



# ANNUAL REPORT 2022

## MEDIA & COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

#AFGHANATALAN | #FUTURESTARS





# TABLES OF CONTENTS

1	Chairman Message _____	4
2	CEO Message _____	6
3	Overview _____	8
4	International Cricket Department _____	10
5	Domestic Cricket Department _____	32
6	Shpageeza Cricket League _____	42
7	Finance Department _____	49
8	Marketing & Sales Department _____	52
9	Media & Communication Department _____	56
10	Information Technology Department _____	78
11	The Facility and Turf Management Department: _____	82
12	High-Performance Center _____	87
13	The Selection Committee _____	88
14	Anti-Corruption Unit _____	90
15	Discipline Committee _____	90
16	Compliance Department _____	91
17	Event Logistics Management Department _____	94
18	Human Resource Department _____	97
19	Administration & Service Department _____	98
20	Procurement Department _____	100
21	Challenges _____	103
22	Way Forward to 2023 _____	106



# CHAIRMAN MESSAGE



Cricket has been making significant strides in recent years, and despite some serious challenges, Afghanistan Cricket has had notable achievements during this period. I am confident that all stakeholders of Afghanistan cricket both within and outside the country would be satisfied with the accomplishments in 2022, particularly our qualification for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023; an astonishing Asia Cup outing; series victories in both T20Is and ODIs, and yet another direct qualification to the ICC T20 World Cup in 2024.

During the year 2022, we frequently attended meetings of the International Cricket Council and reported detailed information

to them about the current state of cricket in Afghanistan. Fortunately, we were able to regain our membership on the ICC board of directors, which is quite a positive development for the game in the country following the recent political changes. In addition to our efforts at the ICC, there have been conversations and discussions about maintaining strong relationships with other Asian member countries, particularly India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh for having improved bilateral commitments in the future.

During a recent meeting with the ICC and all member countries, we were able to successfully negotiate a comprehensive Fu-

ture Tours Program for Afghanistan. This will include a big number of international matches for our senior national team against major cricketing countries over the next four years period. This increase in the number of test matches in the next cricketing cycle is expected to have a positive impact on the development of the game and the growth of our players, which aligns with our long-term plans. It will also contribute to the financial stability of the Afghanistan Cricket Board through increased media rights and marketing revenue.

Another significant accomplishment for Afghanistan cricket this year is our direct qualification for the ICC Cricket World

Cup 2023. This is a historic achievement for the Afghanistan Cricket Board as it marks the first time that we are qualifying directly without having to go through the qualifying rounds for the World Cup. The ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 in India is an important tournament for the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) and the Afghanistan National Cricket Team, which we look forward to.

The Afghanistan Cricket Board is committed to meeting the hopes and aspirations of the Afghan people who have faced difficult economic and security conditions. Despite these challenges, they have a strong passion for cricket and have always supported the national team. Cricket brings a sense of hope and happiness to all Afghans, and we will work to align our actions with the desires of the nation. We welcome any suggestions and feedback from the public.

Infrastructure development is a priority for ACB to build academies, grounds, and stadiums across the country. The focus is now on building cricket infrastructure, especially beyond the five cricketing regions as part of our commitment to taking the game of cricket to all parts of the country to enable

the youth and professional cricketers in those remote areas to have access to the right facilities for their skills development and increased participation in the game of cricket.

Domestic cricket is crucial to strengthen the national team and it always remains to be an area of consideration for us; there will be more domestic cricket competitions of different formats and at different levels throughout the next year.

Going forward, government support is crucial for the success of our future plans for the Afghanistan Cricket Board. We are dedicated to maintaining strong relationships with the government and anticipate their support in helping us accomplish our organizational goals.

ACB is one family and everyone's work and commitment are given recognition. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the success of Afghanistan cricket not only in 2022 but over the last several years.





The Afghanistan Cricket Board faced a variety of challenges in 2022 that threatened to impede the growth and development of the organization. However, the ACB was able to rise to the occasion and tackle these challenges head-on. Through a combination of strategic planning, hard work, and determination, the organization was able to achieve significant milestones in terms of financial stability, team performance, and organizational development.

The ACB was able to maintain a stable financial position after international sanctions made it increasingly difficult to transfer funds to Afghanistan following the change of regime in the country. The issue has been resolved as the ACB has successfully negotiated & finalized the fund transfer agreement with amanacard to receive funds in Afghanistan.

The ACB has also reached a long-term agreement with Rario for the digital engagement and the sponsorship rights of the Afghanistan National Team, which is a valuable feat for the Afghanistan Cricket Board to achieve both in commercial and

financial terms. Similarly, we have found commercial partners in Super Cola & Kam Air for our National Team's sponsorship in different categories, which contributes to the financial stability of the Afghanistan Cricket Board.

From the administrative aspect, we have worked hard to revamp our organizational structure as ACB was previously lacking a properly defined organizational structure. We have tirelessly worked to develop a structure that fits the organizational needs and makes the ACB operations more effective and efficient. The newly developed structure was then approved by the board

members and is currently in the execution stage.

A High-Performance Center was added to the structure to execute the required high-performance services and work on the overall development of teams/players by providing them with the proper capacity-building & skill development programs and the required medical & rehabilitation services.

Before this, the ACB used to conduct the national teams' training camps abroad, but with the addition of the HPC in the organizational structure, which offers modified

training and playing camps, and with the restoration of the physical fitness & rehab centers, we will be able to conduct all our training camps inside the country. This will help us narrow down the pressure on our annual budget as part of our considerable focus on cost-effectiveness.

We have also been constantly working to develop the infrastructure of cricket in the country and to promote the game at the grassroots level. This has involved building new cricket grounds, academies and training facilities, as well as launching programs to encourage more young people to play the game.

Obtaining UAE residential permits is another big advantage for ACB as UAE visas were considered a major logistical challenge for ACB. Since UAE is regarded as our main hub and our connection route to other countries, these residential permits will always be a logistical advantage for the team and the Afghanistan Cricket Board.

In addition, signing a mutual cooperation agreement with the Emirates Cricket Board is another highlight of the year,

which will help us host our home fixtures in UAE, without paying the sanction fees to the hosts. This will now help us to properly plan our home games as per the new Future Tours Program — FTP and provide all the logistical arrangements on time.

From the team's perspective, the year 2022 was a remarkable year for Afghanistan witnessing several achievements. Qualification to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 was a massive achievement because it was not only a priority for all the stakeholders but also for how AfghanAtalan played so far at the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League. The strength of Afghanistan in One Day Internationals (ODIs) continued as we climbed to the 9th position in the ICC ODI rankings after the team put on some elite performances in the format during the year. This was further boosted by the fact that Afghanistan won eight out of eleven completed ODIs in 2022 including 3-0 series wins against the Netherlands and Zimbabwe each alongside victories against Bangladesh and Sri Lanka respectively. It was pleasing to see Afghanistan performing exceptionally well against better and tougher oppositions

in ODIs and securing wins against them. The dominance of Afghanistan over lower-ranked teams including Zimbabwe and the Netherlands continued in 2022 as Afghanistan won both T20I and ODI series against them.

Overall, the first calendar year after the change of regime in the country was a successful year for the Afghanistan Cricket Board, and both team and organizational performances were on par after an uncertain environment was created around. Fortunately, we have responded well to all the concerns raised with the ICC and other member boards and successfully managed to regain our membership in the ICC board of directors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our stakeholders for helping us go through some tough circumstances in the year 2022 and making it an eventful year; I would also like to thank the Afghanistan government for their continued support, the International Cricket Council, the Asian Cricket Council, the entire ACB family, ICC member boards, sponsors, partners and especially fans based both in Afghanistan and overseas for their support.



In 2022, the Afghanistan Cricket Team had a successful year on the field, achieving multiple series victories and qualifying for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. The team's performance was consistent, putting on some dominant performances in bilateral cricket as well as in mega events like the ACC Asia Cup and the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup 2022.

Off the field, the Afghanistan Cricket Board made significant progress in terms of administrative affairs. The board was able to secure sponsorship deals and partnerships to improve the financial stability of the organization. The ACB also improved its organizational structure and operations to enhance overall organizational performance.

