



## AFGHANISTAN CRICKET BOARD

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019







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## Chairman Message

# FARHAN YUSEFZAI



From the start of my role as the Chairman of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB), I have prioritized the process to bring about required reforms in this organization; administrative reforms as well as unity amongst players were the main objectives that we successfully achieved in 2019. The appointment of the legend South-African all-rounder Lance Klusener as the new Head Coach of national team is a step in the right direction to make our team stronger and technically sound. We are considering to appoint a qualified international batting coach as well in the next few weeks to bring required improvements in the batting department which has been area of weakness for us. Overall, these changes and our other efforts will be channelized to have a strong and competitive team for the T20 Asia

Cup 2020 and ICC T20 World Cup 2020 in Australia as well as the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 in the long term.

One of my top priorities in the upcoming year will be to financially strengthen the organization having a sustainable revenue model to achieve this goal. I also believe it is indispensable that we find a Title-sponsor in the coming year to fill the financial void and strengthen our budget.

In summary, 2019 was a good year for ACB overall and I am confident that we will have more achievements in 2020 and beyond. I wish all the best to all the stakeholders involved and hope for a successful year ahead.

# CEO Message

## LUTFULLAH STANIKZAI



I was appointed as Chief Executive Officer of the Afghanistan Cricket Board through a merit-based process in mid-2019 and this was just after an unsuccessful Cricket World Cup that was held in England and Wales in the summer. Like every other team

and ICC member board a period of transition commenced for ACB requiring important decisions, better planning and patience on behalf of the management. ACB's work revolve around four areas namely cricket (both domestic and international crick-

et), finances, infrastructure and administration that all go hand in hand for overall success of ACB. Afghanistan won the one-off Test match against Bangladesh in Bangladesh which was a phenomenal achievement followed by qualifying to the Final of the triangular

series involving both Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

One of the immediate and important tasks in hand was preparing and executing a number of events both domestically and internationally. The high-profile domestic Shpageeza Cricket League, the 2018 edition of which was not held, was revived and delivered successfully in October 2019 providing an excellent platform for all stakeholders including players, fans, sponsors and partners to participate and contribute in their respective areas. The Ghazi Amanullah Khan Regional One-Day Tournament, which are List A competitions, was also held successfully as part of domestic cricket and the second round of the Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class Tournament is currently in progress as I write this message.

In International Cricket, ACB hosted West Indies for a full series of three ODIs, three T20Is and a Test match in November at the Ekana Stadium in Lucknow that was used for the first time as a home ground by ACB. Lucknow was adopted as home ground because the city has better infrastructure and is well connected to other parts of the world by air. Although Afghanistan lost the ODI series and the Test match but secured the T20I series 2-1 showing Afghanistan's strength in this format of the game. A series against India U19s was also organised with ACB as hosts to give the junior side an opportunity to

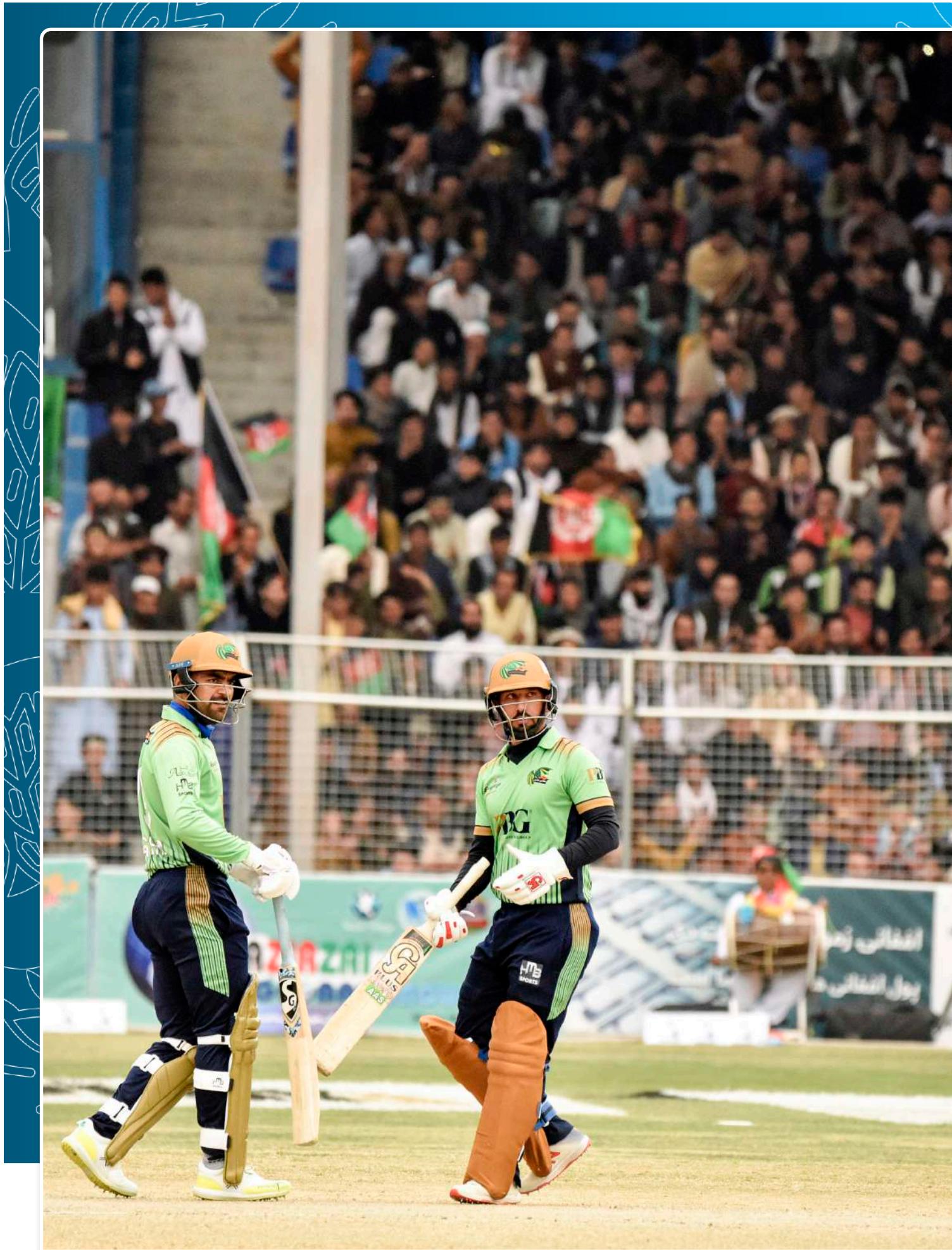
play against a top side ahead of the 2020 ICC U19 Cricket World Cup in South Africa. Afghanistan U19s lost the series to World Champions India 3-2 which is not a bad result considering the inexperience Afghanistan U19 team. Finances are a challenge for a developing ACB as one of the newest Full Members of ICC along with Cricket Ireland. From July 2019, a number of decisions were made and implemented to avoid unnecessary costs including a downsizing process of staff to avoid unnecessary HR cost; extended scrutiny and audit of expenditures; better planning and attraction of new sponsors, partners and exploring other revenue streams. This has so far led to an unprecedented achievement as a result of which ACB will start the year 2020 with a financial surplus rather than a deficit which has been the case at ACB in previous years.

Infrastructure and facilities development is another area of importance for ACB and saw good progress in 2019 with several ongoing construction and development projects making good progress including Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Paktika grounds. Kabul cricket ground was equipped with sunshades for spectators ahead of Shpageeza Cricket League 2019 that was widely welcomed. Construction of stands in Khost cricket ground re-commenced and the levelling of a ground in Pul-e Alam Logar

also started which is funded from ACB's budget. The aim in the next year is to improve coordination between ACB, government, donors and other partners to ensure facilities are built and developed as per needs in different areas of the country.

Effective administrative policies and procedures are key in balancing responsibility and authority of employees in different roles and ensuring accountability. Therefore, I have emphasized the importance of a systematic approach to all day-to-day operations of ACB and together with my other colleagues developed new policies and procedures that have either been approved or will be presented for approval to the ACB Board in the next Annual General Meeting.

I would like to thank the entire ACB staff and players for their commitment; all sponsors, partners and stakeholders for their contribution; and especially the passionate Afghanistan cricket fans both at home and abroad who cheer for Team Afghanistan's success and make Afghanistan cricket very colourful. We will continue to work together for the development of Afghanistan cricket and look forward to making 2020 another successful year.





# Why Cricket

Afghan cricket has developed considerably in a very short span of time rising to the highest standard in world cricket. Not only has cricket grown in stature over the years, it has changed the image of the country across the globe so much that it is defined as the symbol of Afghanistan in a positive light in recent times. The Afghan nation has suffered a lot over the years. Therefore, they have always longed to root for their national team in any sport on a global level to identify with and the national cricket team has provided them with that exuberance and the pride to have their country being represented internationally.

The rise of Afghanistan in the cricketing world is considered one of the best sporting phenomena of recent times as the team quickly rose through the ranks and have already participated in two consecutive 50-over World Cups and four consecutive T20 World Cups so far. The team has since managed to beat top cricketing teams such as West Indies, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh while giving tough time to cricketing powerhouses like India, Australia, Pakistan, South Africa and New Zealand.

The growing stature of the sport at the international stage reciprocated within the country as it

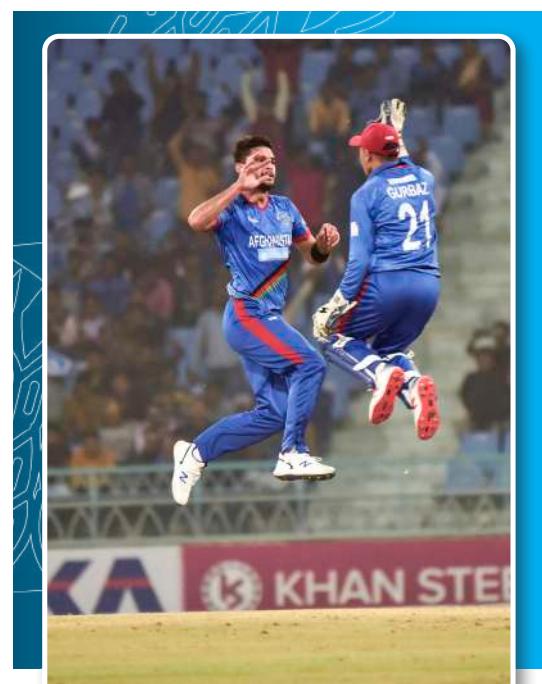
became an increasingly popular game with millions of followers who watch Afghanistan's games on TV as well as follow it with keen interest on social media. Even though, it started as just a sport, Cricket is now an emotional and passion-driven part in the lives of ordinary Afghans who eagerly wait to watch their national heroes play across the globe whether in national colours or representing different franchises in commercial leagues. Afghan kids now idolize these stars and want to emulate them growing up which is a considerably welcome shift from the unfortunate scenario just few decades ago. Afghanistan Cricket Board has played an important and leading role in the process of the team's rise and has ensured that it continues on the successful track over the years. Afghan team is now considered a powerhouse in Asia with a sustainable domestic system that continues to produce rare talent in all departments. It has been accepted that the team has the potential to triumph against the biggest teams in the world.

# OVERVIEW

The year 2019 was another year of achievements for the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB). Afghanistan continued its dominance in the shortest format of the game winning seven out of ten T20Is and won two out of three Test matches with which Afghanistan entered the ICC Test rankings for the first time.

## International Cricket

Afghanistan National Cricket Team participated in the ICC Cricket World 2019 held in England and Wales with not much success but plenty of lessons learnt. Afghanistan won one-off Test matches against both Ireland and Bangladesh demonstrating the potential of Afghanistan in the longest format of the game. In T20I cricket, Afghanistan whitewashed Ireland 3-0; declared the joint winner of the Triangular series in Bangladesh and defeated the West Indies 2-1 in Lucknow sending a strong message to other teams ahead of the Asia Cup 2020 and the ICC T20 World Cup.



## Domestic Cricket

In domestic cricket, one of the immediate and important events was holding the high-profile domestic Shpageeza T20 Cricket League, the 2018 edition of which was not held in 2018. It was revived and delivered successfully in October 2019 providing an excellent platform for all stakeholders including players, fans, sponsors and partners to participate and contribute in their respective areas. The Ghazi Amanullah Khan Regional One-Day Tournament, which are List A competitions, and the Ahmad Shah Abdali Four-Day First Class Tournament was held successfully giving an opportunity to players to play competitive cricket at home.

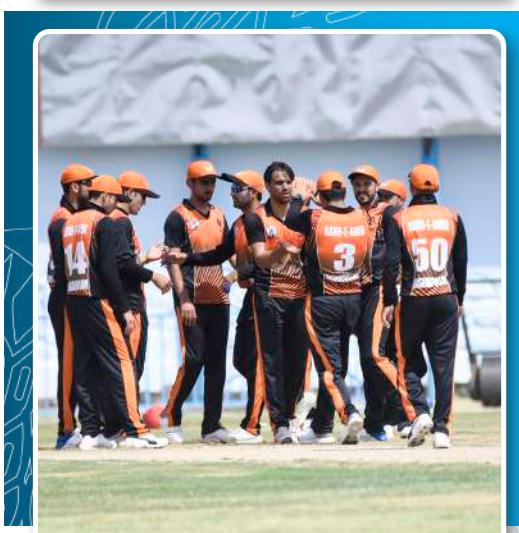


## Media Coverage

Meanwhile, all major international cricket series were telecasted live on local and international televisions to enable fans to watch their national heroes on their TV screen at home and workplaces. A number of new and fresh faces were introduced to international cricket and made their debuts for Afghanistan in all three formats of the game with Rahmannullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Qais Ahmad, Hamza Hotak and Zahir Khan being the notable characters.

## Disabled Cricket (PwDs)

As part of ACB's social responsibility, ACB continues to extend its support toward disabled cricket in the country and globally and that is why the Afghanistan People with Disabilities (PwDs) team participated in the World Cricket Series held in England and reached the Semi Final stage after beating Pakistan, Bangladesh and England. ACB also delivered an internship program for young generation and university students and celebrated national days of importance with cricket matches such as Nawroz and the 100th anniversary of Afghanistan's reclamation of independence.



## Administration

The administrative aspect of the organization got stronger and focus was to enrich systemization in 2019 for the aim of efficient conduct of all affairs and bringing transparency and accountability to ACB.

