

PCB Highlights

1 January – 31 March

4th Edition



Bangladesh tour Pakistan after almost 12 years

Bangladesh men's team became the second side to honour and fulfil their Future Tours Programme (FTP) commitments when they agreed to tour Pakistan in three phases. The decision for split tours was made in Dubai following a meeting between the Chairmen and Chief Executives of Pakistan Cricket Board and Bangladesh Cricket Board, and the Chairman of the International Cricket Council. Bangladesh had initially expressed their reluctance to visit Pakistan, expressing security concerns.

In the first phase in late January, Bangladesh visited Lahore for three T20s. Pakistan were clearly the better side when they won the opening fixture by five wickets and second by nine wickets, while the third was abandoned, due to the weather, without a ball being bowled. The series result meant Pakistan retained their number-one position on the ICC rankings.

Before the Bangladesh team returned home, the Bangladesh Cricket Board President acknowledged that the security arrangements in Pakistan were excellent and that they had no concerns.

In the second phase, Bangladesh visited Rawalpindi in the first week of February to play the first of two ICC World Test Championship Tests.

Pakistan dominated all four days of the match to register an innings and 44 runs victory. This was Pakistan's 10th win in 11 Tests against Bangladesh and fifth by an innings margin.

The star of the Rawalpindi Test was teenager Naseem Shah, who became the youngest bowler in the game to claim a Test hat-trick, as Bangladesh, trailing by 212 runs on the first innings, were bowled out for 168.

The other impressive bowling performances came from Shaheen Shah Afridi (4-53 and 1-39) and Yasir Shah (0-83 and 4-58).

In batting, Babar Azam and Shan Masood struck impressive centuries, while Haris Sohail (75) and Asad Shafiq (65) hit half-centuries.

Babar's 193-ball 143 was his fourth century in seven innings and fifth overall, while Shan hit a 160-ball 100.

Bangladesh's third leg of the tour was scheduled in April for a one-off ODI and the second Test. However, due to COVID-19 pandemic, this has been postponed.

Series scorecards are available [here](#).

PCB Highlights

1 January – 31 March

4th Edition



Crowds make HBL PSL 2020 an overwhelming success

The first-ever start-to-finish HBL Pakistan Super League in Pakistan was welcomed with incredible enthusiasm by the fans in Pakistan. It exceeded all expectations until the COVID-19 pandemic denied what was heading towards a thrilling finish.

After 30 league matches from 20 February to 15 March, Multan Sultans were on top of the table with 14 points, followed by Karachi Kings (11), Lahore Qalandars (10), Peshawar Zalmi (9), Quetta Gladiators (9) and Islamabad United (7).

Although Quetta Gladiators were unable to defend their title and fans will have to wait to know the winner of the fifth edition of the HBL PSL, the event ticked all the strategic and corporate objectives, including crowd attendances, safe and secure environment for cricketers, excellent playing facilities and unprecedented event promotion and coverage. The crowd attendances across four venues remained at around 87 per cent, with the opening ceremony and match watched by 24,648 spectators. Nearly 93 per cent fans packed the Multan Cricket Stadium for Multan Sultans and Karachi Kings' fixture on 28 February, while the Lahore Qalandars and Karachi Kings' home and away matches were watched live by approximately 55,000 spectators.

The PCB received outstanding support and cooperation from the Sindh and Punjab provincial governments and security agencies that produced a safe and secure environment for both international and local players to produce their best performances. This was the biggest event in Pakistan's recent cricket history with enormous team logistics and operations involved, and remained free of any incidents.

The curators and ground staff were on the ball from the very first day and not only produced good wickets, but worked tirelessly to make the grounds fit for play even when rain had all but ended any chances of cricket. There were 19 totals of 180 plus, while the highest match aggregate was 392 for the loss of 11 wickets in the match featuring Karachi Kings and Peshawar Zalmi. There were a number of last or penultimate over finishes. There were three centuries and as many scores of 90s, while the bowlers also had their share of joy with nine bowlers recording four-fers.