Effective governance and administration have always been a priority for the Afghanistan Cricket Board that is fit for the purpose to ensure transparency and accountability in all affairs. The Annual General Meeting of ACB board members was convened in January 2022 and approved & revised key legal and administrative documents including Selection, Human Resources, Administration, IT, Media, Procurement, Domestic Cricket, and Finance policies and Cricket Operations Manual, Discipline Code and Anti-Corruption & Anti-Doping rules to authorize actions in the respective areas and ultimately conform to broader governance practices.

For the past two years, the cricketing community has been closely following the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League, eagerly waiting to see which teams will directly qualify for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023. Afghanistan continued its brilliant start in the event with 3-nill series victories over the Netherlands and Zimbabwe and also registered wins against Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. After playing only five of the required/scheduled eight series in the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League, Afghanistan suc



# OVERVIEW

has qualified directly for the World Cup without going through the qualifying rounds.

Afghanistan reached new heights in the ACC Asia Cup in 2022 and qualified for the Super Four stage of the competition after comprehensively beating Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in group-stage matches and finishing at the top of the table. Junior-level cricket also continued to excel as the Afghanistan U-19 National Cricket Team reached the Semi-Final at the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup in the Caribbean, meeting the expectation level outlined in ACB strategic plan.

Domestic Cricket also continued to grow and provide opportunities for players and fans to engage in playing and/or witnessing competitive cricket at home. The annual Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class Tournament was played between five regional teams in two different venues contributing to the skills & capacity building of players and organizers. Similarly, the eighth edition of the Shpageeza Cricket League was successfully held, where the number of teams was increased to eight, and a bigger pool of players including some foreign players was engaged in the event, which provided an excellent platform for both players and feature in some high-voltage cricket.

The Mutual Cooperation Agreement with the Emirates Cricket Board was another significant achievement for Afghanistan Cricket Board in 2022, as it will allow the ACB to conduct its home fixtures in UAE using its world-class venues for five years without paying the sanction fee and acquiring approvals.

During the last year, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) placed a strong emphasis on public relations and communication activities to inform and engage with the public, recognizing the importance of fans as vital stakeholders. The ACB increased its communication and engagement with popular cricketing outlets both domestically and globally, in order to provide greater exposure and coverage for Afghanistan cricket. This helped to raise the profile of Afghanistan cricket and to attract more fans and supporters.

Overall, the year 2022 was another successful year for Afghanistan cricket, as the team and the ACB continued to make progress and achieve significant milestones. The golden journey of Afghanistan cricket is going from strength to strength, and the Afghanistan Cricket Board is committed to continuing this upward trajectory and taking Afghanistan cricket to the next level.



# INTERNATIONAL CRICKET DEPARTMENT

The international cricket department is responsible to define strategic short-term and long-term goals aligned with ACB's strategy and its future internal and external needs, systems' development, processes, guidelines and procedures for smooth operations/functionalities of the department. The department also implements, monitors and evaluates the ongoing projects, systems, and policies and recommends changes to the Top Management to increase the department's efficiency as and when required. The department's strategies are mainly focused on achieving sustainable success in all forms of the game for all senior and junior teams. The international cricket department also coordinates all the external communications with ICC/ACC and other cricketing boards for abroad tours, camps and matches.

Similarly, the international cricket department works on designing comprehensive fixtures for all aged & junior level teams and closely works with the ICC and ACB's top management for the Future Tours Programs, international cricketing lobby & matches, and upkeeps regular communication with the other cricketing nations for arranging and implementing the FTP and other bilateral series. This department also ensures that the Future Tours Program (FTP) is effectively planned and meets the deadlines. The department is also responsible for hosting international teams and matches in the given timeframe as well as managing players and international staff assignments and their contracts.





# FUTURE TOURS PROGRAM (2023-2027)

Afghanistan Cricket Board's International Cricket Department, in coordination with the International Cricket Council and other member countries, successfully managed to arrange a comprehensive Future Tours Program for Afghanistan's senior team for the next 4 years (2024-27) cycle. During the upcoming 4 years Afghanistan will play 20 Tests, 39 ODIs and 54 T20I games against top-ranked cricket nations such as Australia, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Ireland. The increased number of test matches in the next cricketing cycle is considered to be quite effective in terms of the game development in the country as it will largely impact the growth of the game itself as well as the players, which is key in terms of our future plans. This will also help the ACB in its financial stability by generating good income through Media Rights and Marketing revenues.



# QUALIFICATION TO ICC CWC 2023

Afghanistan, after completing only 5 out of the 8 ICC Cricket World Cup Super League series, and playing 15 games in the event, successfully managed to secure a berth at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 in India, leaving behind teams like South Africa, West Indies and Sri Lanka. Afghanistan won 11 out of 15 games by beating Ireland, the Netherlands and Zimbabwe 3-0 respectively and winning a match against Bangladesh and leveling the series with Sri Lanka in Late November 2022. It is regarded to be one of the biggest achievements for the Afghanistan Cricket Board as it's the first time that Afghanistan is qualifying directly without playing the qualifying rounds for the World Cup.



# CRICKET OPERATIONS MANUAL (2022)

There was no approved and standard policy previously that could cover the technical aspects of the Afghanistan Cricket Board. The International Cricket Department intensively contributed to the development of the Cricket Operations Manual of the Afghanistan Cricket Board which shall remain as a standard approved document that could cover all areas related to players, technical staff, venues, match fees, team preparations, events and other technical affairs.



## UAE RESIDENTIAL PERMITS APRIL 2022:

Obtaining UAE visas on time was always one of the biggest logistical challenges for the Afghanistan Cricket Board and the delay in obtaining visas were adversely affecting the team preparation in the past. Fortunately, during the month of April, the International Cricket Department organized a skill development camp in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and successfully managed to obtain UAE residential permits for all the required players and support staff which will resolve the issue of getting UAE visas. Since UAE is considered to be our main hub and a connection route to other countries, these residential permits for players and officials will always be a logistical advantage for the team and the Afghanistan Cricket Board. In addition, the camp was conducted under the supervision of coaching consultants; Younis Khan & Umar Gul. The main purpose of the camp was to build the skills of the players and read through the coaching techniques of the two newly assigned consultants. The camp had a quite significant effect on the skills and fitness development of the players which resulted well in the following white-ball Zimbabwe Tour.

## MUTUAL COOPERATION WITH EMIRATES CRICKET BOARD

Afghanistan Cricket Board and the Emirates Cricket Board have entered into a five-year mutual cooperation agreement that will see the Afghanistan Cricket Board utilize UAE's world-class venues for its home fixtures without any sanction fee & any required approval. In return, Afghanistan will play a series of three-T20I matches annually, against the UAE, for the duration of the agreement.



## AFGHANISTAN VS THE NETHERLANDS THREE-MATCH ODI SERIES, JANUARY 2022:

Afghanistan Cricket Board hosted the Netherlands for a three-match ODI series from 21st–25th January in Doha, Qatar. The series was part of the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League during the ICC FTP 2018–2023 cycle. In order to prepare the team, the ACB organized a pre-series preparation camp in Qatar, the main focus of which was the skill and fitness development of the team for the event. To sum up, the camp had a good effect on the development and good preparation of the team against the Netherlands as Afghanistan managed to whitewash the Dutch side, win the series 3–nill and gain thirty important points in the Super League standings.



## AFGHANISTAN TOUR OF BAN- GLADESH, 3 ODIS & 2 T20IS, FEBRU- ARY-MARCH 2022:



After the completion of the Netherlands series, the national team departed to Bangladesh for a conditioning camp and a white-ball series consisting of 3 ODIs and 2 T20Is. The conditioning camp was organized in Sylhet before the start of the series that was held in Chattogram and Dhaka respectively. Unfortunately, Afghanistan lost the ODI series 2–1 before leveling the T20I series 1–1.