## Financing

Finances are a challenge for a developing ACB as one of the newest Full Members. From July 2019, a number of decisions were made and implemented to avoid unnecessary costs including a downsizing process of staff to avoid unnecessary HR cost; extended scrutiny and audit of expenditures; better planning and attraction of new sponsors, partners and exploring other revenue streams.

## Information Technology

Development of an inventory management system, task management, reduction of cash in financial transactions, purchase of licensed QuickBooks, HRMIS, new website development as well Android and IOS apps were other some notable administrative accomplishments.

## Infrastructure and Game Development

Infrastructure and facilities development is another area of importance for ACB which saw good progress in 2019 with several ongoing construction and development projects across the country to enable the development of the game at all levels.





# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)



The Annual General Meeting of ACB Board members was held on 6th July 2019 at the Ministry of Urban Development and Land. The meeting was chaired by the ACB Chairman and attended by all other board members.

The meeting agenda included the evaluation of Afghanistan National Cricket Team in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 that was held in England and Wales. As a result, it was decided to suspend the Acting CEO, Chief Selector and Team Manager who were later questioned for their role by a committee formed for Board members.

The new boards members introduced through a presidential decree Jawad Piekar, Shukrullah Atif Mashal, Gulalai Noor Safi and Ziaulhaq Amarkhail were introduced and attend their first meeting.

The Board also took a decision to appoint a new Cheif Executive Officer for the Afghanistan Cricket Board through open competition. In the follow up meeting on 10th July 2019, 12 candidates were interviewed and as a result Lutful-illah Stanikzai was appointed the new ACB CEO.

# NEW TALENT

During the year 2019, the top-performing players from the National U19, National Emerging, National A Teams as well as talented players from domestic cricket were given opportunities to represent Afghanistan National Cricket Team.



The following players made debuts for the country in the year 2019 in different formats of the game as outlined below:

## ODI Debutants

1. **Ikram Alikhil**
2. **Sayed Shirzad**
3. **Zahir Khan**
4. **Ibrahim Zadran**

## Test Debutants

1. **Ihsanullah Janat**
2. **Ikram Alikhil**
3. **Waqar Salamkheil**
4. **Ibrahim Zadran**
5. **Qais Ahmad**
6. **Zahir Khan**
7. **Amir Hamza Hotak**
8. **Nasir Jamal**

## T20I Debutants

1. **Zia ur Rahman Sharifi**
2. **Rahmanullah Gurbaz**
3. **Fazal Niazi**
4. **Naveen ul Haq**
5. **Ibrahim Zadran**

# ODI, TEST AND T20I DEBUTANTS

## Ikram Alikhiel



## Sayed Ahmad Shirzad



# ODI, TEST AND T20I DEBUTANTS

## Zahir Khan



## Ibrahim Zadran



# ODI, TEST AND T20I DEBUTANTS

## Ihsanullah Janat



## Waqar Salamkhil



# ODI, TEST AND T20I DEBUTANTS

## Qais Ahmad



## Amir Hamza Hotak



# ODI, TEST AND T20I DEBUTANTS

## Nasir Jamal



## Zia ur Rahman Sharifi



# ODI, TEST AND T20I DEBUTANTS

## Rahmanullah Gurbaz



## Fazal Niazai



# ODI, TEST AND T20I DEBUTANTS

## Naveen ul Haq





# INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

**Team Afghanistan broke its own record of biggest winning streak (11) with 12 consecutive T20I wins in the year 2019 that included wins against Ireland, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and West Indies.**



Team Afghanistan's performance in ODIs, especially in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019, did not go as well as expected, the year still held in storage many achievements for Afghan Atalan, particularly in T20Is and Test Cricket. In march 2019, Afghanistan secured its historic first-ever victory in Test Cricket beating Ireland in Dehradun. The victory was also a world-record for the least number of matches taken by a team to secure second Test win. This also marked Afghanistan's official entry into the ICC Test Rankings. Rashid Khan became the first player in Test Cricket history to take 10 wickets and score a half-century in his first match as a captain.

Afghanistan maintained its reputation as one of the stronger T20I teams around in the year 2019 as well. During the course of the year, the team performed exceptionally well in the shortest format and registered formidable records both individually and as a team. Rashid Khan took the first-ever hat-trick in T20Is for Afghanistan while Hazratullah Zazai's knock of 162 against Ireland in Dehradun was a record-breaker in many ways as the youngster registered the second-highest individual T20I score after Australia's Aaron Finch. Zazai hit 17 sixes in his innings creating a world record for most sixes in a match and the 23 sixes hit by Afghanistan batsmen in their innings was also registered as the world record for most sixes by a team in a T20I game.

Team Afghanistan broke its own record of biggest winning streak (11) with 12 consecutive T20I wins in the year 2019 that included wins against Ireland, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and West Indies.

# NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

## National Team Camps in Chennai and Bengaluru

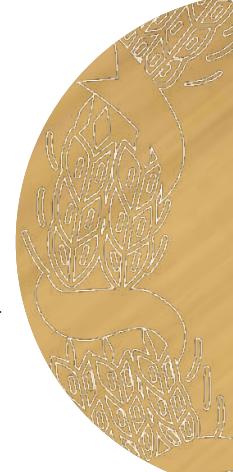
19th January - 10th February 2019



Afghanistan Cricket Board conducted a camp for the national team to get well prepared for the series against Ireland and the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019.

The camp was conducted in Chennai and Bengaluru cities of India. The main purpose behind the camp was to work on fitness, skills development, conditioning and best squad combination for the upcoming series.

A total number of 42 players participated in the camp that included players from various national level teams. The coaching staff, the strength and conditioning trainers and physiotherapy team worked on implementation and provision of medical support to the players. The weather conditions in Bengaluru are similar to those in the UK and bouncy wickets were prepared for practice which was important for players to get prepared for the ICC Cricket World Cup in England and Wales later in the year. The camp was useful and most of the players' fitness and skills were developed considerably. Overall, it was a useful camp with good results for players who developed physically and got familiar with conditions.



# NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

Afghanistan vs. Ireland, Dehradun, India

21st February - 19th March 2019



The National Cricket Team began the year with a home series against Ireland that was hosted in Dehradun, India by the Afghanistan Cricket Board. The tour consisted of five One Day Internationals, Three Twenty20 Internationals and a one-off test. The tour started with a three-T20I series between both sides where Afghanistan managed to dominate the Irish in all departments whitewashing Ireland 3-0. It was followed by a five-match ODI series which was drawn 2-2. After the conclusion of the limited-overs leg of the series, both sides met in the one-off Test that ended in a historic first-ever Test victory for Afghanistan only in their second match in the longest format.

The series had many positive outcomes for Afghanistan as some players were considered for selection for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019. In addition, the rankings of the players improved considerably across all formats as several team and individual



records were created, especially during the T20 series. Most notably, Hazratullah Zazai created a record by scoring 2nd highest individual runs in the shortest format. Zazai and Usman Ghani also registered the world-record for the highest partnership in the format for any wicket.

Rashid Khan also recorded the first ever hat-trick for Afghanistan in T20Is. The Islamic Bank of Afghanistan was the Title Sponsor of the event and the matches were live telecasted on 1TV in Afghanistan and DSport TV in India.



DATE	FORMAT	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
21 February	T20I	Won by 5 wkts	Mohammad Nabi
23 February	T20I	Won by 84 runs	Hazratullah Zazai
24 February	T20I	Won by 32 runs	Mohammad Nabi
28 February	ODI	Won by 5 wkts	Gulbadin Naib
2 March	ODI	abandoned	-
5 March	ODI	Lost	Andrew Balbirnie
8 March	ODI	Won by 109 runs	Rashid Khan
10 March	ODI	Lost	Asghar Afghan
15 - 19 March	Test	Won by 7 wkts	Rahmat Shah

# NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

National Team Camp in Potchefstroom, South Africa



4th April - 29th April 2019

Afghanistan Cricket Board conducted a conditioning camp for the National Cricket Team in Potchefstroom, South Africa ahead of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019. The purpose of the camp was to do final preparations for the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup and to familiarize players with the English-like conditions since the weather and conditions in Potchefstroom are very similar to England and the wickets were also prepared as those in England and Wales. In addition to the practice camp, the team also played against the Emerging Team of South Africa. The matches gave players good practice for upcoming matches against Scotland, Ireland and the World Cup.



# NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

## Afghanistan vs. Scotland Series

8th May - 10th May 2019



Afghanistan visited Scotland to play two One Day Internationals against the hosts. The first of the two-match series was abandoned without a single ball being bowled while Afghanistan won the second match by two runs. The objective behind playing the series was to get the national team ready ahead of the World Cup and let them get them familiar with English conditions.

DATE	FORMAT	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
8 May	ODI	Abandoned	-
10 May	ODI	Won by 2 runs	Rahmat Shah



# NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

## Afghanistan vs. Ireland Series



19th May - 21st May 2019

After a successful tour of Scotland, Afghanistan visited Ireland for a two-match ODI series. The hosts were successful in the first match while Team Afghanistan made a brilliant come back in the second match beating the hosts by a huge margin of 126 runs. This short tour was also part of the national team's preparations for the World Cup.





# ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2019

**VS****VS**

The 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup was the 12th edition of the tournament contested by men's national teams and conducted by the International Cricket Council (ICC). The tournament was hosted from 30th May to 14th July across eleven venues in England and Wales. It was the fifth time that England hosted the World Cup and third for Wales.

Afghanistan won the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier in early 2018 held in Zimbabwe. It paved their

way to participate in Cricket's elite tournament for the second consecutive time after the 2015 edition in Australia and New Zealand. The National team began its journey with a high note beating a strong Pakistan side in its first warm-up match before losing to the hosts England in the second warm-up match.

Although, the expectations were high from Afghanistan but the team could not win any of its



nine matches. Meanwhile, Afghanistan showed a great fight against several teams and got very close to victories against Pakistan, India and Sri Lanka. There were some other factors as well which affected the team's performance such as unfamiliarity with English conditions, Afghanistan first time playing in England for a full event, strong oppositions, fitness and disciplinary issues also happened during the event. Young wicket-keeper batsman Ikram Alikhail replaced the injured Mohammad

Shahzad while pacer Sayed Sherzad replaced Aftab Alam who was removed from the squad due to disciplinary issues.

The results at ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 were not as expected from Afghanistan. However, the team got some positive points from the event. For instance, Ikram Alikhail scored a brilliant knock of 86 against the West Indies and there were close competitive games by the team as they fought till



VS



the last over against India and Pakistan and were in a winning position more than once against Sri Lanka. As per international cricket experts the way Afghanistan played during ICC Cricket World Cup is not a total failure and the team will be a bigger threat to bigger teams in future ICC events.

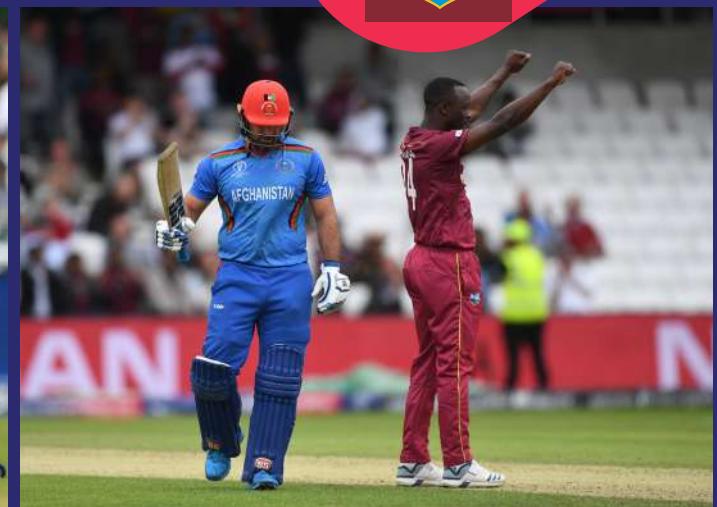
India's famous Dairy products company, Amul, was the team sponsor of Afghanistan during the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019.



VS



VS



# NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

## National Team Camp in Abu Dhabi



19th - 29th August 2019

Afghanistan Cricket Board arranged a camp for the national team in Abu Dhabi, UAE to prepare the side for the tour of Bangladesh where they played a triangular T20I series and one-off test against Bangladesh. The main purpose of the camp was to develop fitness of players, familiarize and acclimatize them with the hot climate in Bangladesh. The camp was held in Abu Dhabi where temperatures were in the range of 46-50 degree centigrades and was hotter than Bangladesh. The camp proved to be very useful as the team performed very well in Bangladesh beating the hosts in the one-off Test and sharing the triangular T20I series trophy with Bangladesh.



# NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

## Afghanistan vs Bangladesh One- off Test

05 - 09 September 2019



Afghanistan toured Bangladesh to play a one-off Test against the hosts followed by a triangular T20I series that also included Zimbabwe. This was the first tour for Afghanistan under the leadership of Rashid Khan as a captain while Andy Moles served as the interim Head Coach of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan dominated Bangladesh at their own home conditions and beat the hosts with a huge margin of 224 runs in the one-off Test in Chattogram. There were many records created during the match for Afghanistan - it was a historic match for Rahmat Shah in particular, who became the first Afghan Test centurion while Rashid Khan became the first cricketer to take a ten-wicket haul and score a half-century in his first Test match as a captain. Young batsman Ibrahim Zadran and Chinaman Zahir Khan made their Test debuts in the match for Afghanistan.

Senior batsman Mohammad Nabi announced his retirement from Test Cricket ahead of the match in order to give opportunities to youngsters to play the longest format and shine at the highest level. Nabi was given a fitting tributary farewell by Afghan players as Afghanistan registered their second victory in Test cricket.

# NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

## Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Zimbabwe T20I Triangular Series

11th February - 24th September 2019



After winning the one-off Test against Bangladesh, the team participated in a triangular series that also included Zimbabwe. The team began the series on a high note beating both Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in its initial matches respectively and losing their next matches against both teams respectively. The losses, however, did not stop them from qualifying to the Final on the basis of points. Unfortunately, the Final of the series was abandoned due to rain which meant both teams shared the series and Afghanistan, being a touring team, was awarded the trophy.

There were many positive points in the series for Afghanistan as young talent shined. Rahmanullah Gurbaz, in particular, was the biggest find for Afghanistan in the series who proved himself to be a worthy player in limited overs cricket for the national team. The tour of Bangladesh was overall a successful one for Afghanistan. Azizi Bank was the jersey sponsor for Afghanistan during the event.



