.

At the end of it all, the tour gave a loud and clear message to the cricketing world, Pakistan was as safe and as good a venue as any for top flight international cricket and that was easily the biggest gain of the tour.

Babar Azam
66
Highest scorer of the one-off T20I

Nathan Ellis
4-28
Best bowler of the one-off T20I

TOP 3 BATTERS IN ODIS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Imam-ul-Haq	Pakistan	3	298	106	149	101.71	2/1
Babar Azam	Pakistan	3	276	114	138	102.22	2/1
Ben McDermott	Australia	3	195	104	85.53	85.53	1/1

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN ODIS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Shaheen Shah Afridi	Pakistan	2	6	4-63	17.17	18.00	5.72
Adam Zampa	Australia	3	6	4-38	26.50	29.00	5.48
Haris Rauf	Pakistan	3	5	3-39	28.00	32.20	5.22

TOP 3 BATTERS IN THE T20I

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Babar Azam	Pakistan	1	66	66	66	143.48	0/1
Aaron Finch	Australia	1	55	55	55	122.22	0/1
Travis Head	Australia	1	26	26	26	185.71	0/0

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN THE T20I

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Nathan Ellis	Australia	1	4	4-28	7.00	6.00	7.00
Cameron Green	Australia	1	2	2-16	8.00	9.00	5.33
Shaheen Afridi	Pakistan	1	2	2-21	10.50	12.00	5.25

WEST INDIES IN PAKISTAN (3 ODIS)

2022 also saw the return of international cricket to Multan, also known as The City of Saints, as Pakistan hosted the West Indies for three One-Day Internationals. These three matches were part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League fixtures and were initially scheduled to be played in December 2021. Following a Covid-19 outbreak in the touring party's camp, the three matches were rescheduled.

No international cricket had been played in the city since April 2008 and as part of the Pakistan Cricket Board's plan to slowly revive international cricket venues in the country, Multan Cricket Stadium had hosted three HBL Pakistan Super League fixtures in 2020.

Multan welcomed both teams with open arms and turned out in large numbers to cheer them. All three matches were played in front of jostling crowds.

Pakistan won the first ODI by five wickets as Babar Azam's terrific century and Khushdil Shah's whirlwind 41 not out off 23 balls helped the hosts chase down 306 with four balls to spare. Captain Babar gave his player of the match award to Khushdil for playing a wonderful innings which included four sixes and a four.

Shai Hope made a century with a 134-ball 127 and Shamarh Brooks made an 83-ball 70 as the West Indies scored 305 for eight. On a tough day for bowlers, Haris Rauf took four wickets for 77 runs and Shaheen Shah Afridi took two wickets for 55.

Pakistan's Imam-ul-Haq and Mohammad Rizwan scored half-centuries in reply with 65 and 59, respectively. The two batters played around Babar, before Khushdil delivered final punches to seal the game.

Mohammad Nawaz's career-best figures of four for 19 sealed the series for Pakistan in the second ODI as the West Indies crumbled in their chase of 276 and were bowled out for 155 in only 32.2 overs.

Babar and Imam made 77 and 72, respectively as Pakistan posted 275 for eight and the tourists perished after the second wicket partnership between Kyle Mayers (33) and Brooks (42) was broken. Mohammad Wasim Jnr took three wickets for 34 and Shadab Khan chipped in with two wickets for 40 runs.

Shadab Khan produced an all-round show in Pakistan's 53-run win (DLS method) in the third ODI. Pakistan posted 269 for nine with Shadab doing most of the work with his 86 off 78 (four fours and three sixes). Local boy Imam scored his third half-century of the series and added 85 runs for the first wicket with Fakhar Zaman (35 off 48).

The West Indies skipper, Nicholas Pooran, produced a brilliant spell and took four wickets for 48.

The tourists lost the plot from the onset of the run chase and had half of their batting line-up back in the pavilion for only 93 runs. Akeal Hosein showed some resistance with 37-ball 60. Shadab took four wickets for 62 runs and Hasan Ali and Nawaz took two wickets each.

Imam Ul Haq

199

Most runs in the series

Mohammad Nawaz

7

Joint-most wickets in the series

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Imam-ul-Haq	Pakistan	3	199	72	66.33	94.31	0/3
Babar Azam	Pakistan	3	181	103	60.33	89.16	1/1
Shai Hope	West Indies	3	152	127	50.67	92.12	1/0

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Mohammad Nawaz	Pakistan	3	7	4-19	19.43	25.71	4.53
Shadab Khan	Pakistan	3	7	4-62	19.86	24.00	4.96
Akeal Hosein	West Indies	3	5	3-52	29.00	36.00	4.83

PAKISTAN TO SRI LANKA (2 TESTS)

Pakistan's tour of Sri Lanka in July brought forward the grit and determination of Babar Azam's side. The two Test-series was scheduled to be played in Galle and Colombo, but was played in Galle and produced intense sessions of Test match cricket.

FIRST TEST

Galle, a paradise for spin bowlers, is considered one of the toughest venues for the touring sides where the hosts have won 22 out of 39 matches since it first hosted a Test match in 1998. But, Pakistan, a side based on youthful exuberance and experienced seniors, stunned the cricket world by becoming the first-ever team to chase a total of over 300 at the Galle International Stadium.

Pakistan were helped to the 342-run target by 22-year-old Abdullah Shafique, who recorded his highest Test score and then first-class best of 160 not out. The young right-handed opener from Sialkot displayed an incredible temperament and his masterful strokes displayed high-quality batsmanship as he anchored the run-chase despite the hosts possessing in-form spinners.

Pakistan's decision to play three fast bowlers was proved correct as Shaheen Shah Afridi (four wickets), Hasan Ali (two) and Naseem Shah (one) accounted for seven Sri Lanka players in the first innings of the series as the hosts were reduced to 222.

Babar Azam's heroic innings of 119 helped Pakistan to 218 despite a collapse, thanks to Prabath Jayasuria's five for 82. That he scored a century was because of Naseem Shah's brilliant defiant innings of five not out that took 52 balls.

Mohammad Nawaz announced his return to Test cricket in that match in style with his maiden five-wicket haul in Pakistan colours. The left-arm orthodox was marking his return to Test cricket after a gap of six years and took five wickets for 88. Another spinner who was marking his return to the side was Yasir Shah and he took three wickets in the second innings. Sri Lanka were bowled out for 337 after Dinesh Chandimal was left high and dry on 94. Oshada Fernando and Kusal Mendis made solid half-centuries.

Abdullah provided Pakistan a solid start with an 87-run stand with Imam-ul-Haq. He added crucial runs for the third wicket with Babar Azam (55) as their partnership of 101 helped Pakistan from 104 for two to 205 for three.

Pakistan rolled over the target with four wickets to spare.

SECOND TEST

Sri Lanka made a strong comeback in the second Test and squared the series. The hosts corrected their errors of the first Test and made 378 with Dinesh Chandimal continuing his good run of form by top-scoring with 80.

Pakistan were bowled out for 231 with Ramesh Mendis picking up five wickets.

But, the silver lining for the tourists was Salman Ali Agha's maiden half-century as the young all-rounder made 62 in only his second Test.

Dhananjaya de Silva scored a solid century as the hosts set a mammoth target of 508.

Pakistan were bowled out in the final day by the spin twins Prabath Jayasuria and Ramesh Mendis. The two shared nine wickets between them with the former picking up a five-wicket haul.

Babar scored another fourth innings half-century with 81. Imam missed out his half-century by one run as he made 49

MOST RUNS IN THE SERIES

Dinesh Chandimal
271

Babar Azam
271

Abdullah Shafique
189

MOST WICKETS IN THE SERIES

Prabath Jayasuriya
17

Ramesh Mendis
12

Mohammad Nawaz
10

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	HS	AVG	100/50
Dinesh Chandimal	Sri Lanka	2	4	271	94	90.33	0/3
Babar Azam	Pakistan	2	4	271	119	67.75	1/2
Abdullah Shafique	Pakistan	2	4	189	160	63	1/0

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	4WL	5WL
Prabath Jayasuriya	Sri Lanka	2	17	5-82	24.35	1	2
Ramesh Mendis	Sri Lanka	2	12	5-47	22.33	1	1
Mohammad Nawaz	Pakistan	2	10	5-88	26.10	0	1

PAKISTAN TO THE NETHERLANDS (3 ODIS)

Pakistan travelled to Rotterdam to play their maiden ODI series against the Netherlands. The matches were part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League, a qualifying tournament for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023 with the top seven sides and hosts India to progress directly for the event scheduled for October/November 2023.

The matches were played on 16, 18 and 21 August 2022 with Pakistan winning all three by 16 runs, seven wickets and nine runs, respectively.

In the opening match, Pakistan, batting first after winning the toss, posted 314 for six with Fakhar Zaman smashing run-a-ball century and Babar Azam hitting a half-century. Fakhar's 109 included 12 fours and a six, while Babar struck six fours and a six in an 85-ball 74. The two batters added 168 runs for the second wicket that laid the platform for Khushdil Shah and Shadab Khan to smack an 18-ball 21 and 28-ball 48 not out, respectively.

In turn, the home side lost half their side at the score of 167 in the 33rd over before finishing at 298 for eight. Naseem Shah (three for 51) and Haris Rauf (three for 67) shared wickets, while batting honours went to Scott Edwards (71 not out), Tom Cooper (65), Vikramjit Singh (65) and Logan van Beek (28).

In the second match, Haris Rauf took three for 16 and was well supported by Mohammad Nawaz (three for 42) and Naseem Shah (two for 27) as the Netherlands were bowled out for 186 in 44.1 overs after Bas de Leede (86) and Tom Cooper (66) had added 109 runs for the fourth wicket.

Half-centuries by Mohammad Rizwan, Babar Azam and Salman Ali Agha enabled Pakistan to romp home in 33.4 overs for the loss of three wickets. Babar scored 57 (65 balls, 7x4) and put on 88 runs for the third wicket with Rizwan, who scored an 82-ball 69 not out with six fours and a six, and featured in an unbroken 92-run fourth wicket stand with Salman, whose contribution was 50 not out from 35 balls with five fours and two sixes.

The final ODI went down to the wire when Pakistan showed their bowling prowess to successfully defend a paltry 206 by dismissing The Netherlands for 197. The star of Pakistan's victory were Naseem Shah and Mohammad Wasim Jnr, who shared nine wickets between them. Naseem returned figures of 10-0-33-5 and Wasim had figures of 9.2-0-36-4.

Vikramjit Singh (50 off 85 balls) added 71 runs for the fourth wicket with Tom Cooper (62), who, in turn, put on 56 runs for the sixth wicket with Teja Nidamanuru (24) to take the home side to 172 for five before they capitulated to 197 all-out with four balls remaining.

Pakistan's 206 revolved around Babar Azam's 91 who faced 125 balls and struck seven fours and two sixes. Mohammad Nawaz (27), Fakhar Zaman (26) and Salman Ali Agha (24) were the other contributors, while Bas de Leede bagged three wickets for 50 runs.

MOST RUNS IN THE SERIES

Babar Azam
222

Tom Cooper
193

Fakhar Zaman
138

MOST WICKETS IN THE SERIES

Naseem Shah
10

Haris Rauf
6

Mohammad Wasim Jnr
6

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Babar Azam	Pakistan	3	222	91	74	80.73	0/3
Tom Cooper	Netherlands	3	193	66	64.33	82.83	0/3
Fakhar Zaman	Pakistan	3	138	109	46	85.19	1/0

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Naseem Shah	Pakistan	3	10	5-33	11.10	15.60	4.27
Haris Rauf	Pakistan	2	6	3-16	13.83	17.17	4.83
Mohammad Wasim Jnr	Pakistan	3	6	4-36	22.17	27.33	4.87

ACC T20 ASIA CUP (5 T20IS)

In the build up to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, the Asian sides assembled in the United Arab Emirates for the ACC T20 Asia Cup, which was held from 27 August to 11 September. Sri Lanka Cricket was the event host but the UAE, for the second successive time, staged the main rounds. The UAE had also played host in 2018 when the BCCI, as event host, decided to hold the event in the Sheikhdom.

A year after defeating India by 10 wickets in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021, Pakistan had a chance to make it two out of two in Dubai but failed to defend 51 runs in five overs, including 21 in two overs, as India romped to victory with two balls and five wickets to spare.

Hardik Pandya, later adjudged player of the match, followed up his three for 25 by striking four fours and a six to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. In association with Ravindra Jadeja (35), Pandya added 52 runs for the fifth wicket after India were looking down the barrel at 89 for four in 14.2 overs. Jadeja struck two fours and two sixes in a 29-ball 35, while Virat Kohli was the other notable run-getter with a 34-ball 35 with three fours and a six.

Naseem Shah dismissed KL Rahul on the second ball to provide Pakistan an excellent start and then battled calf injury in the death overs to finish with impressive figures of two for 27. Mohammad Nawaz, however, was the most successful bowler with three for 33.

Earlier, Pakistan were bowled out for 147 in 19.5 overs after adding 44 runs in the last five overs. Mohammad Rizwan was the top scorer with a 42-ball 43, while Iftikhar Ahmed contributed 28.

In the next match against Hong Kong in Sharjah, Khushdil Shah slapped four sixes in the last over to lift Pakistan from 164 for two to 193 for two. Khushdil finished unbeaten on 35 from 15 balls with five sixes. At the top, Mohammad Rizwan scored 78 not out from 57 balls and Fakhar Zaman chipped in with 53 from 41 ball as the two batters added 116 runs for the second wicket.

In reply, Hong Kong were bowled out for 38 in 10.4 overs with Shadab Khan taking four wickets for eight runs, Mohammad Nawaz snapping up three wickets for five runs and Naseem Shah claiming two wickets for seven runs.

Pakistan avenged their narrow defeat against India a week earlier when they chased down a 182-run target on the penultimate ball with five wickets to spare in a Super-4 Stage fixture. Mohammad Nawaz, promoted to No.4, played a blinder of an innings when he belted six fours and two sixes in a 20-ball 42 as he added 73 runs for the third wicket in 41 balls with Mohammad Rizwan, who top-scored with 71. For the fifth wicket, Asif Ali (16) and Khushdil Shah (14 not out) put on 33 runs in 17 balls to seal Pakistan's victory.

At the halfway stage, Pakistan were 76 for two and needed 106 runs in the second half of the innings, while they required 47 from five overs and finally, 26 runs from two overs. The penultimate over bowled by Bhuvneshwar Kumar swung the match in Pakistan's favour when he conceded 19 runs that included a six and a four by Asif, and a four by Khushdil.

Three days later in Sharjah, Naseem Shah struck successive sixes on the first two deliveries of the final over to earn an unlikely victory for Pakistan over Afghanistan that also sealed a place for Pakistan in the final with two successive victories in the Super-4 Stage.

Chasing 130 for victory, Pakistan were down and out when Asif Ali became the ninth batter to be dismissed at the score of 118 in 18.5 overs. But Naseem Shah had other ideas and twice struck Fazalhaq Farooqi over long-off that sparked ugly scenes as Afghanistan spectators attacked the Pakistan supporters in the stands, forcing the security officers to spring into action.

However, Shadab Khan was adjudged player of the match. The all-rounder took one for 27 as Afghanistan was restricted to 129 for six and then contributed a vital 26-ball 36 with one four and three sixes. He received valuable support from Mohamad Rizwan (20), Iftikhar Ahmed (30) and Asif Ali (16).

While Pakistan's victory over Afghanistan ensured them a place in the final, it ended India's campaign who had a day earlier lost to Sri Lanka by six wickets. This was Sri Lanka's second victory in the Super-4, following their four-wicket victory over Afghanistan. Distorted by the Pakistan loss, Afghanistan failed to make any impression on India who comfortably won a match of academic interest by 101 runs.

In the last Super-4 Stage match in Dubai, Sri Lanka defeated Pakistan by five wickets and then repeated the same performance two days later in the final by lifting the trophy.

In the final, Pakistan held Sri Lanka by the scruff of their necks when they reduce the event hosts to 67 for five at the halfway stage. But Bhanuka Rajapaksa produced a brilliant counter-attack when he struck six fours and three sixes in a 45-ball 71 not out to steer his side to 170 for six. The left-hander added 58 runs in 36 balls for the sixth wicket with Wanindu Hasaranga (36 off 21) and 54 runs in 31 balls for the unbroken seventh wicket with Chamika Karunaratne (14 not out).

For Pakistan, Haris Rauf took three for 29.
In their run-chase, Pakistan collapsed like a house of cards and lost seven wickets for 54 runs to be dismissed for 147. Mohammad Rizwan (55) and Iftikhar Ahmed (32) put on 71 runs for the third wicket, but when Iftikhar became one of the four Pramod Madushan scalps, Sri Lanka bowlers tightened the screws around Pakistan batters to end their chances to reclaiming the title.

Madushan was the pick of the bowlers with four for 34, while Hasaranga bagged three for 27. Rajapaksa was named player of the final, while Hasaranga won the player of the tournament award.

For Pakistan, Rizwan was the top-scorer with 281 runs at a strike-rate of 117.57, while Iftikhar Ahmed with 105 runs was the other batter to reach three figures. Amongst the bowlers, Nawaz, Shadab and Haris Rauf equally shared 24 wickets between them, while Naseem Shah took seven wickets.

Mohamamd Rizwan
281
Most runs in the tournament

Mohammad Nawaz
8
Most wickets for Pakistan

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Mohammad Rizwan	Pakistan	6	281	78	56.2	117.57	0/3
Virat Kohli	India	5	276	122	92	147.59	1/2
Ibrahim Zadran	Afghanistan	5	196	64	65.33	104.26	0/1

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Bhuvneshwar Kumar	India	5	11	5-4	10.45	10.36	6.05
Wanidu Hasaranga	Sri Lanka	6	9	3-21	18.89	15.33	7.39
Mohammad Nawaz	Pakistan	6	8	3-5	13.75	14.00	5.89

ENGLAND IN PAKISTAN (7 T20IS, 3 TESTS)

The bumper 2022 carried into the 2022-23 season when England first arrive in Pakistan for seven T20Is from 20 September to 2 October and then returned for three Tests from 1-21 December.

The visit for seven T20Is, which were played in Karachi and Lahore, and was their first since they were here in 2005. The significant tour was scheduled ahead of the all-important ICC Men's T20 World Cup and such was the magnitude of this tour that England captain Jos Buttler accompanied his squad despite recovering from an injury that kept him out from all seven T20Is. Moeen Ali took the charge of the English side.

The series provided excellent preparation to the both sides, underscored by the fact that both made it to the World Cup final in November. The matches were played in front of jam-packed crowds as National Bank Stadium, Karachi hosted the first four games and Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore hosted the last three.

The series see-sawed between the two teams, but England won the series winning the last two games at Lahore to bag the trophy with 4-3 scoreline.

T20I SERIES

England won the first match with ease and comfort as they chased down 159 with six wickets and four balls to spare. Alex Hales made 53 and Harry Brook scored 25-ball 42 not out in the run-chase after left-arm pacer Luke Wood had dismissed three Pakistan batters and Adil Rashid had taken two wickets for 27 runs. Pakistan scored 158 for seven, thanks to a 46-ball 68 by Mohammad Rizwan at the top of the order.

Pakistan made a strong comeback in the series with Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan chasing down 200-run target with three balls to spare. The brilliant partnership between the top-two ranked T20I batters showed why Pakistan had the best opening pair as England were left stunned. Babar made 110 not out off 66 balls with 11 fours and five sixes, while Rizwan made 88 in 51 balls with five fours and four sixes.

Earlier Moeen Ali had made 55 not out off 23 balls and Ben Duckett had smashed 43 runs in 22 balls to lift England to 199 for five. Pakistan's Haris Rauf and Shahnawaz Dahani took two wickets each.

England won the third match by 63 runs with Harry Brook (81 not out off 35 balls) and Ben Duckett (70 not out off 42 balls) starring in the win. England made 221 for three on a day when Pakistan bowlers struggled and the best figures were two for 48 by Usman Qadir.

With 65 not out off 40 balls, Shan Masood was the only batter with a notable performance. The left-hander hit four sixes and three fours. England's Mark Wood took three wickets for 24 and Adil Rashid dismissed two batters for 32.

Haris Rauf delivered an incredible last over to level the series before action moved to Lahore as Pakistan eked out a three-run win. The right-arm fast bowler recorded the best figures of three for 32 from both sides, while spinner Mohammad Nawaz and pacer Mohammad Hasnain took three and two wickets, respectively, to limit England to 163 all out in 19.2 overs in the chase of 167.

Mohammad Rizwan put up another solid performance with a 67-ball 88 (nine fours and one six) as Pakistan recorded an opening partnership of 97 with Babar Azam scoring 36 in 28 balls. The remaining batters failed to fire as Pakistan would have liked, but the score of 166 for four proved to be just enough to make the series exciting before action moved to Lahore.

A new star was born in Lahore as all-rounder Aamir Jamal defended 15 off the last over to help Pakistan go 3-2 up in the series. England were set 146 to win as Mohammad Rizwan scored yet another half-century with 63 off 46 in an innings in which the next best score was 15 (made by Iftikhar Ahmed).

England struggled in the run-chase but Moeen Ali's 51 not out off 37 balls gave England a shot at the target, before Aamir delivered an incredible last over.

Phil Salt's whirlwind 88 not out in just 41 balls, which included 13 fours and three sixes, helped to England chase down 170 in only 14.3 overs. With Mohammad Rizwan rested, Mohammad Haris opened with Babar Azam, who made 87 not out in 59 balls, and Pakistan posted 169 for six. David Willey and Sam Curran took two wickets each as England made it 3-3 and set the stage for the final on 2 October.

Chris Woakes picked up three wickets and David Willey took two wickets for 22 as England recorded a comfortable 67-run win over Pakistan to take the series. England made 209 for three with Dawid Malan scoring 78 not out in only 47 balls and Harry Brook smashing 46 not out off 29 balls. Shan Masood scored 56 off 43 after both Pakistan openers were dismissed cheaply. The remaining batting order also failed to fire as Khushdil Shah's 27 off 25 was the next best performance in the innings.

Mohammad Rizwan
316
Most runs in the series

Haris Rauf
8
Most wickets in the series

TOP 3 BATTERS IN T20IS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Mohammad Rizwan	Pakistan	6	316	88	63.2	138.6	0/4
Babar Azam	Pakistan	7	285	110	57	143.22	1/1
Harry Brook	England	7	238	81	79.33	163.01	0/1

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN T20IS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Haris Rauf	Pakistan	6	8	3-32	23.63	18.00	7.88
Sam Curran	England	6	7	2-23	24.57	19.71	7.48
David Willey	England	6	7	2-22	27.57	19.29	8.58

PAKISTAN V ENGLAND TESTS

England then returned to Pakistan under Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum in late November for the three Tests, which were played in Rawalpindi from 1-5 December, in Multan from 9-13 December and in Karachi from 17-21 December. The matches were part of the ICC World Test Championship.

England defeated Pakistan 3-0, but the tourists' journey to the victory was full of obstacles despite Pakistan losing their frontline bowling attack to injuries.

In the Rawalpindi Test, Haris Rauf, Zahid Mehmood, Mohammad Ali and Saud Shakeel made Test debuts for Pakistan at the Pindi Cricket Stadium. Four England batters scored centuries as the tourists posted 657 after electing to bat. Zak Crawley and Ben Duckett scored 122 and 107, respectively and added 233 runs for the opening wicket and Ollie Pope, batting at three, made 108.

Harry Brook was in tremendous touch throughout the series and he played an outstanding innings of 153 in just 116 balls. Debutant Zahid took four wickets for 235 runs.

Pakistan put a solid fightback. Openers Abdullah Shafique and Imam-ul-Haq made 114 and 121, respectively in their brilliant 225-run stand and Pakistan captain Babar Azam stood out with his 136. Salman Ali Agha scored 67-ball 53. Off-spinner Will Jacks, the England debutant, took six wickets for 161.

England posted a target of 343 after declaring at 264 for seven. Harry Brook, once again, top scored with 87 and Joe Root made 73. Zak Crawley scored 50 at the top.

