

AFGHANISTAN  
CRICKET BOARD



# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

[www.cricket.af](http://www.cricket.af)











## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE MIRWAIS ASHRAF



*It has always been my aim to standardize the organization's affairs and make sure that we have a system in-place both at technical and administrative levels.*



The year 2021 was definitely a year full of adversities and challenges as the new variants of COVID-19 Pandemic, alongside some sorts of logistical challenges and banking issues in Afghanistan caused us to postpone or even cancel some of our key cricketing events domestically and internationally.

Our home three-match ODI series against Pakistan, which is part of the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League and was scheduled to be played in September 2021, was firstly relocated to Pakistan and then was indefinitely postponed due to the lack of logistical challenges. The ICC CWC Super League series against Zimbabwe (staged for December 2021) was also postponed to a later time due to the emergence of the omicron variant of

COVID-19 in South African countries including Zimbabwe. Our major domestic T20 domestic event, Shpageeza Cricket League, which is conducted annually, was called off due to the banking and financial issues that were raised after the change of regime in the country. Given the stature of our players in T20 cricket, I am sure that the tournament would have provided our national and domestic players sufficient opportunities and they would have achieved new heights in this tournament, which unfortunately did not realize in the year.

We have faced some sort of logistic challenges in terms of getting visas for our players post the regime change in Afghanistan. We greatly struggled to get UAE visas for our national team players to participate in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021. The same challenge was raised again in later parts of the year when our junior team was participating in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2022, the late issuance of their visas caused us to miss our warmup matches as well as it made the organizing committee of the tournament to reschedule our matches in the main event.

However, it was not all doom and gloom for Afghan cricket as we managed to not only run the organization's affairs successfully during the year, but also continued with technical and administrative reforms for the greater good of our cricketing structure.

As the chairman of the Afghanistan Cricket Board, it has always been my aim to standardize the organization's affairs and make sure that we have a system in place both at the technical and administrative levels.

In parallel to our technical development, I felt the administrative structure in ACB also required some effective reforms to continue with our systemization process. Therefore, the administrative policies across different departments of the organizations were revised, and/or changes were brought accordingly. Besides this, a broad study of the organizational structure was conducted to ensure that the organization possesses the right size of employees and make sure that the right individuals are assigned at the right places to run the operations effectively and efficiently.

Since my appointment as the Chairperson of the Afghanistan Cricket Board, I have also strived hard to maintain effective and positive relationships with the cricket governing body and with fellow cricketing nations. I am optimistic about utilizing the positive relationships with the cricketing world in the favor of Afghan Cricket and including more matches in our Future Tours Program (FTP). We are also in talks with other nations on rescheduling our postponed matches with them as well as on specifying windows for our Super League matches upfront. In the same way, Members from ACB have actively participated in different ICC and Asian Cricket Council meetings during the year.

In a nutshell, although 2021 was a year of uncertain hurdles and challenges, our National heroes and our dedicated ACB family were successful in their sequence to ensure that cricket and our cricketing structure continue to develop and step ahead on course to a brighter future for this beloved sport in Afghanistan.





## CEO's MESSAGE

# NASEEB KHAN



*It has always been my aim to standardize the organization's affairs and make sure that we have a system in-place both at technical and administrative levels.*





The year 2021 was a season full of challenges and hurdles that have somehow affected the organization's planned operations and cricketing Calendar including International series and domestic events. COVID-19 still remains a major concern for the cricketing world to deal with, hosting Afghanistan's home games in third/away countries, logistical challenges, lack of market opportunities, and banking & financial issues in the country were the hurdles that the ACB had to deal with during the year.

Despite all those challenges, Afghanistan Cricket Board had achievements during 2021. ACB raised its profile outstandingly by accomplishing several aspects of its planned interventions and strengthening its systems administratively and technically in the field of cricket. The domestic cricket department had the lead to organize and successfully conduct all their planned activities and events for the year. The Regional First Class Tournament was conducted between 5 regional teams, which featured all the available national players. Ghazni Amanullah Khan Regional One Day List-A event which is considered as the 2nd major

domestic event, was also conducted successfully in Kandahar province which has featured 5 regional teams and all the available national players have participated, which can be considered as another big achievement of the year.

Furthermore, conducting the provincial level Grade III, Grade II and Grade One events alongside a T20 league for the players with disabilities in Kunar province was another feat that we have achieved during the year. Conducting two major events in Kandahar was a massive step in the development of the game in the South-Western region as well as indicates ACB's efforts to take the game to the grassroots level in all parts of Afghanistan.

The Game development department also had some effective projects implemented as they have conducted a talent hunt program under the name of "Hunt for Fast Bowlers" in all regions of the country, out of which 12 best fast bowlers were selected to whom additional activities are planned to go with. The development of Fast Bowlers is a task quite important for us, with the emergence of new fast bowlers through these

initiatives and in junior level teams is welcome news and a bright side for our cricket in the near future. Other than this, the department had also taken the lead in providing capacity-building programs to train the technical staff as well contributing to the digitalization of junior-level cricket including interclub-level competitions.

On the other hand, ACB strived to include more events in its Future Tour Program (FTP) by communicating with different ICC full member countries. We are in constant negotiations with Cricket Australia to reschedule the one-off test that was postponed following the change of regime in Afghanistan. We are also in regular talks with other partner cricketing nations to schedule our Super League series with them as well as to add more bilateral events to our cricketing calendar for the next two years. Similarly, Members from ACB have actively participated in different ICC and Asian Cricket Council meetings during the year and have mainly focused on obtaining positive bilateral relationships with the cricket governing body and other cricketing nations.

On the management and administration front, ACB sustained a stable financial position in comparison to the last years. At the same time, the planning and streamlining process was initiated at every individual department level to ensure ACB has a clear picture for the year 2022 ahead. In this connection, a wide manpower study of the organization was conducted to ensure that the right number of employees are on the board, enhance work quality and decrease the budget deficit. Alongside this, the organizational structure was reviewed and required amendments were brought in place to demonstrate the reporting line, grade, and the title of all employees in a department as well as to clarify the chain of command in the organization.

On infrastructure development, ACB has closely followed the acquisition and handover process of the 100 jiribs of land for an International Cricket Stadium, whereas the initial phase of its construction has been started and the rest is going as per plan. Construction of Kandahar guest house and the boundary wall of Khost Cricket ground has been completed and the construction

of Najib Tarakai Cricket Ground in Nangarhar and grounds in Logar, Maidan Wardak, Balkh, and Paktika provinces are well underway as per the blueprints and will be completed in due course.

Apart from all these and many more achievements, I am more excited about taking the game to all parts of the country. Now we have got the opportunity to take our favorite game to all the rural & far-flung areas and distant villages to provide our kids and youngsters to get involved with this great game. We are planning to organize and schedule our domestic cricket events in Helmand, Nimroz, Paktika, and other provinces in the coming years to take the game to all parts of Afghanistan.

Learning from the past, we will look forward to further enhancing the ACB operations that are more efficient and compatible with international standards. We have got an action-packed cricketing year upfront, we will aim to provide more facilities and opportunities to our national and domestic players to be fully prepared for their assignments and do our all to ensure that Afghan Cricket is headed in the right direction.





## CRICKET OPERATIONS DEPARTMENT



Cricket Operations Department is responsible for managing and organizing international cricket events for the national level teams including National

Senior, National-A, National Emerging, National U19 Teams, and Board Development Team. The department manages the national team's logistical, oper-

ational, technical, and administrative needs during its overseas assignments including the Visa and other documentation affairs.



# INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

Similar to 2020, the year 2021 was also somehow affected by the COVID-19 pandemic as some of our home or away events were postponed to later dates. However, at the start of the year, Afghanistan played Ireland in an ODI series, followed by a 2-match test and a three-match T20I series in March. Afghanistan Men's senior did not feature in any other bilateral series and only took part in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021. Afghanistan's three-match home ODI series against Pakistan was scheduled to be played in Sri Lanka in September, but the sudden lock-down in the country due to COVID-19 caused the series to be played in Pakistan, but still, the series did not happen due to the lack of time and logistical challenges.

The change in regime in the country was another factor that caused Afghanistan to lose some of its matches including the test match against Australia, which is now been postponed to a later date. The statements and the recent move by cricket Australia to reschedule the series to a later date also compelled the International cricket council to assign a working group for Afghanistan to review the proceedings and report back to them.



## NATIONAL SENIOR TEAM

As mentioned above, Afghanistan's International calendar was somehow affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic and some other logistical challenges, which not only affected Afghanistan's matches in the Future Tours Program (FTP), but it also affected ACB's intended plans to organize bilateral cricket. However, the cricket operations department still managed to organize the following activities for the national senior team during the year 2021.



## AFGHANISTAN VS IRELAND

THREE-MATCH ODI SERIES  
JANUARY 2021, UAE

Afghanistan Cricket Board hosted Ireland for a three-match ODI series from 21st-26th January in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The series was part of the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League, which counts towards qualification to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Afghanistan won the series 3-nil, gaining thirty points from their first series in the Super League.

## NATIONAL TEAM PREPARATION CAMP

FEBRUARY 2021  
KABUL

Afghanistan Cricket Board organized a preparation camp for the national team before the test series against Zimbabwe. The camp was organized across two phases, the first of which was held in Kabul from 10-20 February, which featured players who were in Kabul and were waiting for their departure to the UAE to join the team. At meanwhile, the players who were in UAE were also undergoing a preparatory camp for the Zimbabwe series. The camp had a quite significant effect on the skills and fitness development of the concerned players and proved to be a great preparation platform as Afghanistan managed to finish the series 1-1 and win the three-match T20I series 3-nil.





