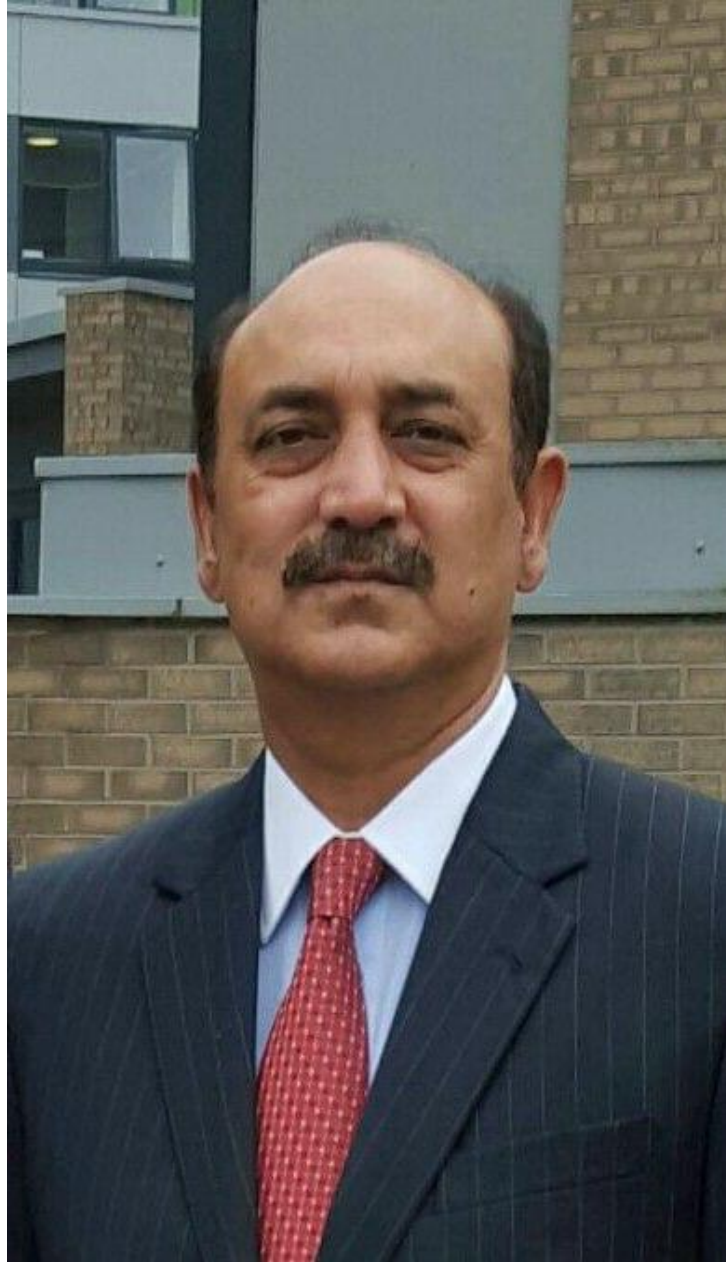


## The So-Called Unpredictable Team Is Very Predictable



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The Pakistan cricket team has long carried the label of “unpredictable.” Commentators repeat it, fans embrace it, and rivals fear it. On their day, they can defeat the strongest teams in the world; on another, they can collapse against an underdog. Yet in recent years, a curious trend has emerged: the so-called unpredictable team has become surprisingly predictable.

The players like Babar Azam and Shaheen Afridi, Pakistan has shown flashes of brilliance. Their bowling attack, often fueled by pace and aggression, can dismantle top batting line-ups. Yet the batting order frequently struggles under pressure, especially in high-stakes matches.

This cycle has become all too familiar for Pakistan cricket fans. The team often delivers strong performances in bilateral series, raising expectations ahead of major tournaments. Yet, at critical moments, they sometimes suffer shocking defeats, which are quickly followed by public criticism and debates over leadership.

It's a script that fans have come to know all too well.

In ICC events, Pakistan often starts slowly, recovers dramatically, and then falters when consistency matters most. Tournaments like the ICC Cricket World Cup and ICC T20 World Cup

have followed this rollercoaster pattern.

While unpredictability once led to surprise victories, it now often results in predictable inconsistency—brilliant one day, vulnerable the next.

Another recurring trait is the dependence on a few core performers. When Babar Azam anchors the innings or Shaheen Afridi strikes early with the new ball, Pakistan dominates. When they fail, the team struggles to adapt. This reliance makes outcomes easier to foresee: neutralize the key players, and Pakistan can wobble.

Pressure often becomes Pakistan's invisible opponent. In semifinals, must-win games, or tense chases, decision-making sometimes turns conservative or chaotic. Field placements, batting order changes, and selection controversies frequently follow a pattern that feels all too familiar.

Despite these patterns, Pakistani fans remain among the most passionate in the world. They celebrate the team's flair, raw talent, and moments of magic. Because when Pakistan clicks, the cricket they produce can be breathtaking.

Perhaps the real paradox is this: even if inconsistency has become predictable, their potential for brilliance keeps hope alive.

The Pakistan cricket team may carry the tag of "unpredictable," but recent trends suggest otherwise. Inconsistency, reliance on key individuals, and tournament drama have formed a

pattern that fans and critics can now anticipate.

Yet cricket is unpredictable by nature. Perhaps the day will come when Pakistan surprises the world by being consistently excellent rather than predictably inconsistent. Until then, the so-called unpredictable team remains, in many ways, very predictable.

Tahmeed Sadiq

Birmingham – UK