The PCB's world-class broadcast coverage, aggressive digital strategy, news access partnership with SNTV and local coverage combined to take the HBL PSL 2020 to untapped territories resulting in more fans following the tournament than ever before.

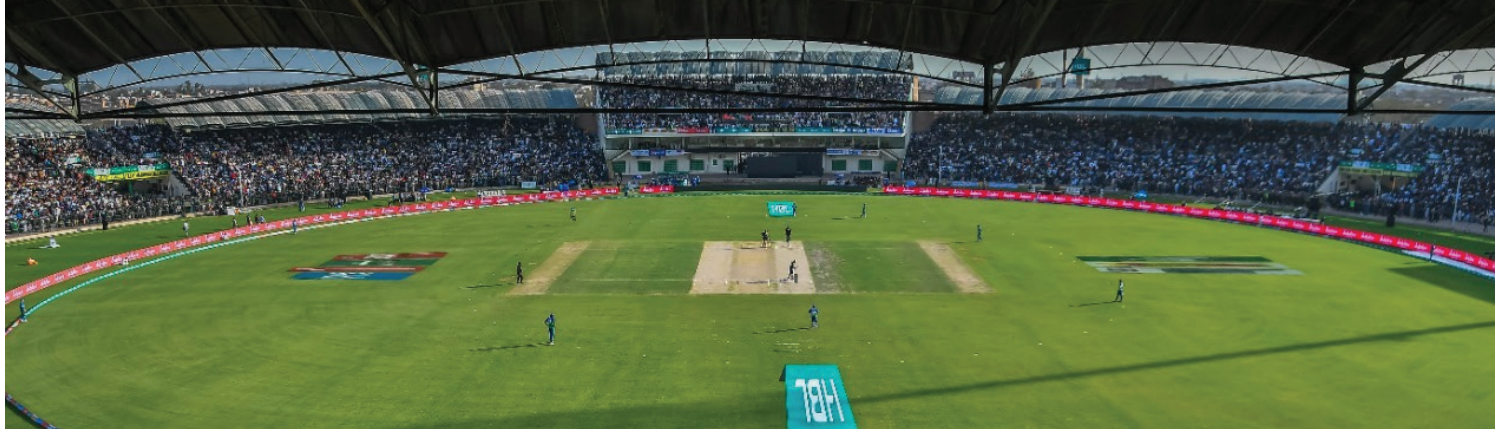
The HBL PSL 2020 also used its brand, reach, influence and platform to create awareness about Childhood Cancer and Breast Cancer by observing Childhood Cancer Awareness and Breast Cancer Awareness Days. Separately, the PCB through its Humaray Heroes initiative, recognised 30 unsung heroes by inviting them to the presentation ceremonies.

On top of all this, the HBL PSL 2020 contributed to the country's economic activity by supporting the aviation and hotel industries besides boosting restaurant businesses, while rejuvenating inter-cities rivalries, which were evident from the crowd attendances and media coverage.

PCB Highlights

1 January – 31 March

4th Edition



PCB Chairman Ehsan Mani said: “Our key objectives for the HBL Pakistan Super League 2020 were simple: provide world-class cricket facilities so that the players can give their best performances, fill the stadia with affordable ticket prices, produce an incident-free event, contribute to the country’s economic health and project the country’s positive and soft image.

“I am pleased we comfortably exceeded all expectations though the global coronavirus pandemic forced us to postpone the knockout matches. It was a difficult decision, which we took a couple of hours before the first semi-final after consulting all stakeholders, including the franchise owners, Habib Bank and other commercial partners to protect the reputation of the event and country, and health and safety of the players, officials and broadcasters. The PCB is most grateful for their understanding and support.

“The crowds have once again been phenomenal. The way they turned up to not only support but to take ownership of the league was exemplary.

“Without the unconditional support and cooperation of the local governments and security agencies, the PCB would not have succeeded in putting together an event of this caliber and magnitude. We are indebted to them for the superb manner in which they supported PSL 2020.