Pakistan were all out for 268 as Ollie Robinson and James Anderson equally shared eight wickets between them. Robinson returned four for 50 and Anderson took four wickets for 36. Saud Shakeel top scored for Pakistan in the second innings with his maiden Test half-century as he made 76. Robinson won player of the match award.

The second Test in Multan brought sensational Pakistan spinner to limelight with Abrar Ahmed becoming only the second player from the country to take 10 wickets in a match on debut. The England batters struggled against Abrar's mystery spin and the tourists were bowled out for 281 after electing to bat.

The 24-year-old took seven wickets for 114 in the first innings as only Ben Duckett (63) and Ollie Pope (60) could score half-centuries.

Pakistan were bowled out for 202 as Jack Leach took four wickets. Babar Azam top-scored with 75 and Saud Shakeel made 63 but the remaining batting order failed to fire.

Harry Brook smashed a century with 108 off 149 balls, Ben Duckett made 79 and Ben Stokes scored 41 as England mustered 275 to set a target of 355 for Pakistan. Abrar was once again the pick of the bowlers with four for 120 and Zahid Mehmood took three wickets for 52.

Saud Shakeel (94) and Imam-ul-Haq (60) shone for Pakistan in the last innings as the hosts fell agonisingly short of the target on day four. Abdullah Shafique and Mohammad Nawaz made 45 each. It was Mark Wood this time who stood out with the ball for the hosts with four for 65.

Harry Brook got the player of the match award.

In Karachi, Harry Brook's bat continued to ooze runs as the Yorkshireman made his third century of the series. Pakistan made 304 in the first innings with Babar Azam's 78 being the top score and Salman Ali Agha contributing with 56. England replied with 354 as Ollie Pope and Ben Foakes made 51 and 64 respectively, while Harry Brook made 111 off 150.

Abrar Ahmed was once again amongst the wicket-takers, returning four for 150, but Noman Ali delivered the best figures of the innings with four for 126.

Half-centuries from Babar Azam (54) and Saud Shakeel (53) helped Pakistan to 216. England's Rehan Ahmed had a debut to remember as the leg-spinner took five wickets for 48.

Ben Duckett's 82 not out helped England chase down the target with eight wickets in hand.

This was Azhar Ali's last Test and he made 45 in the first innings and nought in the second.

Babar Azam
348
Most runs in the series for Pakistan

Abrar Ahmed
17
Most wickets in the series

TOP 3 BATTERS IN TESTS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	HS	AVG	100/50
Harry Brook	England	3	5	468	153	93.6	3/1
Ben Duckett	England	3	6	357	107	71.4	1/3
Babar Azam	Pakistan	3	6	348	136	58	1/3

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN TESTS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	4WL	5WL
Abrar Ahmed	Pakistan	2	17	7-114	27.18	2	1
Jack Leach	England	3	15	4-98	44.60	2	0
Zahid Mehmood	Pakistan	2	12	4-235	36.17	1	0

PAKISTAN TO NEW ZEALAND (TRI-SERIES, 5 T20IS)

Pakistan visited Christchurch from 7-14 October to give final touches to their ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 preparations by featuring in a T20I tri-series, also involving hosts New Zealand and Bangladesh. Pakistan defeated Bangladesh twice, won one and lost one against New Zealand and then defeated New Zealand in the final by five wickets.

Mohammad Rizwan was the player of the match in Pakistan's opening match against Bangladesh when the opener scored 78 from 50 balls with seven fours and two sixes to lift his side to 167 for five. Shan Masood (31) and Babar Azam (22) were the other main run-getters.

In turn, Mohammad Wasim Jnr took three for 24 and Mohammad Nawaz snapped up two for 25 as Bangladesh were restricted to 146 for eight. Yasir Ali with 42 not out was the leading run-getter.

The following day, Pakistan thumbed New Zealand by six wickets with 10 balls to spare. Haris Rauf took three for 28 and Mohammad Wasim Jnr bagged two for 20 to limit New Zealand to 147 for eight.

Babar Azam, named player of the match, led the run-chase with 79 not out. His 53-ball innings included 11 fours. Shadab Khan scored 34 and added 61 runs for the third wicket with Babar.

In the return match, New Zealand defeated Pakistan by nine wickets. Pakistan managed 130 for seven with Iftikhar Ahmed scoring 27, Asif Ali 25 not out and Babar Azam 21. In turn, Finn Allen belted six sixes and a four in a 42-ball 62, while Devon Conway remained unbeaten on a 46-ball 49 as New Zealand achieved victory in 16.1 overs for the loss of Allen.

In the second match against Bangladesh, Mohammad Rizwan (69) and Babar Azam (55) put on 101 runs for the first wicket and then Rizwan added 64 runs for third wicket with Mohammad Nawaz (45 not out) as Pakistan achieved the 174-run target for the loss of three wickets in 19.5 overs.

Bangladesh's 173 for six revolved around Litton Das (69) and Shakib Al Hasan (68) who added 88 runs for the third wicket. For Pakistan, Naseem Shah and Mohammad Wasim Jnr picked up two wickets each.

In the final, New Zealand batted first and set Pakistan 164 runs target, which they achieved in 19.3 overs for the loss of five wickets. Mohammad Nawaz, who took one for 33 and scored 38 not out off 22 balls, was named player of the final. Mohammad Rizwan (34), Haider Ali (31) and Iftikhar Ahmed (25 not out) were the other notable contributors.

Kane Williamson was his side's leading run-getter with 59, while Glenn Philips (29) and Mark Chapman (25) were the other notable run-scorers. For Pakistan, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah picked up two wickets each, conceding 22 and 38 runs, respectively.

Mohammad Rizwan
201
Most runs in the series for Pakistan

Mohammad Wasim Jnr
8
Most wickets in the series for Pakistan

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Devon Conway	New Zealand	5	233	70*	77.66	123.28	0/2
Mohammad Rizwan	Pakistan	5	201	78*	50.25	122.56	0/2
Babar Azam	Pakistan	5	192	79*	48	123.87	0/2

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Michael Bracewell	New Zealand	5	8	2-11	10.5	12.75	4.94
Tim Southee	New Zealand	5	8	2-31	19.75	15	7.9
Mohammad Wasim Jnr	Pakistan	5	7	3-24	19	15.42	7.38

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2022 (7 T20IS)

Pakistan's campaign in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia brought to light the unit's grit, determination and never-say-die spirit. After finishing as a semi-finalist in the 2021 edition in the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan bettered their standing and played the final, before Shaheen Shah Afridi's injury paved way for England's successful run-chase in a tight finish.

Pakistan played their tournament opener in front of a packed Melbourne crowd on 23 October against India. Solid half-centuries from Shan Masood (52 not out off 42 balls) and Iftikhar Ahmed (51 off 34 balls) propelled Pakistan to 159 for eight after India had inserted them. For a large part of the run-chase, Pakistan kept India under check before a Virat Kohli masterclass took India over the line on the last ball. As Kohli made 82 not out off 53 balls, India won the match by four wickets.

Pakistan suffered a shocking defeat in the next match to Zimbabwe at Perth. They fell one-run short in their pursuit of 131 as Sikandar Raza was awarded player of the match award for taking three wickets for 25 runs in four overs and for his impact in the match.

Zimbabwe made 130 for eight with Sean Williams top scoring with 28-ball 31. Mohammad Wasim Jnr and Shadab Khan were the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan with four for 24 and three for 23, respectively. Pakistan, however, couldn't get going in the run chase and Shan Masood, with 44, was the only batter to put some runs.

Pakistan had to win their remaining three Group-B matches against the Netherlands, South Africa and Bangladesh and had to depend on the other results to go in their favour.

Pakistan began their four-match winning streak, that stretched to the semi-final, by crushing the Netherlands at Perth by six wickets and 37 balls to spare. Shadab Khan was the player of the match for taking three wickets for 20 runs. The Netherlands were limited to 91 for nine as Mohammad Wasim Jnr took two wickets and Shaheen Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris Rauf took a wicket each.

Opener Mohammad Rizwan top-scored with 49 and Fakhar Zaman made 20 as Pakistan chased down the target in 13.5 overs.

Shadab Khan continued his impressive form and his all-round performance bagged him second consecutive player of the match award as he scored a scintillating 52 off 22 before taking two wickets for 16 against South Africa in Sydney to hand Pakistan a 33-run win (DLS method). Pakistan made 185 for nine as Iftikhar Ahmed scored his second half-century of the world cup. Mohammad Haris, who replaced an injured Fakhar Zaman, made an impression with a whirlwind 11-ball 28 and Mohammad Nawaz made 22-ball 28.

South Africa's target was revised to 142 after rain curtailed the second innings to 14 overs. Shaheen Afridi got his form back in the match with three for 14 before Shadab did the damage. With the 19-ball 36, Temba Bavuma was the top-scorer for South Africa.

On the last day of their Group-B campaign, Pakistan needed to beat Bangladesh, but for them to qualify, they had to rely on the Netherlands to beat South Africa. The stars aligned for Babar Azam's side as before their five-wicket win over Bangladesh in Adelaide, South Africa were beaten by the Netherlands.

It was Shaheen Afridi's four for 22 that scripted this win and booked Pakistan's spot in the first semi-final. Bangladesh were restricted to mere 127 for eight at Adelaide with Najmul Hossain Shanto top-scoring with 54. However, no Bangladesh batter could get going. Shadab Khan took two wickets for 30 runs.

Pakistan had their first half-century first-wicket partnership of the tournament. It came to an end with the dismissal of Babar Azam in the 11th over as he made 25. Mohammad Rizwan scored 32, the most of the innings. Mohammad Haris made 31 and Shan Masood returned unbeaten on 24 as Pakistan chased down the target with 11 balls to spare.

Babar and Rizwan bettered their opening stand in the semi-final against New Zealand in Sydney with a solid 105-run stand that paved the way for Pakistan's comfortable seven-wicket win. New Zealand were dragged to 152 for four with a 53 not out from Daryl Mitchell and a 46 by Kane Williamson.

Rizwan, Babar and Haris scored 57, 53 and 30, respectively as Pakistan rolled over the target with five balls to spare.

Despite a low score in Melbourne in the final against England on 13 November, Pakistan dominated the second innings before an injury to Shaheen helped England take away the game. Pakistan scored 137 for eight with Shan top-scoring with 38 and Babar making 32. Sam Curran, player of the final, shone with three for 12, while Adil Rashid and Chris Jordan took two wickets each.

England were reduced to 45 for three but Ben Stokes' maiden T20I half-century (52 not out) helped them to their second title. Haris Rauf took two wickets for 23.

Pakistan's top run-getters in the tournament were Rizwan and Shan with 175 at an average of 25 and 43.75 respectively. Shaheen and Shadab took 11 wickets each to finish as Pakistan's best bowlers. Shaheen took his 11 wickets at an average of 14.09 and Shadab took his at 15.

NEW ZEALAND IN PAKISTAN (2 TESTS, 8 ODIS, 5 T20IS)

The second half of Pakistan's 2022-23 home season saw New Zealand make journeys to Pakistan. In the first leg of the tour in December 2022 and January 2023, New Zealand played two Tests and three ODIs in Karachi. They returned in April/May 2023 for the second leg of the tour that comprised five ODIs and five T20Is, which were played in Lahore, Rawalpindi and Karachi.

The two Tests ended in draws, however, Sarfaraz Ahmed, the former Pakistan captain, will remember the Test series for a long time. The wicketkeeper-batter bagged the player of the series award for his magnificent performances with the bat in what was his return to whites for Pakistan after his last outing in January 2019 in South Africa.

In the three-match ODI series, which was part of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Super League, Pakistan had an opportunity to peak to number-one if they had won all the three matches. However, New Zealand came from behind to win the series 2-1.

Nonetheless, Pakistan achieved the target of rising to number-one in the ICC ODI Team Rankings for the first time after taking a 4-0 lead in Karachi. However, their stay at the top lasted for 48 hours as they dropped to third after New Zealand won the fifth ODI. When the ICC announced the ODI Team Ranking following an annual update three days after the conclusion of the series, Pakistan found itself second – behind Australia and ahead of India.

FIRST TEST

Kane Williamson made 200 not out in the second innings of the match to help New Zealand reply with 612 for nine to Pakistan's 438. The former New Zealand skipper was later named player of the match for his amazing effort.

Pakistan were helped to 438 through centuries from Babar Azam (161) and Salman Ali Agha, who recorded his maiden Test ton with 155-ball 103. Sarfaraz made 86 off 153 in that innings.

The New Zealanders got the taste of what it was like to deal with the mystery spin of Abrar Ahmed as the right-armer picked up five wickets for 205 runs in 67.5 overs

Imam-ul-Haq top-scored with 96 in the second innings before getting stumped off Ish Sodhi, while Saud Shakeel (55 not out) and Sarfaraz Ahmed (53) scored half-centuries and Mohammad Wasim Jnr contributed with 43 as Pakistan declared on 311 for eight.

New Zealand had to chase 137 and seemed on course after Abrar bowled Michael Bracewell in the first over but bad light stopped play in the eighth over with 61 runs on board at the loss of a wicket.

SECOND TEST

Abrar Ahmed was the pick of the bowlers for Pakistan with four for 149 and spinner Salman Ali Agha and Naseem Shah took three wickets each as New Zealand made 449. Devon Conway made 122 off 191 and Tom Latham scored 71 off 100. Pakistan looked in comfortable position to limit New Zealand to a reasonable score but Matt Henry produced a solid half-century at number 10 and scored 68 not out off 81 balls, while Ajaz Patel made 35 runs from 78 balls.

Saud Shakeel recorded his first Test ton as the same venue where he had made his first first-class century as the left-handed middle-order batter made 125 not out. It was a remarkable innings of grit. Imam-ul-Haq made 83 and Sarfaraz Ahmed made 78 and Salman chipped in with 41.

New Zealand declared on 277 for five with Tom Blundell and Michael Bracewell scoring 74 each in the middle-order after Tom Latham had scored 62 off 103 to set 319 for Pakistan.

Pakistan eked out a draw, thanks to a defiant 118 by Sarfaraz. Pakistan struggled in the fourth innings as the next best score was 35 by Shan Masood. But, Pakistan's last wicket pair of Naseem Shah 15 not out off 11 balls and Abrar seven not out off 13 balls batted out the overs as Pakistan made 304 for nine.

While the two-match Test series ended in a draw, the following One-Day International series, three-match-long, was bagged by the tourists. Kane Williamson's New Zealand bounced back to win the series 2-1 at the National Bank Stadium, Karachi, and hand Pakistan their first series defeat in over a year.

Pakistan had a perfect start to the series as Naseem Shah's five for 57 – his second five-wicket haul on the trot – restricted the tourists to 255 for nine before solid half-centuries from Fakhar Zaman, Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan secured a comfortable six-wicket win on 9 January.

All-rounder Michael Bracewell top-scored with 43 and wicket-keeper Tom Latham scored 42. In reply, Rizwan, batting at four, top-scored with 77 not out. Pakistan captain Babar made 66 and Fakhar made 56.

Pakistan suffered a 79-run loss two days later. Devon Conway scored the first century of the series with 101 off 92 balls and Williamson made 85 as New Zealand scored 261 – only six better than two nights back.

Naseem followed up his brilliant spell in the last game with three wickets and Mohammad Nawaz took four wickets.

Sarfaraz Ahmed
335
Most runs in the series

Abrar Ahmed
11
Most wickets in the series for Pakistan

TOP 3 BATTERS IN TESTS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	HS	AVG	100/50
Sarfaraz Ahmed	Pakistan	2	4	335	118	83.75	1/3
Tom Latham	New Zealand	2	4	281	113	93.67	1/2
Kane Williamson	New Zealand	2	3	277	200	138.5	1/0

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN TESTS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	4WL	5WL
Ish Sodhi	New Zealand	2	13	6-86	25.38	0	1
Abrar Ahmed	Pakistan	2	11	5-205	43.64	1	1
Michael Bracewell	New Zealand	2	8	4-75	39.50	1	0

10 EXCITING WHITE-BALL MATCHES

New Zealand returned to Pakistan in April and May 2023 to honour their commitment of playing additional white-ball matches following their abrupt pull out from the one-day international series in 2021. Their month-long tour included five T20Is and as many ODIs which were competitive and exciting and served as a perfect closer for what has been the most action-packed season in the history of Pakistan cricket.

Pakistan were outstanding in the ODI series as they won it 4-1 and their four successive wins led them to the top of the ICC ODI Rankings for Men's sides. This was the first instance of Pakistan making it to the top of the table in the history of the game. The T20I series was shared 2-2.

The tour began from Lahore, where the two sides played three T20Is. Pakistan won the first two matches quite comfortably by 88 runs and 38 runs before the tourists bounced back.

It was 47 each from Saim Ayub and Fakhar Zaman that helped Pakistan to a solid 182 before a scorching spell from Haris Rauf (4-18) sealed the deal for the hosts in the first match. For his best bowling performance, Haris was named player of the match for the 14 April contest.

The Lahore crowd was treated with one of the best T20I knocks when Pakistan captain Babar Azam scored his ninth T20 century. Babar put up 99 run opening stand with Mohammad Rizwan (50) before he singlehandedly dragged Pakistan to 192 with his outstanding and eye-catching strokeplay. He made 101 not out of 58 balls and hit 11 fours and three sixes. Haris once again took four wickets as New Zealand were restricted to 154 for seven.

The third match saw New Zealand secure a win in a tightly contested match by only four runs. Iftikhar scored a heroic 60 off 24 (six sixes and three fours) and put up a solid partnership with Faheem Ashraf (27 off 14) in Pakistan's pursuit of 164, but the tourists edged out in the close battle to make the score line 2-1. Tom Latham made 64 that set the tone for New Zealand in the first innings and the Kiwi captain was named player of the match.

The action moved to Rawalpindi where last two T20Is and the first two ODIs were played. The fourth match was washed out because of a hailstorm in Rawalpindi but that evening belonged to Mark Chapman, the left handed middle-order batter, who spanked 71 not out off 42 balls.

Chapman ended up earning player of the series award as his incredible century in the fifth and final T20I helped the tourists chase 194 against a quality Pakistan bowling attack. The Kiwi smashed 11 fours and four sixes in his undefeated 57-ball knock. With a 25-ball 45 not out, James Neesham duly supported him from the other end.

Pakistan had scored 193 for five thanks to Rizwan's 98 not out off 62 balls. Imad Wasim played a brilliant cameo of 14-ball 31 and Iftikhar scored 22-ball 36.

Mohammad Rizwan

162

Most runs in the series for Pakistan

Haris Rauf

11

Most wickets in the series

TOP 3 BATTERS IN T20IS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Mark Chapman	New Zealand	5	290	104	290	165.71	1/2
Mohammad Rizwan	Pakistan	5	162	98	54	139.66	0/2
Babar Azam	Pakistan	5	130	101	43.33	146.07	1/0

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN T20IS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Haris Rauf	Pakistan	5	11	4-18	13.64	10.55	7.76
Imad Wasim	Pakistan	5	8	3-19	10.38	10.50	5.93
Matt Henry	New Zealand	4	6	3-32	14.67	12.00	7.33

Fakhar Zaman scored a brilliant 117 to help Pakistan chase 289 in the first ODI and win it with five wickets and nine balls to spare. The left-hander stitched 124-run opening stand with Imam-ul-Haq (60) and added another 90 with Babar Azam (49). Rizwan finished the chase with his 34-ball 42 not out. New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell made 113 and Will Young scored 86 earlier in the day and Shaheen Shah Afridi, Naseem Shah and Haris picked up two wickets each.

New Zealand set 337-run target for Pakistan in the next match and this was even more comfortably chased as Fakhar scored his third century on trot to become only the fourth Pakistani batter behind Zaheer Abbas, Javed Miandad and Babar Azam. The left-handed opener made 180 not out from just 144 balls as Pakistan recorded their second highest run chase with seven wickets and 10 balls to spare.

Haris took four wickets as New Zealand made 336 for five with Daryl Mitchell scoring another century (129 off 119). Latham missed his century by two runs as he made 85-ball 98.

While Pakistan's second innings was studded with outstanding innings from Fakhar that included 17 fours and six sixes, Babar made 65 and Rizwan made 54 not out.

The last three matches were played at National Bank Stadium, Karachi, and Pakistan bagged the series in the third ODI, thanks to Imam's 90.

Pakistan made 287 for six with Imam top-scoring with 90 off 107 (seven fours and a six). He added 108 runs for the second wicket with Babar, who made 54. New Zealand were bundled out for 261 as Shaheen, Naseem and Mohammad Wasim Jnr shared six wickets equally between them. Tom Blundell top-scored with 65.

The win in the fourth match saw Pakistan became the number one side in the ICC Rankings. Pakistan captain Babar scored 107 as the home side scored 334 for six. Babar struck 10 fours in his innings and he was supported by Salman Ali Agha (58 off 46) down the order. Usama Mir took four wickets and Wasim Jnr took three wickets as New Zealand were bowled out for 232.

Henry Shipley took three wickets to help New Zealand to a consolation win in the final ODI. Pakistan made 252 in response of New Zealand's 299. Iftikhar Ahmed made his ODI best score with 94 not out and he was the best batter from both sides in the match. Shaheen picked up three wickets and Usama followed his four-fer with two wickets. Tom Latham and Will Young scored half-centuries.

Fakhar was named player of the ODI series.

PERFORMERS OF ODI SERIES (JANUARY 2023)

Mohammad Rizwan
182
Most runs

Naseem Shah
8
Most wickets

PERFORMERS OF ODI SERIES (APRIL 2023)

Fakhar Zaman
363
Most runs

Haris Rauf
9
Most wickets

TOP 3 BATTERS IN ODIS (JANUARY 2023)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Mohammad Rizwan	Pakistan	3	182	77	91	86.67	0/2
Kane Williamson	New Zealand	3	164	85	54.67	79.23	0/2
Fakhar Zaman	Pakistan	3	157	101	52.33	77.34	1/1

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN ODIS (JANUARY 2023)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Naseem Shah	Pakistan	2	8	5-57	14.38	14.13	6.11
Mohammad Nawaz	Pakistan	3	6	4-38	21.50	30.00	4.30
Tim Southee	New Zealand	3	6	3-56	24.00	24.17	5.96

TOP 3 BATTERS IN ODIS (APRIL 2023)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Fakhar Zaman	Pakistan	5	363	180	90.75	99.45	2/0
Daryl Mitchell	New Zealand	4	297	129	74.25	97.06	2/0
Tom Latham	New Zealand	5	282	98	56.4	89.52	0/3

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN ODIS (APRIL 2023)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Haris Rauf	Pakistan	4	9	4-78	25.00	24.33	6.16
Shaheen Shah Afridi	Pakistan	4	8	3-46	24.50	26.25	5.60
Matt Henry	New Zealand	5	8	3-54	33.75	35.63	5.68

PAKISTAN VS AFGHANISTAN IN SHARJAH (3 T20IS)

In a non-FTP series and as part of planning for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, Pakistan travelled to Sharjah from 24-27 March for a three-T20I series against Afghanistan without five frontline players, four uncapped players, four recalled players and a new captain in Shadab Khan. The five players rested for the series included Babar Azam, Fakhar Zaman, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Rizwan and Shaheen Shah Afridi.

In the opening match, Pakistan, electing to bat first, managed only 92 for nine with Imad Wasim (18), Saim Ayub (17), Tayyab Tahir (16) and Shadab Khan (12) reaching double figures.

In turn, Mohammad Nabi followed up his two for 12 with 38 not out to steer his side home with six wickets and 13 balls to spare. Ihsanullah took two wickets in his first over in international cricket to finish with two for 17 from 3.5 overs.

Afghanistan notched up their maiden T20I series win against Pakistan when they won the second match by three wickets with one ball remaining. Imad Wasim scored 64 from 57 balls with two sixes and three fours and added 67 runs for the sixth wicket with Shadab Khan (32) to lift Pakistan to 130 for six.