## NATIONAL TEAM SKILLS DEVELOPMENT & PREPARATION CAMP

THREE-MATCH ODI SERIES  
JANUARY 2021, UAE

Afghanistan Cricket Board organized a skills development and preparation camp for the national team before the three-match ODI series against Pakistan. The camp was organized across three phases and was led by the head coach of the Afghanistan national team Mr. Lance Klusener. 20 national players were part of the camp who have worked in different capacities and different departments of the game. The camp had a quite significant effect on the skills and fitness development of the concerned players, but the series against Pakistan was not held due to some logistical challenges and was rescheduled to a later date, which is due to be assigned in near future.

## AFGHANISTAN VS ZIMBABWE 2 TESTS & 3 T20IS

MARCH 2021 - UAE

Afghanistan Cricket Board hosted Zimbabwe for a two-match test and three-match T20I series from 2nd to 20th March. This was Afghanistan's first two-match test series in its short test playing history. Afghanistan had previously played one-off test matches against India, Ireland, West Indies, and Bangladesh respectively. The two-match series against Zimbabwe was held from March 2-14 in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

Afghanistan lost the first test match inside two days but came back nicely to win the 2nd test match on the last day to share the series 1-1. After the conclusion of the test series, both teams faced off in 3 T20Is from 17th to 20th March. Afghanistan won the series 3-nil maintaining its dominance over Zimbabwe in the format. The positive outcome of the series in favor of Afghanistan was mainly due to the rise of some exciting white-ball players in the recent past among which Rashid Khan, Mujeeb ur Rehman, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Najeebullah Zadran, Karim Janat, and a few more could be named.



## ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2021  
UAE

Afghanistan Men's National Cricket Team participated in the 7th edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021. The mega event was held in the United Arab Emirates from October 17 to November 14 across two phases where Afghanistan featured in its 2nd phase, called Super 12s, and was grouped alongside India, Pakistan, New Zealand, and two qualifiers from the first phase, Scotland and Namibia. Afghanistan played 5 matches against in the group, winning 2 matches against Scotland and Namibia and lost three other matches to Pakistan, India and New Zealand respectively. Preparations for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 involved a preparation camp across two phases in Kabul and Qatar respectively. The team departed to UAE late, and reach there just before the start of the warm-up games of the event. Apart from the two-phased long preparatory camp, Afghanistan played South Africa and West Indies in two warm-up matches ahead of the start of the T20 World Cup, they lost the first game to South Africa but won the 2nd warm-up match against West Indies.



# NATIONAL JUNIOR LEVEL TEAM



## SELECTION CAMP FOR NATIONAL U19S,

FEBRUARY 2021  
KABUL

The National U19s have featured in a selection camp in February. The camp which was directed by the cricket directorate of the ACB, and was led by the head coach Dawlat Ahmadzai, featured a total number of 32 players, from which the best available 18 players were selected for the skills development and preparation camp for the Bangladesh series.

## NATIONAL A, NATIONAL EMERGING AND NATIONAL U19S TRI-SERIES

KABUL

To engage the national players as well as to better prepare the National U19s for the Bangladesh series, the national selection committee, under the chief selector Mr. Asadullah Khan, organized a tri-series for the three-junior level teams (National A, National Emerging, and the National U19s), in which a sum of 55 players participated. The series had a quite substantial effect on the development of the players, especially on the U19 players who have had the opportunity to test their abilities against their senior fellows.



## U-19 TEAM PREPARA- TION CAMP FOR BAN- GLADESH TOUR

KABUL

Before the departure of the National U19 team to Bangladesh, Afghanistan Cricket Board organized a two-week-long preparation camp for the team to develop their skills and better prepare for the series. The camp was led by Head Coach Raees Ahmadzai and featured the best 19 players who were selected from the previous camps held for the team. The camp had a good impact on the skill level of the players and proved worthy as the team went on to beat the hosts in the one-off youth test. Although the team lost the five-match YODI series 3-2, winning the only Youth test was marked as incredible for the youngsters.



## AFGHANISTAN U19S VS BANGLADESH U19S

5 YODIs and 1 Youth test  
Sylhet, Bangladesh

KABUL

Afghanistan U-19 Cricket Team was hosted in Sylhet by the Bangladesh Cricket Board for a 5-match YODI series and one-off youth test between the two sides. Afghanistan lost the 5-match YODI series 3-2 but came back well to win the one-off youth test comprehensively by 3 wickets. The series was a good opportunity for Afghan youngsters to play some competitive cricket and prepare for the ACC U-19 Asia Cup 2021 in UAE and the ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup Jan-Feb 2022, in the West Indies.

## U19S PREPARATION AND SELECTION CAMP

1st NOVEMBER - 15 DE-  
CEMBER

NANGARHAR

To keep the players engaged and close to the game, as well as to select the best 20 for the Asia Cup and the ICC U-19 CWC; the Afghanistan Cricket Board organized a 45 days-long preparation and selection camp across two phases for its National U-19 cricket team, first of which was conducted from 1st-30th November in Nangarhar. The camp featured 26 players and was held under the direct supervision of the head coach Raees Ahmadzai accompanied by Dawlat Ahmadzai and Khaliqdad Noori. The camp had a quite significant impact on the overall preparations of the team.





## ACC U-19 ASIA CUP 2021

JANUARY 2021 - UAE

Afghanistan National U19 Cricket Team traveled to UAE to participate in the 9th edition of the ACC U-19 Asia Cup 2021. Afghanistan was placed alongside India, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates in group A of the eight-team tournament. Afghanistan U19s only managed to beat UAE and lost the remaining two games to India and Pakistan, which caused them not to qualify to the semi-final stage of the event.





## DOMESTIC CRICKET DEPARTMENT



**Domestic Cricket Development Department plays an integral role in achieving the following:**

- To maintain a competitive cricket environment by building quality cricket structure for players, keeping the standards high for players' development, and providing the players with all the necessary facilities.
- To facilitate and arrange games for different age groups at provincial and regional levels to develop players' skills and abilities with the support of technical staff such as coaches, scorers, and umpires.
- To improve quality by the efficient utilization of the resources to achieve optimal results both in players' development and competitions management.
- To maintain, utilize and manage grounds in all provinces of the country.
- To manage and administer provincial in-charges and their administration activities.







## WAZIR MOHAMMAD AKBAR KHAN PROVINCIAL GRADE III TOURNAMENT JANUARY - FEBRUARY

The tournament featured 20 provincial teams divided by 5 groups of 4 teams from 21st January to 4th February 2021 across three venues (Ghazi Amanullah Khan, Khost, and Kandahar Cricket Stadiums). A total of 10 teams, top two from each group (Nangarhar B, Khost B, Kabul B, Laghman, Paktika, Zabul, Farah, Herat, Baghlan, and Jozjan) qualified to the provincial (Grade II) competitions.



## WAZIR MOHAMMAD AKBAR KHAN PROVINCIAL GRADE II TOURNAMENT FEBRUARY - MARCH

The tournament was played between 16 provincial teams divided into 4 groups, each group consisted of 4 teams. The event was conducted from 18th February to 2nd March 2021 across two venues (Khost and Ghazi Amanullah Khan Cricket grounds). There were already six teams in these competitions from the last years and ten teams joined them from the Grade III event. A total of 4 teams, the top team of each group (Kabul B, Nangarhar B, Khost B, and Maidan Wardak) advanced to the (Grade I) competitions.



## WAZIR MOHAMMAD AKBAR KHAN PROVINCIAL GRADE I TOURNAMENT

MARCH 2021

The Provincial Grade one tournament was the third activity of the domestic department. This tournament featured 10 provincial teams and was conducted from 18th - 30th March 2021 in Ghazi Amanullah Khan and Khost Cricket Grounds. Four teams, the semi-finalists of its last edition were already included in the event, 4 other teams qualified from the (Grade II) competitions and two other teams were made to place the best performers from the Grade III and Grade II events. The ten teams were divided into two groups of five, from which the top two teams from each group qualified to the semi-finals of the event. Kabul and Khost B were the two teams to qualify to the grand final of the event, which was played in Kabul Cricket Stadium, and Kabul Province has crowned champions, as they went past their Khost B counterparts by 8 wickets. The domestic department had also arranged a special team to take all the COVID-19 precautionary actions and implement all the guidelines from the MoPH.



## KAMAL KHAN DAM TROPHY (KABUL, KANDAHAR, KHOST, KUNDUZ AND KUNAR)

Afghanistan Cricket Board in an extraordinary feat, organized a series of matches in different provinces to honor the inauguration of the Kamal Khan Dam National project in the country. The matches were held in five different provinces (Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunduz, and Kunar) where all the matches except, the match held in Kunduz have broadcasted live from the national televisions of the country. The domestic cricket department had the lead to organize the event, which was a successful feat in the year 2021.



## REGIONAL DISABLED TOURNAMENT JULY KUNAR

This tournament was played among five regional disabled teams from July 9th to 16th in Kunar Cricket Ground. The tournament was played in a round-robin format, where every team played the other once in the first round. At the end of the first round, Amo and Bost's regional teams advanced to the final of the event, where Amo went past the Bost region to win the regional disabled tournament 2021.



## KANDAHAR KHOST



## KUNDUZ



## NANGARHAR - KUNAR



## PEACE LEAGUE (KABUL, KANDAHAR, KHOST, KUNDUZ AND NANGARHAR)

Afghanistan Cricket Board launched Peace League in September 2021, which was played in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Khost, and Kunduz provinces respectively. The league featured all the available national players in the country, alongside the best domestic players of each province.