## Test

5 September	AFG v BAN	Won	Rashid Khan
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## Triangular Series

DATE	FORMAT	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
14 September	T20I	Won by 28 runs	Najibullah Zadran
15 September	T20I	Won by 25 runs	Mohammad Nabi
20 September	T20I	Zimbabwe won by 7 wkts	Hamilton Masakadza
21 September	T20I	Won by 4 wkts	Shakib Al Hassan
24 September	T20I	Abandoned	-

Player of the tournament: Rahmanullah Gurbaz

# NATIONAL CRICKET TEAM

## Afghanistan vs. West Indies in India

2nd Nov- 1st Dec 2019



Afghanistan hosted West Indies from 4th Nov to 1st Dec 2019 for three ODIs, three T20Is and a one-off Test in India. The matches were all played at the Ekana International Cricket Stadium, Lucknow. The tour began as both sides faced each other in the three-match ODI series. Even though Afghanistan came

close on many occasions, it could not win any matches and lost the series 3-0. It is worth mentioning that the series served as a great platform for Afghanistan to start its transition period after the World Cup and the squad saw several changes from the World Cup.

The ODI series was followed

by a three-match T20I series where Afghanistan emerged victorious beating the West Indies 2-1 as youngsters Karim Janat and Rahmanullah Gurbaz shined in the second and third match, respectively. West Indies won the one-off Test match between both sides where Afghanistan could not capitalize on their win in





the T20I series.

There were a lot of positive points to be taken from the series against West Indies. For instance, young talents including Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Naveen-ul-Haq and Ibrahim Zadran proved to be great potential of being in the national squad. Also, Karim Janat, who took a five-wicket haul in

the second T20I and Hamza Hotak, who took a five-wicket haul on Test debut, were notable for team Afghanistan. It is worth mentioning that the team were at their best in T20Is as the Shpageeza Cricket League was concluded just ahead of the series against West Indies.

Azizi Bank was the title spon-

sor for the event while Khan Steel and Kardan University were the jersey sponsors in ODI and T20I series respectively. India's famous Star TV was the official broadcaster for the ODIs and T20Is in the Indian subcontinent while RTA was the official broadcaster for the entire event in Afghanistan.

DATE	FORMAT	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
6 November	ODI	West Indies won by 7 wkts	Roston Chase
9 November	ODI	West Indies won by 47 runs	Nicholas Pooran
11 November	ODI	West Indies won by 5 wkts	Shai Hope
<b>Player of the series: Roston Chase</b>			
14 November	T20I	West Indies won by 30 runs	Kieren Pollard
16 November	T20I	Afghanistan won by 41 runs	Karim Jannat
17 November	T20I	Afghanistan won by 29 runs	Rahmanullah Gurbaz
<b>Player of the series: Karim Jannat</b>			
27 November	Test	West Indies won by 9 wkts	Rahkeem Cornwall



# AFGHANISTAN'S RECORD ACROSS ALL FORMATS IN 2019

FORMAT	QUANTITY	WON	LOST	TIED	NR	PERCENTAGE
Twenty20 Internationals	10	7	3	0	0	70.00%
One-Day Internationals	20	4	15	0	1	21.00%
Tests	3	2	1	0	0	66.67%

# TOP PERFORMERS IN 2019 ACROSS ALL FORMATS

## TEST Batting - Most Runs

NO	PLAYER	MATCH	INN	NO	RUNS	BALLS	HS	AVE	SR	100s	50s	4s	6s
1	Rahmat Shah	4	8	0	298	561	102	37.25	53.11	1	2	41	2
2	Asghar Afghan	4	7	0	249	463	92	35.57	53.77	0	3	19	9
3	Ibrahim Zadran	2	4	0	148	388	87	37.00	38.14	0	1	15	4
4	Hashmatullah Shahidi	3	6	2	138	336	61	34.50	41.07	0	1	19	0
5	Afsar Zazai	3	6	1	135	338	48*	27.00	39.94	0	0	13	2

## TEST Bowling - Most Wickets

NO	PLAYER	MATCH	INN	OVERS	MDNS	RUNS	WKTS	BBI	BBM	AVE	ECON	SR	5W	10W
1	Rashid Khan	3	6	121.3	26	331	21	6/49	11/104	15.76	2.72	34.71	3	1
2	Mohammad Nabi	2	4	78.0	17	189	7	3/36	4/95	27.00	2.42	66.8	0	0
3	Yamin Ahmadzai	3	6	51.0	9	160	7	3/41	6/93	22.85	3.13	43.7	0	0
4	Amir Hamza	1	2	30.5	5	79	6	5/74	6/79	13.16	2.56	30.83	1	0
5	Zahir Khan	2	3	37	3	158	5	3/59	3/105	31.60	4.27	44.40	0	0

**ODI** Batting - Most Runs

NO	PLAYER	MATCH	INN	NO	RUNS	BALLS	HS	AVE	SR	100s	50s	4s	6s
1	Rahmat Shah	20	20	0	646	942	113	32.30	68.57	1	4	73	7
2	Asghar Afghan	17	17	3	569	721	86	40.64	78.91	0	4	36	20
3	Najibullah Zadran	17	16	3	509	523	104*	39.15	97.32	1	3	51	15
4	Hashmat Shahidi	14	14	1	387	610	76	29.76	63.44	0	4	38	3
5	Mohammad Nabi	18	17	1	347	489	64	21.68	70.96	0	3	22	8

**ODI** Bowling - Most Wickets

NO	PLAYER	MATCH	INN	OVERS	MDNS	RUNS	WKTS	BBI	AVE	ECON	SR	4W	5W
1	Gulbadin	16	15	113.2	2	649	22	6/43	29.50	5.73	30.91	0	1
2	Mujib-u-Rahman	17	16	140.5	10	575	19	3/41	30.26	4.08	44.47	0	0
3	Dawlat Zadran	10	10	83.0	4	509	17	3/35	29.94	6.13	29.29	0	0
4	Mohammad Nabi	18	17	143.3	4	646	16	4/30	40.38	4.50	53.81	1	0
5	Rashid Khan	19	17	155.5	1	759	15	2/17	50.60	4.87	62.33	0	0

## T20I Batting - Most Runs

NO	PLAYER	MATCH	INN	NO	RUNS	BALLS	HS	AVE	SR	100S	50S	4S	6S
1	Hazratullah Zazai	10	10	1	345	208	162*	38.33	165.87	1	0	31	24
2	Mohammad Nabi	10	10	2	302	183	84*	37.75	165.03	0	2	17	22
3	Rahmanullah Gurbaz	7	7	0	227	164	79	32.43	138.41	0	2	19	13
4	Najibullah Zadran	10	10	4	207	167	69*	34.50	123.95	0	1	14	11
5	Asghar Afghan	10	9	0	136	136	40	15.11	100.00	0	0	9	6

## T20I Bowling - Most Wickets

NO	PLAYER	MATCH	INN	OVERS	MIDNS	RUNS	WKTS	BBI	AVE	ECON	SR	4W	5W
1	Rashid Khan	10	10	39	0	258	20	5/27	12.90	6.62	11.70	1	1
2	Mujib-u-Rahman	9	9	33	0	187	11	4/15	17.00	5.67	18.00	1	0
3	Karim Jannat	7	7	24	0	190	9	5/11	21.11	7.92	16.00	0	1
4	Gulbadin Naib	7	7	15	0	102	7	1/24	23.71	6.92	20.5	0	0
5	Naveen ul Haq	4	4	15.0	0	102	7	3/24	14.57	6.80	12.8	0	0

# NATIONAL A TEAM



## National-A Team tour of Bangladesh

**1st July - 30th July 2019**

Afghanistan National-A team toured Bangladesh to play two 4-day and five one-day matches against Bangladesh A. The tour began with an unofficial 4-day match where Afghanistan-A beat the hosts by 7 wickets comprehensively. Leg-spinner Qais Ahmad was the top performer of the match registering a ten wicket haul in the match. The second match was drawn. Qais Ahmad was named player of the series. Afghanistan-A began the one-day series on a winning note beating Bangladesh in the first

two matches. Bangladesh-A made a comeback winning the third match while the fourth match was abandoned with no result due to rain. Bangladesh-A won the fifth match levelling the series 2-2.

Overall, it was a successful event for Afghanistan A as they draw four-day games series and started well in the one-day series which was affected by rain later. Young talented players such as Qais Ahmad, Rahmanullah Gurbaz and Ibrahim Zadra proved

themselves and found way to the National Team. Zadran in particular was very impressive and won the Player of the Series award for his brilliant batting performance. Some players who were dropped from the National Team such as Sharafudin Ashraf, Nasir Jamal and Naveen-ul-Haq also registered some good performances and found their way back to the national side.

**National- A team Camp in Jalalabad**  
**8th - 30th June 2019**



A camp was designed and conducted for Afghanistan National A Team in Jalalabad to get the team prepared for the tour of Bangladesh. A total number of 30 players participated in the camp. The coaching staff worked hard on the skill development and fitness of the players in the camp. The camp was conducted in Jalalabad as the hot weather conditions were somewhat similar to Bangladesh. The participants played two 4-day games and three one day matches with the National U19 Team. Later on, the selection of players for the tour was done on the basis of fitness tests, players' performances and skills conducted in the camp.

DATE	FORMAT	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
7 July	4-day	Afghanistan A won by 7 wickets	Qais Ahmad
12 July	4-day	Match drawn	Ibrahim Zadran

**Player of the series: Qais Ahmad**

DATE	FORMAT	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH
19 July	One Day	Afghanistan A won by 10 wickets	Rahmanullah Gurbaz
21 July	One Day	Won	Ibrahim Zadran
24 July	One Day	Lost	Abu Jayed
27 July	One Day	No Result	-
29 July	One Day	Lost	Mohammad Naim

**Player of the series: Ibrahim Zadran**

# NATIONAL U-19 TEAM

## SELECTION CAMPS

### for U-19 in Kunar & Jalalabad

19th January - 5th February 2019

Afghanistan Cricket Board organized a selection camp for the National U-19 Team in Kunar and Jalalabad. A total of 80 players participated in the camp that included

fitness building, skills building and trial matches. The players were processed as the number gradually came down from 80 to 40 and finally a 25-member squad was

selected. The players were given 4 one-day matches to prepare for the quadrangular series against India U19 A, India U19 B and South Africa U-19 in India.

## QUADRANGULAR Series

20th February- 12th March 2019

Afghanistan National U-19 had a camp ahead of the quadrangular series against India U19 A, India U19 B and South Africa in Trivandrum, India. The camp was conducted to get the players familiar with the conditions of the tournament.



A total new team was combined to participate in the quadrangular tournament, which affected their results as they lost all their matches. The new combination meant the players did not have much experience against quality teams. However, there were pos-



itive points from the tournament as the players got a chance to play against quality teams such as India U19 and South Africa U19 that helped them improve their game and learn more in order to prepare well for the U19 Asia Cup and the 2020 ICC U19 World Cup.



## ACC U19 Asia Cup

5th -14th September 2019

Asia Cup is the biggest cricketing event at under-age level in Asia. This event is conducted by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) every year. The 2019 edition was hosted

by Sri Lanka from 5th - 14th September. Eight teams participated in the event; Afghanistan U19, who were the defending champions of the tournament, were

placed in Group A along India, Pakistan and Kuwait. Afghanistan U19 started well by beating Pakistan U19 by a considerable margin of 85 runs. The team played

its second match against Kuwait U19 and beat them as well by 7 wickets. However Afghanistan lost to India U19 in their third match by 3 wickets, but managed to qualify to the Semi-Finals with two victories and one loss.



Afghanistan was scheduled to play Bangladesh in the semi-final but to the disappointment of the team, the match was abandoned without a single ball bowled due to rain and Bangladesh qualified to the Final on the basis of more



points in the league stage. Noor Ahmad and Shafiqullah Ghaffari were among the top bowlers in the tournament. Noor Ahmad, in particular, proved himself a great future potential for Afghanistan.



DATE	FORMAT	RESULT	PLAYER OF THE MATCH	OPPOSITION TEAM
5 September	Youth OD	AFG won by 85 runs	Shafiqullah Ghaffari	Pakistan U19
7 September	Youth OD	AFG won by 7 wkts	Shafiqullah Ghaffari	Kuwait U19
9 September	Youth OD	INDU19 won by 3 wkts	Sushant Mishra	India U19
12 September	Youth OD	Abandoned	-	Bangladesh U19

## NATIONAL U19

### Camp in Kabul

**27th October- 5th November 2019**

Afghanistan Cricket Board conducted a preparation camp for the National U19 team in Kabul. The purpose of the camp was to prepare the side for the home

series against India U19 in India. During the camp the coaching staff worked on the fitness and skill building of players. In addition, the players were given

the chance to play five practice matches against Afghanistan Emerging team.

# NATIONAL U-19 TEAM



## AFGHANISTAN U19 VS INDIA U19

in Lucknow, India

17th November - 1st December 2019

ACB hosted India U19 in Lucknow, India for a five-match youth ODI series against Afghanistan U19. India U19 is considered one of

fight defending 176 and India U19 emerged victorious winning by 2 wickets at the end.

Afghanistan U19 made a good a

concluded the tour on a high note winning the fifth and final match by 2 wickets to conclude the series 3-2.



the best teams at the U19 level in the world and are currently the world champions. The first match between both teams was played

comeback in third match bowling well to restrict India U19 to 152 and chasing it successfully to win the match by 3 wickets.

Overall, Afghanistan U19 have registered a good performance losing to a strong Indian side by 3-2. The youngsters delivered good perfor-



on 22nd, November that India U19 won by 9 wickets chasing 171. The second match was on 24th November and Afghanistan gave a tough

In the fourth match, India U19 beat Afghanistan by 4 wickets to take an unassailable lead of 3-1 in the series. However, Afghanistan

mances especially with the bowl not letting a strong Indian batting unit to score easily.

# AFGHANISTAN EMERGING TEAM

## CAMP FOR NATIONAL

### Emerging (23) Team

27th October - 5th November 2019

Afghanistan Cricket Board conducted a camp for the Afghanistan Emerging team ahead of the ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup that was

scheduled to be held in November. The main purpose for conducting the camp was to develop the skills and fitness of the players.

The team also played five practice matches against National U19 team as part of their preparations for the Asia Cup.