In their run-chase, Afghanistan recovered to achieve the target with seven wickets and one ball to spare – thanks to a 12-ball 23 not out by Najibullah Zadran and nine-ball 14 not out by Mohammad Nabi. The two added 31 runs for the unfinished fourth wicket in 15 balls after openers Usman Ghani (7) and Rahmanullah Gurbaz (44) had added 30 runs in 24 balls for the first wicket and Ibrahim Zadran (38) and Rahmanullah had switched a 56-run second wicket partnership in 68 balls.

Pakistan earned a consolation victory in the final match of the series when they won by 66 runs.

Batting first, Pakistan collected 182 for seven with Saim Ayub (49), Iftikhar Ahmed (31) and Shadab Khan (28) being the main run-getters. Shadab then picked up three wickets for 13 runs and Ihsanullah scooped three wickets for 29 runs to send Afghanistan packing for 116 in 18.4 overs.

Imad Wasim

95

Most runs in the series

Ihsanullah

6

Most wickets in the series

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Imad Wasim	Pakistan	3	95	64	47.5	98.96	0/1
Rahmanullah Gurbaz	Afghanistan	3	78	44	26	101.3	0/0
Shadab Khan	Pakistan	3	72	32	24	120	0/0

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Ihsanullah	Pakistan	3	6	3-29	11.50	10.83	6.37
Fazalhaq Farooqi	Afghanistan	3	5	2-13	11.40	14.40	4.75
Mujeeb ur Rehman	Afghanistan	3	4	2-9	14.00	15.00	5.60

WOMEN'S
INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

ICC WOMEN'S WORLD CUP NEW ZEALAND 2022 (7 ODIS)

Pakistan women's team was expected to do well in the World Cup (50 overs) held in New Zealand. The expectations stemmed from the fact that the Pakistan team had good preparations. Before the World Cup, Pakistan had toured South Africa and despite losing 3-0 got some good practice. They then played a very competitive series in the West Indies and although the hosts took the series 3-2, it gave Pakistan women some very good preparations for the World Cup.

Pakistan women had to qualify for the mega event. The qualifier was held in Harare, Zimbabwe. Pakistan beat Thailand and Zimbabwe but lost to Bangladesh. Unfortunately, the event had to be called off after travel restrictions were imposed on large parts of southern Africa following the detection of a new Covid-19 variant, called Omicron, in the region. That forced the ICC to decide the qualifying teams on the basis of current rankings and Pakistan, Bangladesh and the West Indies got the ticket for the event due to their higher positions in the rankings.

The marquee event, 12th overall, was held in New Zealand in March and April 2022.

Pakistan announced a balanced 18-member squad with Bismah Maroof returning as skipper after her maternity leave. Nida Dar was her vice-captain. The selectors included Ghulam Fatima and Nahida Khan in the squad after their good performances in the practice matches while Kainat Imtiaz and Sadia Iqbal were left out due to injuries.

Pakistan had a tough outing at the outset as they locked horns with arch-rivals India at Mount Maunganui. Pakistan had caught India napping at 114 for six despite a half century (52) from Smitri Mandhana and 40 from Deepti Sharma, but a middle-order slump saw Mithali Raj (nine) and Harmanpreet Kaur (five) dismissed cheaply. But a fighting 122-run seventh wicket stand let India off the hook as they put up a total of 244 for seven. Pakistan lost wickets at regular intervals and were finally bowled out for 137 in 43 overs. Sidra Amin with 30 and Diana Baig with 24 put up some resistance that was never enough.

Facing six-time winners Australia in the second game turned out to be a one-sided affair as Pakistan went down by seven wickets. Still, Pakistan managed a healthy 190 for six against a formidable Australian bowling attack. Bismah capped a brilliant comeback with 78 not out while Aliya Riaz hit 53, together the duo added 99 for the fifth wicket. Australia crossed the target in 34.4 overs for the loss of just three wickets. Alyssa Healy was the top run getter with 72 while there were contributions from Meg Lanning (35), and Rachael Haynes (34).

In their third match, Pakistan women spurned a golden chance of beating a formidable South Africa. Going down by six runs meant Pakistan had lost their third match in a row. Laura Wolvaardt with 75 and Sune Luus 62 led South Africa to 223 for nine in their 50 overs. Fast bowler Fatima Sana stood out among bowlers with three for 43. Pakistan threatened to run away with the match as after Nahida Khan's 40, Omaima Sohail (65) and Nida Dar (55) carried the innings well, but Pakistan lost their last five wickets for 55 runs and ended up on 217 all out with one ball remaining.

In their next match, Pakistan once again spurned a golden chance of victory. Against Bangladesh, Pakistan lost by a narrow margin of nine runs despite a brilliant century from Sidra Amin. Sidra had set Pakistan on course for chasing Bangladesh's strong 234 for seven but once she was run out in the 48th over, Pakistan fell short. Nahida Khan (43) also gave a good account of herself, putting up a confident opening stand of 91 with Sidra, but took more overs than what the run rate demanded. For Bangladesh, Fargana Hoque (71), Nigar Sultana (46) and Sharmin Akhter (44) played solidly.

Pakistan finally opened their account in a rain-shortened match against the West Indies. In a contest restricted to 20-overs-a-side, Nida Dar starred with the ball as she took four for 10. Her stellar show restricted the West Indies to 89 for seven in 20 overs. Muneeba Ali then knocked 37 while undefeated knocks of Omaima Sohail 22 and Bismah Maroof 20 helped Pakistan win with seven balls and eight wickets in hand.

Defending champions England handed Pakistan a nine-wicket defeat. Deceptive spin by Sophie Ecclestone, who took three for 18, and pace of Katherine Sciver-Brunt (three for 17) rattled Pakistan to 105 all out in 41.3 overs. Sidra Amin 32, Sidra Nawaz 23 and Omaima Sohail with 11 were the only to reach double figures. The chase was easy for England as Danni Wyatt 76 and Heather Knight 24 remained unbeaten as they won with a whopping 184 balls remaining.

Pakistan's last match, against hosts New Zealand, was again a realisation on where they stand. New Zealand won by 71 runs after scoring 265 for eight. Suzie Bates smashed 126 to anchor the innings. Amidst a feast of runs, Nida Dar stood tall with three for 39. Pakistan could manage 194 for nine in their 50 overs with Nida Dar again supreme, scoring 50. Bismah Maroof scored 38 and Muneeba Ali 29. Medium pacer Hannah Rowe starred with the ball, taking five for 55.

On individual count, Sidra Amin was the highest run-getter with 202 followed by Bismah Maroof 191 and Omaima Sohail 139. Nida Dar was the best bowler with ten wickets and Nashra Sundhu finished with nine.

The defeat ended Pakistan's campaign, finishing eighth and last. They had two points like Bangladesh for only one win in seven matches, but had an inferior net run-rate.

SRI LANKA IN PAKISTAN (3 ODIS & 3 T20IS)

The Sri Lanka team tour to Pakistan was one of the opportunities that the Pakistan women's cricket team got to prepare for the Commonwealth Games 2022. The Sri Lankan team arrived in Karachi on May 19 for the three T20Is on May 24, 26 and 28 followed by the ODIs on June 1, 3 and 5. The ODIs were part of ICC Women's Championship.

Pakistan drafted two new players in the fold with wicketkeeper-batter Gull Feroza and leg-spinner Tuba Hassan in their T20I squad. Left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal and Kainat Imtiaz were also recalled after getting full fitness. To maximize the results, Pakistan Cricket Board also arranged a training camp for the 26 probables before reducing the squad.

Pakistan found a star for future as leg-spinner Tuba Hassan registered the best figures for a T20I debutant for the country, taking three for eight in her deceptive overs. Anam Amin three for 21 and Aiman Anwer two for 32 completed the Sri Lankan rout who managed 106 for eight in their 20 overs. Pakistan were themselves struggling after losing three early wickets before Nida Dar 36 not out and skipper Bismah Maroof 28 helped the home team cross the line for the loss of four wickets with ten balls to spare.

Pakistan achieved another comfortable win in the second T20I, this time by a bigger margin of seven wickets. Sri Lanka's most dependable batter Chamari Athapaththu was dismissed for just five before Hasini Perera steadied the innings with 35. Nilakshi de Silva also scored 21 but the visitors managed a below-par 102 for six in their 20 overs. Once again Pakistan lost three early wickets before Bismah Maroof found an able ally in Ayesha Naseem. The duo put on 70 for the fourth wicket to seal the match. Ayesha hit 31-ball 45 not out with a six and five boundaries while Bismah knocked a sedate unbeaten 29-ball 22 as Pakistan won in 17.1 overs.

Although Pakistan made it 3-0 in the third and final match, they had to bring their best fight to win by four wickets. Sri Lanka once again failed to put up a fighting total, managing 107 for eight in their 20 overs. Captain Chamari Athapaththu finally came good, hitting 38-ball 37 with two sixes and as many boundaries while Hasini Perera made 24. They had a mid-innings mayhem as five of their wickets fell to run outs as Sri Lanka slumped from 69-0 to 83-7 in just 34 balls. Pakistan too struggled in the chase as spinner Oshadi Ranasinghe mopped up the top-order with three for 18. Only Muneeba Ali stood tall with 25. But since the target was small, even little contributions from Aliya Riaz (17) and Bismah Maroof (15 not out) and Nida Dar (14) helped Pakistan cross the line with two runs off the final delivery.

Bismah Maroof
65
Most runs in the T20I series

Tuba Hassan
5
Most wickets in the T20I series for Pakistan

The ODI series was more competitive as Sri Lanka put up a good fight. Pakistan's disciplined bowling skittled Sri Lanka to 169 all out in 47.5 overs in the first ODI with Ghulam Fatima (4-21), Fatima Sana (2-24) and Sadia Iqbal (2-30) sharing the spoils. In the chase, Pakistan lost Muneeba Ali cheaply for 14 before Sidra Amin (76) and Bismah Maroof (62 not out) scored the bulk of the target as Pakistan won with eight wickets and 8.1 overs in hand.

Pakistan took an unbeatable 2-0 lead with a thumping 73-run win in the second ODI. Sidra Amin hit a cracking 123 while Muneeba Ali 56 and Bismah Maroof 36 not out propelled Pakistan to a solid 253 for two in 50 overs. Sidra and Muneeba were excellent in their 158-run opening stand. Sidra's score was the second highest by a Pakistani woman in ODIs behind Javeria Khan's 133, also against Sri Lanka in 2015. This was also the first-ever century stand for the first wicket by Pakistan women in ODIs. Fatima Sana (four for 26) and Omaima Sohail (two for 35) stopped Sri Lanka in their strides as the visitors managed 180 for nine in their 50 overs.

Chamari Athapaththu finally came into her own as she helped Sri Lanka avoid a clean sweep in the ODI series. The Sri Lankan skipper hit a brilliant hundred to anchor her team's big 93-run win in the third match, reducing the series loss margin to 2-1. Sri Lanka were struggling at four for two when Athapaththu joined Harshitha Samarawickrama in a big 152-run stand. Athapaththu scored 85-ball 101 spiced with 13 boundaries and a six. Harshitha made 75. Sri Lanka's big 260 for seven proved too much for Pakistan as they were bundled out for 167 in 41.4 overs. Aliya Riaz 56 and Omaima Sohail 40 were the only batters to come good for the home team. Athapaththu claimed two wickets to prove her all-round credentials.

Sidra Amin
218
Most runs in the ODI series

Fatima Sana
8
Most wickets in the ODI series

PAKISTAN TO IRELAND (TRI-SERIES, 4 T20IS)

Following their first T20I clean sweep over Sri Lanka, the same squad set off for Ireland to feature in a tri-series also involving world champions Australia. The tri-series served as a preparatory competition for the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, UK.

Pakistan's first T20I tri-series clash was against the reigning ICC Women's T20 World Cup champions, Australia. The series commenced on 16 July at the Bready Cricket Club, Bready. It was a much awaited clash as Pakistan women wanted to have the experience of playing against a top team. But it turned out to be a damp squib as heavy rain forced an early abandonment.

Pakistan women won the toss and opted to bat but they struggled against the famed and formidable Australian bowling attack. Pakistan women slumped to 56 for six after eight torrid overs. Iram Javed with 12 and Nida Dar with 10 not out were the only ones to get to the double figures. Leg-spinner Alana King was the wrecker-in-chief as she took three wickets in her only over, conceding just eight. Ashleigh Gardner finished with two for11.

Australia thumped hosts in a one-sided match by nine wickets to score two crucial points. Alana King was once again at her destructive best with three for nine in her four overs. That kept Ireland down to 99 three eight in their 20 overs. Rebecca Stokell top-scored with 22 while Ava Canning 14 not out also contributed in the meager total. Beth Mooney (45 not out) and Meg Lanning (39 not out) put on an unbroken 68-run stand for the second wicket to help Australia overhaul the easy chase.

Rain also played a part in restricting the Pakistan-Ireland match to 14-over-a-side. Batting first, Pakistan were guided to 92 for five by Muneeba Ali (29) and Nida Dar (26). Ireland were off to a solid start of 55 with opener Gaby Lewis 47 set them on course for a victory but three run outs did not help their cause and they finished on 83 for six, losing by 13 runs on DLS.

Ireland were once again at the receiving end as Australia thumped them by 63 runs in the return match. Skipper Meg Lanning punished the home bowling with a sprightly 49-ball 74, containing two sixes and nine boundaries. She was ably supported in the carnage by strongly built Tahlia McGrath who carted 11 boundaries in her 45-ball 70. Alana King (2-11), Megan Schutt (2-16) and Jess Jonassen (2-27) kept Ireland down to 119 for seven. For the home side Orla Prendergast (25) and skipper Laura Delany (21) were the main scorers.

Pakistan-Australia match again got affected by rain. Skipper Bismah Maroof stood alone for Pakistan with 32 not out as her team managed 94 for eight in 20 overs. Jess Jonassen, one of the world's best spinners in women's cricket, finished with 4-17 while Nicola Carey took 2-16. Australia had barely batted for 4.2 overs to reach 28-0 when rain ended the match.

The Pakistan-Ireland match was also washed out without a ball being bowled due to rain, thus handing the trophy to world champions Australia as they had won both their matches against Ireland.

Australia won the tri-series with 12 points, topping the table. They won two games against Ireland and played two washed-out games against Pakistan. Pakistan secured the second spot with one win over Ireland and three no-results. They finished with 10 points from four matches.

PAKISTAN WOMEN AT BIRMINGHAM COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022 (3 T20IS)

Women's cricket got a shot in the arm with its maiden appearance in the Commonwealth Games in July 2022. The quadrennial multi-sport event had included men's cricket in 1998 when 16 teams featured in a 50-over competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This time it was the women's turn. The host country United Kingdom approved its inclusion, making it the first appearance. Eight teams were included in the event, split in two groups. Pakistan was placed in Group A with top favorites Australia, India and Barbados while Group B had teams from hosts England, New Zealand, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Each team played the other team in its group once with the top two in each group advancing to the semi-finals.

Pakistan's first match was against Barbados, a team composed mostly of West Indian players. Pakistan women gave a good fight before losing by just 15 runs. Kycia Knight (62 not out) and Hayley Matthews (51) lifted Barbados to 144 for four in their 20 overs. Pakistan initially struggled in the chase, losing their first four wickets for a mere 49 runs. Nida Dar then came into her own and led the fight with a daring 31-ball 50 not out studded with seven boundaries and a six but lacked support as Pakistan finished on 129 for six in their quota of overs.

The high-profile match of the event, India versus Pakistan was played on July 31. Pakistan women went down against arch-rivals by eight wickets. Pakistan were bowled out for just 99 in a rain-shortened 18-over-a-side game. Opener Muneeba Ali stood against some tight bowling with a top score of 32. It proved meager for India with Smitri Mandhana led the chase with a dominating 42-ball 63 not out, clouting three sixes and eight boundaries. India chased down the target in 11.4 overs for the loss of just two wickets.

Pakistan skipper Bismah Maroof rightly pointed out that Indian players had more experience. "I will put it to experience," said Bismah after the defeat. "Indian players have developed and gained confidence because of the opportunities in the leagues, which is not the case with our players. Once our players start getting more such opportunities they will develop well and get confident."

Pakistan's campaign ended with a 44-run defeat against the eventual champions, Australia. Pakistan women did well in restricting Australia to 160-2 in 20 overs. Tahlia McGrath cracked a fiery 51-ball 78 not out while Beth Mooney scored 70 not out off 49 balls. Pakistan were only good enough to reach 116-8 in their quota of overs with Fatima Sana scoring 35 not out while Bismah Maroof and Omaima Sohail made 23 each. After her contribution with the bat, Tahlia McGrath sparkled with the ball as well, fetching 3-13.

Pakistan finished last in their Group with three defeats in as many games. Australia clinched the title by outsmarting India in the final.

Despite a no-win result from the Games, Pakistan women gained good experience that will serve them well at international level.

ACC WOMEN'S ASIA CUP (7 T20IS)

The Asian Cricket Council Women's Asia Cup was held in Bangladesh in October 2022. Pakistan's best performance in this event was runner-up finishes in 2012 and 2016. This time too, Pakistan women's team finished as semi-finalists.

This was after a long time that Bangladesh hosted an international women's event. They last hosted Pakistan in October 2018. This was also the first time since the 2014 T20 World Cup that Sylhet hosted any women's international fixtures. The 2022 Women's Asia Cup was held at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium in Bangladesh, from October 1 to 15, with seven teams competing in the T20 tournament.

One of the main features of the event was that it had all female umpires. Pakistan's Saleema Imtiaz, mother of all-rounder Kainat Imtiaz, also officiated in the tournament with distinction, ample proof that efforts to introduce and encourage female umpires domestically have paid dividends.

Pakistan squad included recalls for opener Sidra Amin and wicketkeeper-batter Sidra Nawaz while Anam Amin, Gull Feroza and Iram Javed were dropped from the team that competed at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. Fast bowler Fatima Sana had to miss the event with an ankle injury.

Pakistan opened the campaign with a thumping nine-wicket win over Malaysia. Pakistan restricted their opponents to 57 for nine in 20 overs with only Elsa Hunter coming good with 29 not out. Omaima Sohail (three for 19) and Tuba Hassan (two for 13) shared the bowling honours.

Pakistan women were once again at their best in the next match, beating the home team by a convincing nine-wicket margin. Diana Baig (two for 11) and Nida Dar (two for 19) kept Bangladesh down to 70 for eight in their 20 overs. Sidra Amin with 36 led the successful chase with Pakistan winning in 12.2 overs.

In their third match, Pakistan got a shock when minnows Thailand upstaged them by four wickets in a nip and tuck game. Pakistan women compiled 116 for five in their innings with Sidra Amin scoring 56 as a standalone performer. Pakistan women may have thought it to be a winning total, but Natthakan Chantham became a thorn in their way, scoring a match-winning 61 with five boundaries and two sixes. Her knock helped Thailand overhaul the target with just one ball to spare and four wickets intact. Tuba Hassan (two for 18) and Nida Dar (two for 26) had given Pakistan a sniff of victory but it did not come about.

Downtrodden after the defeat, Pakistan women staged a remarkable comeback by outsmarting India in their next game. This was Pakistan's first-ever win over India in the Women's T20 Asia Cup. Pakistan owed their total of 137 for six to a fighting 76-run stand between Nida Dar and captain Bismah Maroof. Nida's 56 not out came off 37 balls and contained a six and five hits to the rope while Bismah's 32 came off 35 balls. Pakistan then continued to take wickets as India slumped to 91 for seven and despite a brave 26 from Richa Ghosh they were all out for 124 in 19.4 overs. Pakistan's 13-run win was anchored by some good bowling from Nashra Sundhu (three for 30), Nida Dar (two for 23) and Sadia Iqbal (two for24).

Pakistan then thumped UAE by a big 71-run margin to stake their claims for a semi-final place. Pakistan's solid 145 for five were built around a polished undefeated 57 off 36 balls from Aliya Riaz, studded with three sixes and five boundaries while Muneeba Ali hit 43. UAE managed 74 for five in their 20 overs.

Pakistan upstaged Sri Lanka by five wickets in their final match of the group stage. Chamari Athapaththu's 41 led Sri Lanka to 112 all out with Omaima Sohail taking a career best five for 13. Pakistan knocked off the target in 18.5 overs for the loss of five wickets. Nida Dar with 26 not out and Aliya Riaz 20 anchored the chase.

It was a so-near-yet-so-far for Pakistan women in the semi-final as they suffered a heart-wrenching one-run loss against Sri Lanka. Pakistan were well on course for chasing a modest target of 123 but Nida Dar failed to get the required three runs off the last delivery from medium pacer Achini Kulasuriya. Pakistan needed a-run-a-ball 16 but Bismah Maroof, who scored 42, was out to give Sri Lanka some hope. Nida Dar was run out off the last ball for 26 as Pakistan players were left regretting the loss. Sri Lanka managed 122 for six with Nashra Sundhu finishing with three for 17.

IRELAND IN PAKISTAN (3 ODIS & 3 T20IS)

Ireland played six white-ball games in Pakistan on the first-ever tour of Pakistan -- men or women -- and it encapsulated the progress of women's cricket at international level. Pakistan successfully re-emerged on the cricket map as an able and safe host and the credit goes to Pakistan Cricket Board and security agencies for creating a safe environment that convinced the teams to tour to Pakistan.

"This is just the beginning of a new era in women's cricket, after hosting Ireland we are looking forward to organising a women's league soon," head of women's wing, Tania Mallick, said. "We want fans to come to the ground and support women's cricket for what promises to be an exciting six days of cricket in Lahore."

It was the second ODI series for Pakistan and Ireland in the cycle of the Women's Championship. Pakistan had the better of Sri Lanka 2-1, while Ireland lost 3-0 to South Africa at home.

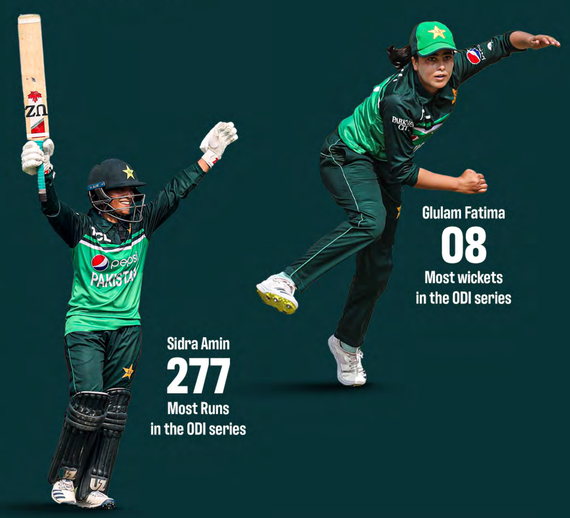
Cricket Ireland and PCB worked in tandem to make the tour a possibility. "We have also liaised with the cricket boards of countries that have recently toured and are satisfied that the welfare of our squad will be a top priority for the hosts. But, most of all, this is about cricket and a wonderful opportunity for our senior squad to play in such a passionate cricket-loving country as Pakistan," said Warren Deutrom, the CEO of Cricket Ireland ahead of the tour.

Pakistan recalled former skipper Javeria Khan for the T20I side after a break of 15 months. Uncapped off-spinner Umm-e-Hani was included for the ODIs. While senior fast bowler Diana Baig was ruled out of both series with a shoulder injury, her new ball partner Fatima Sana returned after missing the Asia Cup with an ankle injury.

It was Sidra Amin's show in the first ODI as the star opener hit an unconquered 176 -- the highest score by a Pakistani batter in the history and fifth in all women's ODIs. She and Muneeba Ali put on 221 runs -stand which is the new Pakistan record for the highest partnership in the format. Sidra's 176 came off 151 balls and was spiced with a six and 20 boundaries while Muneeba knocked her 107 off 114 deliveries with two sixes and ten boundaries. Pakistan notched 335 for three -- first time that their total went in excess of 300 in a women's ODI. Ireland captain Laura Delany fought singlehandedly with 69 as the tourists managed 207 in 49.3 overs. For Pakistan, Nida Dar picked up three for 34 while Nashra Sundhu and Fatima Sana picked up two wickets apiece.