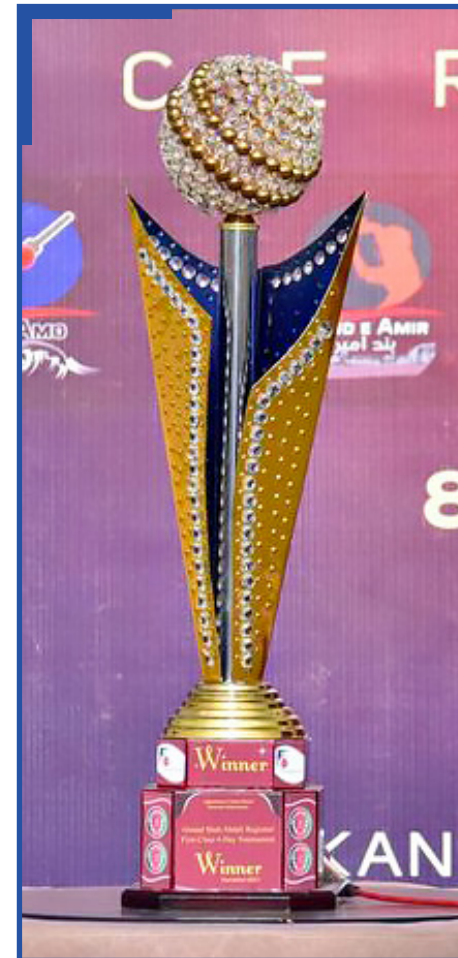
## GHAZI AMANULLAH KHAN LIST A TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 2021  
KANDAHAR

The 5th edition of Ghazi Amanullah Khan Regional List-A Cup is Afghanistan's leading One Day tournament, which was held between five regional teams from 15th to 29th October in Kandahar Cricket Ground. Five regional teams played in a round-robin format among which Speenghar region with 4 losses knocked out of the competitions while the other four participants qualified

to the Semi-Finals, which were streamed live on ACB social media outlets. Amo went past Band-e-Amir to reach the final, but Mis-e-Ainak tied their semi-final with the bost, where Mis-e-Ainak were granted qualification to the final based on their good record in the first round. At the final, the Mis-e-Ainak region restricted the Amo region only to 74 runs, which were easily chased by them with

the loss of only 3 wickets to win the final and only defend their title from the last year but also finished as champions for the third successive time.



## AHMAD SHAH ABDALI FIRST CLASS TOURNAMENT

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2021  
KANDAHAR

The Ahmad Shah Abdali Regional First Class Tournament was the biggest domestic event of ACB in 2021, which started on November 8 in Kandahar Province and ended with the Band-e-Amir region crowned as champions, going past the AMO region comprehensively by 7 wickets in the final. According to the department's action plan for the year 2021, this mega tournament was scheduled to be organized in the months of June-July, but due to the increased number of Covid-19 cases and some sort of security concerns in the country, the tournament was delayed to the later parts of the year. After rescheduling the event to November-December, it was start-

ed on 8th November in Kandahar province, after all the participating teams were featured in 6-day preparation camps, which started on November 2. The tournament was conducted on two grounds, the Kandahar National Cricket Stadium and the Quraishi Cricket Ground which passed the criteria for hosting a First Class tournament. The tournament was conducted in a round-robin format followed by a final between the top two sides. The event featured 5 regional teams, 5 rounds of matches took place, where all the teams played 4 matches, from which the top two sides (AMO with 66 & BAR with 54 points each) qualified to the final of the event. Band-e-Amir region,

banking on some excellent bowling displays in both innings, went past the AMO region comprehensively in the final to win this year's Abdali FC Competitions. The right-arm quick Nijat Masoud was awarded as the man of the final match with his 9/84 in the match. This is fair to note that this edition of the competitions saw a 25% increment in the match fees of the players which proved to be very handy for the players. This edition was the 4th overall of the competitions, where the current champions Band-e-Amir region were the winners of the first two editions in 2017 & 2018 while the Speen Ghar region was declared as the top team of the 2019 edition.





## Regional Club Championship One Day Tournament

د زونونو په کچه د غوره کلبونو د اتلولۍ  
جام یو ورځنی سیالی

Schedule 20 - 31 December, 2021

Ebad Quraishi Cricket Club <b>SPEENGHAR</b>	Mangal Zalmi Cricket Club <b>BAND-E AMIR</b>	Danger Cricket Club <b>MIS-E AINAK</b>	Ashraf Cricket Club <b>AMO</b>
20 Dec - 9:00 am	GAK Cricket Ground	21 Dec - 9:00 am	GAK Cricket Ground
Ebad Quraishi Cricket Club <b>SPEENGHAR</b>	Shoaib Khan Cricket Club <b>BOST</b>	Ebad Quraishi Cricket Club <b>MIS-E AINAK</b>	Mangal Zalmi Cricket Club <b>BAND-E AMIR</b>
22 Dec - 9:00 am	GAK Cricket Ground	23 Dec - 9:00 am	GAK Cricket Ground
Ashraf Cricket Club <b>AMO</b>	Shoaib Khan Cricket Club <b>BOST</b>	Ebad Quraishi Cricket Club <b>SPEENGHAR</b>	Danger Cricket Club <b>MIS-E AINAK</b>
24 Dec - 9:00 am	GAK Cricket Ground	25 Dec - 9:00 am	GAK Cricket Ground
Shoaib Khan Cricket Club <b>BOST</b>	Mangal Zalmi Cricket Club <b>BAND-E AMIR</b>	Ebad Quraishi Cricket Club <b>SPEENGHAR</b>	Ashraf Cricket Club <b>AMO</b>
26 Dec - 9:00 am	GAK Cricket Ground	27 Dec - 9:00 am	GAK Cricket Ground
Shoaib Khan Cricket Club <b>BOST</b>	Danger Cricket Club <b>MIS-E AINAK</b>	Mangal Zalmi Cricket Club <b>BAND-E AMIR</b>	Ashraf Cricket Club <b>AMO</b>
28 Dec - 9:00 am	GAK Cricket Ground	29 Dec - 9:00 am	GAK Cricket Ground
<b>FINAL</b>			
<b>Qualifier 1</b>		<b>Qualifier 2</b>	
31 Dec - 9:00 am		GAK Cricket Ground	



## REGIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

DECEMBER 2021 - NANGARHAR

Regional Club Championship, the final stage of the Inter-club competitions, was the 7th and last activity of the domestic cricket department, which started on December 20 in Nangarhar province and ended with the Speen Ghar region's owned Ibad Quraishi Cricket Club crowned as champions, beating Mangal Zalmi CC (Band-e-Amir Region) by 4 wickets in the final.

The first two phases (the provincial & the regional) inter-club competitions, were conducted by the Game Development Department, and its final phase, was as usual organized by the domestic cricket department. Regional Club Championship 2021 featured five regional clubs, which were the winner of interclub competitions in their respective regions. All the participating five clubs, in a round-robin format, played 4 games in the first round among which Ibad Quraishi and Mangal Zalmi with 6 points each, as the top two clubs, advanced to the grand final of the event. IQCC, banking on an excellent all-around display in the

final, defeated MZCC by 4 wickets to win Regional Club Championship 2021. The tournament was the last and final activity of the domestic cricket department of ACB which lasted long for 11 days in Ghazi Amanullah Khan Cricket Stadium, Nangarhar. Moreover, the domestic cricket department has had the initiative to categorize all the provinces according to their cricket status to receive the required facilities accordingly. After the resolution of the regional offices and their respective officials, the domestic cricket department has assigned officers to follow up on all the activities and collect relevant reports & data of each

region respectively.

Furthermore, the department has facilitated all the grounds for the club level competitions for free, to be able to somehow help the youngsters playing cricket in some unfortunate economic situations. It's also worth mentioning that the department had the honor to receive almost one million AFN revenue from the ACB relevant cricket grounds in the country.





## GAME DEVELOPMENT NATIONAL CRICKET ACADEMY

The Game Development & NCA department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board is a vital part of its technical structure. The department is responsible for the grassroots development of cricket and nurturing talents across the country by enabling them to participate in competitive cricket thereby securing a bright future of the game in the country.

The Game Development & NCA Department performs various functions which mostly deal with the technical development of the players at all levels. The department takes the lead for turf management, junior cricket development, and the capacity building of technical staff.

## TURF MANAGEMENT (GROUNDS & ACADEMIES - COMPRISED OF CURATORS AND GROUND STAFF)

The Game Development & NCA Department works on how to make proper pitches for academies and grounds. Maintaining grounds and preparing academies by providing nets, constructing pitches, and equipping them with heavy machineries like grass cutters and rollers are the activities included in turf management.

As per the department's action plan for the year 2021, the department started to procure machinery and equip the cricket academies all over the country, among which cricket academies in Khost, Ghazni, Kandahar, Logar, and Kapisa provinces were provided with the nets respectively. Moreover, the academy pitches were constructed and restored in Kunar,

Paktia, and Kapisa provinces while Kunar, Logar, Khost, Balkh, and Helmand provinces saw the restoration of the ground pitches. Furthermore, the pitches in Ghazi Amanullah Khan Cricket Ground were restored. Besides this, the Ground pitches of Kabul cricket stadium were greened and three more turf wickets were added to the outdoor national cricket academy.

The game development & NCA department also enlarged the medical section and the massage area with 4 extra treatment rooms and a big massage room for better rehabilitation of the players respectively. As well as the gym area was expanded for the national players' exercise and workouts.



## CAPACITY BUILDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

The following educational programs were inaugurated by the Game Development Department in 2021.