## ACC EMERGING TEAMS

### Asia Cup

14th – 23rd November 2019

ACC emerging Teams Asia Cup is conducted by the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) every year as part of ACC's development plan. The main purpose of the event is to develop the Emerging (U23) squads of the Asian nations. The 2019 edition

Pakistan. The team made a comeback beating Oman by 9 wickets comprehensively chasing a target of 154 in its second match of the tournament.

In its third and final group stage match Afghanistan emerging beat

tionally well. Darwish Rasooli was the top scorer for Afghanistan in the tournament scoring 175 runs at an amazing average of 87.5 scoring a hundred and a fifty. Abdul Malik was another impressive batsman for Afghanistan scoring



of the tournament was hosted by Bangladesh. A total number of eight teams participated in the event and were divided into two groups. Afghanistan Emerging was placed in Group A with Pakistan Emerging, Sri Lanka Emerging and Oman. Afghanistan lost its first match of the tournament to

Sri Lanka comprehensively by seven wickets and qualified to the Semi-Final. Afghanistan's campaign ended in the Semi Final as they lost to hosts Bangladesh by seven wickets.

The 2019 edition was a successful tournament for Afghanistan as some players performed exce-

154 runs at an average of 51.33 in the tournament including a career-best knock of 91. The top bowler for the team in the tournament was leg-breaker Abdul Wasi who took eight wickets with an average of 20.62 and a good economy of 4.45 RPO.

# DOMESTIC CRICKET

**Domestic Cricket in Afghanistan is managed and supervised by the cricket, Department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board which is responsible for organizing tournaments across five regions namely Band-e Amir, Speenghar, Amo, Mis-e Ainak and Bost at different levels.**



Domestic Cricket department is responsible for the following activities:

To maintain competitive Cricket environment by organizing quality competitions and building a strong structure to enhance player production process and provide them with all necessary standards and facilities.

To plan and organize tournaments of different age groups at club, district, provincial and regional levels to provide a platform for Skill Development of players and technical staff such as coaches, umpires, physiotherapists, scorers and masseurs.

To implement players' development pathway so domestic players can make their way to national sides.

# MAJOR COMPETITIONS

## INTER-REGIONAL

### 2- Day Tournament

11 January- 04 February 2019

The tournament was held across three venues (Kandahar, Khost & Nangarhar) from 11th January to 4th February among five provincial teams in each regions. Mis-e-Ainak region had five participating provincial teams in the tournament. The main purpose of the tournament was to get the best players for the upcoming three-day first class tournament.



## MIRWAIS NIKA

### Provincial 3-Day First-Class Tournament

15 February – 15 March 2019

This tournament was held for the first time in a three day format. It was held in two venues (Nangarhar and Kunar) and the winners from the 2-day competitions in each region qualified to the tournament. It was given first class status by International Cricket Council. The purpose of the tournament was to provide proper chances to provincial elite players to participate in high quality First-Class cricket and develop their skills. It was an opportunity for the involved technical staff as well. Umpires, scorers, and coaches who recently received training got the opportunity apply their skills during the event.



# MAJOR COMPETITIONS

## AHMAD SHAH ABDALI

### 4-Day First-Class Tournament

4th April - 2nd May 2019

Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class Tournament is the premier First-Class tournament in the country which serves as a good platform to get the best talent from the domestic arena to the national sides. The 2019 edition of the tournament was held in two phases.

#### Phase One:

The first phase of the tournament was played among five Regional teams in addition with the Kabul team which

was comprised of national U19 and U23 players. The dates of the phase were from 4th April 2019 to 29th April 2019 across three venues (Kunar, Nangarhar and Kabul). Ahead of the tournament, every regional team was provided a 10- day preparation camp as well.

#### Phase Two:

The second phase of the tournament was held from 27th November till 24th December

2019 in Nangarhar's Ghazi Amanullah Khan Stadium and the Khost Cricket Ground in Khost. Kabul was excluded from the second phase as the region was no longer part of the domestic structure. Speenhar Region emerged as the Champions ultimately securing 136 points in 9 matches across the tournament. The points table after the conclusion of the first phase is as follows:



## POINTS TABLE

S.NO	TEAMS	MATCH	WON	LOST	TIED	DRAW	N/R	POINTS
1	Speenhar	9	4	0	0	5	0	136
2	Amo	9	3	2	0	4	0	94
3	Mis-e Ainak	9	2	3	0	4	0	83
4	Bost	9	2	3	0	4	0	74
5	Kabul	5	1	0	0	3	1	57
6	Band-e Amir	9	1	5	0	2	1	23

# MAJOR COMPETITIONS

## BATTING TOP PERFORMERS

NAMES	MAT	INNS	NO	RUNS	HS	AVE	100s	50s	4s	6s
Najeeb Tarakai	9	15	0	828	200	55.20	4	2	91	38
Munir Ahmad	9	16	1	809	209	53.93	3	1	101	13
Shahidullah	7	12	1	772	189	70.18	3	3	85	15
Abdul Malik	8	13	0	730	179	56.15	2	4	89	2
Hayatullah	8	13	2	638	130	58.00	2	2	70	20
Zia ul Haq	8	16	1	616	102	41.06	1	3	70	1
Fazal Niazai	7	13	2	588	132	53.45	3	1	62	15
Bahir Shah	6	10	4	533	156*	88.83	2	1	77	3
Ihsanullah	4	6	0	524	248	87.33	2	1	66	15
Zahid Zakhail	5	8	1	518	215*	74.00	2	3	81	3

## WICKET TOP PERFORMERS

NAMES	MAT	INNS	OVERS	RUNS	WKTS	BBI	BBM	AVE	ECON	SR	SR	SR
Zohaib	6	11	216.2	673	46	9/37	12/105	14.63	3.11	28.2	4	1
Zia ur Rahman Akbar	6	11	219.2	505	35	6/46	8/75	14.42	2.30	37.6	3	0
Fareed Ahmad	8	13	249.3	874	31	6/27	7/94	28.19	3.50	48.2	1	0
Zahir Khan	5	9	172.3	813	30	6/52	9/130	27.10	4.71	34.5	2	0
Abdul Wasi	8	15	262.3	974	26	5/74	5/101	37.46	3.71	60.5	1	0
Yamin Ahmadzai	6	10	186.0	608	23	5/37	7/83	26.43	3.26	48.5	1	0
Yousuf Zazai	5	8	138.1	516	20	6/85	8/182	25.80	3.73	41.4	2	0
Mohammad Alam	6	10	205.2	585	20	4/64	5/86	29.25	2.84	61.6	0	0
Abdul Baqi	7	12	185.3	809	20	4/87	7/169	40.45	4.36	55.6	0	0
Dastagir Khan	9	16	218.1	824	20	4/49	6/63	41.20	3.77	65.4	0	0

# MAJOR COMPETITIONS

## PROVINCIAL CHALLENGE CUPS

### Grade III Challenge Cup 21st June - 1st July 2019

The event was organized across three venues (Kandahar, Khost and Kanduz) from 21st June to 1st July 2019. It was played in five regions among twenty low ranked provincial teams divided into six groups. Top six teams qualified to grade-two.



### Grade II Challenge Cup 14th July - 20th July 2019

The tournament consisted of twelve teams that included six provincial teams from previous year and six provincial teams that qualified from grade three. The teams were divided into four groups. The tournament was held in Paktia and Kunduz from 14th July to 20th July 2019. Top four teams from the tournament qualified to provincial elite cup (grade-one).



### Grade I Provincial Elite Cup 31st July - 10 August 2019

The elite Cup consisted of eight teams, divided in to two groups. As per tournament rules top four team from last edition of the tournament were directly qualified to the tournament meanwhile top four team from the grade two tournament qualified this year. The group stage matches of the tournament were played from 31st July to 10th August 2019 in Nangrahar and Khost provinces while the final was played in Kabul between Nangrahar and Kabul. Nangrahar emerged as the winner of the Elite Cup 2019.



# MAJOR COMPETITIONS

## GHAZI AMANULLAH KHAN REGIONAL LIST-A TOURNAMENT

Ghazi Amanullah Khan Regional List-A Tournament is a high profile List-A tournament in ACB domestic structure. The tournament is an important platform that helps players to prepare for the International limited-overs matches as well as find new talented players for the National senior, A Team, Emerging Team and Under 19 Teams.

Every regional team was provided a 10-day preparational camp ahead of the tournament which was held for 12 days from 31st July to 10th August 2019. The first round was played in Ghazi Amanullah Khan Cricket Stadium while the Final of the event was played in Kabul Cricket Stadium between Bost and Mis-e Ainak with the latter emerging as the Champion of the 2019 edition.



## REGIONAL UNDER 16 TOURNAMENT

12th November - 22 November 2019

As per the direction at ACB Top management, the Domestic department was tasked to arrange a regional U-16 Tournament to find new talent for the U17 and National U19 sides. The tournament was eventually held in Nangarhar among five regional teams from 12th November to 22nd November 2019.

# Shpageeza

## Cricket League

### 2019

#### SIXTH EDITION



Shpageeza Cricket League 2019 was a phenomenal event in the history of domestic Cricket in Afghanistan. It is a successful part of the country's cricket structure that has continued to produce exciting talent. Furthermore, It proved to be a great success for empowerment of Cricket in Afghanistan. Great performances by Afghan national stars, presence of few overseas players and the rising number of young talent have made the event an iconic part of Afghan Cricket.

#### Goals and Core objectives

Shpageeza Cricket League has been a successful venture for Afghanistan Cricket Board since its inception in 2013 providing ACB with a great platform both from financial and technical perspectives. The following are the core objectives and goals that ACB seeks to gain from the league:

- To build and strengthen the commercial market for Cricket in Afghanistan.
- To help nurture new talent.
- To empower the players financially.
- To provide entertainment for Cricket fans in Afghanistan.
- To provide opportunity for young players to play with national and overseas players.

# SHPAGEEZA CRICKET LEAGUE

## SIXTH EDITION

A special committee was assigned by ACB to implement the Shpageeza Cricket League. A great opening ceremony was held ahead of the event and was telecasted live on RTA.

The sixth edition of the league was held at Kabul Cricket Stadium from 7th-18th October 2019. The event was held on franchise basis between six teams that included five teams representing five regions and Kabul Eagles representing the capital. A total number of 19 matches were played in 11 days as a rest-day was given between the round-robin stage and the play-offs.

Four teams were sold while two

teams were managed and funded by ACB itself. A total number of 120 national players and 3 overseas players participated in the tournament.

The four franchise owners for the respective teams in the sixth edition were as follows:

- Paragon Business Group – Band-e Amir Dragons
- Wazirzai Global- Mis-e Ainak Knights
- Daily Fresh Fruits- Amo Sharks
- Arif Azeem Group- Bost Defenders

The TV production was done with 10 standard sports and 2 run out cameras installed for capturing and broadcasting the



event. The sixth edition came with international standard graphics and production that brought the game of Cricket to new heights of popularity as

Afghanistan Bank (DAB), was the biggest sponsor of the event which used the platform to advocate for the effective implementation and use of Afghani

Cricket Board, they were given all possible coverage and promotion towards the use of Afghani currency was carried out successfully.

The jersey sponsorship rights were given to the respective franchisees. Moreover, each franchisee was provided 10% ground branding space as per contract. Hoco and Refah-e-Shaheen Construction Company were the associate sponsors for the event. Blossom Health Care Center provided medical services during the event.

On an average, the matches were attended by 6,000 fans



the matches were televised Live across Afghanistan and abroad by RTA. For the first time, the graphics included detailed stats of the players as well as matches while two international commentators were hired to provide their services in the commentary box.

RTA had dedicated presenters (both male and female) for presenting post and pre match shows. 12,000,000 (approximate) viewers watched the matches live on RTA TV in Afghanistan and all over the world. ACB provided its full support to the teams providing them with team managers, physiotherapists, masseurs and strength and conditioning trainers.

Afghanistan's Central Bank, Da

currency in the country. As the special sponsor of Afghanistan



daily who came to watch their favorite stars play at the Kabul Cricket Stadium. Furthermore, In order to make the games more accessible to the fans,

the entry fee was free for three days while the entry for ladies was free for all matches. The total sponsorship revenue from Jersey and ground brand-

ing during the event was good considering the current market conditions in Afghanistan.

## RESULT

Mis-e-Ainak Knights led by Mohammad Nabi beat Band-e Amir Dragons led by Rashid Khan in the Final to be crowned as the Champions of the sixth edition of the tournament. The Knights had won the tournament previously as well in 2014 and finished runner-up in 2017.

In a nutshell, the sixth sea-

son of the Shpageeza Cricket League proved to be a grand success for ACB and was a welcome event for fans who were disappointed due to World Cup results.

From the technical perspective, it was a great success as well as the production quality was at its best while the operations were done on time

and the requirements of the respective teams were procured well.

The league proved to be a great platform to give opportunity to the business market in the country who were interested in cricket and ultimately, the market value for Cricket was rebuilt in the country.



# Top Performers in Shpageeza Cricket League 2019

## Batting - Most Runs

NO	PLAYER	MATCH	INN	NO	RUNS	BALLS	HS	AVE	SR	100S	50S	4S	6S
1	Noor Ali Zadran	7	7	2	354	264	77	70.8	134.09	0	3	38	10
2	Javed Ahmadi	8	5	2	351	241	117	58.5	145.64	1	2	35	18
3	Karim Jannat	7	7	0	317	193	120	45.28	164.25	1	1	24	23
4	Ibrahim Zadran	5	8	1	287	222	96	71.75	129.28	0	3	23	11
5	Asghar Afghan	7	7	0	254	185	92	36.28	137.30	0	2	11	19
6	Afsar Zazai	8	8	5	231	183	56*	77	126.23	0	2	11	19

## Bowling - Most Wickets

NO	PLAYER	MATCH	INN	OVERS	MDNS	RUNS	WKTS	BBI	AVE	ECON	SR	4W	5W
1	Nijat Masood	6	6	21	0	191	11	5/22	17.36	9.10	11.45	0	1
2	Navin-ul-Haq	7	7	28	1	212	10	3/41	21.20	7.57	16.80	0	0
3	Mujib-ur-Rahman	8	8	31	1	217	10	2/12	21.70	7.00	18.60	0	0
4	Waqar Salamkhel	6	8	21.5	0	231	10	4/38	23.10	10.58	13.10	1	0
5	Yamin Ahmadzai	7	7	27	0	234	9	4/33	26.00	8.67	18.00	1	0
6	Hamza Hotak	6	6	24	2	118	8	2/10	14.75	4.92	18.00	0	0

# Individual Awards

## Karim Janat

Best Player of the League



## Nijat Masood

Best Bowler of the League



## Noor Ali Zadran

Best Batsman of the League



## Noor Ahmad

Emerging Player of the League



# INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

**Infrastructure development is an integral part of ACB's objective and strategic plan to develop the game and stimulate its growth in the country.**

Infrastructure development has always been a challenge for ACB due to different reasons such as difficulty in the acquisition of lands, lack of funds, legal issues, etc. However, during the year 2019, the overall development was satisfactory as many projects such as different grounds, academies, guest houses, etc. got on track completion.