Pakistan took an unassailable 2-0 lead with a thumping nine wicket win in the second match. It was again Sidra Amin who starred with the bat, narrowly missing a back-to-back hundreds by mere nine runs. Ireland were skittled out for a low score of 195 with 35 from Mary Waldron, 34 from number nine Arlene Kelly and 30 from Amy Hunter. Ghulam Fatima three for32 and Nashra Sundhu three for 41 were the chief wicket takers for Pakistan. Sidra then followed up her record-breaking unbeaten 176 with 91 not out. Captain Bismah Maroof partnered Sidra in an unbroken stand of 136 for the second wicket as Pakistan overhauled the target with 17.2 overs to spare. Sidra's 93-ball knock had a dozen boundaries while Bismah's 70-ball 69 not out had ten hits to the rope.

Pakistan clinched a clean sweep by winning the third and final ODI by five wickets. It was Ghulam Fatima's leg-spin that fetched her a maiden ODI five-wicket haul. Ireland started well as Leah Paul and Gaby Lewis put on 84 runs for the opening wicket but the visitors lost their last nine wickets for 76 runs as Fatima ran through the middle-order with five for 34 while Nashra Sundhu took two wickets. But Ireland still posted a solid 225 before being dismissed with a ball to spare. Pakistan had a disastrous start as prolific Sidra Amin and Muneeba Ali were dismissed with just 28 on the board. But Sadaf Shamas (72) and Bismah Maroof (57) took the fight to the Irish bowlers, adding 124 for the third wicket to bring Pakistan closer to victory. Down the order Aliya Riaz (23), Omaima Sohail (25 not out) and Sidra Nawaz (18 not out) helped Pakistan cross the line in 47.1 overs.



Sidra Amin
277
Most Runs
in the ODI series

Glulam Fatima
08
Most wickets
in the ODI series

It was a different story in the shorter format of Twenty20 as Ireland took the first match by six wickets. Pakistan put up a good 135 for five in their 20 overs with Nida Dar hitting a fiery 43-ball 61, smashing a six and nine boundaries. Gaby Lewis cracked a match-winning 54-ball 69 not out to give Ireland a victory in 18.4 overs. Orla Prendergast scored 39 to follow her three for 10 to give an all-round performance.

Nida Dar gave an exemplary performance to help Pakistan beat Ireland by six wickets in a low-scoring rain-hit second match, leveling the three-match T20I series 1-1. The game was reduced to 17-overs-a-side with Nida Dar (two for 19) and Nashra Sundhu (two for 21) taking the key wickets. Pakistan comfortably chased the target with an over to spare with Javeria Khan (35), Nida Dar (28) and Ayesha Naseem (12-ball 25 not out with two sixes) coming good.

Ireland once again hit back by taking the third match by a convincing 34-run margin. Batting first, Ireland knocked a solid 167 for four with Gaby Lewis scoring a 46-ball 71 comprising 11 hits to the boundary and one over it. Pakistan lost wickets regularly and only Javeria Khan (50) and Nida Dar (26) could put up some fight. For Ireland, Arlene Kelly (three for 19) and Laura Delany (three for 20) were the stars in the bowling department.

Bismah Maroof was satisfied with the series. "It was an exciting series against Ireland," said Bismah after the series. "The series will help us in attracting new fans to the women's game. The series provided an opportunity for young cricketers to upskill themselves as per the demands of international cricket.

Nida Dar
115
Leading run-scorer for Pakistan

04
Leading wicket-taker for Pakistan

ICC WOMEN'S U19 T20 WORLD CUP SOUTH AFRICA 2023 (5 T20S)

With the unveiling of the first women's FTP by the International Cricket Council (ICC) last year, women's cricket was bound to get more recognition and ascendancy. The aim was to allow women's cricket to grow with franchise based league cricket and the international version of the game take place side-by-side. With this aim in focus the ICC opted to launch the women's U19 T20 World Cup in South Africa in January 2023.

Sixteen teams competed in the tournament, which started on 14 January and comprised 41 matches. The junior World Cup served as an outlet of talent for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2023, which was also held in South Africa, in February.

Eleven Full-Member nations gained automatic entry to the inaugural edition of the U19 Women's T20 World Cup and they were Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies and Zimbabwe. The remaining five spots were filled by one team from each of the ICC's five regions, through regional Qualifier tournaments. Pakistan was placed in Group B alongside England, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

Pakistan Cricket Board provided enough resources to help the team prepare extensively for the inaugural event. The first-ever U19 national event was held in August to prepare the players for the international event and the selected players were given a chance to play with the senior players, coached in special training clinics and their skills were honed to make them able to compete with international teams.

Pakistan team was led by talented right-arm leg-spinner Syeda Aroob Shah and coached by former Test star Mohsin Kamal. Mohsin did a good job in maximising the talent of the players who were inexperienced at this level.

Eyman Fatima and Areesha Noor were the stars in Pakistan's eight-wicket win over newcomers Rwanda in their first outing. The stage was new and different for Pakistan girls but they showed no signs of nervousness. Batting first, Rwanda were helped to 106 for eight by a solid 45-ball 40 by Gisele Ishimwe. Areesha Noor was the pick of the bowlers with two for 19 while Syeda Aroob, Anoosha Nasir and Zaib-un-Nisa claimed a wicket apiece. Eyman then anchored Pakistan's chase, helping them to 108 for two in 17.5 overs with a cracking 60-ball 65 not out studded with 11 well-timed boundaries.

Pakistan girls found England too strong to handle as they went down by a big 53-run margin. England put up a solid 156 for seven in their 20 overs with Seren Smale 37 and Ryana MacDonald-Gay scored 35 not out. Anoosha Nasir (two for 20), Zaib-un-Nisa (two for 24) and Areesha Noor (two for 34) were the notable bowlers. Pakistan girls found runs hard to come by against some accurate bowling, managing 103 for five in their 20 overs. Syeda Aroob Shah 34 and Shawaal Zulfiqar 25 batted well but the asking rate could not be maintained.

Pakistan upstaged Zimbabwe by a convincing ten-wicket margin in their last group game. The stars of the show were Anoosha Nasir and for a second match running, Eyman Fatima. Anoosha Nasir bogged the opponent's batting with figures of two for 21 as Zimbabwe managed 97 for six in their 20 overs. Kelis Ndhlovu scored 42 off 35 balls to hold the innings. Eyman Fatima smashed 35-ball 62 not out with two maximums and ten boundaries while Shawaal Zulfiqar made 32 not out. The win confirmed Pakistan's place in the Super Six Stage.

Pakistan opened the Super Six Stage with a comfortable seven-wicket win against Ireland. Anoosha Nasir with two for 17 and Rida Aslam bagging two for 6 were the main reason for Ireland's below-par total of 113 for seven in their 20 overs. Annabel Squires fought a lone battle in scoring 55 not out. Pakistan knocked off the target in 17.3 overs for the loss of three wickets. Syeda Aroob Shah played a captain's knock with 35 while Eyman Fatima (25) and Warda Yousuf (24 not out) chipped in with useful contributions.

Pakistan's campaign ended as they lost their crucial must-win game against a strong New Zealand side by 103 runs. New Zealand were powered to 178 for seven by a blistering 38-ball 53 by Georgia Plimmer while Emma McLeod 32 and Anna Browning 31 also chipped in with useful knocks. Pakistan were jolted right at the start, losing their five wickets for just 19 and it was only due to a brave knock of 24 by Areesha Noor that they reached 75 for seven at the end of their quota of overs. Aroob's catch to dismiss Liberty Heap could be described as one of the best in the tournament as she lunged acrobatically backwards to complete a head-high catch.

Overall Pakistan girls showed fighting abilities and a tendency to learn. Eyman Fatima, Shawaal Zulfiqar, Syeda Aroob Shah, Anoosha Nasir, Areesha Noor and Rida Aslam impressed with their performances and can be useful inductees in the women senior team in future.

PAKISTAN TO AUSTRALIA (3 ODIS & 3 T20IS)

It's not the defeat, but experience in those defeats that counts. There is always a chance of rebuilding your plans if you accept a defeat as part of your process to improve. Pakistan women team's tour to Australia in January 2023 was part of such a process and although results did not go Pakistan's way, the tour provided the team with wealth of experience.

Pakistan Cricket Board had planned a tough tour of Australia to give the players some much-needed tune up for the Twenty20 World Cup in South Africa. Ahead of the tour, Pakistan was bolstered by the return of ace fast bowler Diana Baig who recovered from a shoulder injury. Left-arm spinner Sadia Iqbal also staged a comeback to both the ODI and T20I squads, while leg-spinner Tuba Hassan was also picked. The squad also attended training camps in Lahore and Karachi before their departure for Australia.

Pakistan put up a good fight in a side game against Governor-General XI in Brisbane and despite their loss by 53 runs they got their first taste of Australian conditions.

Australia opened up the ODI series with a big eight-wicket win. Batting first, Pakistan managed 160 for eight in their 40 overs after the match was reduced due to rain. Nida Dar, who played in the women's Big Bash for Sydney Thunder in 2019-20, used her experience to play a polished knock of 59 with five boundaries and a six. Australia chased down the target for the loss of just two wickets with Phoebe Litchfield knocking an attractive unbeaten 78 on debut while the experienced Meg Lanning capped her comeback with a solid 67.

Australia had the better of Pakistan by ten wickets in the second ODI. Pakistan were halted to 125 all out on the grassy Allan Border Field by pacer Darcie Brown who took three for 32. Nida Dar 24 and Bismah Maroof 21 were the only ones who defied a strong bowling in unfamiliar conditions. Australia raced to victory in 19.2 overs without losing any wicket. Phoebe Litchfield hit another brilliant 67 not out and was ably supported by Beth Mooney 57 not out.

Australia achieved their 11th clean-sweep in the last 12 ODI series with a thumping 101-run win in the third game. Star batter Beth Mooney knocked a 105-ball 133 with four sixes and 14 boundaries against a hapless Pakistan bowling attack. Australia posted an imposing 336 for nine at North Sydney Oval. Pakistan showed a lot of bravery by scoring 235 for seven in their 50 overs which proved that they can put up a good fight. All top batters scored well but did not go on to make it big, the much needed contributions required for a big target. Bismah Maroof (44), Sidra Amin (34), Sadaf Shamas (30), Nida Dar (29) and Muneeba Ali (27 not out) were among runs. Ashleigh Gardner took 3-30.

The T20I series was also a one-sided affair but gave the Pakistan team a good lesson ahead of the World Cup in South Africa. An eight-wicket win for Australia marked the beginning of the T20I series. Veteran pacer Megan Schutt was too hot to handle for Pakistan batters as her five for 15 skittled Pakistan out for 118 off the last ball of the 20th over. It was never enough for the world champions as they crossed the line for the loss of two wickets in just 13.4 overs. Ellyse Perry opened the innings and smashed a brilliant 40-ball 57 not out laced with seven boundaries and a six.

It became two in two for Australia as they registered a thumping eight-wicket win in the second match. Leg-spinner Alana King topped a nine-bowler chart with two for 10 as Pakistan crawled to 96 for seven in their 20 overs. Beth Mooney 46 and Meg Lanning with 31 saw off the target with eight wickets and 44 balls remaining.

It was a damp end to the series with the final game swept away by Canberra weather. No action could take place as the two teams waited anxiously for the action. Australia took the series 2-0.

Despite a no-win tour, veteran all-rounder Nida Dar emphasized that Pakistan women needed such tours.

"We need more matches to minimize the gap with the best teams," Nida said. "We always wanted to play competitive cricket and we can only improve when we play a lot of matches against the best teams. I always wanted to play Australia and share the experience, learn from (them), but the thing is as a team we need more exposure and more matches against Australia. We definitely learnt a lot and that's what we wanted."

Nida stressed over the need of getting as much information from Australian players as possible, seeking improvement with the guidance. "Whenever we get a chance to meet them we always talk about cricket, talk about their routines, what they are practising," Nida said. "They are very (helpful) and I know myself, they are very good at that. If you ask them, they will always tell you. It was a very helpful tour despite the results not going our way."

ICC WOMEN'S T20 WORLD CUP (4 T20IS)

Pakistan Cricket Board had planned a series of matches to get the national women's team well prepared for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup with the tour of Australia where they played three One-Day Internationals and as many T20 Internationals. In South Africa, where the mega event took place, Pakistan women won their first warm-up game against Bangladesh and put up a good fight against South Africa in their second warm-up match.

Ahead of the mega event, the team was weakened by a finger injury to ace pacer Diana Baig and that left a gap in the bowling department. Sadaf Shamas replaced Diana in the squad for the World Cup.

Pakistan women were placed in Group 2 along with England, India, Ireland and the West Indies with their opening game against arch-rivals on February 12 in Cape Town. Pakistan won the toss and opted to bat on a pitch that looked good for batting. A total of 149 for four was a good effort by Pakistan. Three early wickets, including that of Nida for a second-ball duck, had pushed Pakistan on the back foot. Skipper Bismah Maroof and Ayesha Naseem lifted the total through their fifth-wicket stand of 81. Their stand was not only steady but gave the impetus in the final overs. The hard-hitting Ayesha smashed a six and Bismah a boundary to finish the last over on a high. Bismah's 55-ball 68 not out had seven boundaries while two sixes and as many boundaries adorned Ayesha's unbeaten 25-ball 43.

Left-arm spinner Nashra Sundhu jolted India by grabbing wickets of Shafali Verma who was threatening during her knock of 33 and dangerous Harmanpreet Kaur for 16. But Jemimah Rodrigues anchored the chase and put on a match-winning 58-run stand with Richa Ghosh. India won with an over and seven wickets to spare.

Bismah Maroof admitted to mistakes in the loss. "We were good many times, but we made some mistakes in bowling. There was a lot of learning and planning to do better in the next games."

As promised, Pakistan women lifted their game in the second outing. They beat Ireland by a convincing 70-run margin, courtesy a brilliant century by opener Muneeba Ali. The bespectacled left-hander became the first women to score a T20I hundred for Pakistan and only the sixth to achieve the feat in a T20 World Cup match. Muneeba's 68-ball 102 contained 14 hits to the rope. She and Nida Dar, who scored a 28-ball 33, added 101 for the third wicket. Ayesha Naseem hit a six off the two balls she faced as Pakistan achieved their highest total in a Twenty20 World Cup game with 165 for five. Ireland were never in the hunt of the chase, succumbing to 95 all out in 16.3 overs. Left-arm spinner Nashra Sundhu was the chief destroyer with four for 18 with two wickets each for Nida Dar and Sadia Iqbal.

It was again a so-near-yet-so far for Pakistan women as they went down by a mere three runs against the West Indies. It was a must-win game for Bismah Maroof's side but they fell cruelly short. Pakistan team was jolted before the match as power hitter Ayesha Naseem was ruled out with a hamstring injury. Despite that, Pakistan restricted a strong West Indian batting line up to 116 for six with Nida Dar leading a frugal four-over spell, claiming two for 13. Pakistan needed 44 in the last five overs which were gettable but Hayley Matthews bowled a match-turning 18th over, claiming a wicket with just five runs conceded, giving the West Indies a sniff. Pakistan needed a tough 18 off the final over. Aliya Riaz cracked three boundaries but at the end Pakistan fell three runs short.

Bismah Maroof was naturally despondent over the loss. "It was hurtful. It was a close match. We were not up to the mark in our batting."

Pakistan team was without their skipper Bismah Maroof in their last game, against England, as she pulled her groin ahead of the match. England women were ruthless in their approach as they had already qualified for the semis. They scored 213 for five in the 20 overs of dominating batting – the highest total in a T20 World Cup match. Their 114-run win was also a new record high in the competition. Nat Sciver-Brunt smashed 40-ball 81 not out with a dozen boundaries and a six while Danni Wyatt's 33-ball 59 had seven boundaries and two sixes. The duo added 74 for the third wicket. Pakistan scrawled to 99 for nine in their 20 overs with an unexpected top score of 28 from Tuba Hassan.

But amidst this big loss there was a big achievement for stand-in skipper Nida Dar who became the highest wicket taker in women's T20I cricket with 126.

So Pakistan's Twenty20 World Cup campaign ended with one win in four matches. Nida Dar analysed Pakistan's campaign as something from which they will learn. "We played two good games in the tournament. That will help us learn. It is the best time for youngsters to come up and take the challenge."

On her personal milestone, Nida Dar said: "It's a milestone for me and for my country. I want to do the best for my country and that is my goal."

HBL
PAKISTAN SUPER LEAGUE

HBL PAKISTAN SUPER LEAGUE 2022 (34 T20S)

The seventh edition of the HBL Pakistan Super League was the first uninterrupted edition to be played in Pakistan. The month long cricket extravaganza kept the country in its grips especially the Lahore-leg as the PCB's marquee event returned to the country's cricket headquarters after a gap of two years.

The tournament that was launched in the UAE in 2016 made a step by step progression towards Pakistan. The 2017 final was the first HBL PSL match to be played in the country. Three matches including the final in Karachi were staged in 2018, after an eight-match stint in 2019, the tournament was staged for the first time in its entirety in Pakistan in 2020. However, the tournament had to be interrupted just before the playoffs due to a Covid-19 pandemic outbreak.

The 2021 edition had to be finished in the UAE (Abu Dhabi) after another Covid-19 enforced interruption following the first 14 matches in Karachi.

The 2022 edition will be remembered as a major milestone in the tournament's history as despite the Covid-19 related challenges, the PCB succeeded in staging the event with great success in Karachi and Lahore. The crowd attendances were restricted in the Karachi-leg (25 percent) but after receiving government clearance following reduction in Covid-19 cases, the Lahore-leg was eventually staged with 100 percent crowd access.

The full crowd decision was warmly welcomed by the passionate Lahore fans. Each of the 19 games staged at the iconic Gaddafi Stadium was well received by big audiences while the last stages of the tournament including the playoffs and 27 February final were played in front of capacity crowds.

The Shaheen Shah Afridi-led Lahore Qalandars created history and brushed aside the perennial HBL PSL wooden spooners tag with a resounding 42-run win over defending champions Multan Sultans to the delight of their vociferous home fans.

The Qalandars produced some memorable all-round performances in the tournament. Opener Fakhar Zaman hit a century and a staggering seven fifties to top the tournament's run-scorers list. The left-hander amassed 588-runs in 13 innings at 45.23 and a strike-rate of 152.72. Seasoned batter Mohammad Hafeez contributed 323 runs for the winners at 29.36.

Shaheen led the bowling attack from the front, the left-armer did his growing reputation as a world-class T20 performer, no harm by making breakthroughs both at the top of the innings and the death overs. In 13 tournament appearances he tallied 20 wickets at 19.70 with an impressive 7.57 economy rate. Young right-arm pacer Zaman Khan was another reason for Qalandars' success as he bowled at a searing pace to rattle batters across the tournament.

Zaman took 18 wickets in 13 games at 21.50. Haris Rauf (16 wickets) and Rashid Khan (13 wickets) were other major performers with the ball for the Lahore franchise.

Besides Fakhar, Jason Roy (Quetta Gladiators) and Harry Brook (Qalandars) also hit centuries in the tournament.

Islamabad United captain Shadab Khan who finished number two on the bowling charts (19) wickets, took one of tournament's two five-wicket hauls. Gladiators' pacer Naseem Shah who collected 14 wickets in 10 appearances registered the other five-fer.

Sultans captain Mohammad Rizwan had a wonderful tournament with the bat, the right-hander finished just behind Fakhar in the runs tally, in 12 games, he scored 546 runs at 68.25 and a strike-rate of 126.68. Rizwan's tally included seven half-centuries. Rizwan's partner at the top of the order Shan Masood also had a memorable event. The left-hander scored 478 runs in 12 appearances at 39.83.

Sultans' finisher Tim David struck an incredible 21 sixes in the tournament, Fakhar also had great success in clearing the ropes with 20 maximums in the tournament.

Fakhar Zaman
588
Leading run-scorer

Shaheen Afridi
20
Leading wicket-taker

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	SR	100	50
Fakhar Zaman	Lahore Qalandars	13	13	588	152.73	1	7
Mohammad Rizwan	Multan Sultans	12	12	546	126.68	0	7
Shan Masood	Multan Sultans	12	12	478	138.15	0	4

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Shaheen Shah Afridi	Lahore Qalandars	13	20	3-30	15.60	7.58
Shadab Khan	Islamabad United	9	19	5-28	10.11	6.47
Zaman Khan	Lahore Qalandars	13	18	4-16	15.61	8.26

TEAM OF HBL PSL 7

Mohammad Rizwan
(Multan Sultans)

Fakhar Zaman
(Lahore Qalandars)

Shoaib Malik
(Peshawar Zalmi)

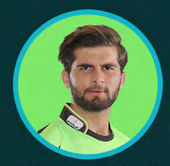
Shadab Khan
(Islamabad United)

Rilee Rossouw
(Multan Sultans)

Tim David
(Multan Sultans)

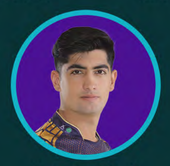
Khushdil Shah
(Multan Sultans)

Rashid Khan
(Lahore Qalandars)

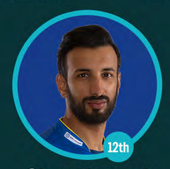


Shaheen Afridi
(Lahore Qalandars)

Zaman Khan
(Lahore Qalandars)



Nasem Shah
(Quetta Gladiators)



Shan Masood
(Multan Sultans)

HBL PAKISTAN SUPER LEAGUE 2023 (34 T20S)

Lahore Qalandars became the first side to successfully defend their HBL PSL title when they defeated Multan Sultan in a one-run thriller in front of a packed to capacity Gaddafi Stadium on 18 March. Emerging Category player Zaman Khan conceded 11 runs in the final over after the 2021 champions had required 13 runs for victory.

In the 2022 final, Lahore Qalandars had defeated Multan Sultans by 42 runs at the Gaddafi Stadium, while in 2021 final in Abu Dhabi, Multan Sultans had lifted the trophy by overpowering Peshawar Zalmi by 47 runs. In contrast, Lahore Qalandars had failed to qualify for the playoffs in the first four editions, before reaching the 2020 final in Karachi where they lost to Karachi Kings.

In front of around 25,000 enthusiastic and cheerful home fans, Qalandars' captain Shaheen Shah Afridi produced a marvelous and memorable all-round performance when he clobbered two fours and five sixes in a 15-ball 44 not out to lift his side to 200 for six after they were in bother at 112 for five in the 15th over. He then recorded figures of 4-0-51-4 with his scalps including Kieron Pollard, Tim David, Anwar Ali and Usama Mir as Multan Sultans finished at 199 for eight after needing four runs off the final ball.

There were no surprises when Shaheen Shah Afridi was named as the player of the final, and a day later, he was named as captain of Team of HBL PSL 8. However, Multan Sultans swept the individual awards with Ihsanullah winning the Player and Bowler of HBL PSL 8 awards, Mohammad Rizwan claiming the Batter and Wicketkeeper of HBL PSL 8 awards, Abbas Afridi walking away with the Rookie of HBL PSL 8 trophy and Pollard winning the Fielder of HBL PSL 8 award. Karachi Kings' Imad Wasim was named as the All-rounder of the HBL PSL 8.

In the final, Abdullah Shafique top-scored for Lahore Qalandars with a 40-ball 65, while openers Fakhar Zaman and Mirza Tahir Baig contributed 39 and 30 runs, respectively. But their efforts were overshadowed by Shaheen's blistering innings as he helped his side to collect 71 runs off the final 24 deliveries.

For Multan Sultans, Usama Mir picked up three wickets for 24 runs.

In their run-chase, Multan Sultans were progressing nicely at 105 for one in the 11th over, before they slipped to 166 for seven in 18 overs. It was a quickfire 12-ball 25 by Khushdil Shah and six-ball 17 not out by Abbas Afridi that kept them in the match until Zaman Khan demonstrated nerves of steel in the final over to give away only 11 runs (including three extras).