### DIGITAL SCORING COURSE

This activity was conducted in the ACB main office from 10th-11th February 2021. Before the start of the training program, more than 60 nominees were interviewed online from all five regions, and 25 interviewed applicants were finally selected based on the developed criteria. The course was led by the national scorers Mr. Ehsanullah Shakir and Mr. Jamroz Khan, who have provided the trainees with the required training during the

two days. The applicants were also allocated 1000 AFN (AFN One thousand only) daily allowances, and the attendees were issued certificates at the end of the course. It's fair to note that the learners were provided with the meal (lunch and refreshments) alongside round trip transportation allowances as per the domestic travel policy.

### PHYSIOTHERAPIST COURSE

The Game Development & NCA Department had planned to conduct a three-day training program to select the physiotherapists for the domestic sporting events of the ACB. The program was organized with the coordination of Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan Hospital, Afghanistan's Physiotherapists Association Center. The APAC was requested to recommend those physiotherapists to the ACB, who were the residents of the

provinces, where the ACB has routine sporting operations. Almost 65 candidates from the desirable provinces were introduced to the ACB, which were considered eligible for the online interview process. After the interview procedures, a sum of 13 applicants was selected for the course, which was conducted in Kabul from 14th – 17th March 2021, under the supervision of Dr. Sifatullah Wardak, Dr. Noorullah, and Dr. Shafiqullah Himat.

## S & C (STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING) COURSE

This specific course was organized from 29th July to 1st May 2021. A sum of 12 trainers from different provinces of Afghanistan participated in the event. The training program was led by Mr. Jason Douglas and Abdul Manan Masoud. The trainers were addressed with the proper training related to Anatomy & Physiology, Aerobic & Anaerobic exercises, Warm-up

mobilization, Core exercises, CPR, basic running, and Nutrition relevant aspects. The department had also planned to conduct Level two & Level three coaching courses, alongside a training & development program for the Video Analysts but due to budget limitations and some COVID-19 concerns in some of the provinces, the activities were not carried out.





## INTER-CLUB CRICKET COMPETITIONS 2021

The Game Development & NCA Department planned to organize club-level competitions all very the country. The competitions were launched in each province between the registered clubs of the provinces respectively. These competitions were mainly directed by the Game Development department with close coordination of the provincial managers. A sum of 336 clubs was registered in 30 provinces where above 5000 players were featured in the competitions. Before the commencement of the competitions, an advanced database system was designed in which the biodata related to every club and every single player was stored which can be utilized for any future development program. Every participating club was supposed to pay AFN 3000 as their registration fee, which can be applicable for three years. Through this process, over one

million AFNs were deposited to the Afghanistan Cricket Board account. The competitions were planned and executed in three different phases, where the first two phases (District and Provincial Level) of the event were part of the Game Development action plan while its last phase (the Regional Club Championship) was held by the domestic cricket department, according to their annual action plan for the year. It's fair to mention that this season saw the initiative of digital scoring, as almost 750 matches were provided with the live-scoring coverage through a scoring partner of the ACB, cricheroes. in, with the help of officiated scorers in the whole country. The live scoring record helps the selection committee in the selection of the best players for the upcoming domestic events.

## U-16 INTER-ACADEMIES TOURNAMENT

The Game Development & NCA Department launched a U-16 inter-academy tournament among 12 licensed private academies in Kabul. The event was conducted in two private cricket grounds (Zarmalwal Cricket Ground and the Ayobi Sports Complex), while the final of the event

was played at Kabul Cricket Stadium. After the completion of the event in Kabul, the same approach was taken into consideration in other regions of the country as well, where ACB academies alongside the available private academies in each region were given the opportunities to feature in

the tournament. The sole aim of this move was to support the private sector as well as to provide a convenient

platform for the youngsters to showcase their ability and get used to the competitive cricket environment.

## FAST BOWLING TALENT HUNT

The Game Development & NCA Department accomplished an ordinary feat to launch a hunt for the fast bowlers in all five regions of the country. The process was initiated in three phases, from which a total of 12 fast bowlers were selected alongside the 16 best fast bowlers from the 2018 edition of the process, together for the last phase in which was a month-long capacity building camp to find

out the best 12 fast bowlers for the abroad camp. Furthermore, the department officiated technical staff like Coaches, Umpires, Trainers, Video Analysts, Physiotherapists, Scorers, and Massagers for the domestic and abroad events including the National teams' camps, Ireland and Zimbabwe tours of UAE respectively throughout the year 2021.





# ADMINISTRATION

## ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

Afghanistan Cricket Board's Administration department is responsible for overseeing the daily administrative operations and creating an engaging & professional office environment in the organization. The department works

closely with the Afghan government and other entities to ensure that ACB's essential needs are met on time and that it can provide logistical support to players and ACB officials. The key functions of the department

can broadly be described into different areas such as general administration services, communication with external stakeholders, inventory management, logistical service management, and maintenance services.

## ORGANIZED AGM MEETING 2021



Admin department is also responsible for organizing and managing the affairs of ACB's Annual General Meetings (AGM) as well as Monthly Board Meetings. The Board Meeting for the fiscal year 2021, was held at the ACB Chairman's office, the arrangement and the preparation of which was facilitated by the Admin department. Numerous decisions were taken at the meeting in regards to the development of the organization as well as approved the annual budget plan for the year 2021.

## KAMAL KHAN DAM TROPHY

(KABUL, KANDAHAR, KHOST, KUNDUZ AND KUNAR)



Afghanistan Cricket Board in an extraordinary feat, organized a series of matches in different provinces of the country to honor the inauguration of the Kamal Khan Dam National project in the country. The matches were held in five different provinces (Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunduz, and Kunar) where all the matches except, the match held in Kunduz have broadcasted live from the national televisions of the country. Admin department had the responsibilities to arrange and facilitate as well as to provide logistical support during the series of exhibition matches.

## SCL2021 PLAYERS DRAFT



Afghanistan Cricket Board had planned to organize the 8th edition of the Shpageeza Cricket League in September. This year's edition was scheduled to be an 8-team tournament, where the ownership rights of all the participating teams were sold to different companies and corporates. In a further step, the ACB has launched the player's draft ceremony, which was held with the cooperation and logistical support of the Admin department. The draft was held successfully, although the SCL2021 was not held due to the limited banking services in the country.



# CELEBRATION OF RASHID KHAN'S AWARD AS PLAYER OF THE DECADE



ICC T20I PLAYER OF THE DECADE

د نړیوالو ۲۰ اوریزو سیالیو د لسيزې غوره لوبغاړی  
بهترین بازیکن یک دهی بازیهای ۲۰ آوره بین المللی

Rashid Khan, Afghanistan's leg spinner, who has had an incredible record in five years in T20I cricketing world, was awarded as the Best T20I Player of the decade by the International Cricket Council. Afghanistan Cricket Board celebrated this massive achievement of Rashid Khan and organized a party, which featured board members, governmental officials, and media representatives. Admin department provided logistical support to the event as well as provided them with the requirement including dinner, sound system, stage, and protocol reception.

## TRANSPORT FACILITIES FOR STAFF AND TEAM PLAYERS

The department is also responsible to facilitate staff transportation as well as transportation facilities for the national players during events.

## ACQUIRED 100 GEREESBS LAND FROM AFGHAN GOVERNMENT FOR A NEW STADIUM IN KABUL

Admin department serves as a focal point between ACB and the Afghan Government. The ex-president of Afghanistan Mr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani had allocated 100,000 square meters of land in the Alokhel area of Kabul for the construction of a new cricket stadium. The Admin department served as a communication point and followed up the relevant documentation with the presidential office. Admin department provided different social and economic proposals to the presidential office, as a result of which the land allocation process was finally approved by the Cabinet. Following the approval, the construction activities of the boundary wall have also been commenced which are going as per plan.



## VISA AND TRAVEL SERVICES FOR THE TEAM PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS

Admin department assists procurement and cricket operations departments in getting required Visas as well as other travel facilitation for players and officials in different events.

## ACCOMMODATIONS FACILITIES FOR THE TEAM PLAYERS AND OFFICIALS DURING DOMESTIC EVENTS

Admin department, in coordination with the domestic department, oversees the accommodation facilities for players and officials during major domestic events such as Ghazi Amanullah Khan List-A Tournament, Ahmad Shah Abdali First-Class Tournament, Shpageeza Cricket League, etc.





The Human Resources Department has strategic role in ACB. It aligns the employee objectives to overall ACB objectives. HR department

contributes to the development of and the accomplishment of the organization-wide business plan and objectives. The human resources

department of ACB handles many necessary functions.

## SCOPE OF WORK

Scope of Work:

1. Manpower Planning & Budget
2. Alignment of employees' objectives with ACB strategic objectives
3. Recruitment and Selection
4. Training and Development
5. Performance Appraisals and Performance improvement plan
6. Compensation Management
7. Reward and Recognition
8. Filing and Documentations
9. HRMIS
10. Organizational Culture
11. Organizational Structure
12. Investigation of Disciplinary Actions
13. Policies Drafting and Communication
14. Labor law compliance

Here are some of the major activities the department covered during the year 2021

### RIGHTSIZING

HRD alongside the assigned committee members in coordination with Top Management & line department heads, conducted the organization's wide manpower study, which resulted in the laid-off of some employees. The motives of this exercise were to:

- Ensure the right number of employees are on board
- Enhance work quality
- Decrease the budget deficit

### DEPARTMENTAL STRUCTURES

- HRD in coordination with line department heads and management created the structure of each department. The structure demonstrates the reporting line, grade, and the title of all employees in a department as well as clarifies the chain of command, but needs to be approved by the BODs in near future.
- Decrease the budget deficit

### PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT 2021

The Performance Management System was launched in the 1st Quarter of the year 2021, and coordinated all departmental managers to assign objectives for their subordinates respectively. HRD followed up the process extensively to ensure that every employee has his/her targets/objectives for the year 2021, which resulted in providing an overall competitive working environment as well as positive impacts on goal-achievements of the organization.