“I also want to thank all our commercial partners, including Habib Bank, who have continued to support this tournament. Commercial partners are the lifeline for any sport and without their contribution, no organisation can put together high-quality event such as the HBL PSL 2020.

“The HBL Pakistan Super League had a positive impact on Pakistan’s economy through additional money spent. A number of local service providers were involved, which created job opportunities, while the hotels, restaurants and airlines all benefitted from increased business directly attributable to HBL PSL.

Before the PCB decided to postpone the HBL PSL 2020, it followed a robust process, which included:

- i) Consulting and taking guidance from the provisional governments
- ii) Deciding to go behind closed doors from 13 March
- iii) Offering players the option to withdraw from the event
- iv) Replacing play-offs with knock-outs
- v) Reducing the number of days at the cost of just one match
- vi) Conducting 128 tests on all players, broadcasters, team owners and match officials before facilitating their departure to their respective cities/countries

Coverage of the HBL PSL 2020 is available [here](#) and [here](#).



PCB Highlights

1 January – 31 March

4th Edition



PCB plays its part in fight against COVID-19

The Pakistan Cricket Board was at the forefront in the fight against COVID-19, which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation.

On 23 March and on a request from the Sindh Government, it agreed to convert its Hanif Mohammad High Performance Centre inside the National Stadium as a temporary living area for paramedic staff working at the makeshift hospital at Expo Centre, Karachi.

On 25 March, it announced it will contribute in the government's emergency fund. The following was decided:

- Centrally contracted players to contribute PKR5million
- General Managers and above to contribute two days salary
- Senior Managers and below to contribute one-day salary
- The PCB to match the contributions of its staffers

In addition to the financial contribution, the PCB was also proactive and aggressive in its digital campaigns that were aimed at creating awareness on safety precautions people should take to keep themselves away from this pandemic.

In this relation, the PCB digital, through all its social media platforms, released half a dozen messages from its leading men and women cricketers. It also posted healthy indoor activities professional and emerging cricketers were undertaking.

PCB Chairman Ehsan Mani said: "The Pakistan Cricket Board has always stood with the people of Pakistan in desperate times. This is one of the gravest, most challenging and unprecedented times, which our local and federal governments and health workers are having to face.

"While we continue to pray for the wellbeing and success of our health workers so that normality returns to our society, we at the PCB are making a small contribution which will support the government in its endeavours against the COVID-19 pandemic."

PCB Board of Governors meet in Peshawar

The 57th Board of Governors meeting of the Pakistan Cricket Board, first of 2020, was held in Peshawar on Tuesday, 4 February. This was the first time ever that a meeting of the PCB Board of Governors was held in Peshawar. The following are some of the key discussions and outcomes of the meeting:

- The PCB Chairman informed the BoG he was able to convince the media rights partner to accept Bangladesh tour as an additional series in the agreement despite it being confirmed a week before the first T20I. However, recognising the media rights partner's plea that it didn't get enough time to sell the commercial airtime and based on independent legal advice, the PCB agreed on the rights fee of US\$3.75-million.
- Pakistan head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq provided a detailed briefing to the BoG on the men's national cricket team since he assumed charge in September 2019.
- The BoG endorsed Mr Ehsan Mani's recommendation and approved the appointment of Barrister Salman Naseer as PCB's Chief Operating Officer.



- The BoG approved the Model Constitution for City Cricket Associations, which is in harmony with the PCB Constitution 2019 and Model Constitution for Cricket Associations.
- The BoG approved the PCB Audited Financial Statements for the period 2018-2019, which highlighted a significant rise in revenue of about PKR6billion.
- The BoG authorised the PCB management to make a decision on the venue for hosting of this year's Asia Cup 2020, which is an Asian Cricket Council (ACC) event.
- The BoG was updated on the International Cricket Council (ICC) visit to explain the process that will be adopted for the allocation of ICC Events in the 2023-2031 cycle.
- The BoG approved the No Objective Certificate (NOC) guidelines for cricketers to participate in white ball cricket leagues.

Complete media release available [here](#).