## GREEN AFGHANISTAN ONE DAY CUP, MAY 2022

Afghanistan Cricket Board introduced the Green Afghanistan One Day Cup 2022, a three-team tournament that was conducted in an available free window between our international assignments. The three participating teams were named Maiwand Defenders, Pamir Legends and Hindukush Strikers with the names being driven from the two of Afghanistan's highest peaks Pamir and Hindukush respectively, whereas the Maiwand is an area in western Kandahar province with historical significance in the country.

The event was played in a double round-robin format and featured all the available centrally-contracted and some best & top-performing young players who are/were part of Afghanistan's emerging and development programs. The tournament was regarded as the best initiative to provide enough preparation for the national players going to the Zimbabwe tour as well as built an excellent platform for the youngsters to play alongside their senior players and develop their skills and capacities, which is key in terms of their future plans.





## AFGHANISTAN TOUR OF ZIMBABWE, 3 ODIS & 3 T20IS, JUNE 2022

Obtaining UAE visas on time was always one of the biggest logistical challenges for the Afghanistan Cricket Board and the delay in obtaining visas were adversely affecting the team preparation in the past. Fortunately, during the month of April, the International Cricket Department organized a skill development camp in Abu Dhabi, UAE, and successfully managed to obtain UAE residential permits for all the required players and support staff which will resolve the issue of getting UAE visas. Since UAE is considered to be our main hub and a connection route to other countries, these residential permits for players and officials will always be a logistical advantage for the team and the Afghanistan Cricket Board. In addition, the camp was conducted under the supervision of coaching consultants; Younis Khan & Umar Gul. The main purpose of the camp was to build the skills of the players and read through the coaching techniques of the two newly assigned consultants. The camp had a quite significant effect on the skills and fitness development of the players which resulted well in the following white-ball Zimbabwe Tour.



## AFG VS IRE 5 T20IS, AUGUST 2022 BELFAST:

Right after the conclusion of the Shpageeza Cricket League 2022, the Afghanistan Senior National Team embarked on the Ireland Tour for 5 T20I matches. The Ireland tour was scheduled from the 9th to the 18th of August, just before the ACC Asia Cup & the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 to maximize AfghanAtalan's T20 cricket exposure in the lead-up to both mega-events. Ireland came out victorious in the first two games but the third & fourth game saw Afghanistan get over the line, although the last game was largely affected by rain and subsequently ended in Ireland's favor to end the series 3-2 in favor of the hosts. It was the first instance that Afghanistan lost a T20I series to Ireland.







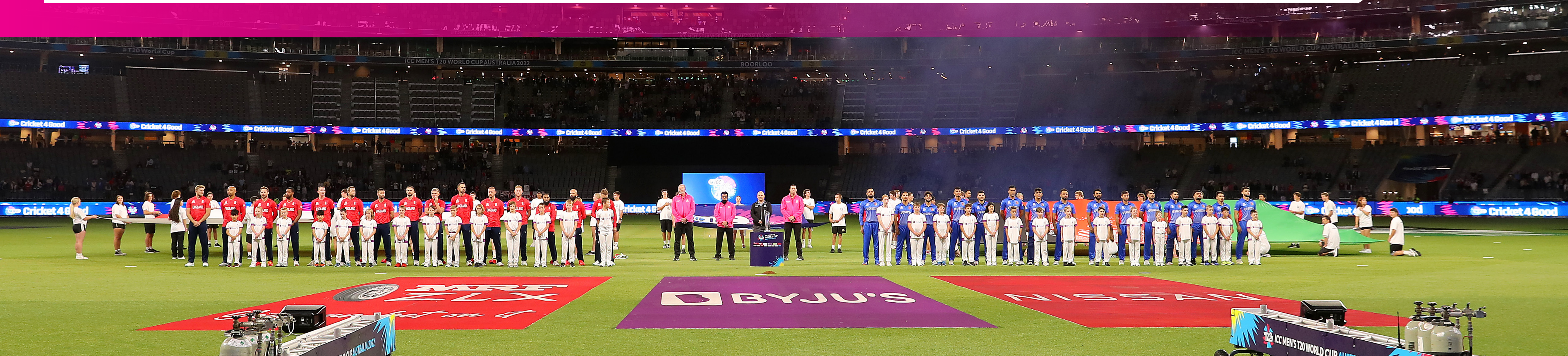
## ACC ASIA CUP, SEPTEMBER 2022:

The Asia Cup 2022 was set to be played in Sri Lanka, but due to some unstable political situations in the country, the event was shifted to the United Arab Emirates, with Sri Lanka remaining the host. Afghanistan, after completing the Ireland series, returned to UAE on 19th August and featured in a conditioning camp at the ICC Academy before the start of the event.

AfghanAtalan put on a tremendous show in the first round, winning both their games against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh comprehensively to advance to the Super Four stage of the event. It was a little unfortunate story for Afghanistan in the Super Four round, where Afghan Atalan played some very close games but couldn't cross the winning line in all three games they played. In aggregate, Afghanistan's run at the ACC Asia Cup 2022 was quite satisfactory with good achievements and lessons learned.



# ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP 2022, AUSTRALIA







Afghanistan National Cricket Team featured in the 8th edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. The event was hosted by Australia and was scheduled from October 17 to November 14, 2022. Afghanistan was already placed alongside the hosts Australia, England and New Zealand in group 1 of the Super 12 round of the event, with two spots being later filled by teams advancing from the first round of the event. Sri Lanka topped pool A, whereas Ireland secured their 2nd spot in pool B and joined Afghanistan and the other three teams in Group 1. AfghanAtalan travelled early to Australia to put in a conditioning camp and get full preparations for the event. As part of the official warmup matches, Afghanistan played Bangladesh and Pakistan on Oct 17 and 19 respectively. Afghanistan went past Bangladesh comprehensively in the first game but the Pakistan warmup game was washed out by rain after Afghanistan put a competitive total on the board in the first inning. Afghanistan's run at the main draw of the event was way too unfortunate as the team lost its first game to England, and the next two games against New Zealand and Ireland washed out due to persistent rains in Melbourne. More than 10 days break between the game against England and Sri Lanka caused the players don't have the required game time as they lost the next two games against Sri Lanka and Australia, which meant Afghanistan return from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup without a solitary victory.







## AFGHANISTAN TOUR OF SRI LANKA, **THREE-MATCH ODI SERIES, NOVEMBER**

Afghanistan's tour to Sri Lanka was initially scheduled to be played in February 2023 but was shifted to the new schedule as the international cricket calendars of the two nations enabled the change. The three-match ODI series was part of the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League and were scheduled for the 25th, 27th & 30th of November in PKICS, Kandy.

Before the start of the series, Afghanistan had a week-long preparation camp in UAE to get the required preparation for the series. The camp resulted in a good outing of the team as Afghanistan started the series with a thumping 60-run victory over the hosts, making it the 2nd time Afghanistan beat Sri Lanka in ODIs.

The 2nd match of the series was washed out due to rain followed by a spectacular chase by the hosts in the third ODI as they chased 314 runs in the last over to level the series 1-1. It was quite a productive series for Afghanistan and we gained 15 important points and successfully managed to earn a direct qualification for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 which is going to be held in India.





## AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL U19S EVENTS:

### ACC U-19 ASIA CUP, UAE

Afghanistan National U19 Cricket Team travelled to UAE to participate in the 9th edition of the ACC U-19 Asia Cup in December 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 for the semi-final stage of the event.

### ICC U19 MEN'S CRICKET WORLD CUP, JAN – FEB, CARIBBEAN

After featuring in the ACC U19 Asia Cup 2021, Afghanistan U19s had to wait in UAE before their England visas were issued. During the period, the Afghanistan Cricket Board arranged a training and preparation camp for the Afghanistan National U19s in UAE to get ready for the mega global event.

After obtaining visas, Afghanistan Future Stars reached the Caribbean just before the start of the event. Afghanistan U19s started their journey in the main draw of the event with an impressive victory over Papua New Guinea, followed by a win over Zimbabwe which took Afghanistan to the quarter-finals. Afghanistan, after an incredible game of cricket, defeated Sri Lanka by just 4 runs to advance to the semi-finals, where Afghanistan lost a close semi-final game to England and subsequently not managed to make it through to the final.