### HRMIS UPDATES

HRD alongside the IT department, developed a new Human Resource Management Information System. The system includes employee information and a profile system, which processes all the relevant data in Pashto and English Languages. The department further works to digitalize the Leave, Travel, Exit, Annual Budget, and Performance management forms through HRMIS, which can further contribute to ensuring transparency and system digitalization in the organization.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the cricket operations, domestic cricket department, and the women department, the HRD processed the contracts & payroll of 38 central contracted, 43 domestic contracted, 20 disabled, and 23 women cricketers.

The Human Resource Department had the lead to create internship opportunities for newly graduated students from different universi-

ties. The department, with coordination with partner universities, has also organized training and development courses for the employees that help in capacity building of the staff which in return contributes to the overall productivity of the organization.



## PROCUREMENT PROCESS



## PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

The procurement department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board is a key unit of the organization which is responsible for procuring goods, services, and relevant works as

per request. The department also prepares, maintains, and reviews procurement documents, bid evaluation and price lists as well as receives, examines, and processes

requisitions and other documents related to the purchase of supplies, materials, equipment, and services.

*The department is mainly responsible to perform the following activities: Preparing and developing bid specifications for micro and small procurements.*

- Handling national and international purchases of goods and services as per need.
- Preparing RFQ/SBD/NCB for all commodities and services as required.
- Advertising of RFQ/SBD/NCB through ACBAR website and Arman-e-Mili newspaper.
- Comparing prices, specifications, and delivery dates to determine the best bid among suppliers.
- Maintaining PR, PO, and Contract trackers and verifying invoices for payment with accounting.
- Following up to expedite the deliveries.
- Comparing costs and evaluating the quality, and need of supplies, materials, and equipment.
- Many other procurement-relevant tasks and practices.

*Here are some of the major activities covered by the procurement department.*

### PROVINCIAL CHALLENGE CUP TOURNAMENTS

The provincial grade-level events (Grade III, II and Grade One) events were conducted one after the other at two

venues (Nangarhar and Khost) during the months of Jan-Apr 2021. The procurement department covered all the relevant

activities and provided their procurement and logistical services during the events.

### GHAZI AMANULLAH KHAN (LIST-A) TOURNAMENT

The 5th edition of Ghazi Amanullah Khan Regional List-A Cup is Afghanistan's leading One Day tournament, which was held

between five regional teams from 15th to 29th October in Kandahar Cricket Ground. The domestic Cricket department

of the ACB was provided with full procurement and logistical support during the event to organize the event successfully.

### AHMAD SHAH ABDALI (FIRST CLASS) TOURNAMENT

The Ahmad Shah Abdali Regional First Class Tournament was the biggest domestic event of ACB in 2021, which was conducted from November 8 to December 12 in Kandahar Province. The procurement de-

partment faced some challenges to manage all the activities, providing the required support and achieving the desired result in short period of time. A member of the procurement team was sent to Kandahar province

to ensure all the required goods and services are delivered on time and contribute to the successful conduct of the important cricketing event.

Moreover, considering the business requirements of the organization, the Procurement department, after evaluating supplier bids, offered contracts including external and internal audits, pitch soil, fuel, raw material, kitchen requirements, and contracts for different construction projects including the

construction of the boundary wall of Kabul and Khost cricket grounds, the construction of guest house boundary wall in Kandahar province, the construction of Kitchen hall in ACB main office, and many other projects. Furthermore, the department provided its logistical support to

the national teams' camps, the fast bowler training camp, and more domestic events during the year 2021. The procurement team has also contributed to the maintenance of different cricket grounds and academies in 2021.





## MEDIA DEPARTMENT

Afghanistan Cricket Board's Media department is the organization's focal point in its communication with national and international media outlets. Therefore, it constitutes an indispensable part of the structure that is responsible for portraying and maintaining Afghan cricket's image in Afghanistan and across the globe. The ACB Media department is responsible primarily to provide ample coverage to all

cricketing events of Afghanistan, whether domestic or international, directly via ACB's official social media handles, website, and monthly magazine while indirectly through local & international TV Channels by providing them relevant information. The department is responsible to provide access to information to news agencies, journalists, and other relevant stakeholders who require

the information or who have the resources to provide it with further exposure. The tools that are used for sharing such information include press releases, media statements, press conferences, advisories to external media sources as well as sharing it across the official social media handles of the Afghanistan Cricket Board.

**Overall, the important events covered by the Media department for ACB's official handles included the following:**

- Afghanistan vs Ireland, three-match ODI series, January 2021, UAE
- Afghanistan vs Zimbabwe, 2 tests, 3 T20Is, March 2021, UAE
- National Team Skills Development & Preparation Camp, July-August 2021, Kabul
- ICC Men's T20 World Cup, Oct-Nov, 2021, UAE
- Afghanistan U19s vs Bangladesh U19s, 5 YODIs and 1 Youth test, Sylhet, Bangladesh
- U19s Preparation and Selection Camp, 1st November – 15 December, Nangarhar
- ACC U-19 Asia Cup 2021, UAE
- Kamal Khan Dam Trophy (Kabul, Kandahar, Khost, Kunduz and Kunar)
- Ghazi Amanullah Khan List A Tournament, October, Kandahar
- Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class Tournament, Nov-Dec, Kandahar
- U-16 Inter-Academies Tournament
- Regional Club Championship, December, Nangarhar
- Afghan Cricket Bio-Monthly Magazine
- National Team Yo-Yo Test
- Celebration of Rashid Khan's Award as Player of the Decade
- SCL2021 Players Draft

### INITIATED DOCUMENTARY AND BIOGRAPHY PROCESS FOR U19 TEAM

Afghan National U19 Cricket Team participated in ACC U19 Asia Cup as well as was scheduled to take part in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup 2022. Two Members of the Media Department were part of the

team delegation on the UAE tour, they initiated to prepare a documentary to cover the whole process of the team preparation as well as made video biographies relevant to each player to highlight them.

The outcome of the program was largely welcomed by the followers and supporters of Afghan Cricket and has had a good impact on the introduction and highlighting of the youngsters.

### COMPREHENSIVE PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

ACB's Media department had the lead to conduct players' (under the head line of "Meet Afghan Atalan"), prepare interview teasers, shoot behind

the scenes footages, as well as had assigned a specific team to capture every major cricketing activity in photo and video forms to provide the audience

with the best contents as well to increase reach and fans engagements in its social media handles.



## CORDIAL COMMUNICATION WITH POPULAR CRICKET MEDIA OUTLETS

One of the highlights during the year 2020 was the increased and cordial communication between the ACB Media department and some popular cricketing outlets such as the International Cricket Council (ICC), ESPNcricinfo, Crictracker, Cricbuzz, and other national and international media out-

lets. The communication was a fruitful initiative that resulted in greater exposure and coverage for Afghan Cricket. Besides this, the Media Department has arranged limited over cricket matches for the members and journalists from the leading media in Afghanistan Cricket Board, as well as pro-

vided them with an in-depth analysis of how the coverage of cricket can have a significant impact on its development and emphasized on continuing the cooperation between ACB and sports journalists from various media outlets to convey information to the fans and other stakeholders.

## ACB OFFICIAL SOCIAL MEDIA HANDLE METRICS

ACB's official social media handles consist of a verified FB page, a page for domestic cricket and game development affairs, an official verified Twitter handle alongside a Twitter account for

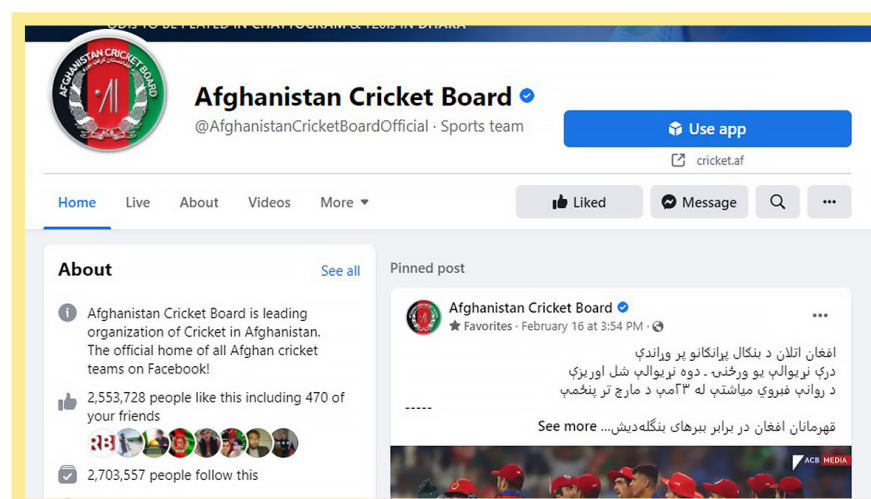
the domestic cricket coverage, an official verified Instagram account, a Youtube Channel and a Tiktok handle to highlight the best moments relevant to Afghan Cricket. These social media

accounts act as primary tools for conveying required information to all the fans and other stakeholders.