Rilee Rossouw top-scored with 52, while Mohammad Rizwan (34), Tim David (20), Pollard (19) and Usman Khan (18) were the other notable run-getters.

Lahore Qalandars had taken a difficult and unexpected route to the final. Despite topping the points table with seven wins in 10 matches, they suffered a shock 84 runs defeat against Multan Sultans in the Qualifier. After Peshawar Zalmi defeated Islamabad United in Eliminator 1, Lahore Qalandars rolled over Peshawar Zalmi by four wickets in Eliminator 2.

Islamabad United had finished third on the points table with six victories, followed by Peshawar Zalmi (five wins) and, Karachi Kings and Quetta Gladiators (three wins apiece).

The HBL PSL 8 had opened on 13 February at the Multan Cricket Stadium for the first time in a highly-impressive and glittering opening ceremony in which AR and VR technology was used for the first time. Also part of the ceremony were performances by the HBL PSL 8 anthem singers - Asim Azhar, Faris Shafi and Shae Gill – as well as renowned music composer Sahir Ali Bagga and talented singer Aima Baig.

The schedule of the 34-day 34-match tournament had been designed in such a manner that the four home sides – Islamabad United, Karachi Kings, Lahore Qalandars and Multan Sultans - played five matches each in front of their fans and supporters, one against each side. Quetta Gladiators played their 10 league matches in Karachi, Rawalpindi (four each), Lahore and Multan (one each), while Peshawar Zalmi's fixtures were in Rawalpindi (five), Karachi (three), and one each in Lahore and Multan.

The tournament was very well received at all the four venues with overall crowd attendances recorded at around 82 per cent. This included 65 per cent in Karachi, 90 per cent each in Lahore and Multan, and 85 per cent in Rawalpindi.

In the history of the HBL PSL, the eighth edition was rated as one of the closest and fiercest contested tournaments in which the bat dominated the ball – thanks to excellent playing surfaces.

The Gladiators versus Sultans match in Rawalpindi produced a record match aggregate of 515 runs with Usman Khan scoring a 43-ball 120 (100 off 36 balls). In this game, Sultans scored 262 for three and Gladiators replied with 253 for eight. Qais Ahmad of Gladiators was at the wrong end of the stick when he went away for 77 runs in his four overs.

Rilee Rossouw scored a 51-ball 121 (100 off 41 balls) as Multan Sultans replied Peshawar Zalmi's 242 for six with 244 for six in a record chase. The match produced an aggregate of 486 runs. Multan Sultans' Anwar Ali conceded 66 runs in his four overs and Azmatullah Omarzai of Peshawar Zalmi was belted for 62 runs in his four overs.

In an another high-scoring thriller, Jason Roy reached his century off 44 balls on his way to a 63-ball 145 not out as Gladiators comfortably overhauled Peshawar Zalmi's 240 for two that revolved around Babar Azam's maiden HBL PSL century (115 off 65 balls). This match produced an aggregate of 483 runs.

Apart from Babar Azam, Jason Roy, Rilee Rossouw and Usman Khan, three other batters also reached the three figures. They were Martin Guptill (117), Mohammad Rizwan (110 not out) and Fakhar Zaman (115).

Mohammad Rizwan topped the batting chart with 550 runs (142.85 strike-rate), followed by Babar Azam (522, 145.40 strike-rate), Rossouw (453, 171.59 strike-rate), Fakhar (429, 160.67 strike-rate) and Imad Wasim (404, 170.46 strike-rate).

Three different bowlers recorded five-fers – Ishanullah five for 12, Shaheen Shah Afridi five for 40 and Abbas Afridi five for 47 (including a split hat-trick) – while seven bowlers recorded four-fers.

Abbas Afridi with 23 wickets (economy-rate of 9.45) was the most successful bowler, followed by Ihsanullah (22, 7.59 economy-rate), Rashid Khan (20, 6.53 economy-rate) and Shaheen Shah Afridi (19, 9.13 economy-rate).

Mohammad Rizwan
550
Leading run-scorer

Abbas Afridi
23
Leading wicket-taker

TOP 3 BATTERS

Name	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	SR	100	50
Mohammad Rizwan	Multan Sultans	12	12	550	142.86	1	4
Babar Azam	Peshawar Zalmi	11	11	522	145.4	1	5
Rilee Rossouw	Multan Sultans	11	11	453	171.59	1	3

TOP 3 BOWLERS

Name	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Mohammad Abbas Afridi	Multan Sultans	11	23	5-47	10.26	9.46
Ihsanullah	Multan Sultans	12	22	5-12	12.45	7.60
Rashid Khan	Lahore Qalandars	11	20	4-21	12.90	6.53

TEAM OF HBL PSL 8

Shaheen Afridi
(Lahore Qalandars)

Mohammad Rizwan
(Multan Sultans)

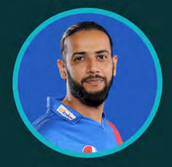
Babar Azam
(Peshawar Zalmi)

Mohammad Haris
(Peshawar Zalmi)

Rilee Rossouw
(Multan Sultans)

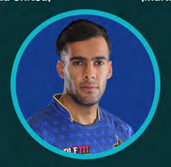
Azam Khan
(Islamabad United)

Kieron Pollard
(Multan Sultans)

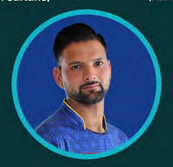


Imad Wasim
(Karachi Kings)

Rashid Khan
(Lahore Qalandars)



Abbas Afridi
(Multan Sultans)



Ihsanullah
(Multan Sultans)

Saim Ayub
(Peshawar Zalmi)

BROADCAST NUMBERS

TV BROADCAST NUMBERS

HBL PSL, especially in the last two years, has had the highest average TV rating across all **Franchise Cricket Leagues** around the **world.**

It garners unprecedented eyeballs through world-class sports networks televising matches across the globe.

The tournament had unique views of around **200M on TV** i.e. number of people in Pakistan who tuned into HBL PSL for at least one minute in this season.

LIVE STREAMING NUMBERS

PSL (34 GAMES ACROSS 5-6 WEEKS)

Total Views	368M
Total Likes	129M
Total Comments	9.5M
PSL Hub Page Visits	46M
Highest Single Match viewership	30.2M

PSL 2022-23 TOTAL REVENUE

54%
GROWTH

CURRENT CYCLE

PSL 8 DIGITAL EXPOSURE

Impressions	1.9 B
Views	179M
Unique viewers	21M
Watch time (hours)	17.3M

Impressions	79M
Views	35M
Profile visits per month	2.3M

Accounts reached	5.8M
Profile visits per month	4.6M

People reached	65M
Engagement	40.5M
Video engagement	7.69M
Minutes viewed	604M

Profile views	1.3M
Likes	9.3M
Hashtag views	540M
Video views	162M

MEN'S
DOMESTIC CRICKET

PAKISTAN CUP 2021-22 (33 LIST-A MATCHES)

Balochistan won their maiden domestic cricket title when they defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by eight wickets in the Pakistan Cup 2021-22 at the Multan Cricket Stadium. The six-team double-league format tournament was played in Faisalabad, Islamabad, Rawalpindi, Lahore and Multan from 2 March to 1 April.

Yasir Shah took four for 33 and Akif Javed and Khurram Shahzad took two wickets apiece to dismiss Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for 171 in 46 overs and then raced to victory for the loss of two wickets in 31.2 overs. Local lads Abdul Wahid Bangalzai and Haseebullah led an excellent run-chase with Abdul Wahid stroking a masterly 80 not out off 77 balls with nine fours and two sixes, and Haseebullah hitting six fours in a 58-ball 45 as the two batters added 77 runs for the second wicket.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan had finished on equal points after 10 league matches but were ranked one and two, respectively on net run-rate. This meant Khyber Pakhtunkhwa met fourth--placed Central Punjab and Balochistan took third-placed Sindh in the semi-finals.

In the first semi-final, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa defeated Central Punjab by six wickets with six balls to spare. Batting first, Central Punjab scored 286 for nine with half-centuries from Qasim Akram (67) and Hussain Talat (63). In turn, Kamran Ghulam scored a 120-ball 109 with 10 fours and three sixes, Ashfaq Ahmed contributed 71 and Adil Amin chipped in with 60 to help Khyber Pakhtunkhwa achieve the target without any hassles.

In the second semi-final, Balochistan was made to work hard by Sindh before they romped to victory by 13 runs. Haseebullah scored 131 off 114 balls with 18 fours and a six, while Asad Shafiq scored 64 as Balochistan scored 263 all-out in 47.5 overs. In turn, Kashif Bhatti grabbed three wickets and Yasir Shah and Khurram Shahzad snapped up two wickets each as Sindh finished at 250 for nine despite half-centuries by Omair Bin Yousuf (60), Khurram Manzoor (55) and Sharjeel Khan (50).

In the league matches, Balochistan defeated Northern by two wickets and seven runs, Central Punjab by eight wickets and 76 runs, Southern Punjab by 105 runs and eight wickets, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by eight wickets. Balochistan lost both their matches against Sindh by six wickets and nine wickets, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa won the return match by 49 runs.

Haseebullah led Balochistan's run-charge in the tournament with 614 runs with three centuries and a half-century at an average of 55.82. Asad Shafiq (510 runs), Imran Butt (498) and Abdul Wahid Bangalzai (497) were the other main contributors. Yasir Shah was the most impressive Balochistan bowler with 24 wickets, followed by Akif Javed (16 wickets).

Other notable batters in the competition were Sharjeel Khan (Sindh, 584 runs), Kamran Ghulam (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 531 runs) and Umar Amin (Northern, 516 runs), while the non-Balochistan bowlers to grab headlines were Khalid Usman (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 25 wickets), Sohail Khan (Sindh, 18 wickets) and Abrar Ahmed (Sindh, 16 wickets).

Yasir Shah was named as the player of the final and best bowler of the tournament, Haseebullah was adjudged player and best batter of the tournament, while Mohammad Haris won the best wicketkeeper's award.

Haseebullah
614
Leading run-scorer

Khalid Usman
25
Leading wicket-taker

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	SR	100	50
Haseebullah	Balochistan	12	12	614	98.24	3	1
Sharjeel Khan	Sindh	11	11	584	122.69	2	3
Kamran Ghulam	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	12	12	531	85.65	2	3

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Khalid Usman	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	12	25	5-8	26.60	4.75
Yasir Shah	Balochistan	12	24	5-44	27.88	4.88
Sohail Khan	Sindh	7	18	5-21	18.11	5.74

NATIONAL T20 2022-23 (33 T20S)

Sindh defeated defending champions Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by eight wickets in the final of the Kingdom Valley National T20 2022-23 at the Multan Cricket Stadium. Rawalpindi hosted the 16-match first leg of the tournament from 30 August to 7 September, before action shifted to Multan where the remaining 17 matches were played from 10-19 September.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had topped the table with six wins, while it was a four-way tie between Sindh, Central Punjab, Northern and Balochistan with five wins apiece. Balochistan missed out on a place in the semi-finals on net run-rate, Southern Punjab finished at the bottom with four wins.

In the first semi-final, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa defeated Northern by five wickets with one over to spare. Nasir Nawaz top-scored in Northern's 164 for four; while Rehan Afridi (54), Sahibzada Farhan (39) and Mohammad Sarwar Afridi (37) made even contributions to take Khyber Pakhtunkhwa home.

In the second semi-final, Mohammad Faizan scored 52 and Muhammad Irfan Khan (36 not out), Muhammad Akhlaq (28) and Qasim Akram (25) made useful contributions in Central Punjab's 179 for eight. Zahid Mehmood with four for 20 was the star bowler for Sindh. In turn, Omair Bin Yousuf (51 not out) and Anwar Ali (32 not out) put on 42 runs for the unfinished sixth wicket from 18 balls to steer Sindh to a five-wicket victory with four balls to spare. Other notable contributions came from Saim Ayub (46), Saud Shakeel (22) and Danish Aziz (19).

The final proved to be a one-sided affair as Sindh defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by eight wickets with 32 balls to spare. Player of the final, Sohail Khan, took four for 18, and Mir Hamza and Asif Mehmood bagged two wickets apiece to dismiss Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for 140 in 19.5 overs. Sharjeel Khan then slapped four fours and four sixes in a 36-ball 53 and Saim Ayub struck four fours and two sixes in a 24-ball 36 as the two batters added 70 runs for the first wicket that paved the way for Sindh to overhaul Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's 140 in 14.4 overs for the loss of two wickets.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Sahibzada Farhan was the leading run-getter with 429 runs at a strike-rate of 132.41 and was declared the best batter of the National T20, Sindh's Saim Ayub was declared the Player of the Tournament for his 416 runs at a strike-rate of 155.22. Other batters to impress in the shortest format were Tayyab Tahir (Central Punjab, 413 runs, 138.59 strike-rate), Sharjeel Khan (Sindh, 328 runs, 138.39 strike-rate) and Zain Abbas (Southern Punjab, 309 runs, 141.09 strike-rate).

Sohail Khan of Sindh was the most successful bowler with 21 wickets at an economy-rate of 7.89. He was later named bowler of the National T20. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Mohammad Imran took 16 wickets at an economy-rate of 9.30, followed by Mohammad Ilyas (Southern Punjab, 15 wickets, 9.05 economy-rate), Zahid Mehmood (Sindh, 15 wickets, 7 economy-rate) and Aamer Yamin (Central Punjab, 14 wickets, 7.93 economy-rate).

The highest match aggregate recorded in the tournament was 379 when Northern scored 190 for four and Sindh replied with 189 for seven, while some of the highest totals achieved in the tournament were 201 for five by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa against Balochistan, 193 by Central Punjab against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 190 for four by Northern against Sindh and 190 for seven by Sindh against Northern.

Sahibzada Farhan
429
Leading run-scorer

Sohail Khan
21
Leading wicket-taker

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	SR	100	50
Sahibzada Farhan	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	12	12	429	132.41	1	1
Saim Ayub	Sindh	12	12	416	155.22	0	2
Tayyab Tahir	Central Punjab	11	11	413	138.59	0	4

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Sohail Khan	Sindh	10	21	4-18	11.00	7.90
Mohammad Imran	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10	16	4-28	11.38	9.30
Mohammad Ilyas	Southern Punjab	10	15	3-29	11.93	9.05

CRICKET ASSOCIATIONS T20 2022-23 (30 T20S)

Central Punjab won a closely contested Cricket Associations T20 due to a better net run-rate after they finished on equal points (11) with Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Northern. The 30-match tournament was held in Faisalabad from 6-23 September.

Central Punjab finished their 10 league matches with a net run-rate of 0.538, while Sindh had a net run-rate of 0.414, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded a net run-rate of 0.111 and Northern ended up with a net run-rate of -0.231. Balochistan finished fifth with nine points whereas Southern Punjab languished at the bottom with seven points.

Central Punjab finished their 10 league matches strongly by winning three of their last four matches after they had suffered three successive defeats in the middle of the event following two wins in three matches upfront. In contrast, Northern had made a solid start by winning four straight matches before they lost four matches, tied one against Sindh with their last match against bottom-placed Southern Punjab being abandoned without a ball being bowled.

Sindh may have finished runners-up on net run-rate, but they had the distinction of being involved in two tied matches. On 16 September in the 17th match of the tournament, Sindh, chasing 144 for victory against Northern, finished at 143 for seven. Two days later, they finished on an equal score against Balochistan after being set a 121-run target.

Maaz Sadaqat of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the most successful batter of the tournament when he aggregated 350 runs at a strike-rate of 132. Sindh's Ammad Alam scored 260 runs at a strike-rate of 108.33, while Imran Butt of Balochistan totalled 251 runs at a strike-rate of 130.

Aarish Ali Khan of Sindh was the pick of the bowlers with 17 wickets at an economy-rate of 5.89. He was followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Arshadullah and Ali Usman of Southern Punjab, who claimed 16 wickets apiece.

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	SR	100	50
Maaz Sadaqat	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10	9	350	132.08	0	3
Ammad Alam	Sindh	10	10	260	108.33	0	0
Imran Butt	Balochistan	10	10	251	130.05	0	3

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Aarish Ali Khan	Sindh	10	17	3-14	12.76	5.89
Arshadullah	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	7	16	4-20	9.25	6.65
Ali Usman	Southern Punjab	9	16	3-20	11.63	7.16

CRICKET ASSOCIATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP 2022-23 (30 FOUR-DAY NON FIRST-CLASS MATCHES)

Central Punjab won the four-day non first-class Cricket Associations Championship with impressive and consistent performances that saw them finish with 195 points with seven victories.. Three teams, Sindh, Northern and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were tied on 131 points each. Sindh finished in second place for facing a fewer number of defeats (three) than Northern (five). Northern attained third position on the points table after achieving more wins (four) than Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (three). Southern Punjab and Balochistan finished fifth and sixth with 123 and 102 points respectively.

The tournament was played on a double-league basis and held concurrently with the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy from 27 September to 23 November. Karachi staged 27 matches, while Quetta played host to three matches.

Central Punjab started strongly when they won four and lost one in the first five matches. They defeated Sindh by two wickets, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by an innings and 79 runs, Northern by three wickets and Southern Punjab by 92 runs, while their only loss was against Balochistan by 43 runs. In the return matches, Central Punjab defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by three wickets, Northern by an innings and six runs, Southern Punjab by 273 runs, while their two draws were against Sindh and Balochistan.

Danish Aziz of Sindh was the only batter to break the 1,000-run mark. The 27-year-old left-hander totalled 1,003 runs with three centuries and five half-centuries at an average of 55.72. Southern Punjab's Rameez Alam scored 815 runs, followed by Hasan Raza (Northern, 777 runs), Saif Badar (Central Punjab, 720 runs) and Rameez Aziz (Sindh, 673 runs).

Northern's 24-yerar-old left-arm spinner Umer Khan was the only bowler to break the 50-wicket threshold. He claimed 51 wickets with five fifers at an average of 26.10. Jalat Khan (Balochistan, 44 wickets), Ahmed Safi Abdullah (Central Punjab, 42 wickets), Tahir Hussain (Southern Punjab, 38 wickets) and Gohar Faiz (Balochistan, 37 wickets) were the other successful bowlers.

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	SR	100	50
Danish Aziz	Sindh	10	19	1003	58.04	3	5
Rameez Alam	Southern Punjab	10	19	815	44.51	3	4
Hasan Raza	Northern	7	14	777	61.57	3	3

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Umer Khan	Northern	10	51	6-123	48.43	3.23
Jalat Khan	Balochistan	10	44	6-52	48.41	3.03
Ahmed Safi Abdullah	Central Punjab	6	42	7-92	38.55	2.65

QUAID-E-AZAM TROPHY 2022-23 (31 FIRST-CLASS MATCHES)

Gaddafi Stadium, the headquarters of Pakistan cricket, was the venue of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy final from 26-29 November. The five-day final ended with a day to spare when Northern defeated Sindh by an innings and 55 runs. It was a case of third-time lucky for Northern, which had topped the points table with 135 points after 10 matches.

Northern's decision to put Sindh into bat first proved correct when fast bowlers Mohammad Musa and Aamir Jamal picked up three wickets each and off-spinner Mubasir Khan bagged two wickets to skittle Sindh out for 284. No.9 batter Asif Mehmood was the top-scorer with 78, while Fawad Alam scored 61 not out as the two batters put on 116 runs for the eighth wicket after Sindh were reeling at 151 for seven.

Northern top-order batters Mohammad Huraira, skipper Umar Amin and Umar Waheed strangled Sindh with punishing centuries that helped them reply with 593 – a 309 runs first innings lead. 21-year-old Huraira continued his rich form by scoring a delightful 221 from 236 balls with 35 fours and two sixes. Umar Amin scored a 207-ball 114, while Umar Waheed scored a 162-ball 109. Wicketkeeper Rohail Nazir missed his fourth first-class century by six runs when he became one of the four Aaliyan Mehmood victims. Aaliyan finished with figures of 26-2-96-4.

Mohammad Umar was the other impressive bowler for Sindh when he registered figures of 30-3-116-4. His scalps included Hasan Raza (14) and Abdul Faseeh (0) as Northern slipped to 27 for two, before Huraira and Umar Amin added 308 runs for the third wicket and 155 runs were put on for the sixth wicket by Umar Waheed and Rohail Nazir.

Trailing by 309 runs on the first innings, Sindh were sent packing for 254 in their second innings despite a gritty and fighting 113 by Fawad Alam, who faced 130 balls and struck 18 fours. Sindh's tail wagged a little bit after seven batters were back in the hut for 122, but it was just a delay of the inevitable.

Musa and Aamir once again combined to claimed three wickets each for match haul of six wickets apiece, while Mehran Mumtaz bagged two wickets and, Mubasir and Kahsif Ali scooped a wicket each.

Huraira was not only adjudged player of the final for his double-century, he was also declared the best batter of the tournament after he accumulated 1,024 runs with four centuries at an average of 73.14. Huraira's teammates Mubasir Khan (522 runs and 31 wickets) and Rohail Nazir (43 dismissals and 434 runs) won the player of the tournament and best wicketkeeper awards, respectively.

Sindh's mystery spinner Abrar Ahmed, who later took 28 wickets in four Tests against England and New Zealand, finished as the pick of the bowlers with 43 wickets at an average of 21.95. There was no surprise when he was adjudged the best bowler of the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy.

After Huraira, Abdullah Shafique (Central Punjab, 867 runs), Usman Salahuddin (Southern Punjab, 862), Umar Amin (Northern, 774 runs), Saud Shakeel (Sindh, 754 runs), Asad Shafiq (Balochistan, 731 runs), Tayyab Tahir (Central Punjab, 708 runs) and Fawad Alam (Sindh, 706 runs) were the other notable run-getters.

The other leading bowlers after Abrar were Aamir Jamal and Mubasir Khan (both Northern, 31 wickets each), Muhammad Umar (Sindh, 28 wickets), Mohammad Ali (Central Punjab, 24 wickets) and Ihsanullah (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 22 wickets).

Huraira's double-century feat was matched by three other batters – Abdullah Shafique (232 vs Sindh, Rawalpindi), Azhar Ali (219 vs Northern, Faisalabad) and Faizan Riaz (201* vs Balochistan, Abbottabad).

Best bowling figures in an innings were produced by Aamir Jamal, who took eight for 120 against Balochistan in Abbottabad, while eight other bowlers recorded six-fers, They are Athar Mehmood (six for 40), Mohammad Ali (six for 59), Abrar Ahmed (six for 61), Khalid Usman (six for 86), Usama Mir (six for 91), Zafar Gohar (six for 96), Abrar Ahmed (six for 100) and Ahmed Safi Abdullah (six for 132).

Three bowlers picked up 10 or more wickets in a match. They were Mohammad Ali (11 for 130 vs Southern Punjab, Multan), Abrar Ahmed (11 for 194 vs Southern Punjab, Rawalpindi) and Yasir Shah (10 for 162 vs Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Multan).

Apart from the final and due to a combination of bad weather and placid tracks, only nine matches out of 30 league matches produced results with Northern and Sindh winning three matches each, fourth-placed Balochistan winning twice and defending champions Khyber Pakhtunkhwa winning once to finish at the bottom. The two Punjab sides – Central and Southern – remained winless but still finished third and fifth, respectively.

Mohammad Huraira
1024
Leading run-scorer

Abrar Ahmed
43
Leading wicket-taker

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	SR	100	50
Mohammad Huraira	Northern	11	18	1024	66.45	4	2
Abdullah Shafique	Central Punjab	9	14	867	61.01	3	4
Usman Salahuddin	Southern Punjab	9	16	862	48.43	4	3

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Abrar Ahmed	Sindh	7	43	6-61	44.23	2.98
Aamir Jamal	Northern	9	31	8-120	46.61	3.82
Mubasir Khan	Northern	11	31	5-115	60.13	3.09

PAKISTAN CUP 2022-23 (33 LIST-A MATCHES)

Central Punjab denied Balochistan the opportunity to successfully defend the Pakistan Cup one-day tournament title when they won the final by 50 runs at the State Bank Sports Complex in Karachi.