### Central Contracts (Jan-Jun) & (July-Dec):

The International Cricket Department assessed the (July-December 2021) performance and based on the laid out criteria, prepared and awarded the National Players with central contracts for the 6-month period of Jan-Jun 2022 in four different categories of A (4 players with a salary cap of USD 3250), B (3 players with a salary cap of USD 2250), C (19 players with a salary cap of USD 1700) and D (13 players with a salary cap of USD 1000).

Similarly, central contracts for the July-Dec 2022 period were also prepared and awarded to the National Players based on their performance in the Jan-Jun 2022 period. The contracts were similarly awarded in four different categories but it was decided that the players' salaries will be processed on monthly basis instead of the previous practice of processing salaries in three months which is considered to be a positive motive going forward.

### Passport and Visas:

The International Cricket Department, in addition to organizing camps and hosting events, processed the passport and visa applications of players and officials as required to abroad traveling assignments.

### Players Rehabilitation:

The International Cricket Department, in proper coordination with ACB's medical team, facilitated the treatment of contracted players both in Afghanistan and abroad. The following and other players have been reached out to and have been sent to treatments.

- Dawlat Zadran (Knee Injury)
- Azmatullah Omarzai (Shoulder injury),
- Wafadar Momand (Toe Injury),
- Fazal Haq Farooqi (Side Strain),
- Hazratullah Zazai (Kidney Concerns),
- Mohammad Nabi (Back injury),
- Riaz Hassan (Ankle Injury),
- Hashmatullah Shahidi (Shoulder and Back),
- Darwish Rasooli (Broken Finger)

### Event Logistics:

As per ACB's previous organizational structure, the International Cricket Department was responsible for the logistical arrangements of the international events. Arranging accommodation, facilitating accreditation & ticketing, providing catering and refreshments, arranging transportation, security and medical services, acquiring special top-management approvals, obtaining visas and other arrangements were part of the logistical activities that used to be carried out by the International Cricket Department.

In addition to all these above activities, the International Cricket Department carries the responsibility to issue No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and facilitate their participation in various franchise cricket leagues.





ETISALAT  
CRICKET

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

- To maintain a competitive cricket environment by building a 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 competition management.
- To maintain, utilize and manage grounds in all provinces of the country.
- To manage and administer provincial in-charges and their administration activities.

DOMESTIC CRICKET **DEPARTMENT**

CHAMPIONS

2022





**WAZIR MOHAMMAD AKBAR KHAN**  
**PROVINCIAL GRADE II**

The Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan Provincial Grade II Tournament was played between 29 provincial teams divided into 6 groups, with five groups of five teams and the last group consisting 4 teams. The event was conducted from 10th February to 3rd March 2022 across three venues (Kandahar, Khost and Ghazi Amanullah Khan Cricket grounds). It was the first ever instance in the history of domestic cricket that a provincial-level event features 29 provincial teams and a total of 485 players. After 56 matches and 22 days of play, a total of 6 teams, the topper of each group (Paktia, Paktika, Helmand, Kandahar, Nangarhar B and Kunduz) advanced to the Grade I competitions.

**WAZIR MOHAMMAD AKBAR KHAN**  
**PROVINCIAL GRADE I**

The Provincial Grade one tournament was the 2nd activity of the Domestic Cricket Development Department. This tournament featured 12 provincial teams and was conducted from 11th – 29th March 2022 in Ghazi Amanullah Khan and Khost Cricket Grounds. Four teams, the semi-finalists of its last edition were already included in the event, 6 teams qualified from the (Grade II) competitions and two other teams were made to place the best performers from the Grade II event. The 12 teams were divided into two groups of six teams, from where the top two teams qualified for the semi-finals of the event. Paktia and Kunduz were the two teams to advance to the grand final of the event, which was played in Khost National Cricket Stadium, and Kunduz Province has eventually crowned champions, as they went past their Paktia counterparts by 113 runs in the final to clinch their first-ever Grade I title.



**MIRWAIS NEKA**  
**REGIONAL THREE-DAY**

The Mirwais Neka Regional Three-day Tournament was the first major multi-day event of the year that was conducted between five regional teams from 1st to 25th June at two venues in Kandahar Province. The event was conducted in a single round-robin format where all the participating teams played once against each other in the first phase and the top two teams, the Band-e-Amir and Speenghar Regional teams qualified for the final of the event that was played in Kandahar National Cricket Ground and the Band-e-Amir Region, after a nail-biting game of cricket managed to beat the Speenghar Regional team in the final session of day 3 by 26 runs to win the title of the Mirwais Neka Regional Three-day Tournament 2022.

**NAJIBULLAH TARAKI**  
**REGIONAL PwDs**

This tournament was played among five regional PwDs teams from June 10 to 17 at Khost National 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, Speenghar and Band-e-Amir regional teams advanced to the final of the event, where the Speenghar regional team went past the Band-e-Amir region to win their 3rd Najibullah Taraki Regional PwDs Tournament title.





## AHMAD SHAH ABDALI FIRST CLASS TOURNAMENT

The Ahmad Shah Abdali Regional First Class Tournament was another major domestic event of ACB in 2022, which started on October 8 in Khost and Nangarhar Provinces and ended with the Amo region crowned as champions based on the lead they had in the first inning of the final. 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 were played, where all the teams played 4 matches, from which the top two teams (BAR with 74 & AMO with 40 points each) qualified for the final of the event. The Amo region, banking on some excellent batting display in the first inning, managed to take a lead of 117 runs, which put them in a commanding position in the final. The match was drawn on day 5 but it was decided to grant the title to the Amo Region for their outstanding performance in the final. The wicket-keeper batter Mohammad Shahzad was awarded the player of the final match with his twin hundreds in the final.



## INTER-CLUB CRICKET COMPETITIONS

The Domestic Cricket Department planned to organize club-level competitions all over the country. The competitions were launched in each province between the registered clubs of the provinces respectively. These competitions were mainly directed by the Domestic department with close coordination of the provincial managers.

A sum of 538 clubs was registered in 31 provinces where above 8000 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.

The competitions were planned and executed in three different phases, the first phase, which is the District Level of the process, was held at each province whereas the 2nd phase, (Provincial Level) featured top clubs from each province competing against each other in their respective regions, from where the winner of the competitions, which is considered as the top club of the region, is granted the privilege to be part of the last phase of the process, the Regional Club Championship, representing their respective region.

It's fair to mention that this was the 2nd season that was provided with digital scoring coverage, as almost 1343 matches were covered live through ACB's scoring partner, 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 teams/players for upcoming domestic events.





## REGIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Regional Club Championship, the final stage of the Inter-club competitions, was the 6th and last activity of the domestic cricket department, which started on December 29 in Khost province and ended with the Mis-e-Ainak region's owned Danger Cricket Club crowned as champions, beating Khpalwak CC (Bost Region) by 50 runs in the final.

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 Danger CC and Khpalwak CC with 5 points each secured the top two spots, advanced to the grand final of the event.

Danger CC, banking on an excellent all-around display in the final, defeated Khpalwak CC by 50 runs 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 6 days in Khost National Cricket Stadium.









# Shpageeza Cricket League

The Shpageeza Cricket League is a premier T20 tournament in Afghanistan's domestic cricket. It is held every year since 2013 and has gained a large following and fan base throughout Afghanistan.

Since its inception, SCL has proven to be a great success in the empowerment of Cricket in Afghanistan. Although Cricket was enjoying rising popularity in Afghanistan, the competitiveness among teams, great performance by Afghan Atalan, and the rise of young talents have made SCL a tournament popular among cricket's passionate followers in Afghanistan. Similarly, the tournament has produced some world-class players who have gone on to represent the Afghanistan National team and who are equally successful in other commercial leagues across the globe.

Afghanistan Cricket Board has always placed special emphasis on maintaining the qual-

ity and standard of the Shpageeza Cricket League high and therefore, has spared no efforts to achieve the league's goals and objectives as well as keep the cricket culture in the country alive and booming. The vitality of the Shpageeza Cricket League has resulted in advanced technical capability for Afghanistan Cricket Board's technical and coaching staff as well as umpires and ground staff who have gained valuable experience over the years and continue to improve with the passing years.

