



Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, who is also President Pakistan Squash Federation with the winner of Asian Junior Squash Championship, and Finalist of PSF-POF International Squash Circuit-II after the cash award ceremony held at Air Headquarters, Islamabad. (08-07-2013)

PRESIDENT SQUASH FEDERATION AWARDS CASH PRIZES TO SQUASH PLAYERS

ISLAMABAD 08 JULY, 2013:- Air Chief Marshal Tahir Rafique Butt, Chief of the Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force who is also President Pakistan Squash Federation awarded cash prizes to the top Pakistani players at AHQ Islamabad for their outstanding performance in the recent international events. Nasir Iqbal and Mansoor Zaman were awarded with cash incentives for playing the final of PSF-POF International Squash Circuit-II at Wah; whereas, Syed Ali Mujtaba Bokhari was also given cash award for winning Gold Medal during recently concluded Asian Junior Individual Championship, 2013 at Jordan. The President, PSF appreciated the performance of Pakistani players and expected that they would continue to work hard and would further excel in the game of Squash.

Speaking at the occasion, the President PSF highlighted PSF efforts for winning glories for the country and appreciated the efforts for bringing international Squash back to Pakistan. The President PSF showed his satisfaction over the efforts being put up for the revival of Squash in Pakistan. He appreciated Pakistan squash team's excellent performance in major events during the last two years that included **Gold Medals** in Asian Senior Team Championship, 2012 at Kuwait, Asian Masters, 2012 at Lahore, Asian Junior Team Championship, 2013 at Korea, Asian Senior Individual

Championship, 2013 at Islamabad, Asian Junior Individual Squash Championship, 2013 at Jordan and **Silver Medal** in World Junior Team Championship, 2012 at Doha.

He also acknowledged the representation of Pakistan in the Asian Squash Federation where, after a period of 08 years, Pakistan found its rightful place as Vice President during the year 2013 by beating an Indian opponent with a clear majority of votes.

On the issue of the training camps, he stressed on PSF to focus on regular training camps for the players. The recently conducted 09 weeks training camp (Apr – June, 2013) at Abbottabad and Islamabad for preparation of our players for Asian Individual Championship at Islamabad, the World Mens Team Championship at France and the Asian Junior Individual Championship at Jordon along with PSA tournaments in Pakistan and abroad, proved instrumental for bringing laurels for the country.

The President, PSF highlighted that after vigorous negotiations with the international squash bodies, the PSF got the hosting rights for Asian Junior Team Championship for the year 2015 where large number of teams from Asia are expected to participate. The bidding for hosting the WSF World Cup, 2016 is also in process and would prove a landmark in the revival of International squash and sports in Pakistan.

The President informed that recently the PSF has been given rights for holding of PSA International tournaments with US\$ 15,000 to US\$ 24,999 prize money. Unfortunately with the prevailing law & order situation in Pakistan since the year 2009, the PSF was restricted to organize only 04 PSA tournaments every year with US\$ 10,000/- prize money each. With the increase in level of tournaments, the participating Pakistani players would be able to earn more points towards their international ranking through playing at home ground.

While analyzing last two years, the President acknowledged that despite limited financial resources, the Pakistan Squash Federation has been sponsoring top Pakistani players for maximum participation in foreign PSA tournaments. As a result, our players have improved their international ranking. The record shows that in 2011 there were only 02 players in World Top 100, whereas the number rose to 04 in 2012 and in year 2013 we have 05 Pakistani players (Nasir Iqbal, Aamir Atlas, Yasir Butt, Danish Atlas and Farhan Zaman) in the top 100 world rankings.

After commenting on the achievements of the Pakistan Squash Federation, the President, PSF concluded that a huge amount of funds are required for sending players in overseas PSA events, organizing in-country tournaments with high prize money and participation of teams in overseas Championships along with arranging training camps throughout the year. Unfortunately, no corporate sponsorship is available to finance number of major squash projects. The annual expenditure of PSF is much more than the grants released by the Govt. Therefore, apart from Private sector, Govt of Pakistan should extend monetary support to Pakistan Squash Federation to run its projects and generate more activities for bringing further honours for the country in the game of Squash during the days to come.