## FACEBOOK

The media department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board operates two platforms on Facebook representing the organization. The first one is the official FB page of ACB that is liked/followed by almost 2.7 million users making it the most popular source of information about Afghan Cricket. In 2018, ACB Media Department established the ACB Domestic Cricket Development page on Facebook that is primarily set to convey information about domestic cricket and game development activities. The information on ACB's main FB page is shared in three languages (Pashto, Dari, and English) to cater to all the relevant audiences and stakeholders.

- Official Press releases, News/Media Statements from Afghanistan Cricket Board
- Player related content (birthdays, records & stats, achievements, news, etc)
- Player Biographies, Players' life, and event documentaries
- Posts about infrastructural development activities
- Organic videos on different cricket related content
- Match-day updates (Pictures and videos on Toss, batting & bowling milestones, Innings update, Final Report, Closing ceremony)



## TWITTER

The Media Department also operates two official Twitter accounts representing Afghanistan Cricket Board. The first one is the official Twitter account of the Afghanistan Cricket Board, which is followed by 545.8 users and is considered to be a vital source of cricketing information for the fans and popular figures around the cricketing world and beyond. Besides this, Media Department established the @ACBDomestic account on Twitter that is mainly set to convey information about domestic cricket and game development activities.



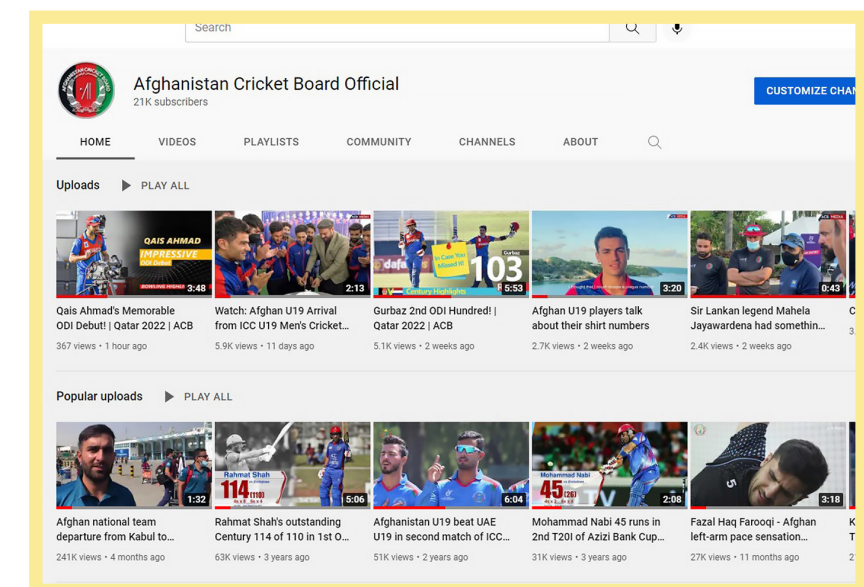
## INSTAGRAM

ACB Instagram is used primarily as a photo-sharing platform in tandem with other platforms. The official Instagram account of ACB has over 241K followers currently and grows rapidly due to the regular content updates. The platform's IGTV feature is used to upload relatively longer videos as well contributing to the diversity of content



## YOUTUBE

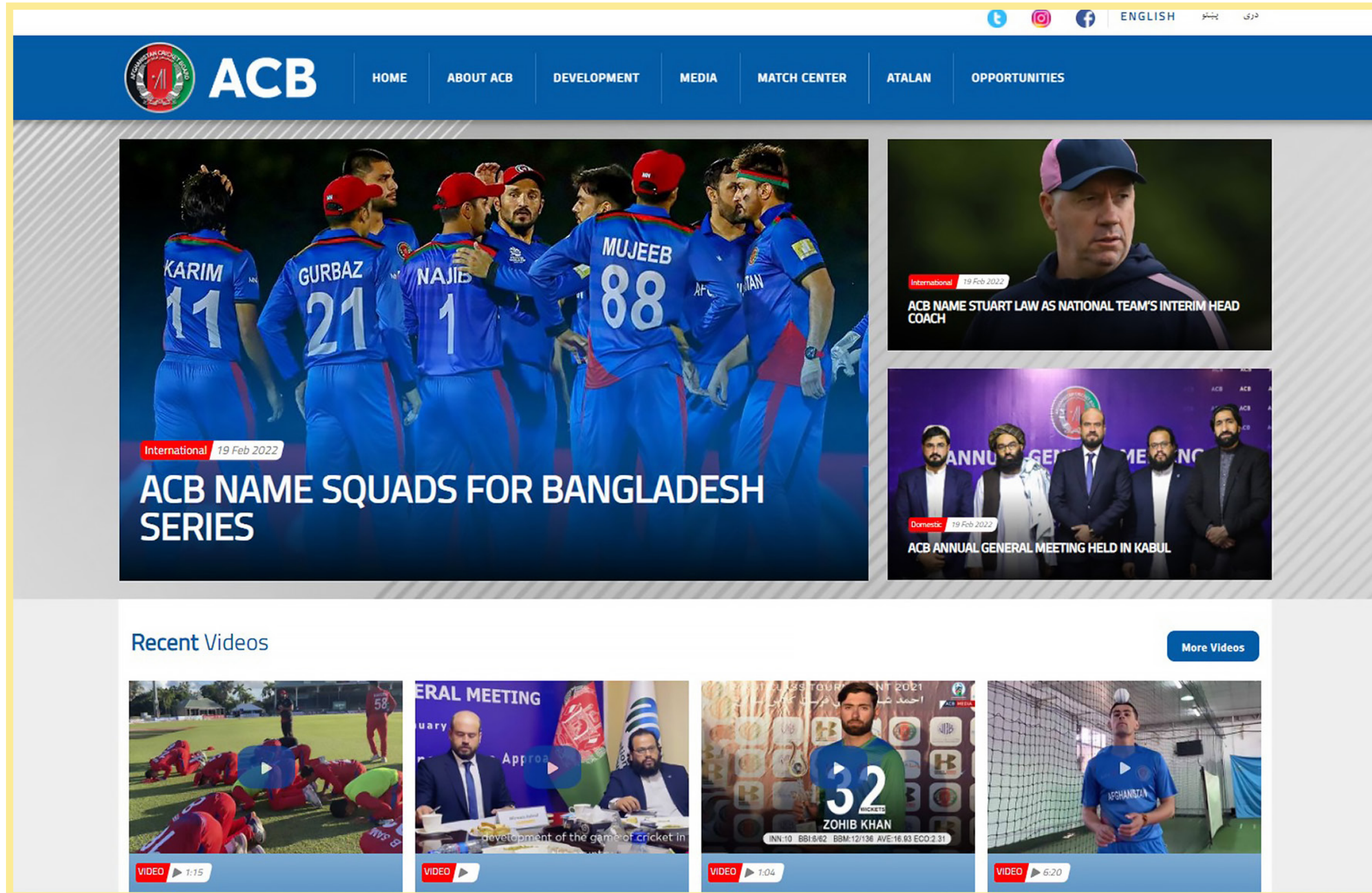
Afghanistan Cricket Board's official YouTube Channel is currently in the growing stage and has grown substantially since its launch despite many limitations to its content reach. The ACB media department has shot and shared player videos, documentaries, biographies, interviews, and other diverse content on the platform. The unavailability of digital footage from Afghanistan's matches remains a core factor for the future growth and possible monetization of the Channel.





## WEBSITE - CRICKET.AF

The official website of the Afghanistan Cricket Board was re-engineered in 2019 giving it a new look and a relatively simple interface. The re-engineering process continued in 2020 as well as the website was modified and some new features were added. The ACB media department and IT department jointly manage the content dynamics on the website with the Media department responsible for the data entry as well as uploading news and media to the website while the IT department is responsible for its web development. The data on the ACB website is shared in three languages (Pashto, Dari, and English) to reach as broad an audience as possible. The website also has a live-score section where the ongoing domestic, as well as international matches, are live-scored for the audience.







The Marketing department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) oversees its marketing, promotion, sales, revenue, digital branding and sponsorship management. The ACB exists to regulate; enforce; control; develop; arrange; facilitate; amend; resolve; and where possible, finance all the Afghanistan cricket legal; technical; financial; management; and administrative affairs in Afghanistan and internationally. The objectives of the Marketing department are set to keep the

current donors and/or sponsors of ACB current and satisfied of the ACB performance plus to look for more sponsors to further enhance the wellbeing of ACB in the short, medium, and longer-term. Furthermore, to concrete and brighten the ACB brand nationally and internationally. Although the year 2021 was marked the challenging year for the Business entities in Afghanistan as a result of Covid19 pandemic and extremely volatile and unpredict-

able security situation before and during the collapse of the Government of Afghanistan In August 2021. ACB Marketing team successfully completed various Sponsorship & partnership programs, which commenced following a strategic review of the marketing plan of 2021. During the calendar year, we were able to expand our partnership portfolio with more top-notch organizations that support Afghanistan Cricket.

## AFGHANISTAN VS IRELAND 3-MATCH ODI SERIES JANUARY 2021

The three-match ODI series between Afghanistan and Ireland was played in Abu Dhabi, UAE. Afghanistan emerged triumphant in the series beating the visitors 3-nil. The matches were played

on 21st, 24th, and 26th January respectively. Continuing the solid relationship between ACB and sponsors from the previous years, Kardan University managed to secure the Title Sponsorship rights

for the series while Daffa News secured the Associate Sponsorship rights. Both entities had previously engaged with us as well through sponsorship of various events.