The 8th edition of the Shpageeza Cricket League held from July 18th to August 4th, 2020, at the Kabul Cricket Stadium, was a bigger, better, and more exciting event than previous years. The number of teams participating in the tournament was increased to 8, with the inclusion of two new franchises, the Pamir Zalmi and the Hindukush Stars.

On its resumption in July, the tournament preparations started and within a very short period of time, ACB managed to conduct a hugely successful SCL achieving all its goals despite challenges arising to conducting the event during the unfor



ful SCL event but has also generated considerable revenue from the event.

A special group of committees was tasked by the ACB top management to conduct the eighth edition of SCL and deliver results on time as the stakeholders were waiting for cricketing action for too long as the event was not held in 2021 due to some serious banking and financial restrictions at the time in the country.

The eight teams in the tournament played against each other in a single-league format, from where the top four sides progressed to the knockouts.

The two new franchises add a new flavor to the SCL, which completely changed the dynamics of the league. With a bigger pool of talented cricketers, new-look teams, the addition of two new franchises, some new rules, and an increased number of matches, the SCL2022 became the most evolved event in its history.

As mentioned earlier, Shpageeza Cricket League is a franchise-based tournament and therefore, the franchisee ownership rights of all eight franchises were up for grabs by business entities in the country. For the eighth edition, fortunately, the rights of all

the eight participating franchises were sold by the different business & commercial entities in the country.

The Companies/business entities that secured franchise ownership rights for the eight participating teams were as follows:

Shir Zaland Steel Mill Company	Speen Ghar Tigers
ABac Faizi Logistics Services Company	Bost Defenders
Ayobi Darolmomtaz Construction Company	Kabul Eagles
Qaisar Baba LTD	Mis-e-Ainak Knights
Wali Rawan Food Production Company	Band-e-Amir Dragons
Sahak United Trading Company	Amo Sharks
Rapid-Pay Distributions Logistics Company	Hindukush Stars
Ahmadullah Salam Popalzai LTD	Pamir Zalmi





# TOURNAMENT HANDBOOK

In a special initiative by the SCL committee, a comprehensive tournament handbook was created for the 8th edition of the league. The handbook included all the important information for participating teams and match officials. It contained information about Kabul City and its tourist attractions for visiting teams and players, an introduction to the tournament, messages from top management, details of SCL working groups, event guidelines, anti-corruption briefing, the event schedule, information about the participating teams, and the updated playing conditions for SCL 2022. This was the first time in the history of the league that such a comprehensive event handbook was created for the participants. It aimed to provide a better and more organized experience for all the teams and officials taking part in the league.



# SCL PLAYERS' DRAFT

On 10th June 2022, a players' draft took place at ACB Head office ahead of the tournament. The total number of eligible players who had registered in various categories for the draft was 192 out of which 142 players were eventually drafted in 5 different categories whereas 60+ players were picked from the emerging players' category. The registered players were divided into five pools namely; Icon, Diamond, Platinum, Gold, and Silver. Each team could select only one icon player while they had the option to retain one player from the previous edition as well.







# TELEVISION BROADCASTING, STREAMING RIGHTS AND DIGITAL MEDIA REACH

The Afghanistan Cricket Board and the Radio–Television of Afghanistan (RTA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to produce and broadcast the Shpageeza Cricket League 2022. As per the MoU, the RTA produced the event with a 13–camera setup, the standard that was previously determined between the two parties, free of cost for ACB. In return, the ACB granted the exclusive broadcasting and streaming rights of the league in Afghanistan Territory without paying any fee to ACB.

The event was broadcasted and streamed with four clean and high–definition feeds in Afghanistan and territory (both on TV broadcast and live streaming). Two separate commentary boxes and track voices were produced by the production company to provide feed for the different platforms. The primary source was the TV broadcast by RTA in Afghanistan territory with commentary in Pashto, Dari and English languages. The secondary source was produced for the live streaming of the event in the Indian subcontinent through an OTT Platform “Fan Code” with commentary only in the English Language to address the foreign audience. The streaming rights to the Indian platform were granted by ACB to further boost the event’s reach.

The 8th edition of the Shpageeza Cricket League was also notable for featuring international commentators. The ACB invited Mr. Tinotenda Mawoyo from Zimbabwe and Mr. Devender Kumar from India to join the commentary panel, along with three Afghan English commentators. This was done in an effort to expand the league’s reach and make it more accessible to a global audience. In a joint effort, the RTA and ACB decided to live–stream the matches on their Facebook pages, making it possible for cricket fans all over the world to watch the league. This was an important step to increase the visibility of the league and reach a broader audience.

# SPONSORSHIP

Despite the political changes and instability in the country, which have affected the majority of businesses, many companies still showed strong interest in sponsorship opportunities at the Shpageeza Cricket League 2022. Etisalat Afghanistan was signed as the Title Sponsor for the event as they made a comeback to the cricketing sector after 2014. ACB spared no efforts to provide full exposure and advocacy to Etisalat and other sponsors during the course of the event. As the Title sponsor of the event, the naming rights were awarded to Etisalat as the event was officially called “Etisalat Shpageeza Cricket League 2022” across all platforms. In addition, the logo of Etisalat Afghanistan was merged in the composite event logo while 30% of the ground branding slots were dedicated to them as well. Furthermore, each franchisee was provided with 10% ground branding space as per the contract.

## Other Sponsors and Partners:

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| – Title Sponsor                                 | Etisalat Afghanistan            |
| – Powered By Sponsor                            | HSL                             |
| – Streaming Partner                             | Fan code                        |
| – Medical Partner                               | Blossom Healthcare Center       |
| – Beverages Partner                             | Alokozai Group of Companies     |
| – Most Valuable Player of the Event (Car Prize) | Ginseng Energy Drink            |
| – Internet Partner                              | Afghan Telecom                  |
| – Broadcaster in Afghanistan                    | Radio Television of Afghanistan |



# REVENUE AND FINANCIAL GAINS

The 8th edition of the SCL was primarily focused on providing the AfghanAtalan with adequate preparation for the ACC Asia Cup 2022 and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. However, the financial aspect of the event was also quite positive as the revenue generated exceeded expectations despite the difficult economic conditions in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan Cricket Board, which owns the league, spent around \$369,000 on the event, including the cost of live broadcasting and production.

Following is a brief round-up of the financial gains during the SCL 2022:

- A total of \$130,000 in revenue was generated through sponsorship and ground branding.
- Around \$35,368 in revenue was generated through online streaming of the event.
- A total of USD 33000 revenue was generated through ticketing and canteen services, the contracts that were issued to different entities.
- A total of USD 130,000 were received from the participating eight franchises as the event fee, which is considered another major source of revenue for ACB.
- Each franchise was compelled to spend up to \$80,000 for managing their respective team expenses.

In conclusion, the 8th edition of the Etisalat Shpageeza Cricket League was a successful and vital event for the Afghanistan Cricket Board. The league had a large and enthusiastic audience who were excited to watch

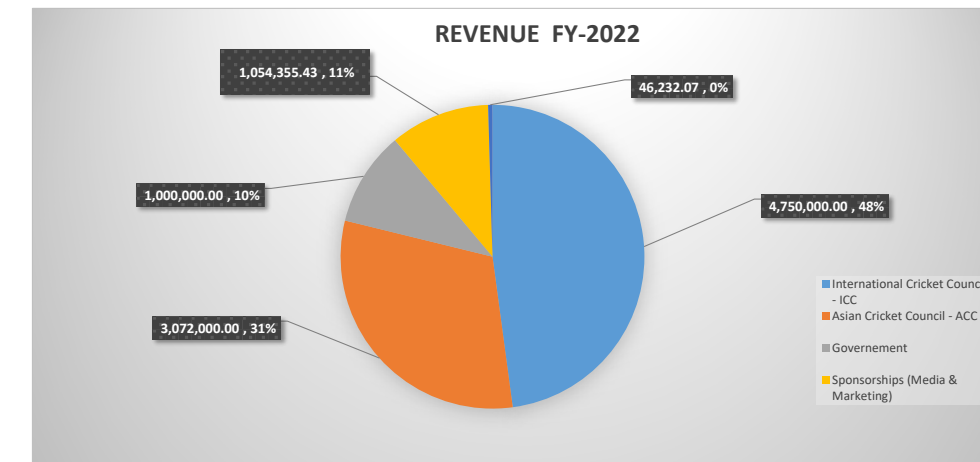
cricket and their favorite players in action on home soil. The league was also technically successful, and the partnership with a national production company was another major highlight of the event. The operational activities were completed on schedule, and the teams' requirements were met. Additionally, the income generated from the league was higher than in previous editions, making it a successful financial venture for the ACB.