# GROUND DEVELOPMENT

## PAKTIKA CRICKET GROUND (PHASE ONE)

As per the Action Plan of 2019, the activities at Paktika Cricket Ground were to construct a two-story Pavilion, Water Supply System, Fence, Sidewalks, and Side Ditch. The project was funded from the budget of the Afghanistan Cricket Board. The contract was awarded to Kabul Alharamain Construction Company. and the first phase of the project was completed in 2019.



## KHOST CRICKET GROUND TIERS

The contract of the project was awarded to Faizi Mujadadi Construction Company for extending the capacity of Stands from 5000 to 9,000 capacity in October 2017. Currently, 90% of the work has been completed and the remaining construction is in progress.



## PAKTIA CRICKET GROUND

The development plan for Paktia Cricket Ground in 2019 involves constructing fence around the green area, water supply system, bore well and underground water tank. ACB contracted the above activities to Hewad Nageen Construction Company and 100% of the work has been completed. ACB has a plan to construct an international stadium in Paktia which the design of which is under progress with the ministry of Urban Development and Land (MUDL).



### KANDAHAR CRICKET GROUND LEVELING

This project was funded by the Afghanistan Cricket Board and a budget of 25,000 USD was allocated for it which included ground levelling and grass planting. The project is 100% completed and ready for playing matches.



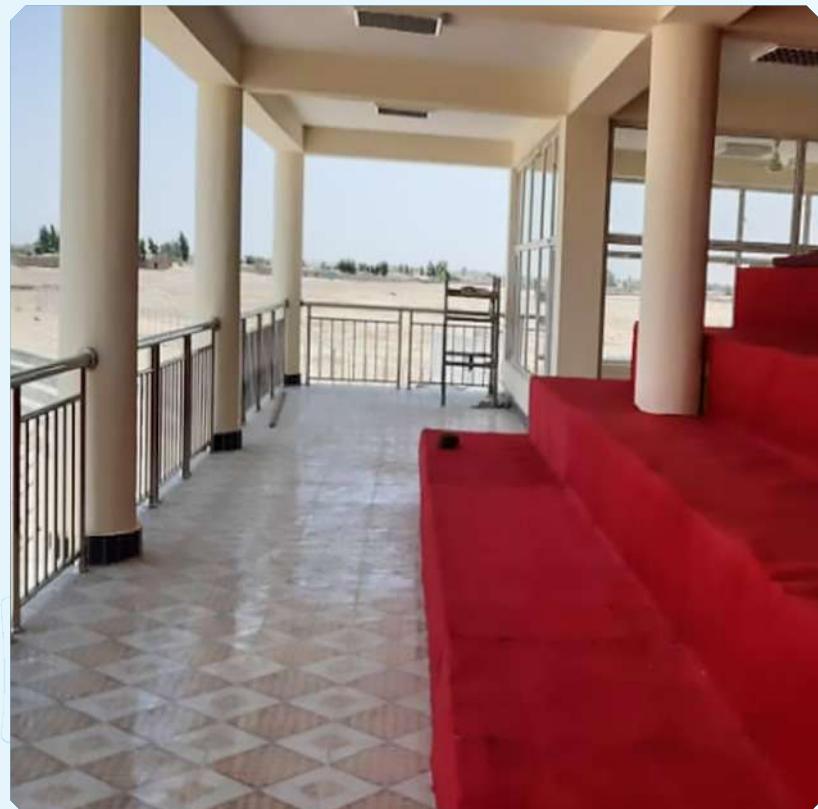
### KHOST CRICKET GROUND LEVELING

This project was funded by the Afghanistan Cricket Board with a budget of 15,000 USD, it's for ground leveling and grass planting. This project was 100% completed and matches were held at khost cricket ground in 2019.



## HELMAND CRICKET GROUND

As per the action plan, the activities at Helmand Cricket Ground involved construction of the Pavilion, Water Supply System, Grassing, Fence, Sidewalks, Side Ditch, stands, and an Out-Door Academy. The project was funded by the Ministry of Counter Narcotics in Afghanistan. The contract has been awarded to Hayat Helmandwal Construction Company. The construction work is 100% completed.



## ZABUL CRICKET GROUND

The activities at Zabul Cricket Ground Involved construction of the Pavilion, installation of Water Supply System, Grassing, Fence, Sidewalks, Side Ditch and Out Door Academy.

The project is funded by the Ministry of Counter Narcotics in Afghanistan. The contract was awarded to Hayat Helmandwal Construction Company. The construction work is almost 70% completed.



## KANDAHAR GUEST HOUSE

The development plan for the Kandahar Cricket Ground required construction of a VIP Guest House in 2019, at the vicinity of Kandahar Cricket Ground in Kandahar Province. The project is funded by the Embassy of India through the Ministry of Economy in Afghanistan. The project was designed by the ACB Engineering Department, and the drawing is submitted to Ministry of Economy. The contract was awarded to Popal Noor Construction Company. The construction work is 50% completed. The total budget for this project is (USD 360,000) .



## LAGHMAN CRICKET GROUND

According to the action plan of 2019, the activities at Laghman Cricket Ground Involved construction of Pavilion, Fence, Sidewalks, Side Ditch and stands. The project is funded by the Ministry of Urban and Development and Land. The contract has been awarded to United Europe Construction Company. The construction work completed.



## KABUL CRICKET STADIUM

Installation of truss for the stand of Kabul International Cricket Stadium, was completed in 2019 to allow fans to enjoy cricket, especially during Shpageeza Cricket League 2019.



## LOGAR CRICKET GROUND

The development plan for Logar Cricket Ground in 2019 involved building a Pavilion, Water Supply System, Grassing, Fence, Footpaths, Side Ditch, Out Door Academy, Retaining wall and Surrounding Wall. The project was funded by the Embassy of India through the Ministry of Economy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The project was designed by the ACB Engineering Department and the drawing is submitted to the Ministry of Economy but the budget was not sufficient for this project. Therefore, ACB delivered a new proposal to the Ministry of Economy for this ground with a revised budget for the new design of USD 750,000. The proposal was sent by Ministry of Economy to the Indian Embassy for approval and is in the process. The initial budget for this project was USD 400,000 and the land area for this project is 28800 sqm (14.4 Jeribs). This ground is located in the provincial capital of Logar, (Pul-e- Alam). Last year, ACB started to level the ground from its budget and 85% of the work has been completed.



## PAKTIKA CRICKET GROUND (PHASE TWO)

The development plan for Paktika Cricket Ground in phase II involve construction of stands, grassing, and ground equipments (generator, Grasscutter, etc.), cutting and filling of the remaining area. The capacity of cricket ground is the 8000 spectators, the project is funded by the National Budget through Ministry of Urban development and Land. The project has been designed by the ACB Engineering Department, drawing is submitted to Ministry of MUDH The contract has been awarded to Spaa Construction Company and the land area for this project is 1200000 sqm (60 Jeribs) and total budget for this project is AFN 68,000,000.



## KHOST CRICKET ACADEMY

## ACADEMIES DEVELOPMENT

This project was funded by the Afghanistan Cricket Board with a budget of USD 15,000. It was for ground leveling and grass planting and completed in 2019.



### BEHSOOD CRICKET ACADEMY

This project was funded by the Afghanistan Cricket Board with a budget of USD 12,000. The construction of Behsood Cricket Academy was completed in 2019 and is currently open for players



### KABUL CRICKET ACADEMY

This project is funded by the Afghanistan Cricket Board with a budget of \$15,000. The project involves building a cricket academy at Kabul Cricket Stadium. This project is currently 80% completed.



# GAME DEVELOPMENT

**Game Development Department is mainly concerned with the development of game education and cricket at grassroots and junior levels.**

The department plans and arranges capacity building training and other courses in Afghanistan and overseas for technical staffs' skills enrichment including Match Referees, Coaches, Umpires, Scorers, Trainers, Video Analysts, Physios, Curators, etc.



## KABUL CRICKET GROUND MAIN PITCHES CONVENIENT CHANGE

The work on Kabul Cricket Ground pitches started in February 2018. The purpose of this activity was to change the direction of pitches due to some technical concerns and the disturbance caused by the sight to spectators during matches.

The plan for the activity was made by the game development department in close cooperation with engineering department. The project was completed before Shpageeza Cricket League and all participating teams were the beneficiaries of the project.

## NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY (NCA) EXPANSION PROGRAM

The Kabul NCA expansion program which started in February increased the number of wickets from four to twelve as well as adding four cement wickets. Local soil was brought from Logar province and used in preparation of the pitches with a purpose of providing an opportunity for more players to practice in Kabul NCA.

## BEHSOOD CRICKET ACADEMY

Due to higher demand for professional cricket in Eastern Afghanistan, the game development department decided to build a new cricket academy in the city of Jalalabad. The academy has two cement wickets and four turf wickets with other necessary tools and equipment such as nets, pitches, rollers and grass cutter. The purpose is to provide a professional learning environment for cricketers in Nangarhar and also find a way of generating more income for ACB.

## PAKTIA CRICKET ACADEMY

After ACB constructed a cricket ground in Paktia, there was a need for constructing a cricket academy in the province. The academy has two cement wickets and four turf wickets and will be completed early next year as the work will resume after the cold winter in Paktia. This will enable cricketers in the province to have access to training and learning space to develop themselves as professional cricketers.

## INSTALLATION OF SOLAR POWER SYSTEM

For the last few years, the fuel costs to maintain the Ghazi Amanullah Khan Ground was a major financial burden for ACB. Therefore, it was decided to install solar power system to decrease costs and introduce renewable energy.

## LEVEL II COACHING REFRESHER COURSE

A level two coaching refresher course was organized by the game development department which was delivered by ACB's qualified coaches and educators. All new updates in coaching methods were taught to the participants during the course and it helped current coaches to be upskilled.

## PARTICIPATION IN LEVEL II COACHING EDUCATOR COURSE

Two ACB Level I Coaching Educators were sent to participate in Asian Cricket Council's Level II Coaching Educator Course that took place in Dubai UAE from 8th – 14th December. This will help ACB to be self-reliant in delivery of Level II Coaching Courses in the future.





# WOMEN CRICKET

**The development of Women Cricket has been one of the top priorities for ACB.**



During the year 2019, the ACB women department was highly involved in development of women cricket with standard rules and regulations in different parts of the country. This year was the department's most successful year yet as it managed to deliver high quality cricket events in the country.

There are a number of challenges for women cricket in the country and the activities carried out by the women department in 2019 were successful and aimed at improving the participation of girls in cricket and development of their cricketing knowledge and educating them about the standards, rules and regulations of the sport.

The department received positive feedback by training female cricketers in an academic environment. All activities were implemented through a regular standard of inclusive policy.

## TRAINING PROGRAM AND CAPACITY BUILDING

In January 2019, a 16-day training program and capacity-building camp was organized and implemented for girls who had participated in the three-day elementary coaching, umpiring and scoring course in 2018. The impact of this training camp was very positive as the department managed to train 25 girls as coaches, umpires and scorers.

## AWARENESS AND SURVEY

In April 2019, the women department carried out a survey for cricket awareness and to engage young girls to play cricket at 16 educational areas in Kabul and Herat provinces. The impact of this survey was positive because the department succeeded in spreading awareness about the game to over a thousand young girls and their families.

## IN-DOOR TRAINING SESSIONS

Various training sessions were organized by the women department at ACB's in-door facility from March to December 2019. The sessions were useful as the girls were trained in terms of cricket rules and regulations and basics of cricket. The department succeeded to train new talent for the national women's team.

## TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR SCHOOLS MANAGERS AND SPORTS TEACHERS

In October 2019, the women department carried out a one-day cricket awareness workshop for school managers and sports teachers to encourage girls to play cricket in schools.

## FRIENDLY MATCHES - HERAT VS KABUL

These matches were the first of a series of inter-provincial matches which were played at the Herat University Football Ground. The matches were organized in coordination with UN Women.

## HIRING INTERN COACHES

Due to an increasing interest in women cricket and lack of women coaches, the women department requested HR to hire five intern coaches in Kabul in September. Each coach was hired to provide training in two to three schools for inter-school competitions. As a result, the department succeeded in training 1000 girls in Kabul.

## TOURNAMENTS IN KABUL AND HERAT

The women department held a cricket tournament in September 2019 in Herat between 12 schools and between 16 schools in October in Kabul. It was the first time that the department organized a cricket tournament consisting of 12-over-a-side matches. The main goal of these tournament was to attract new talent for women cricket. As a result, a squad of 30 players was selected from the tournament for Kabul and Herat teams respectively.

## TRAINING CAMP IN KABUL NCA

ACB women cricket department held a seven-day training camp in November 2019 in the National Cricket Academy (NCA). It was the first time ever when women department organized a training camp for Kabul team to prepare for a friendly match between Kabul and Herat.

## ELEMENTARY COACHING COURSE IN KABUL AND HERAT

A three-day elementary coaching course was conducted with the support of Afghan Connection for 50 girls in Kabul in the month of December.

## SCHOOL TRIALS

One-day trial sessions were organized in 16 girls' schools of Kabul in April. The main goal of the trial sessions were to attract new talents in women cricket. As a result, a squad of 14 players was selected from each school for Under-15 and over-15 teams. They were given proper training to get prepared for upcoming tournaments by seven coaches (including five intern coaches) in Kabul and women department in-charge in Herat.





# ADMINISTRATION

The Administration department is responsible for creating a professional office environment and ensuring positive interactions with all visitors and staff.

The Administration department is responsible for creating a professional office environment and ensuring positive interactions with all visitors and staff. This department works within defined policies and procedures to oversee the day to day administrative operations.