PCB Cricket Committee meets in Karachi

The PCB Cricket Committee held its first meeting of 2020 under the chairmanship of former Test spinner Iqbal Qasim in Karachi on 20 February. Wasim Akram, Umar Gul, Urooj Mumtaz, Ali Naqvi, Wasim Khan and Zakir Khan (both co-opted members) attended the session.

Pakistan head coach and chief selector Misbah-ul-Haq and Haroon Rashid, Director – Domestic cricket operations, attended the meeting on special invitations.

The PCB Cricket Committee's remit is to advise PCB Chairman Ehsan Mani on cricket-related matters, including but not limited to the performances of the national cricket teams and their managements, domestic cricket structure, high-performance centres and playing conditions.

The following are some of the key discussions and outcomes of the meeting:

- The PCB to explore a window in the 2020-21 domestic cricket to slot in a tournament for the departments
- Director – Domestic Cricket, Haroon Rashid, updated the committee on the season, including learnings such as quality of practice facilities, food provision for players, player remunerations and standard of wickets, amongst other areas
- Appointment of the six Cricket Association coaches and the process that will be adopted for analysing and assessing their performance
- The PCB should fully and strictly follow the NOC policy for foreign leagues to ensure that Pakistan's elite cricketers continue to give precedence to domestic tournaments above all else
- Discussion with Misbah-ul-Haq on his selection policies, performance of the side and forward planning
- Urooj Mumtaz provided an overview and update on the progress women's cricket have made in the past 12 month

PCB Highlights

1 January – 31 March

4th Edition



MCC's successful Lahore tour, their first in 48 years

The world's oldest and most prestigious cricket club, the Marylebone Cricket Club, toured Lahore, Pakistan from 13-20 February. This was the MCC's first tour to Pakistan in 48 years and had been arranged following PCB Chief Executive Wasim Khan's impressive presentation to the MCC World Cricket Committee on the improved safety and security situation as well as the significance of return of cricket in Pakistan.

The MCC played three 20-over matches, against Lahore Qalandars (won by four wickets), national champions Northern (lost by nine runs) and Multan Sultans (won by 72 runs). Their 50-over fixture was against the renamed and rebranded Pakistan Shaheens (previously known as Pakistan 'A'), which the home side won by five wickets.

Apart from playing matches at the Gaddafi Stadium and Aitchison College, the MCC side watched the World Kabaddi final, visited the historic Lahore Fort and also attended an evening reception at the British High Commission, hosted by Dr Christian Turner, British High Commissioner to Pakistan.



MCC President Kumar Sangakkara:

- Rather than a direct message by saying something to them, the best thing that we can do is send that message by the way we play in the field
- We should not lose sight of how important the strength of Pakistan is in that big picture of having global cricket in a very, very healthy and strong state.
- We have had a wonderful tour here, making sure that the message has been conveyed across the world of cricket through personal communication with the people, official statements and interviews.

MCC on their website:

- The media interest in the tour was significant, both in the UK and Pakistan, and indeed globally. For example, after the team trained at the Gaddafi Stadium, a press conference from Sangakkara was aired live by thirteen television channels.



MCC chief executive and secretary Guy Lavender:

- The people of Pakistan were incredibly welcoming. Security is on everybody's minds, but the provision was fantastic. We were looked after very well. We felt safe and secure.
- The perceptions were that it was going to be very different to how it is, but the enthusiasm for cricket is remarkable. There's a real desire for people to come and watch international cricket in Pakistan.
- We all want to see Pakistan, a great cricketing nation, host international cricket. Every team will need to make their own assessments and judgement, but we're thrilled to report that our experience has been a very positive one.

Tour scorecards are available [here](#).

PCB Highlights

1 January – 31 March

4th Edition



PCB Instagram joins 1million club

The PCB digital channels continued to expand their reach with their Instagram handle reaching the 1million followers' mark. This is the PCB's fourth platform to break the 1million-barrier, following Facebook (7.7million), Twitter (2.3million) and YouTube (1.8million).

This surge in the growth of fans follows the introduction of a new fan-focused digital and content strategy.