Central Punjab had dominated the six-team tournament played on double-league format from 10 December 2022 to 2 January 2023 by winning seven league matches and then brushing aside fourth-placed Southern Punjab in the first semi-final by 82 runs. Balochistan had finished the league matches on second place with six victories and they had progressed to the title match by defeating third-placed Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by 38 runs in the second semi-final.

In the final Tayyab Tahir top-scored with a 72-ball 71 and opener Ahmed Shehzad scored an 87-ball 61 to help Central Punjab collect 254 all-out in 48.2 overs. Tayyab and Ahmed put on 80 runs for the third wicket after Ahmed and Mohammad Faizan (37) had provided their side a 61-run start. Later in the order, Aamer Yamin (34) and Zafar Gohar (30) made useful contributions to give their bowlers something to defend.

Balochistan's 21-year-old left-arm spinner Mohammad Junaid was the pick of the bowlers with figures of 10-0-56-5.

In turn, Balochistan collapsed from 61 for no wicket to 84 for five before Bismillah Khan (70) and Moammad Junaid (27) held the innings together with a 65-run sixth wicket partnership. But Junaid's departure opened all floodgates as Balochistan lost their last second half of the batting for 55 runs to be skittled out for 204 in 42.3 overs.

Ali Shafique took three for 17, Mohammad Ali snapped up two for 31 and Zafar Gohar claimed two for 32.

Tayyab Tahir was named as the player of the final and best batter of the tournament, Amad Butt of Balochistan was adjudged player of the tournament, Usama Mir of Central Punjab was declared best bowler of the tournament and Haseebullah of Balochistan walked away with the best wicketkeeper of the tournament trophy.

In the first semi-final, half-centuries by Tayyab Tahir (58) and Bilawal Bhatti (51 not out) helped Central Punjab score 231 in 49.2 overs. Usama Mir then returned figures of 5.1-1-23-5 to spin out Southern Punjab for 149 in 32.1 overs with Arafat Minhas top-scoring with 39.

In the second semi-final, No.10 batter Kashif Bhatti scored 69 not out and No.7 batter Bismillah Khan scored 65 to help Balochistan post 302 for eight after they were reeling at 138 for six. In turn, Amad Butt claimed four for 52 and, Khurram Shahzad and Mohammad Junaid scooped two wickets each to dismiss Khyber Pakhtunkhwa for 264 in 47.1 overs. Adil Amin was Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's top-scorer with 76, while Mohammad Haris scored 63 and Sahibzada Farhan contributed 57.

Tayyab Tahir was tournament's top-scorer with 573 runs at an average of 47.75. He was followed by Haseebullah (Balochistan, 551 runs), Saim Ayub (Sindh, 461 runs), Kamran Ghulam (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 435 runs) and Imran Butt (Balochistan, 426 runs).

Usama Mir topped the bowlers chart with 28 wickets at an average of 17.96. He was followed by Ihsanullah (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 25 wickets), Mohammad Junaid (Balochistan, 23 wickets) and, Kashif Bhatti and Amad Butt (both Balochistan, 19 wickets each).

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	SR	100	50
Tayyab Tahir	Central Punjab	12	12	573	99.65	1	5
Haseebullah	Balochistan	12	12	551	89.59	2	3
Saim Ayub	Sindh	10	10	461	107.21	2	2

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Usama Mir	Central Punjab	11	28	5-23	20.00	5.39
Ihsanullah	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	11	25	5-49	18.20	6.58
Mohammad Junaid	Balochistan	11	23	5-56	26.87	5.27

Tayyab Tahir
573
Leading run-scorer

Usama Mir
28
Leading wicket-taker

CRICKET ASSOCIATIONS CHALLENGE 2022-23 (30 ONE-DAY MATCHES)

Central Punjab completed a hat-trick of second-XI event titles when they added the Cricket Associations Challenge (50-over) trophy to their collection. Central Punjab had previously won the Cricket Associations T20 and four-day non first-class Cricket Associations Championship.

Central Punjab won nine out of 10 matches, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa finished second with seven wins. Southern Punjab (five wins), Sindh (four wins), Northern (three wins) and Balochistan (two wins) were the other sides that featured in the competition in Karachi from 10-29 December.

Central Punjab suffered their only loss in the second match when they lost to Northern by eight wickets. However, they avenged for the defeat in the seventh match when they outplayed Northern by seven wickets. Central Punjab's victories were against Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (both by five wickets), Sindh (by 15 runs and one-run), Southern Punjab (by 134 runs and 64 runs) and Balochistan (two wickets and 83 runs).

Yousuf Babar of Southern Punjab was the most successful batter of the tournament with 454 runs with two centuries and a half-century. He was followed by Maaz Sadaqat (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 423 runs), Abid Ali (Central Punjab, 423 runs), Waqar Hussain (Southern Punjab, 402 runs) and Muhammad Azeem Ghumman (Balochistan, 375 runs).

18-year-old left-arm spinner Ali Asfand of Central Punjab took the bowling honours when he captured 26 wickets with six for 52 as his best figures. Jalat Khan (Balochistan, 21 wickets), Zeeshan Ahmed (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 19 wickets) and Faisal Akram (Southern Punjab, 15 wickets) were the other successful bowlers.

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	SR	100	50
Yousuf Babar	Southern Punjab	9	9	454	78.28	2	1
Abid Ali	Central Punjab	10	10	423	86.33	3	0
Maaz Sadaqat	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10	10	423	80.11	0	4

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Ali Asfand	Central Punjab	10	26	6-52	18.15	4.45
Jalat Khan	Balochistan	10	21	4-22	27.19	3.66
Zeeshan Ahmad	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa	10	19	3-15	26.05	4.48

2022-23 DOMESTIC SEASON AT A GLANCE

TOURNAMENT	DATE	FORMAT	TEAMS	MATCHES	WINNER
National U13 Cup 2021-22	27 Jan-6 Feb 2022	One-Day	6	16	U13s
National U16 Cup 2021-22	27 Jan-7 Feb 2022	One-Day	12	31	Whites U16s
Pakistan Cup 2021-22	2 Mar-1 Apr 2022	List A	6	33	
National U19 Cup 2022-23	28 Jun-8 Jul 2022	One-Day	12	31	Whites U19s
National U19 Championship 2022-23	30 Jul-28 Aug 2022	Three-Day	12	31	Blues U19s
National T20 2022-23	30 Aug-19 Sep 2022	T20	6	33	
Cricket Associations T20 2022-23	6-23 Sep 2022	T20	6	30	
Cricket Associations Championship 2022-23	27 Sep-23 Nov 2022	Four-Day	6	30	
Quaid-e-Azam Trophy 2022-23	27 Sep-30 Nov 2022	First-Class	6	31	
Pakistan Junior League 2022	6-21 Oct 2022	T20	6	19	
Pakistan Cup 2022-23	10 Dec 2022-2 Jan 2023	List A	6	33	
Cricket Associations Challenge 2022-23	10-29 Dec 2022	One-Day	6	30	
Inter Region U16 One Day Tournament 2022-23	12 Mar-5 May 2023	One-Day	16	39	FATA Region U16s
Inter Region U13 One Day Tournament 2022-23	12 Mar-5 May 2023	One-Day	16	39	Peshawar Region U13s
Regional Inter District U19 Tournament 2022-23	15 Jun- 27 Jun 2023	One-Day	104	253	-

WOMEN'S
DOMESTIC CRICKET

WOMEN'S U19 T20 TOURNAMENT 2022 (18 T20S)

The Women's U19 T20 Tournament was held from 13 till 22 August in 2022 and was contested by six regional teams – Balochistan, Central Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Northern, Sindh and Southern Punjab. The venue of the event was the serene and picturesque Lahore Country Club in Muridke while one match was played at Rana Naved-ul-Hasan Academy in Sheikhupura. The 10-day round-robin tournament offered a launching pad for 84 players while around 15 players were on standby.

The main idea for the first of its kind women's T20 U19 national event was to not only form the national U19 team for the inaugural ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup but to also broaden the base of women's cricket in the country.

The teams were selected after countrywide open trials at the six regions and a significant interest was seen in the girls from all factions. The trials were followed by practice games among the selected players across the PCB-run women's regional academies.

In the opening match of the competition, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were shot out for a mere 45 with four batters run out. None of the batters could reach double figures as extras were the top-scorer with 12. For Central Punjab, Quraat-ul-Ain (2-7) and Haleema Dar (2-10) shared the spoils. The chase of a small target proved a walk in the park for Central Punjab as Eyman Fatima (27) and Shawaal Zulfiqar (14) romped home without being separated in seven overs for a ten-wicket win. Sindh also had the same cakewalk over Northern as they kept their opponents down to 44-6 in 20 overs. Dina Razvi was the pick of the bowlers with three for four. Sindh knocked off the target in just 3.3 overs with Syeda Aroob Shah (20*) and Aliza Sabir (19*) playing fluently and without being separated.

Day two saw wins for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh and Central Punjab. Balochistan slumped to a mere 69 in 18.4 overs with KP's Zaib-un-Nisa Niaz taking three for nine and Jalwa Anwar two for 12. Azra Habibullah top-scored with 20 while 27 extras contributed to the total. KP took 12.5 overs and lost just one wicket in overhauling the target. Tehzeeb Shah was the star in the chase with 39 not out.

Sindh made it two in two with another easy ten-wicket victory over Southern Punjab. Sindh's trio of Syeda Aroob Shah (two for six), Tooba Khan (two for seven) and Anoosha Nasir (two for 12) devastated their opponents with accurate and potent bowling. It took Sindh just 17 deliveries to knock off the target of 40, without losing a wicket. Aroob Shah showed her all-round skills by smashing an unbeaten 31 off 15 deliveries, carting seven boundaries. Central Punjab piled up the highest total of the tournament, 221 for two in their 20 overs, against a hapless Northern bowling attack. Warda Yousuf (64 not out), Haleema Dar (53) and Shawaal Zulfiqar (47) were not only fluent but also aggressive. Northern were shot out for 49 in 17.2 overs with Rida Aslam (two for three), Haleema (two for five) and Quratulain (2-6) combining in destruction.

August 16 saw all three matches: KP vs Southern Punjab, Central Punjab vs Sindh and Balochistan vs Northern washed out due to rain. It was the same fate for three matches on August 17: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa vs Northern, Central Punjab vs Southern Punjab and Sindh vs Balochistan were also abandoned due to rain.

Action finally resumed on August 19 with wins for Sindh, Central Punjab and Southern Punjab. Sindh defeated Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by 32 runs by managing to defend the target of 98 and bowling out the opposition for 65 in 17.3 overs. Aroob was the pick of the bowlers by grabbing the only five-wicket haul of the tournament, returning figures of 5-6 in her four overs. Central Punjab knocked off Balochistan by ten wickets in another one-sided win. Rida Aslam (3-5) and Quratulain (two for four) combined to dislodge Balochistan for 28 in 18.4 overs. It required 13 balls for Central Punjab to achieve the target without losing any wicket. Southern Punjab beat Northern by 19 runs. Northern replied with 107 for two in 20 overs to Southern Punjab's 126 for seven.

Central Punjab with eight points and an impressive net run-rate of 8.28 topped the table while Sindh also had eight points but an inferior net run-rate of 4.44. Southern Punjab with six and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa with four points were the other teams to qualify for the semis.

The two semi-finals were played on August 20, with Sindh defeating Southern Punjab by six wickets and Central Punjab outsmarting Khyber Pakhtunkhwa by 102 runs. Central Punjab, who scored 170 for three, owed their win to a brilliant 86 not out by opener Shawaal Zulfiqar -- the highest score of the tournament. She hit 11 boundaries during her 64-ball knock. Eyman Fatima scored 30. Against some tight bowling, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa surrendered to 68 all out with all but two balls of their quota consumed. Noor Fatima (three for eight) and Laiba Nasir (three for 10) were the chief destroyers for Central Punjab. Sindh's victory in the other semi-final against Southern Punjab centered on Aroob Shah's solid 39-ball 64 not out featuring seven boundaries and three sixes to ace her side's chase of the 89-run target in 17.3 overs.

Sindh and Central Punjab contested the final on August 22. It was a well-fought finale to the event as Central Punjab clinched a last-over victory by seven wickets. Sindh managed 108 for eight in their 20 overs with Aroob Shah hitting 28-ball 45 with eight boundaries. Eyman Fatima anchored the chase with a flourishing 66-ball 70, smoking two sixes and 12 boundaries to give no respite and space to opponents.

Shawaal Zulfiqar (172), Eyman Fatima (171) and Aroob Shah (160) were the top run-getters of the tournament. Aroob Shah (nine), Quratulain (nine), Rida Aslam (seven) and Laiba Nasir (six) were star performers in the bowling department. Zamina Tahir of Central Punjab was the best wicketkeeper.

Women's U19 T20The inaugural Women's U19 T20 tournament not only helped Pakistan set up a good and strong team for the World Cup but also set a proper pathway for the senior women's team. The pool of senior team has risen from 35-40 players to more than 70 this year.

Shawaal Zulfiqar

172

Leading run-scorer

Syeda Aroob Shah

09

Leading wicket-taker

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Shawaal Zulfiqar	Central Punjab Women Under-19s	5	172	86	86	137.6	0/1
Eyman Fatima	Central Punjab Women Under-19s	5	171	70	85.5	119.58	0/1
Syeda Aroob Shah	Sindh Women Under-19s	5	160	64	80	179.78	0/1

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Syeda Aroob Shah	Sindh Women Under-19s	5	9	5-6	2.11	11.33	1.12
Quratulain	Central Punjab Women Under-19s	5	9	2-4	4.22	11.33	2.24
Rida Aslam	Central Punjab Women Under-19s	5	7	3-5	7.86	12.29	3.84

T20 WOMEN'S CRICKET TOURNAMENT PHASE I (6 T20S)

To continue to provide opportunities for women cricketers across all rungs of their careers, the Pakistan Cricket Board organised T20 tournaments for senior and U19 women cricketers.

The event was played in two phases. The first phase was competed by three teams and ran from November 26 to December 2, 2022. The two-staged tournament helped in checking the skills of the players in the format so exciting and popular due to its brevity and lusty hitting. After the inaugural National Women's U19 tournament, this two-phased event further helped coaches and selection committee to select squads for the inaugural ICC U19 Women's World Cup and ICC T20 Women's World Cup – both events that took place in South Africa in 2023.

With an eye on making players and the national team competitive for international events, a number of incentives were introduced. The prize money of the event was PKR1million while the runners-up were awarded with half a million PKR. The individual awards were player of the tournament -- worth PKR 50,000 -- while each player of the match received PKR 20,000.

The first phase had three teams namely Conquerors, Invincibles and Stars. While the Conquerors consisted of U19 players the Invincibles and Stars consisted of emerging players. All teams played four matches each on a double-league basis.

The event began with a sensational three-run win for Stars who defended a 118-run target against Invincibles. They posted 117 for seven in 20 overs with 28 from Zunaira Shah, 27 from Huraina Sajjad and 23 by Ayesha Bilal. Some tight bowling kept Invincibles at bay as they fell short by three runs in the last over when they lost Fatima Shah to a run out. The 114 for eight set around a 44-ball 43 by Gulrukh and Fatima Khan's 14-ball 17 not out. Invincibles again fell short in the second match when they failed to chase a target of 102 from Conquerors. The winning team were bowled out for 101 in 15.4 overs with Dua Majid taking three for 17. Aima Saleem (37), Gulrukh (22) and Dua Majid (19 not out) fought hard but Invincibles were conquered as they managed 95 for six in their 20 overs.

Match three saw Stars notching a hard-fought one-wicket victory against Conquerors. The losing team managed 94 for six with the bulk of runs coming from Shawaal Zulfiqar who scored a 42-ball 43. Aroob Shah kept a tight leash with three for eight in her four overs but could not stop Stars from crossing the line with seven balls to spare and a wicket in hand. Aleena Shah (18) and at the end Humna Bilal (eight not out) sealed the chase.

Stars made it three in three when they defeated Invincibles by nine wickets in a one-sided affair. Invincibles had put up a decent 112 for three in their 20 overs with a bright 44 not out from Gulrukh and 38 from Yusra Amir. That wasn't enough as Stars were guided towards a successful chase by Khadija Chishti who scored a brilliant undefeated 62-ball 54.

Stars remained undefeated in the first phase when they registered a four-wicket win against Conquerors. Prolific opener Shawaal Zulfiqar hit an unconquered 69-ball 62 with six boundaries to lead her team to 123 for three in 20 overs. Stars were once again up to the target as they chased it down in 18.5 overs for six wickets. Huraina Sajjad led the way with a 45-ball 42 not out and despite losing wickets at the other end kept the chase on track.

Conquerors had the better of Invincibles in the last match of the Phase I. Their 138 for four were fashioned around an attractive 52-ball 55 by Shawaal Zulfiqar who made the event her own with a consistent run. Invincibles kept losing wickets, mainly to Aroob Shah whose cunning leg-breaks proved too much for them. Aroob took 5-21 in her three overs as Invincibles managed 134 for nine.

Shawaal Zulfiqar of Conquerors finished as the top batter of Phase I with 161 runs from four innings and had a strike rate of 95.83. Her teammate Aroob was the most successful bowler with nine wickets and an economy rate of 5.40.

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Shawaal Zulfiqar	Conquerors	4	161	62	80.5	95.83	0/2
Gulrukh	Invincibles	4	133	44	44.33	96.38	0/0
Huraina Sajjad	Stars	4	101	42	50.5	86.32	0/0

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Syeda Aroob Shah	Conquerors	4	9	5-21	9.00	10.00	5.40
Anoosha Nasir	Conquerors	4	5	2-21	18.60	17.80	6.27
Dua Majid	Invincibles	3	4	3-17	14.25	14.25	6.00

T20 WOMEN'S CRICKET TOURNAMENT 2022 (PHASE II) (7 T20S)

The phase II of the T20 tournament featured four sides and was a carry forward with the top performers of phase I given an opportunity to feature in one of the four sides while all the elite national cricketers also played. This time the teams were Blasters, Challengers, Dynamites and Strikers. The venues were Lahore Gymkhana and LCCA Ground. The event was played on a single-league basis, where two matches were played daily on 5, 6 and 7 December. The final of the event, live-streamed on YouTube, was played at the headquarters, Lahore's Gaddafi Stadium on 9 December.

The focus of the tournament was to give ideal preparations for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa.

At the LCCA Ground, Blasters downed Dynamites by five runs in an exciting opening game of the tournament. Batting first, Blasters were guided to 136 for seven in their 20 overs by Bismah Maroof's 48-ball 60 not out. Nahida Khan helped Dynamites to 131 for three with a 60-ball 70 with a six and eight boundaries, but despite great support from Nida Dar, who scored a 32-ball 38, the Dynamites fell short by five runs.

At Lahore Gymkhana, Challengers outlasted Strikers by a mere one run in a last-over finish. Challengers scored 115 for eight with most of the batters getting good starts but not going on to score big. Fatima Khan took three for 16. Natalia Parvaiz (28) and Syeda Aroob Shah (26 not out) kept their team on course for a successful chase but Challengers kept them on a tight leash to win the match.

Dynamites staged a comeback in their second match by beating Challengers by 12 runs. Dynamites were once again bolstered by Nahida Khan, whose 36-ball 51 had seven boundaries while Gull Feroza scored a run-a-ball 33. The duo took the total to 137-8. For Challengers, Anoosha Nasir fetched four for 24 in an incisive four-over spell. Dua Majid (41), Omaima Sohail (28) and Aliya Riaz (26) led the run chase but they could manage 125 for five.

Strikers overpowered Blasters by eight wickets in their second outing at Lahore Gymkhana. Batting first, Blasters made 141 for eight with Shawaal Zulfiqar (36), Fatima Sana (34 not out) and Ayesha Naseem (30) contributing to the total. But Strikers were up to the task as they overhauled the target for the loss of just two wickets in 17.5 overs. Iram Javed hit four sixes in her robust 33-ball 54 not out and guided her team to victory. Also among runs were Javeria Rauf (43) and Muneeba Ali (38).

Dynamites made it two wins out of three as they trounced Strikers by 17 runs. The 146 for five total by Dynamites was fashioned around a top 58-ball 74 by Gull Feroza whose knock was studded with ten boundaries. Nida Dar gave the innings the much needed impetus with a whirlwind 19-ball 38 not out punched with four boundaries and a six. It proved a defendable total as Strikers managed 129 for six in their 20 overs with a top score from Kaynat Hafeez who made 34. The win guided Dynamites to the final where they were joined by Blasters.

Blasters made their way to the final with an emphatic 17-run win over Challengers at Lahore Gymkhana. Bismah Maroof with 67 and Ayesha Naseem's 65 led Blasters to 154-5. Bismah's 46-ball knock had five sixes and nine boundaries while Ayesha hit four boundaries off 41 balls. Challengers were on their way to chasing the target with Omaima Sohail hitting a 47-ball 50 and Aliya Riaz a 34-ball 43 with four boundaries and a six. The pair added 91 for the third wicket but once Fatima Sana removed Omaima, the tail was mopped up. Fatima took four for 21 to play a decisive role in her team's victory.

The final of Phase II was played at the Gaddafi stadium in Lahore. Blasters knocked 145 for three in their 20 overs with a 22-ball 45 not out by Bismah Maroof and 45-ball 49 by Sidra Amin. Nida Dar took two for 23. Nida also shone with the bat with 37 not out off 22 balls with a six and four boundaries. Nahida Khan stroked a run-a-ball 34 and Sidra Nawaz scored 27 but their team managed 138 for eight and fell short. Maham Manzoor fetched four for 17 to keep brakes and not allow Dynamites to detonate.

The ever-reliable Bismah Maroof topped the run chart with 192 in four matches, most notably with a strike rate of 137.14 and won the player of the tournament award. Nahida Khan (161), Ayesha Naseem (115), Gull Feroza (114) and Nida Dar (113) were other notable run getters. Fatima Sana was the best bowler with six wickets.

Incentive-wise the tournament continued to mark a new era in Pakistan cricket with the top performer of every match receiving PKR20,000 as in the first phase, while the player of the tournament bagged PKR50,000. The winning team received PKR 1 million, while the runner-up were awarded PKR 0.5 million.

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Sidra Amin	PCB Dynamites	5	269	95	67.25	85.4	0/2
Javeria Khan	PCB Challengers	5	161	83	32.2	60.07	0/1
Javeria Rauf	PCB Challengers	5	158	82	31.6	53.92	0/1

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Ghulam Fatima	PCB Dynamites	5	12	4-17	7.42	18.50	2.41
Nashra Sundhu	PCB Dynamites	5	11	4-5	8.55	19.55	2.62
Noreen Yaqub	PCB Challengers	5	8	3-21	16.88	23.38	4.33

WOMEN'S LEAGUE EXHIBITION MATCHES 2023 (3 T20S)

The three women's league exhibition matches marked a new era for women's cricket in Pakistan as the local talent shared dressing rooms and playing fields with a host of foreign stars. The matches took place at the Pindi Cricket Stadium on 8, 10 and 11 March. It was a sight to behold as school and college girls chanted songs supporting their favourite players and teams. It created an atmosphere and the occasion was widely described as a "women's cricket festival".

England's star cricketer Danni Wyatt, one of the 11 foreign players drafted in for the event, summed up the objectives of the three exhibition matches played on the sidelines of the HBL Pakistan Super League as a "great opportunity for younger players in Pakistan to share dressing rooms with the likes of Tammy Beaumont and myself, and all the other overseas players for sharing different experiences".

Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) had been planning concrete and extensive steps for the promotion of women's cricket in the country. The exhibition matches, a standalone project, is the soft launch for the women's league planned for later this year.

Former captain Bismah Maroof praised PCB's effort to give a launchpad to the cricketers of Pakistan. Besides the young and aspirant cricketers, it was also a wonderful opportunity for Bismah and Nida Dar who led the two teams.