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT

The Finance department is a key unit in ACB which is responsible for the oversight of all financial aspects of the Afghanistan Cricket Board. The department is equally responsible for bookkeeping, management & estimation of cash flows periodically; and compilation, verification & application of the ACB's Master Budget Plan. Similarly, the department is responsible for ACB's financial analysis on a regular basis; the management of ACB bank accounts and taxes, and the responsibility for follow-up and clearance of the government budget.

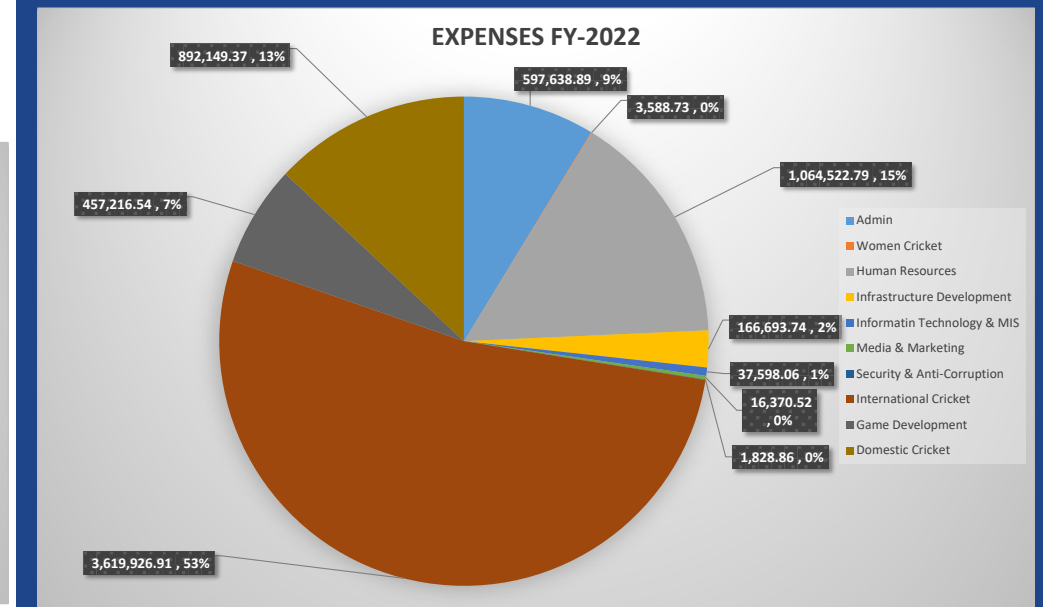
### The year 2022:

Looking back to the year 2022, total revenue for the year ended was USD 9.92m, while 48% of this amount was from ICC distribution, 31% from ACC distribution, 11% from Media & Marketing, and 10% from Government funding



### Expenses

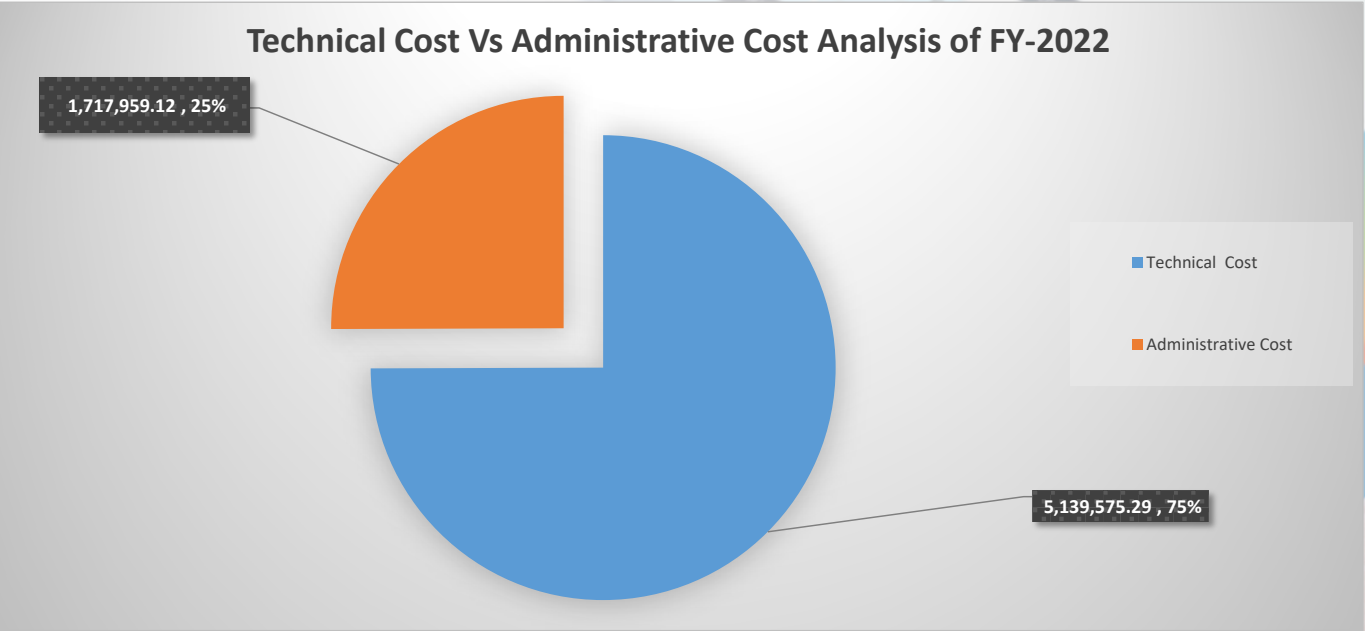
Expenses for the year totaled 6.85m, just more than the expenses (6.41m) in 2021. The higher portion was spent on International Cricket which remains always a priority. There were expenses made on Domestic cricket, Game Development, Infrastructure Development, Anti-Corruption & Security, HR, Administration, 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, Shpageeza Cricket League and List A cricket, while the Turf Management spends on the development aspects including infrastructure development-related activities. Media Department strives to portray key activities to attract viewership and promote marketing. The IT department is working on system development while others including the Admin department 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 are 75% of the total expenses. 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 Task Management portal. ACB exercise monthly financial report submitted to top management tracking 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. An external audit is hired to carry out the independent audit and report any issues. ACB shares quarterly reports and Annual Audited Financial Reports with ICC and all relevant stakeholders.



Marketplace

PLAYER CARDS

Search by player name

Quick Filters

Black

Bronze

Gold

Silver

Allrounder

Bowler

Afghanistan Cricket Board

Clear All

Tier 1

Leagues & Boards 1

Teams

Nationality

Role

Players

4 Cards

AFGHANISTAN

NABI MOHAMMAD

2022

ALL

BLACK

Mohammad Nabi

ALL ROUNDER

AFG, Afghanistan Cricket...

BLACK

\$159

LOWEST ASK

9 on sale/50 total

AFGHANISTAN

GURBAZ RAHMANULLAH

2022

WK

BLACK

Rahmanullah Gurbaz

WICKET-KEEPER

AFG, Afghanistan Cricket...