In May 2019, the PCB made a strategic decision to use its digital and social channels to grow and engage more fans. This was done by publishing more fan-focused content, including posts on Pakistan's past heroes, current and future stars.

The channels have provided the fans a greater insight into the men's, women's and junior players and teams, telling stories from beyond the boundaries. This was all part of the overall fan engagement and digital strategy aimed at bringing the Pakistan fans closer to the game and its stars.

This strategy switch resulted in tremendous increase in fan engagement that subsequently saw a high increase in numbers across all platforms.





Aarti Singh Dabas, who was the architect of devising and overseeing the delivery of ICC's fan engagement and digital strategy, was impressed with the PCB's digital growth when she said: "I have seen the positive change in tone, tenor and quality of content that is being posted by the official PCB digital and social media channels.

"The channels, via the engaging and relevant content, now talk directly to the fans and the resultant growth in fan numbers and engagement is a testament to the success of the strategy adopted by the PCB in May 2019.



















"In today's world of shortening attention spans and greater entertainment choices, relevant content needs to be delivered to the fan/consumer.

"A successful content strategy is one that is fan-focused, inclusive, dynamic, insight based and has its 'finger on the pulse' so it can adapt and/or react to continue to engage fans. The PCB is doing just that."

Digital growth in numbers

PLATFORMS	FOLLOWERS AS ON 1 MAY 2019	FOLLOWERS AS ON 31 MARCH 2020
 TWITTER (CORPORATE ACCOUNT)	1.6 MILLION	2.3 MILLION
 FACEBOOK	7.3 MILLION	7.7 MILLION
 INSTAGRAM	497K	1 MILLION
 YOUTUBE	1 MILLION	1.8 MILLION

ICC and Test playing nations' digital numbers

	 INSTAGRAM	 FACEBOOK	 YOUTUBE	 TWITTER	 TWITTER MEDIA
 ICC	11.6M	22M	6.2M	10.5M	390K
 ACB	154K	2.4M	30.5K	402.3K	NA
 BCB	1.4M	12M	NA	2.4M	NA
 BCCI	13M	28M	NA	11M	NA
 CA	704K	808K	4.89M	349K	1.1M via @cricketcomau
 CI	59K	586K	90.9K	207K	NA
 CSA	403K	4.1M	291K	1.1M	NA
 CWI	540K	2.5M	1.37M	450K	NA
 ECB	1.2M	4.4M	3.2M	832K	862K via @ecb_cricket
 NZC	756K	1.8M	46.7K	462K	NA
 PCB	1M	7.7M	1.8M	2.3M	88K
 SLC	152K	3M	1.8M	882K	NA
 ZC	NA	10.6K		330K	NA

PCB Highlights

1 January – 31 March

4th Edition



Pakistan U19 finish third in World Cup



Pakistan's wait for their first ICC U19 Cricket World Cup title since 2006 continued when they finished third in the 2020 edition held in South Africa from 17 January to 9 February. Bangladesh won the tournament when they defeated India by three wickets, while New Zealand ended up fourth.

Pakistan were placed in Group C along with Bangladesh, Scotland and Zimbabwe. After convincing victories over Scotland and Zimbabwe by seven wickets and 38 runs, respectively, Pakistan were clearly a better side in their match against Bangladesh and had Bangladesh at 106 for nine when rain intervened.

The result meant Bangladesh finished ahead of Pakistan on better net run-rate from Group C, which, in turn, meant Pakistan played against Afghanistan in the Super League quarter-final, while Bangladesh took on hosts South Africa.



In the quarter-final against Afghanistan, opener Mohammad Huraire scored 64, while contributions from Mohammad Haris (29 not out), Qasim Akram (25 not out), Haider Ali (28) and Rohail Nazir (22) helped Pakistan achieve the 190-run target for the loss of four wickets in 41.1 overs.

Earlier, Amir Khan took three for 58 and Fahad Munir bagged two for 29 to bowl Afghanistan out for 189 in 49.1 overs, with their last seven wickets falling for 90 runs.

Pakistan's victory over Afghanistan set up their semi-final against old foes India.