The Administrative department works actively both internally and externally with the Afghan government and other entities to ensure that the ACB's essentials needs are met on time. Besides this, it provide logistics support to the players and ACB officials.

During the year 2019, the Admin department provided support to other departments and continued to provide facilities to make sure that the daily affairs of the organization are run smoothly without any hindrance.

The following were the main activities conducted or co-conducted by the Admin department that resulted in positive impact for overall business operations of the ACB throughout the year:

- 1.** Arrangement of logistics and other administrative needs during and before the Nawroz T10 Cup in Kabul and Balkh provinces.
- 2.** Arrangement of logistics for the Special Annual General Meeting (AGM) in July 2019.
- 3.** Arranging required logistics and other event management requirements during and before the Independence Centenary Celebration Match.
- 4.** Administrative support for Shpageeza Cricket League 2019 Players' Draft such stage set-up , live-streaming production & guest management.
- 5.** Support with SCL 2019 operations and providing logistic and technical support for the event for a period of 45 days.
- 6.** Afghan Universities' team tour of China-China hosted (Afghanistan and Pakistan) for friendship matches in order to build friendship between 3 counties in the regions.

**Stock Management and Inventory system**  
 Inventory management supervises the flow of goods from market to warehouses and ACB stock. The admin department dispatches and distributes inventory items of offices and individuals as advised and documents all the dispatches through proper documentation tools such as waybills, dislocating forms and goods received system.

### Communications

The admin department acts as a bridge between other entities and ACB through letter, phone and electronic correspondence. The communication involved vital mutual correspondence with important national and international bodies including but not limited to:

**a**

Letters, report and other required correspondence with the Presidential Palace (ARG) on important matters.

**b**

Correspondence and communication with the Parliament.

**c**

Communication and correspondence with the Attorney General's office on important legal issues at ACB.

**d**

Communications with different Embassies and foreign missions in Afghanistan for coordination of sports activities of relevance.

# HUMAN RESOURCE

The Human Resources Department (HRD) has a strategic role in ACB that aligns employee objectives to organization's objectives thereby implementing the Management by Objectives (MBO) approach. HR department contributes to the development and accomplishment of organization-wide plans. The department handled many necessary functions and activities during the year 2019 which are as follows:

## RIGHTSIZING

HRD in coordination with Top Management & line managers conducted an organization-wide manpower study. As a result, over 40 employees were laid off. The motives of this exercise were to ensure that the right number of employees are on board; to enhance work quality; and to avoid unnecessary HR costs.

## ACB VALUES

Values are essential for any organization as almost all major organizations have a specific set of values that guide an organization's activities and operations. It helps leaderships, departments and employees to align their decisions to the overall goals, mission and vision of the organization.

These are also important to build a specific organizational culture which results in achievement of organizational goals. ACB values were drafted and approved by ACB Top Management and communicated to all staff and stakeholders.

After a thorough research and a study of ACB internal working environment; Integrity, People, Collaboration, Excellence, Trust and Cricket Spirit were identified as core values of ACB.

## PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM 2019

HRD in coordination with Top Management & line managers conducted an organization-wide manpower study. As a result, over 50 employees were laid off. The motives of this exercise were to ensure that the right number of employees are on board; to enhance work quality; and to avoid unnecessary HR costs.

## PLAYERS CONTRACTS

In collaboration with Cricket Operations Department, contracts were awarded to 32 centrally-contracted national players in A, B and C categories.

It is also important to note that 20 players from the People with Disabilities (PwDs) Team were also given contracts to ensure a flow of income for them.

Domestic players from all regions were also given contracts by ACB that numbered 56 in A, B and C categories.

# MEDIA DEPARTMENT

The Media department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board is the official channel of conveying and receiving information from and to the general public and cricket fans. The department gives coverage to all cricketing events of Afghanistan, whether domestic or International, directly via its social media platforms, website, and monthly magazine and indirectly through local & international mediums.

ACB Media department is also responsible for facilitating access to information for all news agencies and general public. It has a vital role in sharing information through press releases, media statements and advisories to external media sources. Other activities include administration of social media pages, conducting cricket awareness programs in provinces and rural-areas as well as training programs for Afghan journalists across the country.

## ACB OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA

Afghanistan Cricket Board's official social media handles are the primary source of conveying information required to all

### FACEBOOK

Facebook is the primary social media tool of ACB across its online sphere. Currently our FB page has 2,437,036 likes which makes it one of the most followed pages on



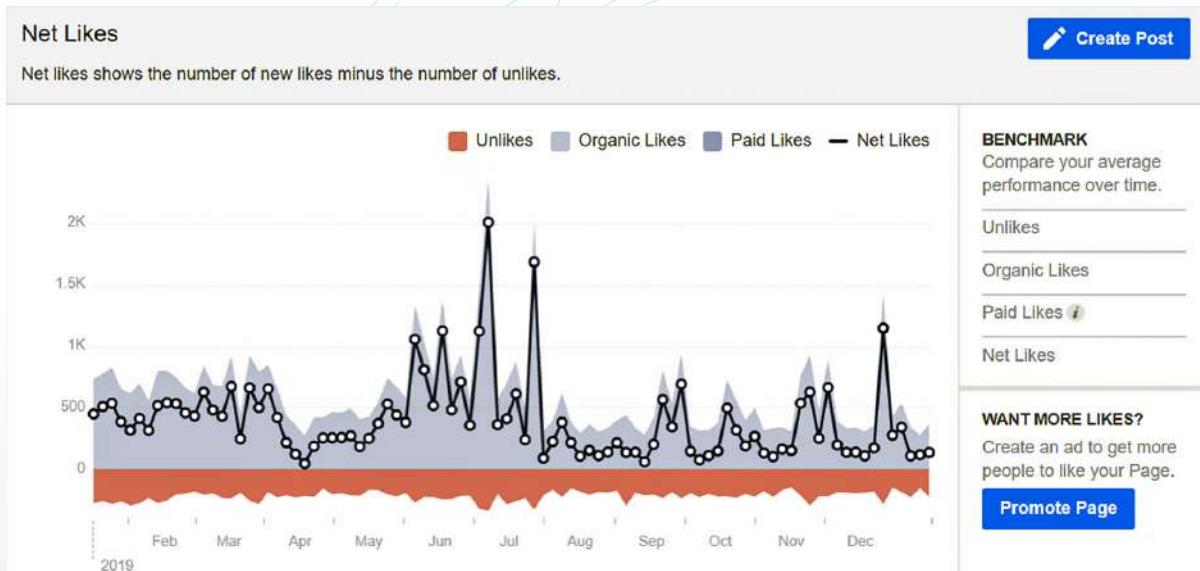
During the year 2019, the department covered all of major competitions and tournaments for the Afghanistan National Cricket Team as well as for Afghanistan U19, Afghanistan Emerging Team and Afghanistan PwDs Team. The department also gave best possible coverage to domestic competitions such as the Shpageeza Cricket League, Ghazi Amanullah Khan Regional One-day Tournament, Mirwais Nika Three-Day Tournament and the Ahmad Shah Abdali First-Class Tournament.

The coverage of the Shpageeza Cricket League 2019 was the best in the league's history across all social media platforms as well on TV. The broadcasting rights for the sixth season of the tournament was awarded to RTA for the first time and it proved a tremendous success as it was broadcasted in all provinces as well as outside the country.

stakeholders about cricketing affairs of ACB. ACB has an active digital footprint on the following platforms:

social media sites in Afghanistan. It is also a platform that is most followed by cricketing fans in the country for any news and updates related to the game.

# MEDIA DEPARTMENT



## TWITTER

ACB's official Twitter handle (@acbofficials) also has a considerably active digital presence on the micro blogging platform with important news updates, match updates, players' data and timely match reports and

other relevant tweets.

The platform is operated only in English Language taking into account the audience who are mostly outside Afghanistan in countries such as India, England and UAE.

← **Afghanistan Cricket Board**

11.4K Tweets

2019

Afghanistan Cricket Board

ACB

**Edit profile**

### Afghanistan Cricket Board

@ACBOfficials

The home of Afghanistan Cricket on Twitter

[fb.com/AfghanistanCric...](https://fb.com/AfghanistanCric...)

Instagram: afghanistan cricket board

📍 Kabul, Afghanistan ⚡ cricket.af 📅 Joined May 2010

499 Following 387K Followers

# MEDIA DEPARTMENT



## INSTAGRAM

Instagram is a photo sharing Social Networking sites with an increasing demand among followers of the sport of cricket. ACB's official Instagram account has increased considerably over the last one year after being restored from non-activation for two years (2016-mid 2018). ACB's

official Instagram account has currently over 150,000 followers and continues to increase daily. Therefore, digital presence is kept updated during all recent events whether International or Domestic tournaments such as Shpageeza.

afghanistancricketboard [Follow](#)

2,128 posts 152k followers 124 following

Afghanistan Cricket Board  
Afghanistan Cricket Board is leading organization of Cricket in Afghanistan.  
[www.cricket.af](http://www.cricket.af)

CWC19 sq... Maiden Tes... CWCTroph... CWCTroph... APLT20 Ch... #AFGvIND ... Cheers! #A...

**SUMMARY**  
First Class Tournament 2019  
435/8\* 1st Innings

**CH SUMMARY**  
Abdali First Class Tournament 2019 -  
262 1st Innings  
56 Dastagir Khan



## YOUTUBE

ACB's YouTube Channel is still in its development stage with an aim to increase engagement ultimately resulting in monetization. However, in recent months, especially

during the SCL 2019, the YouTube Channel has grown and continues to grow with organic videos.

**Afghanistan Cricket Board Official**  
5.67K subscribers

[CUSTOMIZE CHANNEL](#) [YOUTUBE STUDIO](#)

[HOME](#) [VIDEOS](#) [PLAYLISTS](#) [COMMUNITY](#) [CHANNELS](#) [ABOUT](#) [SEARCH](#)

[Uploads](#) [PLAY ALL](#) [SORT BY](#)

Afghanistan U19 Cricket team left for the upcoming ... 496 views • 3 days ago

Afghanistan U19 Cricket Team batsmen Farhan, ... 224 views • 4 days ago

Afghanistan U19 Cricket Team Spin Bowlers Farzal Haider ... 373 views • 6 days ago

Press Conference: Senior Player Asghar Afghan ... 1.4K views • 3 weeks ago

Head Coach Lance Klusner talks about his future plans ... 551 views • 3 weeks ago

Afghanistan U19 Skipper Farhan Zakhail on his team's ... 237 views • 3 weeks ago

Hamza Hotak expresses his views after a good first day ... 329 views • 1 month ago

Interview with Alistair Campbell | Shpageeza ... 411 views • 2 months ago

Mis-e Ainak Knights vs Band-e Amir Dragons SCL Final ... 2.1K views • 2 months ago

Qais Ahmad's 5 wickets 362 views • 2 months ago

Band-e Amir Dragons vs Speenghar Tigers Highlights ... 216 views • 2 months ago

# MEDIA DEPARTMENT



## OFFICIAL WEBSITE

ACB's official Website is one of its main sources of sharing information and spreading awareness about the game and providing other relevant news to the general public. The first phase of the website was developed in December 2017 in two languages; Pashto and English. However, in order to reach further audience and spread the game further, Media and IT departments worked closely and started to work on the second phase of development in January 2019 to integrate the Dari language as well.

As there were some features, services and sections that needed to be modified, improved and updated, the re-engineering process of ACB website was started in October 2019 by the IT department with recommendations from Media department for its data management. The main focus was to make the website more user-friendly, appealing and attractive for online visitors by improving the loading time, security, design and performance.

**AFGHANISTAN CRICKET BOARD**

**HOME**

**HISTORY**

The Afghanistan Cricket Federation was established in 1995. It was granted affiliate membership by the International Cricket Council (ICC) in 2001 and this year marked the beginning of an incredible journey in the history of sports, and subsequently being granted associate membership of the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) in 2003.

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The game of cricket was not very popular in the country in early to mid-2000. The loss to Hong Kong in the semi-final of the 2006 ACC Trophy brought invaluable benefits to Afghanistan National Cricket Team as it helped the players to develop a passion and tenacity for victories. This in turn influenced the fan following of the game across the country as well as within the Afghan diaspora abroad, particularly amongst the youth. Afghan cricket started to attract the attention of the mass media which helped the coverage of the national team's rise. In 2007, after becoming the joint champion of the ACC T20 trophy in Kuwait, the national team received a heroes' welcome upon their arrival from different members of the society including government officials and the victory was celebrated across the country. The national team players were invited to celebratory events in different provinces of Afghanistan. Cricket gave a hope of unity and prosperity to the nation that had been in war for over three decades and this raised the expectations of the public from the national team to play as a unit with even higher spirits. This played a vital role in attracting the interest of the government of Afghanistan at a time when

The Afghanistan Cricket Federation submitted a proposal to the President of the country to elevate the status of the

Looking For...

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# MEDIA DEPARTMENT



## ACB MAGAZINE

ACB Media department organizes and publishes a monthly magazine called "Afghan Cricket". The magazine contains data including international cricket news, domestic cricket news, events, interviews, articles, rankings, and other cricket relevant

materials. The magazine is distributed to all ministries and news agencies as well as all five regional offices under the Afghanistan Cricket Board. The magazine used to be published in every two months before 2019.



Afghan Cricket Magazine - October 2019 edition



Afghan Cricket Magazine - September 2019 edition



Afghan Cricket Magazine - June 2019 edition



Afghan Cricket Magazine - May 2019 edition



Afghan Cricket Magazine - April 2019 edition



Afghan Cricket Magazine - March 2019 edition



Afghan Cricket Magazine - February 2019 edition



Afghan Cricket Magazine - January 2019 edition

## CRICKET FOR ALL

The Cricket for All is an awareness program by ACB that started in 2018 and was successfully carried out in 2019 as well. The program is conducted in those provinces where cricket is not a mainstream sport

with an aim to educate the youth about the basics of the game of cricket. During 2019, the Media department implemented this program in Herat, Bamyan, Kunduz, Faryab and Jowzjan provinces.

## JOURNALISTS TRAINING WORKSHOPS

ACB organized training workshops for sports journalists and reporters in Khost, Kandahar and Kunduz in 2019 to educate and train them about the rules and

regulations of cricket. The program has had a very positive impact and feedback since its inception as it is an unmatched initiative by ACB.

# MARKETING DEPARTMENT

## ACB OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA

The Marketing department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) oversees its marketing, promotion, sales, revenue, digital branding and sponsorship management.