## AFGHANISTAN VS ZIMBABWE 2 TEST - 3 T20Is March 2021 - UAE

Afghanistan Cricket Board hosted Zimbabwe for a two-match test and three-match T20I series from

2nd to 20th March. Afghanistan lost the first test match in two days but came back nicely to win

the 2nd test match on the last day to share the series 1-1. After the conclusion of the test series, both

teams faced off in 3 T20Is from 17th to 20th March. Afghanistan won the series 3-nil maintaining its dominance over Zimbabwe in the format. Abu Dhabi Sports Council was awarded as the main sponsor for the event while Radio Television of Afghanistan secured

the Main Jersey sponsorship of the event. RTA is the official broadcasting partner of the ACB, as well as we have cordial relationships with the Abu Dhabi Sports Council too. Besides this both entities were engaged with the ACB in various events in the past.

Furthermore, the available resources were utilized to integrate new partners and sponsors in Afghanistan's bilateral series, ICC T20I Cricket world cup 2021 and Shpageeza Cricket league during the period of men's cricket as described below:

- Signing the Title sponsors, Main jersey sponsors and associate sponsors for the Ireland & Zimbabwe series 2021 at the very first phase of the year.
- Securing ITW as Ground rights holder for the Pakistan series, but unfortunately the event was postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic and some logistical challenges.
- Securing ITW as National team Sponsor for the ICC T20I World Cup 2021, but after the change of regime in the country, this party pulled out of the rights. The top management of the ACB then managed to bring SEDIKI GRUP as National team sponsor for the ICC Men's T20I World Cup 2021.
- Shpageeza Cricket league 2021 was all set to start in Kabul. The marketing activities were channeled accordingly which resulted in finding the team owners, sponsors and partners for the 8th edition of the league.
- Finding the potential sponsor for List-A domestic event which comprised both streaming and in stadia rights.
- Through good performance and maintaining positive relationships, keeping the current long-term partners of the ACB satisfied, e.g. Rana Technologies, Kardan University, Kabul Sports, Fan Code and HSL.
- Finalized the magazine sponsorship contract with Azizi Bank for the 2021
- Renewal of the contract with Ghaphoor Foundation.
- On boarding the potential sponsors for Kamal Khan Dam Trophy in Kabul.
- Conducting the Project Management course through Kardan University.

It is worth mentioning that the marketing activities associated with ACB's print media includes the monthly Afghan Cricket Magazine is also a significant source of revenue as well as sponsor engagement. These performed activities resulted in significant revenue growth with strong commitments to leverage their association and amplify the sport within the community.

## WAY FORWARD

The year 2022 is considered to be a busy year ahead for the Afghan National team as well as for domestic cricket in the country. The Marketing division will aim to capitalize on its strong relationship with ACB's

partners and sponsors to bring more revenues for the organization. The next stage for 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

leading up to the 2023 World Cup. The planning process is already underway and will be applied over the course of the next 06 months.



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY



## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

### MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM

The information Technology and Management Information System (IT& MIS) department at Afghanistan Cricket Board manages all the tech needs at the organization.

The department has a certain scope which includes activities such as Applications Development, Networking and Telecommunications Development, Server Room,

Information and System Security, System & Network Administration, Help Desk and Support services, etc.

*Followings are the main projects and activities that the department came across.*

#### PLAYER, CLUB AND ACADEMY REGISTRATION MIS

The system was designed and developed for the Game Development Department of the organization. It allows Provincial Managers to log in and register all clubs, schools, and academies across Afghanistan. All necessary information such as name, phone numbers, email, residential information, headshots, and playing details of the players are entered and stored in the database. This helps ACB in increasing and properly managing their annual revenue from these entities.

#### TURF REVENUE MIS

The TURF Revenue system was designed in response to a request from the Domestic Department; it allows provincial managers to log in from their own provinces and enter all of the details of the matches that are played on their grounds; it is extremely beneficial to ACB in managing its TURF revenue and to prevent any possible misuse.

#### ATHLETE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (AMS)

The System was designed to indicate top players based on their records in three different areas for a specific format of the game. AMS is developed in three major modules, which are Performance, Fitness and Discipline. The purpose for the development of the system was to help the selectors pick the players for various national teams with the best performances according to the pre-assigned indicators.

### LIVE SCORE APPLICATION

Live scoring is an essential requirement for a cricket-related organization such as the Afghanistan Cricket Board. The Application displays the entire

record of the match live ball by ball, including match summary, scorecard, event fixtures, stats, points table, and many other relevant points. The

application is integrated with the ACB website and displays all the matches live along with the associated data on the main page of the ACB website.

### SCL2021 PLAYER DRAFT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

The system was designed to put all the players with their statistics, categorize them by five categories, have all the franchises and manage the picking process of the players. The system gives a strong message and shows that the ACB is eager and able to go for professionalism, digitalization and adopting advanced system and technologies over traditional systems. The Players' draft system for the SCL2021 Players Draft Included the following main features:

- Draft Players' List
- Draft Players' Categories
- Franchises & Teams Registration
- Draft Players' T20 Careers Statistics
- Players Picking Process
- Draft Turns Chart and Process
- Turns Summary
- Round Summary
- Freezing and un-freezing players
- Team Squads
- Retained players graphics
- Graphics for picked players

### ACCREDITATION | INVITATION CARDS | CERTIFICATE AND DIFFERENT PRINTING SUPPORT

Printing is an important service of the IT Help Desk which covers most administrative tasks of other departments. IT staff provides sufficient support to all ACB departments. Here are the printing services and support provided by IT department:

- Abdali First Class Tournament Accreditation Cards
- GAK Regional List-A Tournament
- U-16 Regional Tournament Accreditation Cards
- Coaching Course Certificates
- Scoring Certificates
- U-19 and National Team Players pictures, cards and document printing
- Employee ID cards
- Employee Vehicle Cards
- Visa forms and documents copies

### EMAIL SERVER MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING

Email is an important method of business communication that is fast, cheap, accessible and easily replicated. Using email can greatly benefit businesses as it provides efficient and effective ways to transmit all kinds of electronic data. The IT Department is continuously monitoring the uptime and efficiency of mail servers, as well as the availability and performance of both outgoing (SMTP) and receiving (POP, IMAP) mail streams.

### HELP DESK

Help desks help ACB officials with technical issues such as computer system installation and use, network connection troubleshooting, entertainment system installation, and password resetting. The main benefit of a help desk is how it increases employee satisfaction.

#### Here are the IT Help desk tasks:

- Supporting National Teams and ACB officials in getting visas.
- Staff training for ACB management system's administration and data entry.
- Internet, computer, printer, email and other IT problem troubleshooting.
- Telephone Installation, maintenance and troubleshoot.
- Installed Operating systems and required applications on New and Old computers.
- Employee ID & Vehicle cards preparing, printing and distributing.
- Monitoring internet speed graph and troubleshooting.





# ENGINEERING AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The infrastructure Department is responsible for Design, Construction, Monitoring, Estimation, Re-estimation activities which are related to the infrastructure of

ACB. In spite of some challenges during the year 2021, the infrastructure development was satisfactory as many projects including grounds, academies, guest houses,

etc. got on track and some of them were completed during the course of the year.

*The following were the major Projects conducted during the year 2020:*

## KANDAHAR GUEST HOUSE



This Project was completed by the Ministry of Economics with the aids of the Indian Embassy.

The total budget for this project was USD 350,000, where all contract processes were done by

the Ministry of Economics with the contractors. This project was started in March 2018. During the year 2020, its construction activities were halted due to the COVID-19, which was resumed later and completed at the end of March 2021. This project is 100% completed.

## KANDAHAR GUEST HOUSE SURROUNDING WALL



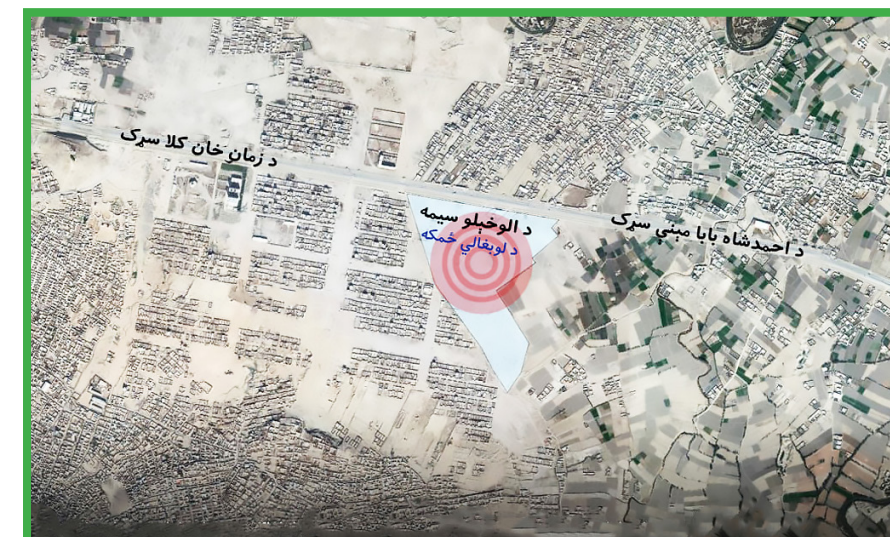
This project was initiated in the middle of May 2021, which is 100% completed. The total budget for the project was AFN 2,200,000.

## KHOST CRICKET GROUND SURROUNDING WALL



This project was started in January 2021, which was completed in July 2021. The total budget for this project was AFN 6,500,000. With the completion of this project, the ACB acquired 50,000 square-meter land, which is considered a great asset for the ACB, which is approximately worth USD 5,000,000.

## KABUL INTERNATIONAL CRICKET STADIUM



The acquisition of the land and land documents were done in 2021. It is located in the 16th district of Kabul city. The total area is around 200,000 square-meter which is worth 1,600,000,000 AFN at the time of handover. The initial phase of the stadium has been started, which is going as per plan.