The women's exhibition games featured a roster of 36 cricketers, divided into two teams – Super Women and Amazons. The playing XIs included a maximum of four and minimum of three foreign players and a minimum of one emerging or U19 player. Bismah had the opportunity to lead three famous England players - Danni Wyatt, Maia Bouchier and Tammy Beaumont - alongside Australia's Tess Flintoff and Ireland captain Laura Delany. Dar got the opportunity to lead Sri Lankan captain Chamari Athapaththu, England batter Lauren Winfield-Hill, fast bowler Jahanara Alam from Bangladesh, South Africa's Laura Wolvaardt and her replacement Suné Luus, and Lea Tahuhu of New Zealand.

The exhibition matches also got the recognition from skipper of Pakistan's men's team Babar Azam who urged the fans to support the occasion. "This is a huge opportunity for our women cricketers, the way they have been promoted and with the involvement of foreign players in these matches, it will provide a massive learning experience to our young women players. This will also provide a chance to our local players to learn from the foreign players and understand their game; get to know more about their experience related to the game and how they play this game."

It was so befitting that the opening game coincided with International Women's Day while the second exhibition match was marked as creating awareness about breast cancer in partnership with Pink Ribbon Pakistan. The third game was held to promote women's empowerment through education in collaboration with CIRCLE Women.

Super Women led the way with an inspiring eight-wicket win over Amazons to mark the opening match. Batting first, Amazon scored 132 for nine in their 20 overs with the local girl Aliya Riaz starring with 38 off 35 balls with a six and three boundaries. Tammy Beaumont (24) and Danni Wyatt (22) also contributed to the total. Super Women captain Nida Dar was the pick of the bowlers with three for 25. Laura Wolvaardt proved why she is regarded as one of the best batters in the world by knocking a 36-ball 53 not out with a six and six boundaries. Muneeba Ali played a support role with 33 as they overhauled the target in 15.5 overs.

The series became exciting as Amazons hit back by taking the second game by a comprehensive 41-run margin. Danni Wyatt proved her credentials by hitting a rapid-fire 45-ball 97, plundering 17 boundaries and three sixes. She was given brilliant company by Bismah Maroof who hit a 51-ball 73 not out studded with 11 boundaries. Lauren Winfield-Hill countered her countrywoman with a blistering 42-ball 80 spiced with 11 boundaries and three sixes and Iram Javed smashed two sixes in her 28 but that was not enough as Super Women finished with 163 for nine in response to Amazons' 204 for three. Left-arm spinner Anam Amin was instrumental in blocking Super Women's charge with four for 17 in her four overs.

That set up an intriguing final game on March 11. Danni Wyatt and Bismah Maroof were again star performers by scoring the bulk of runs in Amazons' 218 for six. Bismah hit a 32-ball 51 not out while Wyatt smashed 20-ball 43 with seven boundaries and two glorious sixes to enthrall a handsome crowd. Sri Lankan veteran Chamari Athapaththu blasted a magnificent 60-ball 107 not out but only Iram Javed lent some support with 35. That was not enough as Super Women managed 185 for eight in their 20 overs. Fatima Sana (three for 34) and Wyatt (two for 43) put the brakes on their opponents' charge to take the series 2-1.

Danni Wyatt was the player of the series-deciding match for her all-round performance. Wyatt summed up her feeling on participating in the matches on her first trip to Pakistan: "Hopefully, we inspire and entertain these young children and young girls, who look up to us, to play cricket and take up the sport. We have hopefully helped the game's growth in this country."

PCB head of women's cricket Tania Mallick summed up the advantages of the exhibition matches. "These exhibition matches provided exposure to our players to exhibit their talent and play at their best. When you play a league with foreign players it provides the local players an opportunity to know about their skill level and it also motivates the players to improve their game.

"This will go a long way to empower our women, not only as cricketers but will provide them a platform and with an opportunity other than playing cricket."

Anam Amin
06
Leading wicket-taker

Danni Wyatt
161
Leading run-scorer

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Danni Wyatt	Amazons	3	161	97	53.67	193.98	0/1
Chamari Athapaththu	Super Women	3	147	107	73.5	163.33	1/0
Bismah Maroof	Amazons	3	125	73	125	145.35	0/2

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Anam Amin	Amazons	3	6	4-17	13.17	10.00	7.90
Tuba Hassan	Super Women	3	5	2-18	17.40	13.20	7.91
Fatima Sana	Amazons	3	5	3-34	17.60	12.00	8.80

PAKISTAN CUP WOMEN'S CRICKET TOURNAMENT

(6 T20S IN PHASE-I & 7 45-OVER MATCHES IN PHASE-II)

Pakistan Cricket Board has been striving to lift the standard of women's cricket in the country and in their endeavours have not only improved the standard of facilities for them but have also provided them with more events in order to get better results. In the coming season, Pakistan women will play 15 ODIs, which are part of the ongoing ICC Women's Championship, besides 17 T20Is.

With the return of head coach Mark Coles, the city of Karachi was buzzing with activities in two phases.

To give Pakistan Emerging team a tune-up for the Emerging Asia Cup (scheduled for Hong Kong), the Fatima Sana-led team played T20 matches on round-robin basis in the first phase. These six T20 matches were played from 19 to 21 May at Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre Oval Ground and State Bank Ground. The emerging team played under the banner of Strikers and gained good experience.

The Strikers made the most of the opportunity by winning all three matches, defeating Challengers (42 runs), Blasters (nine wickets) and Dynamites (three runs).

Against the Challengers, Shawaal Zulfiqar scored 74 off 52 balls (12 fours) and all-rounder Natalia Pervaiz hit 39 off 29 to lift Strikers to 171 for six before Anoosha Nasir's four for 19 and Tuba Hassan's two for 20 limited Sadia Iqbal-led side to 129. In the match against Blasters, skippered by Muneeba Ali, Strikers chased down the 119-run target by losing one wicket after Eyman Fatima smashed 72 not out off 49 balls (nine fours and three sixes) and Sadaf Shamas hit 40 not out off 26 balls (six fours and a six) in a 104-run stand. In a low-score affair against the Dynamites at the State Bank Ground, Sidra Amin's Dynamites was limited to 89 after being set a 93-run target. For the Strikers, Umm-e-Hani took three wickets for 18 and Syeda Aroob Shah, Pakistan's captain in the inaugural ICC Women's U19 T20 World Cup earlier in the year, took two wickets for 17.

Then teams were re-jigged to play three-team one-day matches on double round-robin basis for the Pakistan Cup. All the players showed remarkable resilience and energy levels in the sweltering heat, showing full commitment to the task given by their team management. Former Pakistan star Nahida Khan added another feather in her cap by serving as assistant coach of Blasters. This will inspire more and more former players to take up the coaching job in future.

The teams were named Blasters, Dynamites and Challengers as the event started on 23 May. The tournament was played on double round robin basis and the two teams finishing on top – Challengers and Dynamites – played the final at State Bank ground on 4 June. Both teams had won a match each in the first round so they were expected to provide a close contest.

But the final turned out to be a one-sided affair. Riding on a maiden hundred by Sidra Nawaz, Dynamites put up a solid 211-6 in their 45 overs. Sidra Amin, who was the leading scorer in the tournament, scored 38. The Challengers were never in the hunt for the chase as they were bundled out for a mere 79 in 28.5 overs. Spinners Nashra Sundhu with 4-5 and Ghulam Fatima 3-5 rocked the opponents.

PCB continued its policy of incentivising top-performers by giving a cash prize of PKR one million to the winners while the runners-up received PKR500,000. Sidra Amin won the Player of the tournament award, pocketing PKR50,000. Each player of the match received PKR 20,000.

TOP 3 BATTERS (PHASE I)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Bismah Maroof	PCB Dynamites	3	139	72	139	129.91	0/2
Javeria Rauf	PCB Challengers	3	134	71	44.67	128.85	0/1
Javeria Khan	PCB Challengers	3	109	55	36.33	110.1	0/1

TOP 3 BOWLERS (PHASE I)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Saima Malik	PCB Challengers	3	6	5-9	9.00	11.00	4.91
Ghulam Fatima	PCB Dynamites	3	6	3-22	10.33	12.00	5.17
Anoosha Nasir	PCB Strikers	3	5	4-19	5.40	9.60	3.38

TOP 3 BATTERS (PHASE II)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100/50
Sidra Amin	PCB Dynamites	5	269	95	67.25	85.4	0/2
Javeria Khan	PCB Challengers	5	161	83	32.2	60.07	0/1
Javeria Rauf	PCB Challengers	5	158	82	31.6	53.92	0/1

TOP 3 BOWLERS (PHASE II)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	SR	ECON
Ghulam Fatima	PCB Dynamites	5	12	4-17	7.42	18.50	2.41
Nashra Sundhu	PCB Dynamites	5	11	4-5	8.55	19.55	2.62
Noreen Yaqub	PCB Challengers	5	8	3-21	16.88	23.38	4.33

PATHWAYS
CRICKET

NATIONAL U13 (16 30-OVER MATCHES) & U16 CUP (31 45-OVER MATCHES) 2022

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa defeated Southern Punjab in both the 30-over National U13 Cup and 45-over National U16 Cup finals, which were held between 27 January and 7 February 2022, respectively. In the U13 final, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa defeated Southern Punjab by two wickets in a low-scoring match at the UBL Sports Complex, while Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites outplayed Southern Punjab Blues by 106 runs at the Multan Cricket Stadium to win the U16 title.

In the U13 final, Southern Punjab were all-out for 147 in 30 overs with opener Mohammad Umar top-scoring with 56 and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa bowlers Zulkifal Zain taking three wickets and Naveed Arbab and Nafees Akhtar snapping up two wickets apiece. In turn, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa achieved the target in 27.5 overs for the loss of eight wickets with Nafees Akhtar scoring 44 not out and Naveed Arbab contributing 26.

In the U16 final, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa posted 255 for nine in 45 overs and then dismissed Southern Punjab Blues for 149 in 38.3 overs. Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Riazullah Khan (78), Afkar Durrani (49) and Mohammd Zubair (40) were the star batters, while their bowlers to shine were Mohammad Haroon (four for 38) and Huzaifa Khan (two for 18).

In the U13 tournament, six City Cricket Association sides took part with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa finishing on top of the table with five straight wins and Southern Punjab claiming second position with four wins. Central Punjab, Northern and Sindh won two matches each, while Balochistan remained winless.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Akbar Ali was the leading run-getter with 208 runs in six matches, followed by Mohammad Azan (Sindh, 203 runs) and Mohammad Umar (Southern Punjab, 198 runs). With 13 wickets, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Junaid Khan Khalil was the most successful bowler, followed by Akbar Ali (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 11 wickets), Mohammad Sohaib (Northern, 11 wickets), Taj Mohammad (Central Punjab, 10 wickets) and Abdul Rehman (Southern Punjab, 10 wickets).

In the U16 tournament, each Cricket Association fielded two sides with the Whites placed in Pool A and the Blues in Pool B.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites won all five matches to qualify for the final from Pool A, followed by Southern Punjab Whites (four wins), Central Punjab (three wins), Northern (two wins), Sindh (one win) and Balochistan (winless). In Pool B, Southern Punjab Blues and Northern finished on top with four wins each but Punjab progressed to the final on better net run-rate. Central Punjab Blues won three matches, Sindh Blues and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Blues recorded two wins each and Balochistan remained winless.

Riazullah Khan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was the top-scorer of the tournament with 419 runs from five matches, followed by Mohammad Tayyab Arif (Central Punjab Whites, 414 runs) and Ali Hasnain Badshah (Southern Punjab Whites, 322). Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites' Mohammad Haroon topped the bowling charts with 17 wickets, followed by Mohammad Nabeel (Northern Blues, 13 wickets) and Adil Waheed (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites, 13 wickets).

TOP 3 BATTERS IN NATIONAL U13 CUP

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	AVG	100	50
Akbar Ali	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Under-13s	6	6	208	34.67	0	2
Mohammad Azan	Sindh Under-13s	5	5	203	67.67	0	2
Mohammad Umar	Southern Punjab Under-13s	6	6	198	39.6	0	2

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN NATIONAL U13 CUP

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Junaid Khan Khalil	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Under-13s	5	13	4-15	11.08	4.29
Akbar Ali	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Under-13s	6	11	3-8	13.55	4.35
Mohammad Sohaib	Northern Under-13s	5	11	5-12	12.09	5.28

TOP 3 BATTERS IN NATIONAL U16 CUP

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	AVG	100	50
Riazullah Khan	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites Under 16s	6	6	419	83.8	1	4
Mohammad Tayyab Arif	Central Punjab Whites Under 16s	5	5	414	82.8	1	3
Ali Hasnain Badshah	Southern Punjab Whites Under 16s	5	5	322	107.33	1	2

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN NATIONAL U16 CUP

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Mohammad Haroon	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites Under 16s	6	17	4-30	17.41	4.52
Mohammad Nabeel	Northern Blues Under 16s	5	13	3-16	19.38	3.38
Adil Waheed	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites Under 16s	6	13	4-36	23.54	3.98

NATIONAL U19 CUP (31 50-OVER MATCHES) & CHAMPIONSHIP (31 THREE-DAY MATCHES) 2022

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites won the 50-over National U19 Cup and Sindh Blues clinched the three-day National U19 Championship, which were held from 28 June to 8 July and 30 July to 28 August, respectively. Each of the six Cricket Associations fielded two sides each which were equally divided in two groups with the table-toppers progressing to the final.

In the National U19 Cup final, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites defeated Central Punjab Blues by five wickets. Central Punjab's Azan Awais scored 100 off 125 balls to lift his side to 214 for eight at the Rana Naved Ul Hasan Cricket Academy in Sheikhupura, with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa's Abbas Ali taking three for 34 and Jawad Ali snapped up two for 46. In turn, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa achieved the target of 215 runs for the loss of five wickets in 46.5 overs. Shahzaib Khan top-scored with 73, while Sherdil Khan scored 44 not out. For Central Punjab, Mohammad Zeeshan and Mohammad Maooz took two wickets each.

In the National U19 Championship final, Sindh Blues defeated sister team Sindh Whites by 288 runs at the UBL Sports Complex. Sindh Blues scored 363 and 278 runs, while Sindh Whites managed 136 and 217. For Blues, Habibullah scored 130 in the first innings and Wahaj Riaz followed up his 72 with 116, while Afnan Khan (3/21 & 3/43), Naveed Ahmed Khan (3/22 & 3/50) and Aftab Ibrahim (2/45 & 2/49) were the bowlers to shine for their side. For the Whites, Syed Tayyab Hussain took five for 85 and three for 69 for match figure of eight for 154, while Haseeb-ur-Rehman bagged four for 107 and Fahad Amin claimed two for 48 in the second innings.

On the National U19 Cup Points Table, Central Punjab Blues had finished ahead of Sindh Blues, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Blues, Balochistan Blues, Northern Blues and Southern Punjab Blues in Pool A with four wins. In contrast, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites won all their five Pool B matches against Southern Punjab Whites, Central Punjab Whites, Sindh Whites, Northern Whites and Balochistan Whites.

Ali Ishaq of Sindh Whites was the leading run-getter with 316 runs with two centuries. He was followed by Saad Baig of Sindh Blues (299), Obaid Shahid of Central Punjab Blues (277), Shahzaib Khan of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites (269) and Azan Awais of Central Punjab Blues (267). Amongst the bowlers, Aftab Ibrahim of Sindh Blues topped the table with 13 wickets, followed by Ali Asfand (Central Punjab Blues, 11 wickets) and Arham Nawab (Central Punjab Blues), Abbas Ali (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites) and Saqlain Nawaz (Sindh Whites) (all 10 wickets).

Habibullah of Sindh Blues topped the batting table with 448 runs, followed by Mohammad Farooq (Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites, 405), Wahaj Riaz (Sindh Blues, 345), Basit Ali (Balochistan Blues, 323) and Azan Awais (Central Punjab Blues, 312). Sindh Whites' Haseeb-ur-Rehman was the most successful bowler with 38 wickets, followed by Afnan Khan (Sindh Blues, 22 wickets), Naveed Ahmed Khan (Sindh Blues, 22 wickets), Abdul Basit (Northern Whites, 20 wickets), Mohammad Nabeel (Northern Whites, 19 wickets) and Ziaullah (Sindh Blues, 19 wickets).

On the National U19 Championship Points Tables, Sindh Blues finished on top of Pool A with two wins. Central Punjab Blues, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Blues and Southern Punjab Blues conjured up a win each, while Northern Blues and Balochistan Blues remained winless. In Group B, Sindh Whites finished on top, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Whites, Northern Whites, Central Punjab Whites, Southern Punjab Whites and Balochistan Whites.

TOP 3 BATTERS IN NATIONAL U19 CUP

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	AVG	100	50
Ali Ishaq	Sindh Whites Under 19s	5	4	316	105.33	2	0
Saad Baig	Sindh Blues Under 19s	4	4	299	99.67	2	1
Obaid Shahid	Central Punjab Blues Under 19s	5	5	277	69.25	0	3

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN NATIONAL U19 CUP

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Aftab Ibrahim	Sindh Blues Under 19s	4	13	5-36	15.23	5.58
Ali Asfand	Central Punjab Blues Under 19s	5	11	4-18	21.64	3.05
Arham Nawab	Central Punjab Blues Under 19s	5	10	4-18	23.50	2.96

TOP 3 BATTERS IN NATIONAL U19 CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	AVG	100	50
Habibullah	Sindh Blues Under 19s	5	6	448	74.67	2	1
Mohammad Farooq	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Blues Under 19s	5	8	405	81	1	3
Wahaj Riaz	Sindh Blues Under 19s	6	8	345	43.13	1	1

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN NATIONAL U19 CHAMPIONSHIP

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Haseeb-ur-Rehman	Sindh Whites Under 19s	4	38	9-79	25.53	3.35
Afnan Khan	Sindh Blues Under 19s	6	22	4-22	30.73	2.38
Naveed Ahmed Khan	Sindh Blues Under 19s	6	22	5-56	39.32	2.52

PAKISTAN JUNIOR LEAGUE (19 T20S)

The inaugural edition of the Pakistan Junior League was staged at the headquarters of Pakistan cricket, Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore from 6 to 21 October. The first of its kind 19-match T20 tournament made waves around the world as some of the best age-group talent competed for the glittering trophy and the winners' purse of PKR 10million in the two-week long event.

Bahawalpur Royals were crowned the PJL champions at the culmination of an action-packed event. Gwadar Sharks who topped the group-stage were beaten in the final by the rampant Royals by an 85-run margin.

The tournament was set alight by the batting heroics of the Dera Murad Jamali-born Royals opener Basit Ali who walked away with both the player of the tournament and the best batter of the tournament awards.

The right-hander scored the only century of the tournament besides an unbeaten match winning 91 against Mardan Warriors in Qualifier 2 – the knockout game with a final's berth at stake.

Basit scored a total of 379 runs at 63.17 and a strike-rate of 150.40. He smashed eight sixes and 58 fours in his eight innings for the Royals as he played a pivotal role in his side's tournament victory.

Luc Martin Benkenstein (Gwadar Sharks), Habibullah (Rawalpindi Raiders), Shamyl Hussain (Gwadar Sharks) and Shahzaib Khan (Mardan Warriors) were the other batters to impress in the tournament. The Royals pair of wicketkeeper Shahwaiz Irfan (player of the final) and opener Mohammad Tayyab Arif also dazzled for their side.

Sharks' all-rounder Arafat Minhas who was later named captain of the PJL Team of the Tournament by the event's commentary panel, impressed all by his all-round skills (178 runs and nine wickets).

Lanky Royals' pacer Mohammad Zeeshan stole the show amongst the bowlers. The right-armer captured 14 wickets in his eight tournament appearances (average 13.29) to win the best bowler of the tournament award. Teammate Arham Nawab took 11 while Sharks' leg-spinner Saad Masood who registered the only five-fer in the tournament finished with 10 wickets to occupy the third spot on the bowling list. Raiders' left-arm-spinner Afnan Khan took the only hat-trick of the tournament in a rain reduced tie against the Hyderabad Hunters.

The tournament provided a never-seen-before platform for U19 cricketers. A total of 66 local and 24 foreign players formed the six squads.

The PJL remained successful in delivering its core objectives which were; enable a world-class platform for U19 players for showcasing their talent and skill, provide adequate financial reward to the players for them to pursue their cricketing ambitions without any monetary challenges, coach and guide the players in the presence of cricketing greats.

The 90-odd players that took part in the two-week extravaganza were given a lifetime opportunity of interacting and learning from some of the greats of the game. Each side had a world renowned mentor as part of their squad. Royals had the South Africa globe-trotting T20 great Imran Tahir in their dugout, Gujranwala Giants had former Pakistan captain and white-ball great Shoaib Malik in their ranks while the Sharks had none other than the cricketing legend Sir Vivian Richards as a constant source of inspiration and motivation in their dressing room. Another West Indian great Daren Sammy mentored the Hunters while Pakistan's very own white-ball legend Shahid Afridi worked with the Warriors, the Raiders had the New Zealand T20 great Colin Munro as their mentor.

Former Pakistan captain and coach and an all-time batting great Javed Miandad worked as the league mentor.

TOP 3 BATTERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	AVG	100	50
Basit Ali	Bahawalpur Royals	8	8	379	63.17	1	2
Luc Martin Benkenstein	Gwadar Sharks	7	7	227	32.43	0	2
Habibullah	Rawalpindi Raiders	6	6	218	36.33	0	2

TOP 3 BOWLERS

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Mohammad Zeeshan	Bahawalpur Royals	8	14	3-28	10.86	7.34
Arham Nawab	Bahawalpur Royals	8	11	3-15	17.45	6.34
Saad Masood	Gwadar Sharks	7	10	5-6	13.30	6.99

BANGLADESH U19 IN PAKISTAN (1 FOUR-DAYER, 3 45-OVER & 2 T20S)

Pakistan hosted Bangladesh U19 in November last year for a series consisting a four-day match, three One-Days (45-over) and two T20s. The series was played at the Multan Cricket Stadium in Multan from 4 to 18 November.

In the series, Pakistan U19 and Bangladesh U19 played a drawn four-day match, while three-match one-day series was won by Bangladesh U19 2-1. The two-match T20 series ended in a 1-1 draw.

The star players for Pakistan U19 in the four-day match were captain Saad Baig and Wahaj Riaz, both batters scored centuries in the second innings, while for tourists it was Sharear Sakib, who scored 134 runs in the second innings.

In the one-day series, even though the hosts lost the series, three batters Mohammad Tayyab Arif (181 at 60.33 avg), Arafat Minhas (171 at 171 avg) and Uzair Mumtaz (103 at 34.33 avg) ended-up among the top four batters in the series.

In the bowling list, it was Bangladesh U19 that occupied top two slots with Maruf Mridha and Mohammad Rafi Uzzaman bagging six wickets each. Pakistan's right-arm fast Mohammad Zeeshan also grabbed six wickets from three matches with three for 20 as his best figures in a match.

In the T20 series, after going down in the first T20 by five wickets, Pakistan U19 staged a comeback and won the next match by seven wickets. In team's win, captain Saad Baig and Arafat Minhas knitted an unbroken 119-run partnership for the fourth wicket to achieve the 164-run target in the 19th over. Saad scored a 50-ball 79 not out, which included eight fours and three sixes, while left-handed Arafat struck four fours and two sixes during his 50-run knock which came off 37 balls.

Earlier, during Bangladesh U19's batting, left-arm spinner Ali Asfand took three wickets for 31 in four overs and restricted Bangladesh U19 to 163 for six in 20 overs.