ACB Marketing team completed various sponsorship & partnership agreements. During the calendar year 2019, we were able to expand our partnership portfolio with other organizations that support Afghanistan cricket.

Sponsors and Partners for important domestic and international events during the year included the following:

### AFGHANISTAN VS IRELAND, INDIA



The series between Afghanistan and Ireland in Dehra-dun was sponsored by the Islamic Bank of Afghanistan. The series included five ODIs, three T20Is and a one-off Test match.

### AMUL - ICC CRICKET WORLD CUP 2019, ENGLAND AND WALES

The biggest cricketing event of the year, the ICC Cricket World Cup 2019, was held in England and Wales from 30th May to 14th July 2019. The famous Indian Dairy brand, Amul, which is managed by the Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation Limited (GCMMF), was finalized as the main sponsor of Afghanistan National Cricket Team for the event.



# MARKETING DEPARTMENT

## VOA ASHNA - PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS) WORLD CRICKET SERIES 2019, ENGLAND

Voice of America (VOA) Ashna was signed as the official sponsor of the Afghanistan People with Disabilities (PwDs) Team during the Physical Disability World Cricket Series which was held in England in August.



## DA AFGHANISTAN BANK SHPAGEEZA CRICKET LEAGUE 2019

The sixth edition of Shpageeza Cricket League was held from 7th to 18th October at Kabul Cricket Stadium. SCL is Afghanistan's premier domestic T20 Tournament which has contributed to the development of commercial cricket in the country.

Afghanistan's Central Bank, Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) was the Special sponsor for the event. As per the agreement between both sides, the event was used to promote the usage of Afghani currency across the country, which was successfully carried out throughout the tournament.



# MARKETING DEPARTMENT

## AZIZI BANK - AFGHANISTAN TOUR OF BANGLADESH



Afghanistan's tour of Bangladesh included a one-off Test match against hosts as well as a triangular series that also involved Zimbabwe. Azizi Bank was the main jersey sponsor of Team Afghanistan for the entire tour.

## AZIZI BANK, KAM AIR, KARDAN UNIVERSITY AND KHAN STEEL - AFGHANISTAN VS WEST INDIES, INDIA



Afghanistan played a full series against West Indies from 06th November to 1st December in Lucknow, India. The series included three ODIs, three T20Is and a one-off Test. The caliber of Sponsors and partners who invested or contributed to the West Indies series in India was reflective of the interest and the value they achieve through alignment with the Afghanistan Cricket Board.

Some of the famous sponsors included big companies based inside Afghanistan such as Azizi Bank, Khan Steel, Kardan University, Kam Air and Rana Technologies enterprises were the part of this event. Kardan University and Khan Steel were signed as main jersey sponsors for the T20I and ODI series respectively while Kam Air was signed as the official travel partner of ACB for the duration of the series. The MoU signed between Kardan University and Afghanistan Cricket included mutual cooperation through capacity building and education of staff as well. The next stage for the ACB and its marketing division is to attract a Main and or Team Sponsor along with a Co-sponsor for the next cycle of events for the calendar years 2020 to 2023. The planning process is already underway and will be applied over the course of the next few months.



# MAJOR PROJECTS

## MASTER MODULE

Include following features:

- o Centralization of All ACB Departments Data
- o Users Management for ACB ERP
- o Users Role Management
- o Permissions Management
- o Domains and Modules Management

## HRMIS

Include following features:

- o Employee Management
- o Employee Contract Management
- o Employee ID Card Digital Solution
- o ACB Official Working Calendar
- o ACB Vehicle Card Digital Solution
- o Employee Attendance Management
- o Shifts and Timing Management
- o Leave and Travel Management
- o Advanced Reports and Dashboards

## INVENTORY MIS

Include following features:

- o Product Management
- o Products Tagging Solution
- o Product Receiving Process
- o Product Issuance to ACB Employee Process
- o Product Return from Employee Process
- o Advanced Inventory Reports

## WEBSITE RE-ENGINEERING & REVERSE-ENGINEERING

You have to give your priority to the friendliness, the application and platforms you are providing should be user-friendly, and that's why the re-engineering process has took place.

The straight forward way to have and view a webpage is that it could be your online business address. This is where your followers, fans, clients and associates go to find you on the Internet.

The Home page identifies your core activities and branded value proposition, the About Us page tells visitors all about your business and the Contact Us page informs everyone how to get in-touch with you. It legitimizes your business and improves your credibility. It gives your business an identity and is virtual proof that it exists. Having Website means you have your own domain which is one of the most important part of the Organization to share ACB related news, events, match fixtures, player's profile and many other things.

## LIVE SCORE APPLICATION INTEGRATION

For the cricketing organization such as Afghanistan Cricket Board the live score is a very important project, it shows the whole live match record ball by ball including match summary, scorecard, match fixtures, player's performance, batsman and bowler strike rotation, team points, best performer, wicket fall, score, boundaries and many more things which is going in the match.

People who are connected with internet and have no access to live telecast or television they can follow the full match with help of Live score application. The application is integrated with ACB website and display all the live matches with its corresponding data at the landing page of ACB website.

## HRMIS (HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM)

HR department can be considered as the backbone of ACB. It will impact the entire operations, If it's not running smoothly.

HRMIS could be the best friend of HR department. They act as a strategic partner to prevent time consuming and mundane tasks. IT department held meeting with HR dept. to smoot the HR operations and develop their own HRMIS base on their needs. After data gathering the development of HRMIS has been started according to the rules and methodologies of software engineering. It contains employee management, attendance management, payroll process, leave management, employee ID card, vehicle card, advanced reports and some other great features and functions.

## PLAYERS & CLUB REGISTRATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR DOMESTIC CRICKET

The system is designed and developed based on the request of Game Development department of ACB, the main aim of the usage is to register all the cricketing clubs around Afghanistan and after the complete registration of clubs and their correspondent data the players of each club with all the needed data for their cricking career and statistics are recorded gradually.

## TASK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Managing multiple tasks can be difficult, especially when you have many projects/tasks happening simultaneously. Whether you need to assign, prioritize, manage, or complete tasks, a task management system can help by automating and streamlining tasks so you and your team can be more productive.

## SCL 6TH EDITION PLAYERS DRAFT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The system is designed and developed based on the request of SCL Committee before the Draft process for the 6th edition of the league, the main purpose of the system is to put all the players with their statistics in to action, categorize them by five classes, have all the franchises and manage the picking process of the players.

## SCL 6TH EDITION PLAYERS DRAFT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The system is designed and developed based on the request of SCL Committee before the Draft process for the 6th edition of the league, the main purpose of the system is to put all the players with their statistics in to action, categorize them by five classes, have all the franchises and manage the picking process of the players.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES AND SYSTEMS

- Inventory management system
- Private Cloud Installation and Configuration
- Video Conferencing System
- Domain controller + WSUS Server + File Server
- Accreditation | Invitation Cards | Certificate and different printing support
- IT Equipment Purchase request
- Email Sever Maintenance and Monitoring
- Help Desk
- Employee ID and Vehicle Cards
- Database warehouse Server Configuration
- Server Room and Power Backup
- Technical Support for ACB Official events

The main objective of the Finance department is to provide support to all other ACB departments in terms of their business operations to settle their respective payments; control expenditures; assess and measure risk; and apply processes and procedures to mitigate the risk in compliance with all applied policies and procedures, especially ACB financial policy and laws of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GoIRA). The Finance department continues to fulfil a very important role to ensure that all financial operations are directed toward the development of cricket in Afghanistan.

## ACB BUDGET 2019

A total of USD 17.61 million budget was forecasted for 2019 allocated for Infrastructure Development, High Performance Program (HPP), Domestic Cricket, Human Resource, Administration, Media & Marketing, Information Technology, Game development and Women Cricket.

The revenue budget for 2019 was USD 16.84 million was prepared based on the funds commitments from ICC; (GoIRA); Sponsorship and Media Rights.

A total deficit of USD 0.77 million was forecasted but during the year this difference between expense budget and revenue budget increased due to a decreased contribution of main sponsorship (AGC) funds. As the year 2019 progressed, it was realized that the deficit was far larger than expected as there were changes in forecasted revenue sources.

ACB top management and the finance team effectively managed and controlled cash flow to implement all planned activities.

## ACB BUDGET 2019

ACB is creating financial value from different sources to facilitate and finance cricket activities around the country. The ACB top management and finance team play a vital role in the financial diversification and sustainability of ACB revenue streams. The primary sources of funding are as follows:

1. Media rights
2. Ground and sponsorship rights
3. ICC contribution
4. ACC contribution
5. Value in kind (Afghan Government special contribution)

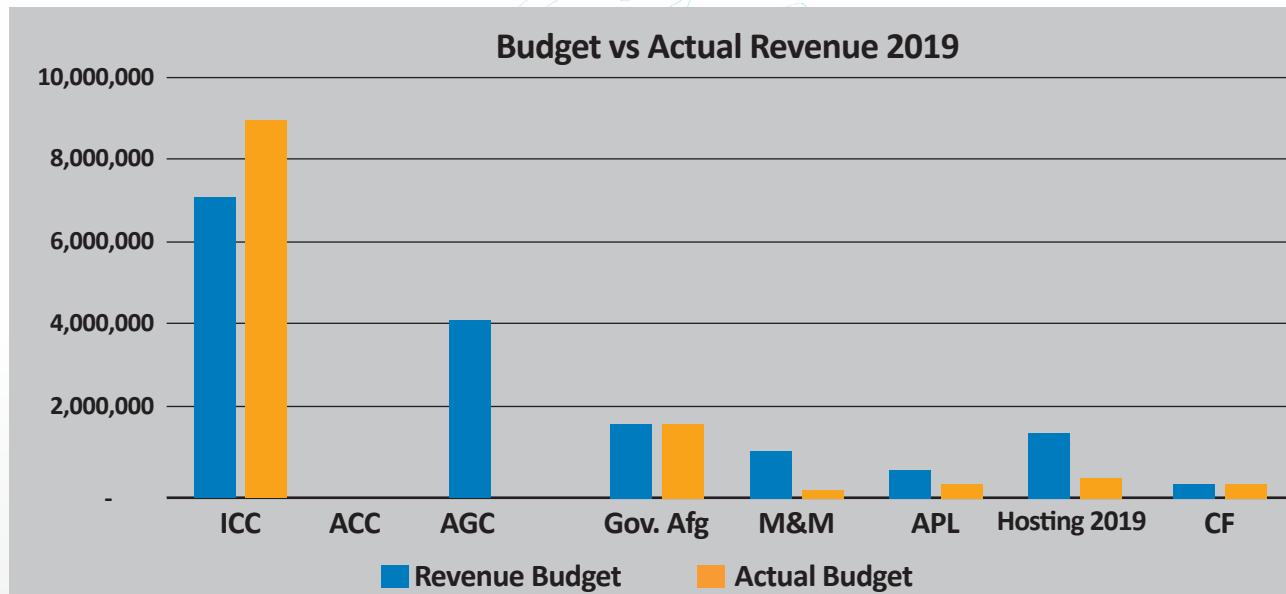
A budget deficit of USD 0.77 million was forecasted but strict cash flow management, conservative event management and generation of income from non-forecasted sources made it possible to capitalize expenses for the year 2019. In mid-year budget review, the deficit increased from USD 0.77 million to USD 1.5 million as the Main Sponsorship Agreement was terminated by AGC. The ICC allocated additional USD 2.5 million to ACB in Jul 2019 AGM (Annual General Meeting) attended by ACB top management, which helped cover the forecasted deficit for the 2nd half of 2019. The ICC total actual revenue contribution was 56% of the total ACB forecasted revenue budget.

Revenue Budget in USD (2009)					
S.No	Revenue Sources	Revenue Budget	Actual Revenue	% Revenue Budget	% Revenue Achieved
1	Fund from ICC	7,000,000	9,500,000	42%	56%
2	Fund from ACC	-	-	0%	0%
3	Income from Alokozay Group of Companies	4,038,674	-	24%	0%
4	Government Contribution	1,578,947	1,578,947	9%	9%
5	Media and Marketing Income	1,180,000	241,858	7%	1%
6	APL Sanction Fee 2018-19	800,000	400,000	5%	2%
7	Income from hosting in 2019	1,708,423	862,062	10%	5%
8	Carried forward balance	538,841	538,841	3%	3%
<b>Total Revenue Budget</b>		<b>16,844,885</b>	<b>13,121,708</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>78%</b>

ACB expected higher revenue from the Afghan market in domestic cricket events and amount of USD 1.1 million was forecasted from this revenue stream but it did not contribute much due to wider macro-economic problems in the country. The main contribution in this revenue stream was expected from the domestic Shpageeza T20 Cricket League (franchise fees,

media/sponsorship rights and gate revenue) which unfortunately did not happen. Therefore, only 1% of the total revenue equaling USD 241k was generated from this source. ACB signed agreement with Snixer Sports to serve as the investment partner for the Afghanistan Premier League T20 based on which they were expected to pay USD

800k to ACB but paid 400k for 2019 which accounted for 2% revenue of ACB. During 2019, ACB hosted Ireland and West Indies for two international series. The forecasted revenue from these two series was USD 1.7 million but the actual revenue generated was only USD 862k which is 5% of the total forecasted revenue for 2019.