## LOGAR CRICKET GROUND (MOHAMMAD AGHA DISTRICT)



This project was funded by MUDL. Its construction process is

in progress is underway, 20% of which has been completed. The

approved budget for this project is 75,000,000 AFN. The construction includes two-story pavilion, stands with the seating capacity of 5000 spectators, surrounding wall, outdoor academy, oval ground, fence around the green area, water supply system, bore well and underground water tank.



# NAJIBULLAH TARAKAI INTERNATIONAL CRICKET GROUND



The construction process of this project is 50% completed. The total cost of the surrounding wall and cultivation of grass is USD 200,000 which is equivalent to AFN 16,400,000. By the completion of this project, the ACB will be able to acquire around 55,000 square-meter land which is worth around AFN 534,000,000.

# WARDAK CRICKET GROUND



The design of this project was done by the Infrastructure Department. This project was also funded by the MUDL. The construction process is in progress, which is 70% completed. The approved budget for this project is AFN 73,000,000. The construction process includes a pavilion, stands for a seating capacity of 5000 people, a surrounding wall, an oval ground, an outdoor academy, a fence around the green area, a water supply system, a bore well, and an underground water tank.

# PAKTIKA CRICKET GROUND SECOND PHASE



The design of this project was done by the ACB Infrastructure Department. The project is being funded by MUDL. The construction progress is underway, which is completed by 30%. The approved budget for the mentioned project is AFN 68,000,000. The construction includes stands with a seating capacity of 10,000 spectators, an oval ground, an outdoor academy, and a fence around the green area.

# BALKH CRICKET GROUND



This project was funded by the Embassy of India with a budget of USD 1,000,000. This project includes a Pavilion, a Water Supply System, Grassing, Fence, Footpaths, Side Ditch, an Out Door Academy, stands, and VIP rooms for players, stands with the seating capacity of 6000 people) and Surrounding Wall. This project is 25% completed.



# FINANCE

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The year 2021: Looking back to the year 2021, total revenue for the

year ended was USD 6.17m, while 88% of this amount was from ICC

distribution, 4% Government, and 8% Media & Marketing.

### EXPENSES

Expenses for the year were totaled 6.41M, less than the expenses (6.76m) in 2020. The higher portion was spent on International Cricket which remains always a priority. There were expenses on Domestic cricket, Game Development, Infrastructure Development, Anti-Corruption & Security, HR, Women's Cricket, Media & Marketing, and

System Development. International Cricket Always burns up the main part of the annual revenue. Domestic Cricket Spend more on multiple domestic events including First Class and List A cricket, while Game Development spends on school cricket, Infrastructure, coaching, and skill development activities. Media is trying to showcase key

activities to attract viewership and promote marketing. Women Cricket Started to spend on awareness, coaching, tournaments and for the first time, they had HR costs for the central contracted women players. IT is working on system development while others support general organizational activities.

### TECHNICAL VS ADMINISTRATIVE COST ANALYSIS

The cost incurred on international and domestic cricketing events, camps, tournaments, hosting relevant activities, technical staff skills & capacity development, material and equipment, production, and other game relevant activities are treated as technical costs and luckily, they are 79% of the total expenses. Let's take a look at the cost breakdown for more details. All indirect & support costs are treated to be administrative costs which look

pretty balanced.

In addition, ACB never experienced liquidity issues. ACB working on system development where major tasks have been moved to ACB online portal. ACB exercise monthly financial report submitted to top management tracking on Cash count, Bank / Cash reconciliation, Balance Sheet & PL, Tracking on Advances, A/P, A/R, and Fund Accountability Statement generated from Accounting System. ACB

exercises internal control where each transaction is checked to be properly authorized, approved, and supported as per necessary guidelines. All transactions are submitted to internal Audit for any possible risk, violations, irregularities or Fraud indications. External Audit is hired to carry out independent audit and report any issue. ACB shares quarterly reports and Annual Audited Financial Report with ICC and all relevant stakeholders.



# ANTI-CORRUPTION UNIT

The Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU) of the ACB seeks to provide a coordinated and effective capability to protect all cricket played under the ACB's auspices and by its members against corruption. ACB's Anti-Corruption Unit is responsible to tackle and confront the risk of corruption within the game of cricket. It is clear that

the risk persists and will continue to be a major threat to the integrity of the game. Therefore, the ACB's ACU continues to pursue (in the following order of priority) the strategy of 1) Prevention, 2) Disruption, 3) Investigation, and 4) Prosecution. The Unit is responsible for covering up all the domestic and

international cricketing events of ACB. The Unit is further responsible for providing players' Code of conduct awareness programs for players & players' support personnel and officials being involved in events. The department had a decent year in terms of activities; in coordination with the ICC's An-

ti-Corruption unit, the ACB's ACU have successfully covered two of Afghanistan's home series against Ireland and Zimbabwe in UAE during the first quarter of the year. The department has also provided the national team players with educational seminars on a regular basis as the players have received relevant aware-

ness materials prior to the start of each series as well as during a training camp in August in Kabul. The Anti-Corruption Unit of Afghanistan Cricket Board has also provided the participants of the Ghazi Amanullah Khan Regional List-A tournament with the Anti-Corruption relevant educational materials in Kandahar province

and has subsequently covered the event successfully. The department is undergoing investigations of all the corrupt approaches to the players which are reported to and received by the ACU Intel hub during the year 2021.



# CHALLENGES

After the outbreak of the COVID-19 in 2020, the world underwent unparalleled hurdles as it suffered through a Pandemic that affected all paces of life. With more than two years to go so far, the pandemic still remains a major challenge for the cricketing world to deal with it. It affects not only the playing

calendars but also has destructive dints on the logistic, financial, marketing, and operational practices of the cricketing bodies across the world. Many of the ACB's international events were affected or called off due to the concerns surrounding the emergence of the Omicron

variant of Covid-19. Moreover, the COVID-19 variants also impacted the financial situation of the country and many businesses were affected which meant the private sector bit the dust impacting the sponsorship opportunities for ACB.

## LOGISTIC MANAGEMENT FOR HOME SERIES

During the year 2021, Afghanistan's scheduled home series were either canceled or postponed to later dates causing a challenge for ACB Operations to reschedule

and manage the logistics of these series in presence of all restrictions imposed by relevant governments with regard to COVID-19 control. In some cases, there were

visa issues that slowed down the logistical process for a home series and/or other tournaments.

## LACK OF MAIN SPONSOR

During the year 2021, Afghanistan's scheduled home series were either canceled or postponed to later dates causing a challenge for ACB Opera-

tions to reschedule and manage the logistics of these series in presence of all restrictions imposed by relevant governments with regard to COVID-19

control. In some cases, there were visa issues that slowed down the logistical process for a home series and/or other tournaments.

## WEAK PLANNING MECHANISM

Efforts were put underway in 2021 to start the strengthening of the Planning mechanism in ACB as the

organization has struggled due to weak and lack of strategic planning previously. The Policies of the

various departments were up for revision and the relevant challenges are being tackled.

## HOSTING ACB'S HOME SERIES IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES

Hosting bilateral series and other tournaments always remains a big hurdle for Afghanistan. Since the start of Afghanistan's journey in international cricket, ACB hosted all of its "home" games in neutral

countries like UAE, India, or Qatar. This causes Afghanistan to spend more than the required amount for hosting a single team, as it makes the ACB to host two teams (Afghanistan and the visiting

team) at the same time, which incurs more and higher costs for logistical arrangements of both teams.

## BANKING AND FINANCIAL ISSUES

After the change of regime in mid-August in Afghanistan, the banking services were restricted and limited in the country, which created a big hurdle for ACB in its activities. ACB had specified a window in September 2021 to conduct the eighth edition of the

Shpageeza Cricket League, but due to the banking and financial issues and physical shortage of cash with ACB and the team owners caused the ACB to postpone the event, which was canceled later on. However, the circumstances kept getting better in the last few months

as well as the ACB Leadership and the finance teams were/are in persistent consultations with the potential banking institutions who can support and recover the issue for an extended period of time.



# WAY FORWARD

## WAY FORWARD

The year 2022 is considered to be a busy year ahead for the Afghanistan Cricket Board as the national team has a packed international calendar while the domestic cricket calendar also includes various competitions to continue the process of talent generation and nurturing it ahead. As the businesses recov-

er from the crisis created by the COVID-19 Pandemic and by the change of regime in the country, it will create a ripple effect creating more sponsorship opportunities for ACB to partner in a jam-packed of cricket year ahead. The year 2021 also presented unique logistical challenges which paved way for

ACB to look for new venues to host its international home series. The venues in countries such as Qatar in addition to UAE and India will provide an extended option line to choose from. One of the major factors that will determine our success in near future will be the qualification for the

ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Our campaign in the ICC Cricket World Cup Super league is underway, as the National Team went past Ireland 3-nill in their first ever outing in the league. With 30 points from 3 games, we will take on the Netherlands, Zimbabwe, Bangladesh, India, Australia, Sri Lanka and

Pakistan in our next series upfront, we will surely throw everything at it to win more games, gain more points and try out our all to secure spot in the top 8 on the table and qualify to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Moreover, ACB will ensure that the players are given proper preparation as the cricketing world

is acquainting itself with the new playing norms under the bio-secure environment consisting of bio-bubbles. In a nutshell, the adversity of 2021 has passed and ACB remains optimistic as ever to ensure that Afghan Cricket is headed in the right direction.





**Afghanistan Cricket Board**

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