Pakistan's only bad day in the tournament couldn't have come at a time as India romped to the 173-run target without losing any wicket in 35.2 overs.

The only consolation for Pakistan in an otherwise disappointing performance were half-centuries by the experienced duo of Rohail Nazir and Haider Ali



Pakistan's third-fourth play-off match against New Zealand in Benoni was abandoned without a ball being bowled. But Pakistan finished ahead of New Zealand due to their five points as opposed to Black Caps' three at the end of the group stage.

Haris (131), Rohail (111) and Haider Ali (107) reached three figures during the tournament, while Abbas Afridi with nine wickets was the most successful bowler. Amir Khan and Tahir Hussain claimed seven wickets apiece.

Scorecards of Pakistan's matches are available [here](#).

Pakistan at ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020

South Africa scored 27 runs off the last 10 deliveries which proved to be the cornerstone of their 17-run victory over Pakistan in the final Group B match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020, which was held in Australia from 21 February to 8 March.

The result meant South Africa qualified for the semi-finals and Pakistan were knocked out even before their last match despite convincingly defeating 2016 champions the West Indies in their opening fixture.

Pakistan umpire, Ahsan Raza, umpired the final in Melbourne, in front of a world-record crowd of over 86,000.

Scorecards of Pakistan's matches are available [here](#).





KP clinch National U13 Catch em young championship



The National U13 Catch em young championship was held in Faisalabad from 27 December to 4 January. The week-long event was for the U13 sides from the six Cricket Associations – Balochistan, Central Punjab, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Northern, Sindh and Southern Punjab.

It was a 30-over-a-side tournament, in which all the sides played against each other once. After 15 league matches, Southern Punjab and KP qualified for the final.

In the final held at the Iqbal Stadium in Faisalabad, KP won the championship.

At the end of the tournament, former Pakistan off-spinner Saeed Ajmal distributed the awards.

Scorecards of the tournament are available [here](#).



Challengers win national women's triangular T20

The National Triangular T20 Women's Cricket Championship was held in Karachi from 9-16 January. One of the key objectives of the tournament was to provide all the girls with an opportunity to perform and stake a claim in the 15-player squad for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2020.

The tournament was held on a double-league basis with the final played under the National Stadium floodlights.

After the six league matches, Rameen Shamim-led PCB Blasters qualified for the final against eventual winners PCB Challengers, which was captained by Bismah Maroof.

Former Pakistan captain Zaheer Abbas was the guest of honour at the final and distributed prizes.

Scorecards of the tournament are available [here](#).



Pakistan to England 1954:

Back row (left-right): Wazir Mohammad, Khalid Hassan, Shujauddin Butt, Shakoor Ahmed and Zulfiqar Ahmed.

Middle row: Khalid Wazir, Mohammad Aslam, Ikram Elahi, Mahmood Hussain, Waqar Hassan, Alimuddin and Hanif Mohammad.

Front row: Ebbu Ghazali, Fazal Mahmood, Abdul Hafeez Kardar (captain), Imtiaz Ahmed and Maqsood Ahmed.

Obituary: Waqar Hasan

Waqar Hasan, the last surviving member of Pakistan's first-ever Test side that played against India in New Delhi in October 1952, sadly passed away on 10 February. He was 87.

On the 1952 tour of India, Waqar had scores of eight, five (in New Delhi), 23 (in Lucknow), 81, 65 (in Mumbai), 49 (in Chennai) and 29 and 97 (in Kolkata).

He was also the member of the Pakistan side which recorded a historic win over England at The Oval in 1954 by 24 runs.

An attractive batsman, Waqar ended his 21-Test career in 1959 after scoring 1,071 runs. His only century (189) came against New Zealand at Bagh-e-Jinnah in Lahore in October 1955. His 189 was then a Pakistan record, which was broken next day by Imtiaz Ahmed, who scored 209 as the two batsmen put on 308 for the seventh wicket - a Pakistan record.

Following retirement, Waqar continued to serve Pakistan cricket in various administrative roles, including chair of the national Selection Committee in 1982-83.