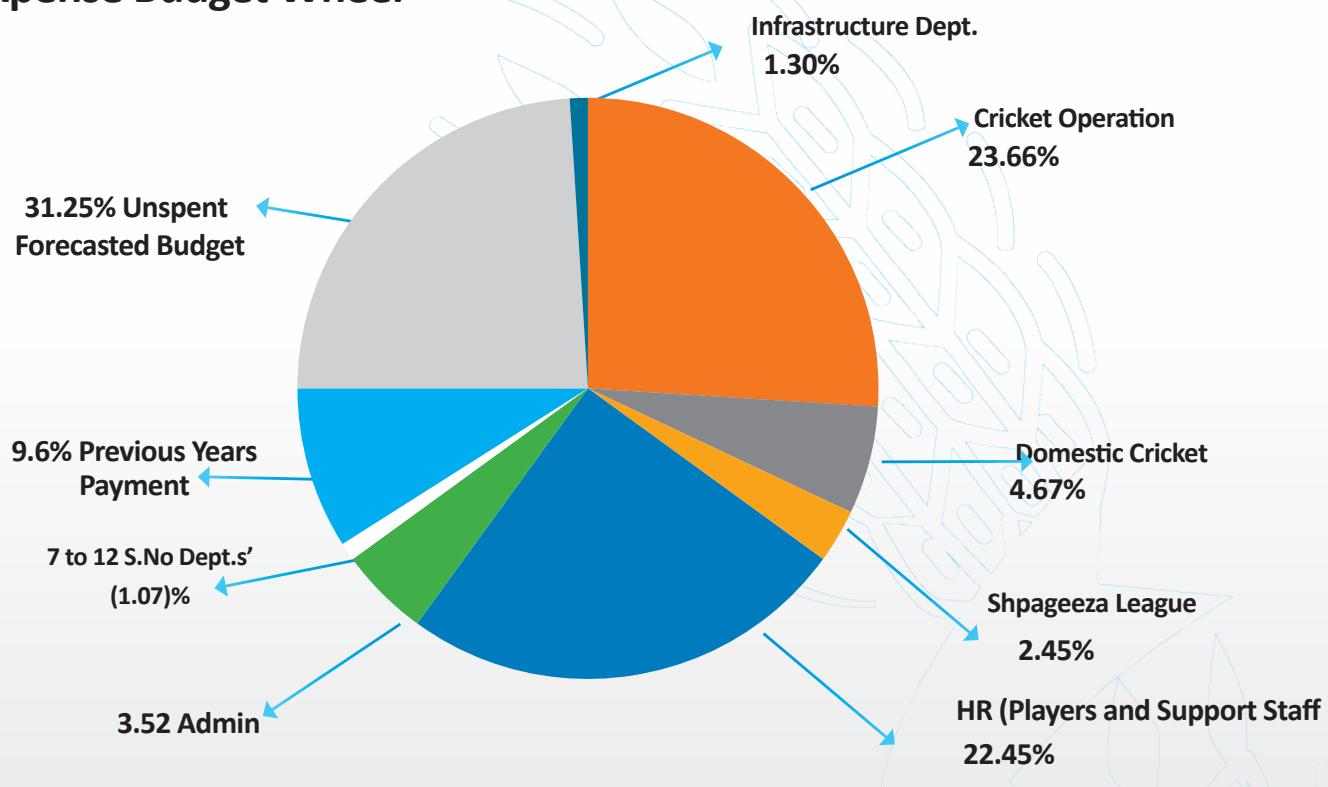
## EXPENDITURE BUDGET

In total, USD 17.61 million was planned for the overall expenditure budget in 2019. For infrastructure development, USD 3.34 million was allocated that consisted of allocation of USD 849k from ACB and USD 2.5 million from AGC carry forward sponsorship fee. USD 6.99 million was forecasted for execution of domestic and international cricket events – USD 5.59 million for Cricket Operation plus USD 900k budgeted for domestic cricket and USD 497k for Shpageeza league. The remaining approximate USD

7.3 million was allocated for other different cricket development and administrative activities covering Game Development, HR, Administration, Media and Marketing, Women Cricket and IT. The breakdown of the expenditure budget is presented below. A total of USD 12.11 million expenses were made during 2019 which is 69% of the total forecasted budget. The lower execution of the budget was mainly due to availability of lesser funds by mid-year mainly for infrastructure development projects and conservative expenditures after mid-year taking into account, long term financial health of ACB.

Budget vs Actual Expenses in 2019 (USD)					
S.No	Description	Budgeted Expenses	Actual Expenditure 2019	Budget 2019 in %	Budget Execution in %
1	Infrastructure Department	3348203	228978	19%	1.30%
2	Cricket Operation & HPP	5586295	4167501	32%	23.66%
3	Domestic Cricket	907446	823261	5%	4.67%
4	Shpageeza League	497504	431300	3%	2.45%
5	HR (Players and Support Staff)	3736127	3954517	21%	22.45%
6	Admin Department	540120	620537	3%	3.52%
7	Anti Corruption	210550	20844	1%	0.12%
8	Media and Marketing	260000	22598	1%	0.13%
9	Information Technology	92050	58838	1%	0.33%
10	Game Development	617193	35313	4%	0.20%
11	Women Cricket	161346	20605	1%	0.12%
12	Finance	58000	29771	0%	0.17%
13	Previous Year	1600000	1696023	9%	9.63%
Total		17614835	12110087	100%	69%

## Expense Budget Wheel

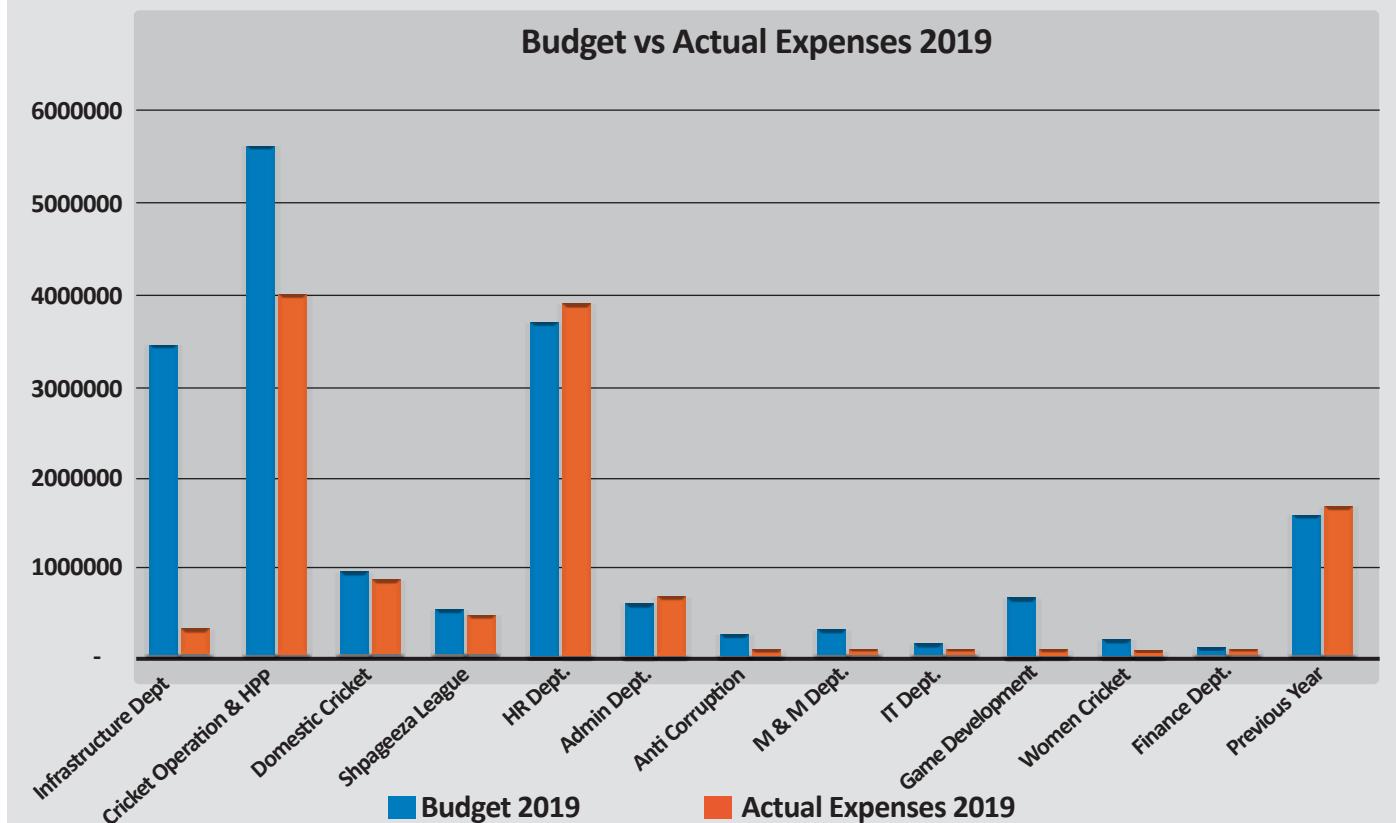


The total expenditure budget was incurred as follows:

- Infrastructure – 1.30%
- International Cricket – 23.66 %
- Domestic Cricket – 4.67%
- Shpageeza League – 2.45%

- Human resources including players' monthly salaries and other increments – 22.45%
- Administration support activities – 3.52%
- Other cricket development support, administrative activities and Previous Years payments 10.7%.

The following graph shows a comparison of Budget Vs Actual Expenses 2019.



# CULTURAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY PROGRAMMES



As socially responsible organization, ACB has a number of programmes and events that benefit different elements of the society and play a role in the development of the young generation and/or disadvantaged groups.

## INTERNSHIP

The second batch of interns were recruited in March 2019 as part of ACB's social responsibility program to contribute to the career development of young people. Interviews were conducted and contracts were offered to the successful candidates who were then introduced to relevant departments for an internship period of three months. In June 2019, six interns successfully completed their internship with ACB and gained valuable experience in an international sports organization.

## NAWROZ TROPHY

In an initiative by ACB to honor the country's cultural heritage, a T10 exhibition series was organized in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif cities named "Nawroz Trophy" between two teams consisting of national and domestic players. The teams were named "Afghanistan Red" and "Afghanistan Blue". The event was held at the beginning of the ongoing solar year to celebrate the Nawroz festival (the first day of the solar year) which coincided with March 2019.



# INDEPENDENCE CENTENARY CELEBRATION MATCH

As part of ACB's initiative and instructions by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to mark national days, an exhibition match was organized to honor and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Afghanistan's reclamation of independence. The independence centenary celebration match was played between two teams named "Afghan Zwanan" & "Afghan Atalan". The match was played at the Kabul Cricket Stadium where around 5000 cricket fans came to the stadium on match day.



# AFGHANISTAN UNIVERSITIES TEAM TOUR OF CHINA

A team combined of university students from various parts of Afghanistan participated in a triangular series with participation of China universities and Pakistan U19 teams in China. The program was designed by foreign ministry of Afghanistan in cooperation with China Embassy in Kabul. The main purpose behind the program was to strengthen the relationship between Afghanistan, Pakistan and China. Alongside Cricket, the program was also focusing on cultural exchange on the regional level.

Afghanistan universities team registered excellent performances by winning all its three matches:

Afghanistan universities vs China: Afghanistan won the match by nine wickets.

Afghanistan universities vs Pakistan U19: Afghanistan won the match by seven wickets.

Afghanistan vs China universities team: Afghanistan won by five wickets.





Afghanistan disabled national cricket team (APwD's) participated in the disabled World Series organized by England Cricket Board (ECB) in August 2019. India, Pakistan, Bangladesh & host England along with Afghanistan team participated in the World Series.

Afghanistan team camp in India aimed at preparation for the world event which staged from 12th to 31st of July. Afghanistan played several practice matches in the 20 days training camp.

Afghanistan played 3 practice matches against the Utter Pradesh, TNM Cricket Academy & Noida Cricket Academy.

Batsman Ashraf handed Afghanistan first win to beat Uttar



Pradesh by a huge margin of 65 runs where they defended 165 run target.

Afghanistan PwDs along with other participants teams while their respective captains were carrying national flags participated in the grand opening ceremony of the World Cricket Series on 4th August at new road Worcester. Afghanistan secured first win to beat Bangladesh by 8 wickets on 5th August in the first match of the World Series played at Kidderminster.

In the 2nd match played on the 6th of August in Bromsgrove Afghanistan continued its dominance with all-round performance with the second consecutive win to beat Pakistan by 26 runs.

managed to register a third consecutive win in Old Elizabethan as Mahmudullah Ahmadzai scored unbeaten 56 to earn 7 wickets win over England as Afghanistan achieved 160 target in the 16th over. Also in the 4th match played on the 8th of August in Barnt Green CC Afghanistan played against India for the second time but lost it by 5 wickets.

Afghanistan set up 1st Semifinal against host England but couldn't get to the given 148 target & lost the match by 10 runs as their campaign finished after 3 wins out of 5 completed matches in the World Series.

On the 7th August, Afghanistan

ACB as a new Full Member of the International Cricket Council is faced with a number of challenges relating to fixtures, finances, infrastructure and administration. The following section highlights the main challenges faced by ACB during the year 2019.

### **Fixtures for National Team in FTP Cycle**

As per the Future Tours Program (FTP) of the ICC for 2019-2023, Afghanistan has less number of matches against top-ranked teams leading to lack of exposure for players. This has often resulted in lack of experience for Afghanistan National Cricket Team when competing in elite ICC and ACC tournaments. To fill the gaps in the current FTP, ACB aims to arrange more bilateral series for the team with a priority to arrange more fixtures for either the National Cricket Team or National A team to help them prepare well for the 2020 T20 World Cup in Australia as well as the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 in the long term.

### **Sponsorship and Finances**

After the contract of main sponsorship with Alokozay Group of Companies (AGC) came to an end, the Afghanistan Cricket Board has not signed a sponsorship deal with any other business entity so far. The lack of Title Sponsorship has had a negative impact on ACB in 2019 from a financial perspective. It is a top priority next year for ACB to attract a major sponsor for the Afghanistan Cricket Board to help in financial sustainability and self-reliance.

### **Infrastructural development**

Infrastructural development has always been a challenge for ACB due to lack of finance; lack of coordination between government, donors and ACB; and transfer of land ownership to ACB by government entities. ACB aims to increase coordination between the relevant stakeholders to build cricket facilities as per the cricketing needs of each province or region in the country. Attraction of funds for infrastructure projects and working closely with donors will be a priority for ACB over the next few years to ensure that proper facilities are made available for players across the country.

CHALLENGES

# WAY FORWARD

The year 2020 holds important events for ACB as two important international T20I tournaments namely the Asia Cup and the ICC T20 Cricket World Cup are scheduled to be held in later part of the year with the participation of the Afghanistan National Cricket Team.

The National Team is also scheduled to face Australia in the inaugural Test Match between both countries in late 2020. Preparations for these events will take momentum in early 2020 with training camps for skills development, fitness and conditioning. Afghanistan has a formidable record in T20Is and ACB will ensure that players are provided with sufficient technical support and assistance needed to deliver desirable results in the shortest format of the game. In long term, the objective is to prepare a strong team combination to win matches in the 2020-2022 ICC Cricket World Cup Super League and qualify for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023.



## Afghanistan Cricket Board

Kabul International Cricket Stadium

Near Chaman-e-Huzoori, Khan Abdul Ghani Khan  
Road, Kabul Afghanistan