TOP 3 BATTERS (FOUR-DAY)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100	50
Sharear Sakib	Bangladesh Under-19s	1	143	134	71.5	63	1	0
Wahaj Riaz	Pakistan Under-19s	1	136	117	68	65.07	1	0
Saad Baig	Pakistan Under-19s	1	117	117	58.5	80.69	1	0

TOP 3 BOWLERS (FOUR-DAY)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	4WL	SR	ECON
Rohanat Doullah Borson	Bangladesh Under-19s	1	5	3-42	20.60	0	34.80	3.55
Mohammad Shihab James	Bangladesh Under-19s	1	4	4-24	6.00	1	9.25	3.89
Abdul Basit	Pakistan Under-19s	1	4	3-18	21.00	0	28.50	4.42

TOP 3 BATTERS (ONE-DAY)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100	50
Ashiqur Rahman Shibli	Bangladesh Under-19s	3	188	74	62.67	92.16	0	2
Mohammad Tayyab Arif	Pakistan Under-19s	3	181	87	60.33	69.08	0	2
Arafat Minhas	Pakistan Under-19s	3	171	71	171	123.02	0	2

TOP 3 BOWLERS (ONE-DAY)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	4WL	SR	ECON
Maruf Mridha	Bangladesh Under-19s	2	6	4-38	13.50	1	18.00	4.50
Mohammad Rafi Uzzaman	Bangladesh Under-19s	3	6	3-29	14.83	0	27.00	3.30
Mohammad Zeeshan	Pakistan Under-19s	3	6	3-20	15.67	0	24.00	3.92

TOP 3 BATTERS (T20)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100	50
Saad Baig	Pakistan Under-19s	2	107	79	107	137.18	0	1
Jishan Alam	Bangladesh Under-19s	2	97	73	48.5	167.24	0	1
Arafat Minhas	Pakistan Under-19s	2	70	50	70	129.63	0	1

TOP 3 BOWLERS (T20)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	4WL	SR	ECON
Tanvir Ahammed	Bangladesh Under-19s	2	5	3-25	9.60	0	8.40	6.86
Ali Asfand	Pakistan Under-19s	1	3	3-31	10.33	0	8.00	7.75
Mohammad Zeeshan	Pakistan Under-19s	1	2	2-24	12.00	0	12.00	6.00

INTER-REGION U13 (39 30-OVER MATCHES) & U16 (39 50-OVER MATCHES) TOURNAMENTS 2023

Peshawar and FATA regions won the finals of the Inter-Region U13 and Inter-Region U16 One-Day Tournament 2022-23, respectively that were held on 5 and 6 May in Faisalabad.

In the Inter-Region U13 final held at the Jawad Club, right-arm leg-spinner Shoaib Khalid's six-fer led Peshawar Region to a six-wicket win over Lahore Region in the rain-shortened match. The 30-over tournament final match was reduced to 12 overs per side.

Opting to bat first, Lahore Region were bundled out for 50 in the final over. For Peshawar Region, 12-year-old Shoaib bagged six wickets for seven runs in 2.5 overs. In return, Peshawar Region achieved the target in the 10th over losing four wickets to lift the trophy and also pocketed PKR350,000 as the winning prize. Lahore Region had to settle for a PKR250,000 runners-up cash prize. For Lahore Region, captain Mohammad Yaqoob Khan was the most successful bowler with match figures of three for 21 from three overs.

Dera Murad Jamali's Shees Qadir was named as the best player of the tournament for scoring 170 runs and 10 wickets in the tournament. He was awarded a trophy and cash prize of PKR30,000.

In the U16 final held at the Saeed Ajmal Cricket Academy, Usman Khan's century helped FATA Region beat Lahore Region by 29 runs to clinch the title of Inter-Region U16 Tournament 2022-23 and pocket PKR350,000 as the winning prize. Lahore Region had to settle for a PKR 250,000 runners-up cash prize.

Wet outfield caused a delayed start as the match was reduced to a 44 over-per-side fixture.

After being asked to bat first, FATA scored 216 for seven in 44 overs. Opening batter Usman Khan top scored with 117 off 140 deliveries which included 14 boundaries. For Lahore Region, Hasnain Abbas Dar was the most successful bowler with three wickets for 52 runs. Tournament's leading wicket taker Taj Mohammad (19 wickets) bagged two wickets in the match.

In turn, Lahore Region were dismissed for 187 in the 42nd over. Opening batter Aliyan Salman was the only half-centurion for his side, returning undefeated on 69 off 97 deliveries. The left-handed Aliyan was named best batter of the tournament after topping the batting charts with 306 runs.

For FATA Region, Rustum Khan, Usman Khan and Waqar Afridi grabbed two wickets each.

FATA's Usman for his all-round performance in the match and in the tournament (237 runs & 11 wickets) was named player of the match and tournament, respectively.

The Inter-Region U13 Tournament 2023 commenced on 12 March in Faisalabad and Karachi. 16 regions namely Abbottabad, AJK, Bahawalpur, Faisalabad, FATA, Hyderabad, Islamabad, Karachi, Lahore, Larkana, Multan, D.M. Jamali, Peshawar, Quetta, Rawalpindi and Sialkot featured and were divided into three groups.

In the five-team Pool 'A', Karachi Region topped the group with four wins from as many matches and bagged eight points. In the five-team Pool 'B', Lahore Region kept their 100 per cent winning record and topped the table with eight points from four outings. In six-team Pool 'C', Peshawar Region and Rawalpindi Region won four matches each and were tied on eight points, but Peshawar Region topped the pool on better net run-rate.

Later, in the triangular stage of the Inter-Region U13 One-Day Tournament, Karachi, Lahore and Peshawar regions featured in two matches each from 29 April to 3 May. Karachi region lost both of its matches in the triangular stage, while Lahore and Peshawar won their matches against Karachi region. The contest between Lahore and Peshawar region on 29 April was tied.

The Inter-Region U16 Tournament 2023 also began on 12 March, where 16 regions were part of the competition. The pool matches were played in Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Islamabad, Lahore, Rawalpindi and Sheikhupura. Karachi Region topped Pool 'A' with seven points from four outings, Lahore Region topped Pool 'B' with eight points and FATA Region topped Pool 'C' with eight points from five matches in the tournament.

In the triangular stage of the U16 One-Day Tournament, Lahore Region topped the triangular stage, winning both their encounters against FATA and Karachi regions. FATA region qualified for the final after winning their match against Karachi region on 2 May.

TOP 3 BATTERS IN INTER-REGION U13

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	AVG	100	50
Abdullah Javed	Karachi Region Under-13s	6	6	348	116	1	2
Mohammad Waris	FATA Region Under-13s	5	5	253	63.25	0	3
Basil Tariq Baig	Islamabad Region Under-13s	5	5	176	44	0	2

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN INTER-REGION U13

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Aliyan Shah	Peshawar Region Under-13s	8	15	5-6	16.47	2.14
Mohammad Ibrahim	Rawalpindi Region Under-13s	5	13	5-21	11.54	3.56
Faisal Qurban	Karachi Region Under-13s	6	13	3-10	11.62	4.09

TOP 3 BATTERS IN INTER-REGION U16

NAME	TEAM	MATS	INNS	RUNS	AVG	100	50
Aliyan Salman	Lahore Region Under-16s	6	6	306	61.2	1	2
Usman Khan	FATA Region Under-16s	6	6	237	47.4	1	1
Mohammad Azan	Karachi Region Under-16s	5	5	212	42.4	0	1

TOP 3 BOWLERS IN INTER REGION-U16

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	SR	ECON
Taj Mohammad	Lahore Region Under-16s	6	19	6-35	12.37	4.29
Rizwanullah	Karachi Region Under-16s	5	12	5-14	16.50	3.55
Ibtisam Azhar	Lahore Region Under-16s	7	12	5-32	22.58	3.23

PAKISTAN U19 TO BANGLADESH
(1 FOUR-DAYER, 5 50-OVER GAMES & 1 T20)

Saad Baig led highly talented teenage cricketers and future stars of Pakistan cricket on a 21-day tour of Bangladesh from 26 April to 17 May 2023 for one four-dayer, five 50-over matches and one T20. The tour proved to be immensely successful as Pakistan U19 won the four-dayer by 10 wickets, swept the 50-over series 4-1 and won the only T20 by four wickets.

In the four-dayer, Mansehra-born 17-year-old opener Shahzaib Khan was adjudged player of the match for his brilliant 174 that helped Pakistan U19 to post 420 in reply to Bangladesh U19's first innings score of 149 in which Amir Hassan took four for 29, Mohammad Ismail snapped up three for 41 and Ali Asfand took two for 37.

Shahzaib's 323-ball innings included 25 fours and four sixes, and he added 94 runs for the first wicket with Azan Awais (40), 78 for the second wicket with Shamyl Hussain (38) and 131 for the fifth wicket with Obaid Shahid (67). Ali Asfand was the other notable batter with 40.

Trailing Pakistan U19 by 271, Bangladesh U19 were dismissed for 292 in the second innings following a fighting 106 by captain Sharear Sakib and 79 by Ashiqur Rahman Shibli, who added 90 runs for the third wicket.

Ali Asfand followed by two wickets and 40 runs with 4 for 66 in the second innings to complete an impressive all-round performance. Arafat Minhas snapped up three for 49, while Ismail added two wickets for match figures of five for 109.

Pakistan's 4-1 50-over matches series was dominated by Azan Awais and Shahzaib Khan. Azan accumulated 269 runs with a century and two half-centuries, while Shahzaib aggregated 264 also with a century and two half-centuries.

Ali Asfand once again excelled with the ball, claiming 10 wickets. Arafat Minhas, Amir Hassan and Aimal Khan took eight wickets apiece.

In the only T20, Bangladesh batted first and posted 159 for five after even contributions from Jishan Alam (52), Ariful Islam (30), Moinul Islam Tonmoy (21) and Ahrar Amin (20). Shamyl Hussain led Pakistan's run-chase with a 49-ball 67 with seven fours and a six, while Arafat Minhas contributed a 22-ball 41 with seven fours and a six as the visitors romped to victory with four wickets and five balls to spare.

The Pakistan U19 was coached by Sabih Azhar, while former Test spinner Tauseef Ahmed was the team manager.

TOP 3 BATTERS (FOUR-DAY)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100	50
Sharear Sakib	Bangladesh Under-19s	1	143	134	71.5	63	1	0
Wahaj Riaz	Pakistan Under-19s	1	136	117	68	65.07	1	0
Saad Baig	Pakistan Under-19s	1	117	117	58.5	80.69	1	0

TOP 3 BOWLERS (FOUR-DAY)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	4WL	SR	ECON
Rohanat Doullah Borson	Bangladesh Under-19s	1	5	3-42	20.60	0	34.80	3.55
Mohammad Shihab James	Bangladesh Under-19s	1	4	4-24	6.00	1	9.25	3.89
Abdul Basit	Pakistan Under-19s	1	4	3-18	21.00	0	28.50	4.42

TOP 3 BATTERS (ONE-DAY)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100	50
Azan Awais	Pakistan Under-19s	5	269	105	67.25	68.8	1	2
Shahzaib Khan	Pakistan Under-19s	5	264	105	66	79.76	1	2
Mohammad Shihab James	Bangladesh Under-19s	5	143	56	28.6	66.2	0	1

TOP 3 BOWLERS (ONE-DAY)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	4WL	SR	ECON
Ali Asfand	Pakistan Under-19s	5	10	3-24	11.90	0	23.80	3.00
Mahfuzur Rahman Rabby	Bangladesh Under-19s	5	9	4-42	16.11	1	20.22	4.78
Arafat Minhas	Pakistan Under-19s	5	8	3-20	16.25	0	28.88	3.38

TOP 3 BATTERS (T20)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100	50
Shamyl Hussain	Pakistan Under-19s	1	67	67	67	136.73	0	1
Jishan Alam	Bangladesh Under-19s	1	52	52	52	200	0	1
Arafat Minhas	Pakistan Under-19s	1	41	41	41	186.36	0	0

TOP 3 BOWLERS (T20)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	4WL	SR	ECON
Iqbal Hossain Emmon	Bangladesh Under-19s	1	3	3-23	7.67	0	8.00	5.75
Ahmed Hussain	Pakistan Under-19s	1	2	2-25	12.50	0	9.00	8.33
Rohanat Doullah Borson	Bangladesh Under-19s	1	2	2-39	19.50	0	12.00	9.75

PAKISTAN SHAHEENS TO ZIMBABWE (2 FOUR-DAYERS, 6 50-OVER MATCHES)

Pakistan Shaheens toured Harare, Zimbabwe, from 30 April to 28 May for a series of two four-dayers and six 50-over matches. The series provided an excellent opportunity to the national selectors to test the national team's bench strength, while it also enabled the high-performing domestic cricketers to impress the selectors. For Zimbabwe, it was a chance to prepare for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier, scheduled in Bulawayo and Harare from 18 June to 9 July. In the 10-team tournament, to be also participated by former world champions Sri Lanka and the West Indies, along with Ireland, Scotland, Nepal, the Netherlands, Oman, United Arab Emirates and United States of America, the two finalists will complete the 10-team line-up for the event proper scheduled in India in October/November.

Pakistan convincingly won both the four-dayers before Zimbabwe Select bounced back to win the limited overs series 4-2.

In the opening four-dayer from 3-6 May, Pakistan Shaheens defeated Zimbabwe A by eight wickets. Omair Bin Yousuf scored 250 not out and Mohammad Hurraira scored 178 that enabled the visitors to declare their first innings at 521 for three. Mehran Mumtaz took five for 47 and Mohammad Ali grabbed two for 56 as the hosts were skittled out for 225. Forced to follow-on, the home side performed better with the bat when they posted 401 that revolved around 115 from opener Joylord Gumbie. Mehran Mumtaz was once again the destroyer-in-chief when he picked up six for 110 for match figures of 11 for 157. Needing 106 for victory, Shaheen romped to victory for the loss of two wickets in less than 19 overs with opener Imran Butt scoring 62 not out.

In the second four-dayer from 10-13 May, Mohammad Ali returned match figures of seven for 85, Aamir Jamal claimed five wickets for 96 in the match, Mehran Mumtaz snapped up four wickets for 96 runs and Shahnawaz Dahani took two for 33 in the second innings, while Haseebullah scored 117, Hussain Talat 74, Omair Bin Yousuf 65 and Mohammad Hurraira 64 as Pakistan won by an innings and 41 runs. Zimbabwe scored 163 and 275, while Pakistan scored 479 in their only innings.

In the limited overs series, Zimbabwe Select took an early lead when they won the first match by 24 runs on 17 May. Aamir Jamal took four for 35 and Mir Hamza claimed three for 37 to bowl Zimbabwe Select out for 234 in 45.3 overs. In turn, Pakistan Shaheens were dismissed for 210 in 47 overs with Mubasir Khan scoring 49, Haseebullah 45 and Kamran Ghulam 42.

Zimbabwe Select doubled their lead on 19 May when they won by 80 runs. Batting first, Zimbabwe Select scored 236 in 38.5 overs with Aamir Jamal picking up five for 75. In their run-chase, Pakistan Shaheens were dismissed for 156 in 37.3 overs with Mubasir Khan (44), Imran Butt (45) and Mohammad Hurraira (33) the notable run-getters.

Pakistan Shaheens were on the points table when they won the third match by five runs on the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern Method. Shahnawaz Dahani took four for 43 and Aamir Jamal three for 60 as the home side was dismissed for 278 in 50 Overs. Pakistan Shaheens were 263 for eight in 46. 5 overs when bad light ended the match. Qasim Akram led Pakistan Shaheens' run-chase with 57 not out, while Haseebullah scored 49.

Omair Bin Yousuf scored 153 and Kamran Ghulam contributed 55 in the fourth match on 23 May to help Pakistan post 295 for nine in 50 overs. However, Zimbabwe Select romped to an easy win by seven wickets with 15 balls to spare following centuries by Craig Ervine (161) and Joylord Gumbie (111) who added 277 runs for the second wicket.

Half-centuries by Omair Bin Yousuf (89 not out), Imran Butt (64) and Haseebullah (62) propelled Pakistan Shaheens to 314 for six in the fifth match on 25 May and then Qasim Akram captured three for nine, Shahnawaz Dahani took three for 29 and Mehran Mumtaz bagged two for 36 as Zimbabwe Selected were bowled out for 137 in 31.4 overs to hand the visitors a comprehensive 177-run victory.

In the sixth and final match on 27 May, Zimbabwe Select posted a colossal 385 for seven with Craig Ervine slapping 22 fours and six sixes in a 148-ball 195. Pakistan Shaheens fought well but fell short by 32 runs when they were bowled out for 353 in 49.2 overs. Mubasir Khan scored 115, Rohail Nazir 87, Kamran Ghulam 56 and Haseebullah 35.

TOP 3 BATTERS (FIRST-CLASS)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100	50
Omair Bin Yousuf	Pakistan Shaheens	2	348	250	174	74.2	1	1
Mohammad Huraira	Pakistan Shaheens	2	242	178	121	88.32	1	1
Joylord Gumbie	Zimbabwe A	2	165	115	41.25	49.25	1	0

TOP 3 BOWLERS (FIRST-CLASS)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	5WL	SR	ECON
Mehran Mumtaz	Pakistan Shaheens	2	15	6-110	16.87	2	35.67	2.84
Mohammad Ali	Pakistan Shaheens	2	11	4-36	21.73	0	38.00	3.43
Victor Nyauchi	Zimbabwe A	2	6	5-125	37.83	1	50.00	4.54

TOP 3 BATTERS (LIST-A)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	RUNS	HS	AVG	SR	100	50
Craig Ervine	Zimbabwe Select	5	416	195	83.2	107.77	2	0
Omair Bin Yousuf	Pakistan Shaheens	4	275	153	91.67	107	1	1
Mubasir Khan	Pakistan Shaheens	5	238	115	47.6	99.17	1	0

TOP 3 BOWLERS (LIST-A)

NAME	TEAM	MATS	WKTS	BB	AVG	5WL	SR	ECON
Aamir Jamal	Pakistan Shaheens	6	16	5-75	21.00	1	19.88	6.34
Shahnawaz Dahani	Pakistan Shaheens	6	13	4-43	24.23	0	23.54	6.18
Tendai Chatara	Zimbabwe Select	3	10	5-37	10.90	1	14.90	4.39

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT 2021-22

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Independent Auditors' Report

To the Board of Governors of Pakistan Cricket Board

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

We have audited the annexed financial statements of **Pakistan Cricket Board** (*PCB*), which comprise the statement of financial position as at **June 30, 2022**, and the statement of income and expenditure, statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in general fund and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information (hereinafter referred as "*the financial statements*").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the PCB as at **June 30, 2022**, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) as applicable in Pakistan.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs) as applicable in Pakistan. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the PCB in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants as adopted by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Pakistan ("the Code") and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained, is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Non-finalization of lease agreements

We draw attention to note 5.1.2 and note 6.2 to the accompanying financial statements which describe that the PCB has capitalized and in process of capitalizing certain costs in connection with the construction and installation of civil works, flood lights and electric screens at Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium, Iqbal Stadium Faisalabad, Ghari Khuda Buksh Cricket Stadium and National Cricket Academy Lahore, however, the lease agreements in respect of such premises have not been yet finalized with the concerned government department(s). Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditors' Report Thereon

We understand that there will be no other information accompanying the financial statements, accordingly, we do not have any obligation to report on such information.

Responsibilities of Management and Board of Governors for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the IFRSs as applicable in Pakistan and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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Independent Auditors' Report (continued)

To the Board of Governors of Pakistan Cricket Board

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the PCB's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless Federal Government either intends to liquidate the PCB or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Board of Governors are responsible for overseeing the PCB's financial reporting process.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs as applicable in Pakistan will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs as applicable in Pakistan, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the PCB's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the PCB's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the PCB to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

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Independent Auditors' Report *(continued)*

To the Board of Governors of Pakistan Cricket Board

We communicate with the Board of Governors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Other Matter

The financial statements of the Board for the year ended June 30, 2021, were audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on those financial statements on April 26, 2022.

The engagement partners on the audit resulting in this independent auditors' report are **Bilal Ahmed Khan** (Baker Tilly Mehmood Idrees Qamar, Chartered Accountants) and **Nouman Razaq Khan** (PKF F.R.A.N.T.S., Chartered Accountants).

Baker Tilly Mehmood Idrees Qamar
Chartered Accountants
Lahore

Date: _____

UDIN #

PKF F.R.A.N.T.S.,
Chartered Accountants
Lahore

Date: _____

UDIN #

PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (Draft)
AS AT JUNE 30, 2022

	Note	2022 Rupees	2021 Rupees
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment			
Operating fixed assets	5	**2,245,202,554**	1,579,798,907
Capital work-in-progress	6	**51,852,595**	1,096,906,738
Intangible assets	8	**12,593,491**	3,745,113
Investment property	7	**308,178,258**	-
Long-term investment	9	**37,500**	37,500
Long-term security deposits		**9,430,784**	9,390,658
		2,627,295,182	2,689,878,916
Current assets			
Stores and spares		**60,814,090**	45,841,498
Due from sponsors, franchisees, boards and associations	10	**3,478,334,011**	2,475,189,259
Loans and advances	11	**452,638,925**	302,123,603
Short-term prepayments	12	**9,741,548**	25,841,561
Other receivables	13	**576,604,647**	233,728,363
Taxation - net		**576,152,277**	465,269,325
Short-term investments	14	**15,638,947,381**	13,139,147,381
Cash and bank balances	15	**1,438,290,071**	564,087,388
		22,231,522,950	17,251,228,378
TOTAL ASSETS		**24,858,818,132**	19,941,107,294
FUND AND LIABILITIES			
General fund		**17,304,552,163**	16,263,237,513
Non-current liabilities			
Long-term liabilities	16	**32,278,463**	59,652,840
Deferred revenue	17	**627,713,473**	95,649,676
Long-term security deposits		**18,732,956**	599,215
		678,724,892	155,901,731
Current liabilities			
Creditors and other payables	18	**5,532,099,536**	3,204,925,480
Current portion of long-term liabilities and deferred revenue	19	**1,343,441,541**	317,042,570
		6,875,541,077	3,521,968,050
TOTAL FUND AND LIABILITIES		**24,858,818,132**	19,941,107,294
CONTINGENCIES AND COMMITMENTS	20	**-**	-

PAKISTAN CRICKET BOARD
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE (Draft)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

	Note	***2022*** ***Rupees***	*2021* *Rupees*
INCOME			
Tours and tournaments			
- Tours outside Pakistan		**55,010,000**	105,338,225
- Tours inside Pakistan and neutral venues	**21**	**1,051,557,517**	493,835,845
- Tournaments			
- Domestic	**22**	**70,037,264**	38,546,153
- International	**23**	**2,811,484,659**	2,459,310,000
- Pakistan Super League			
- Revenue		**3,341,247,927**	3,809,232,667
- Share of franchises - COVID - 19 Relief		**-**	(1,637,977,346)
	24	**3,341,247,927**	2,171,255,321
		7,329,337,367	5,268,285,544
Sponsorship and logo income		**118,693,890**	54,490,386
Rental income	**25**	**67,291,650**	27,069,306
Return on investments and bank deposits	**26**	**1,173,614,872**	928,117,677
Other income	**27**	**344,934,646**	52,879,204
		1,704,535,058	1,062,556,573
Total income		**9,033,872,425**	6,330,842,117
EXPENDITURES			
Direct expenses			
Tours and tournaments			
- Tours outside Pakistan	**28**	**496,531,389**	565,392,354
- Tours inside Pakistan and neutral venues	**29**	**1,344,069,953**	760,595,962
- Tournaments			
Domestic	**30**	**1,553,340,144**	1,132,573,191
International	**31**	**237,492,910**	5,737,409
Pakistan Super League	**32**	**1,267,264,164**	2,408,883,350
Cricket promotional expenses	**33**	**1,016,564,633**	744,074,342
		5,915,263,193	5,617,256,608
Administrative expenses	**34**	**1,440,000,255**	1,177,074,035
Depreciation and amortization	**5 , 7 & 8**	**238,219,853**	185,613,697
Financial charges	**35**	**5,667,289**	106,982,947
		1,683,887,397	1,469,670,679
Total expenditure		**7,599,150,590**	7,086,927,287
Surplus / (deficit) for the year before taxation		**1,434,721,835**	(756,085,170)
Taxation	**36**	**393,407,185**	79,841,639
Surplus / (deficit) for the year after taxation		**1,041,314,650**	(835,926,809)

PCB®

Pakistan Cricket Board

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