BLACK

\$169

LOWEST ASK

11 on sale/50 total

MARKETING & SALES DEPARTMENT

The objectives of the Marketing & Sales department are set to maintain effective and business-oriented relationships with the current donors and/or sponsors of ACB to keep them current and satisfied with the ACB performance plus to look for more sponsors/partners to further enhance the well-being of ACB in the short, medium, and longer-terms. Furthermore, to concrete and brighten the ACB brand nationally and internationally. In addition, the Marketing and Sales Department thrives to concrete and brighten the ACB brand nationally and internationally.

Here are some major activities of the department during the year 2022:

Digital Engagement Agreement with Rario:

The Marketing & Sales department under the direct supervision of the ACB’s top management, through a five-year agreement, granted its digital engagement rights to Rario, which is the first officially licensed digital collectibles platform. These rights include licensing NFTs and gaming rights, which will be utilized by Rario in terms of creating NFT Moments, Digital Collectibles, Player Cards and other digital assets. This agreement is considered to be a new revenue stream for ACB, which is set to bring approximately USD 3.5 million to ACB in a span of 5 years.



## MARKETING & SALES DEPARTMENT

### Hampshire Sports limited – HSL:

Afghanistan Cricket Board through Sales & Marketing department's strategic efforts signed a three-year Sponsorship and Global Streaming agreement with Hampshire Sports limited, the leading Marketing agency in the field. This agreement covers all the major domestic events including the Shpageeza Cricket league, Regional List A and First Class Cricket Tournaments and the National T20 Cup. The total value of the agreement is USD 866,500, and it is marked as a major achievement in the history of Afghanistan's domestic cricket.

### National Team's Long-Term Contracts:

The Marketing and Sales Department's strategic efforts helped the Afghanistan Cricket Board to enter into a long-term partnership with Super Cola Beverages Manufacturing Company and a short-term contract with Kam Air. ACB's marketing team is in regular negotiations to extend the short-term partnership to a long-term agreement in the future.



### Client and Market-focused Marketing Strategies:

With the implementation of ad-hoc monetization strategies, ACB-Marketing has discovered additional windows to unlock multiple revenue streams. Relying on the main sponsor's financial support has put many independent revenue-generating windows at risk. In an attempt to tackle the issue, the marketing department developed contingent policies to create alternate revenue-generating streams for ACB which caused ACB to build business relations with multiple partners.

The calendar year 2022 marked a challenging year for the Business entities as a result of some extremely volatile and unpredictable security situations before and during the collapse of the republic government.

However, ACB's marketing team successfully completed various Sponsorship & partnership programs, which commenced following a strategic review of the marketing plan for 2022. During the calendar year, the department was able to expand ACB's partnership portfolio with more top-notch national and international organizations that support Afghanistan Cricket.

The available resources were well utilized to integrate new partners and sponsors in Afghanistan's bilateral series, ACC Asia Cup 2022, ICC T20 World Cup 2022 and Major domestic competitions during the year 2022 as described below:

- Granting the Powered-by Sponsorship rights to HSL and Signing Dream 11 (the leading brand in the field of cricket) as a sleeve partner during the Netherlands tour of Afghanistan in Qatar at the very first phase of the year.
- Selling out the national team's sponsorship rights to Monarch Mart ltd, a famous e-commerce platform in the Bangladeshi e-commerce market, during the Afghanistan tour of Bangladesh 2022.
- Granting the powered-by sponsorship rights of the Green Afghanistan One Day Cup 2022 to an international brand. The three-team domestic event was introduced for the first time by the ACB and selling out its sponsorship rights is considered to be a great achievement for Afghanistan Cricket Board and ACB's marketing department.
- Shpageeza Cricket League 2022 was one of the most successful projects for the department in the year. Etisalat Afghanistan was signed as the title sponsor for the event, the powered-by sponsorship rights were granted to HSL whereas the Beverage Partnership rights were secured by the Alokozay Group of Companies. There were other certain non-monetary B2B partnership deals as well which were dealt with to enrich the scope of the league.



- The Marhaba Cars Auction was signed as the national team's sponsor for the ACC Asia Cup 2022. During this event, Pika Show, an Indian-based digital video streaming platform was also signed as an associate sponsor for one game in the event.

- The Marketing & Sales department, in a convivial feat, brought the Super Cola Beverages Manufacturing Company as the national team's sponsor for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. This association was hugely appreciated by the Afghanistan Cricket Stakeholders. The Afghanistan Cricket Board found a potential client in Super Cola for its future cricketing endorsements.

- It's claimed that in the history of Afghanistan Cricket, the marketing department could sell all the available commercial spots on the national team's kit during their away tour to Sri Lanka in late November. Super Cola was signed as Tour Sponsor, Kam Air was granted the National Team's Sponsorship rights and the Rario secured the leading-arm spot as part of the long-term agreement described in 2.

- As part of the long-term agreement with Hampshire Sport Limited — HSL, the marketing team, in close coordination with the Media and Communication Department, successfully executed sponsorship and live stream projects for the Ahmad Shah Abdali FC Tournament 2022. As per the deal with the HSL, the last four matches including the final, being held at the Khost National Stadium, were streamed live through HSL's live streaming platform in the Indian Sub-continent and through ACB's social media platforms.

- The Afghanistan Cricket Board and Kam Air have signed a long-term corporate account agreement that will operationalize the ticketing affairs of the Afghanistan Cricket Board's official tours of the ACB officials and players.

- The department has also signed Afghan Telecom, a state-owned telecommunication company as ACB's long-term IT partner. As per the agreement, the company provides the ACB with dedicated 40MB internet for organizational operations.

- Afghanistan Cricket Board has also rejoined TYKA, a Sportswear & Lifestyle Clothing Manufacturing Company, as the national team's clothing partner.

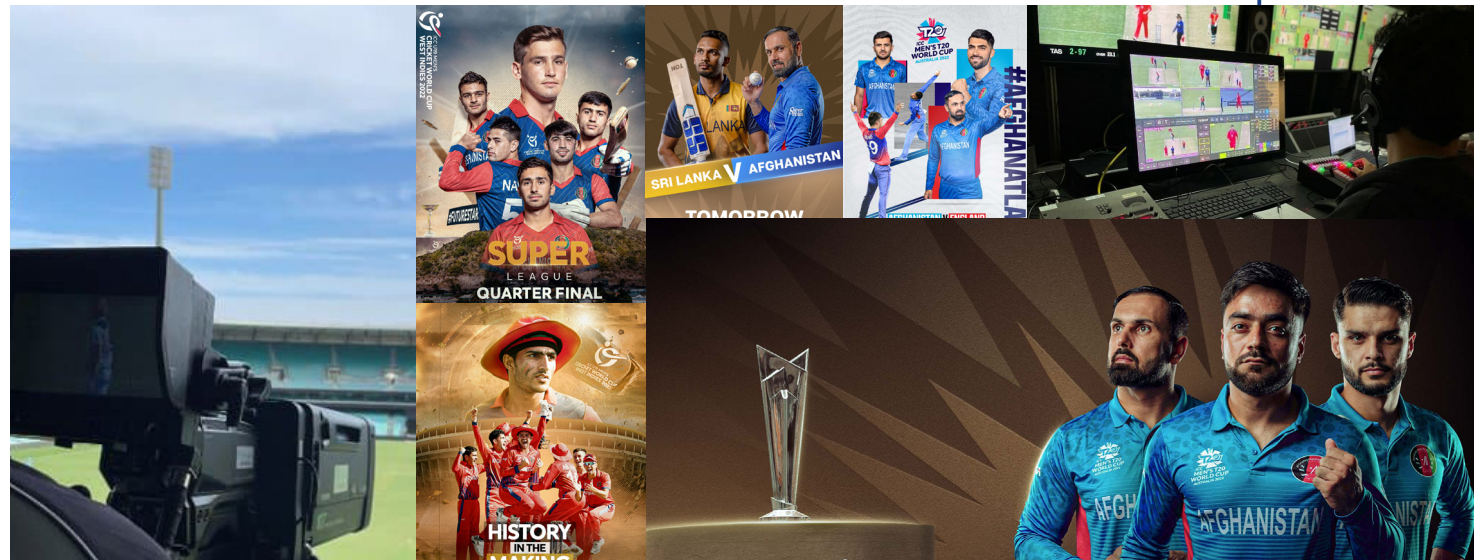
These performed activities resulted in significant revenue growth with strong commitments to leverage their association and amplify the sport within the community. The next stage for the ACB & its Marketing division is to maintain healthy relations with the current potential clients and approach the new clients in the pipeline to attract them for the Main Sponsorship of the National team for the next cycle of events. The planning process is already underway and will be applied over the course of the next 3 months.



# MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION 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 organizational structure that is responsible for portraying and maintaining Afghan cricket's image in Afghanistan and across the globe. The ACB Media department is equally responsible primarily to provide ample coverage to all cricketing events featuring 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. Similarly, 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.

Major Activities of the Media & Communication Department in 2022:



## Media Archive:

A Media archive is a collection of historical records or documents that are preserved for future reference. Similarly, an archive related to a cricket organization could be a collection of records, statistics and historical documents, footage, photographs, and other relevant data related to the country's national and other teams and/or events played under and/or conducted within its premises. The purpose of archives is to preserve important content and make it available for re-use purpose in the future. Archives are often organized and cataloged so that they can be easily accessed and searched.

Previously, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) Media Department lacked a proper archive system, resulting in difficulties in storing and preserving its content. However, through dedicated efforts and hard work, the department was able to establish a comprehensive and efficient archive system in the year 2022, which includes past cricket matches, including both full matches & highlights; photos of players, teams, and matches; written articles and reports about cricket, including game recaps, player profiles, and analysis; interviews and press releases from players & team officials and other relevant data. This new system will help the ACB media department to securely store and preserve all of its valuable contents.



#### Production Agreements:

##### Radio Television of Afghanistan for the Production and Broadcast of the Shpageeza Cricket League 2022

The Media Department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Entity, the Radio–Television of Afghanistan, for the production and broadcast of the SCL2022. As per the MoU, the RTA produced the event with a 13–camera setup, the standard that was previously determined between the two parties, free of cost for ACB. In return, the ACB granted the exclusive broadcasting and streaming rights of the league in Afghanistan Territory without paying any fee to ACB. This agreement and the successful completion of the Shpageeza Cricket League 2022 marked a historic moment as it was the first time that the event was produced by a national production company rather than by foreign companies.

The event was broadcasted and streamed with four clean and high–definition feeds in Afghanistan and territory (both on TV broadcast and live streaming). Two separate commentary boxes and track voices were produced by the production company to provide feed for the different platforms. The primary source was the TV broadcast by RTA in Afghanistan territory with commentary in Pashto, Dari and English languages. The secondary source was produced for the live streaming of the event in the Indian subcontinent through an OTT Platform “Fan code” with commentary only in the English Language to address the foreign audience.





**Ariana Television Network (ATN) for the production and Broadcast of the Green Afghanistan One Day Cup 2022**

The Media Department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) recently signed a production and broadcast agreement with the Ariana Television Network (ATN) for the production and broadcast of the Green Afghanistan One Day Cup. The event was produced with a 6-camera setup, which was the determined standard between the two parties. This move served as a good testing ground for the Afghanistan Cricket Board to examine how domestic events can be effectively broadcasted using national resources.





## Live Streaming of Domestic Cricket Competitions

The Media & Communication Department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board has taken a significant step towards promoting domestic cricket by streaming live many domestic cricket events in 2022, including the Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan Grade I, Mirwais Neka Regional Three-day and Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class Tournament. This initiative is a good sign for the future of domestic cricket as it will provide more exposure to domestic events, players and teams. It will also give cricket fans the opportunity to follow their favorite domestic events, teams and players from all around the country.

The live streaming of domestic cricket events will also help to attract more sponsors and partners for domestic cricket, which will provide more resources for the development of the game at the domestic level. Overall, this is a positive step for the future of domestic cricket in the country and will help to further grow the game in the years to come.

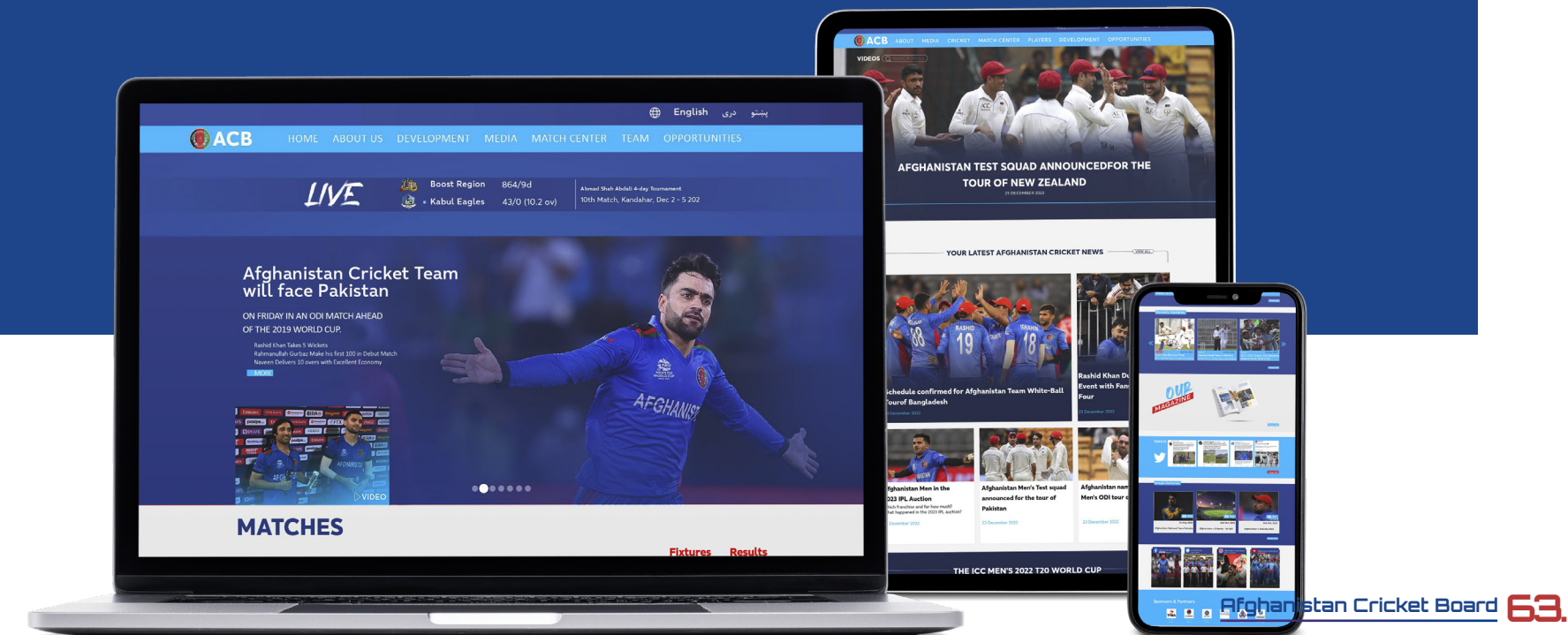


## Website Design

The media department is responsible for functioning and operating the organization's official website. In order to give the website a new look and simpler interface, the ACB Media Department intends to launch a re-engineering process of the website. For this purpose, the department completed the design process of the website, which includes designing the home page, and all the back-page menus in both the PC and Mobile sizes to cater to the needs of all users. In addition, the menu structure was also restored and a couple of new columns with new features were added based on need.

The Media and Communication Department in ACB is in charge of managing and running the official website of the organization. The department plans to revamp the website to make it more visually appealing and user-friendly. The process includes redesigning the website's layout and adding new features. The department has finished the design process, including creating the homepage, and all the sub-pages, so they can be easily viewed on both PCs and mobile devices. Additionally, the department has also improved the website's navigation and added new sections to enhance the user experience.

The Media department has completed the design phase of the website and is now collaborating on its re-engineering process with the IT & MIS department to improve the website by simplifying it, making it more user-friendly, and ensuring it is easily accessible.





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

### Senior National Team’s Assignments

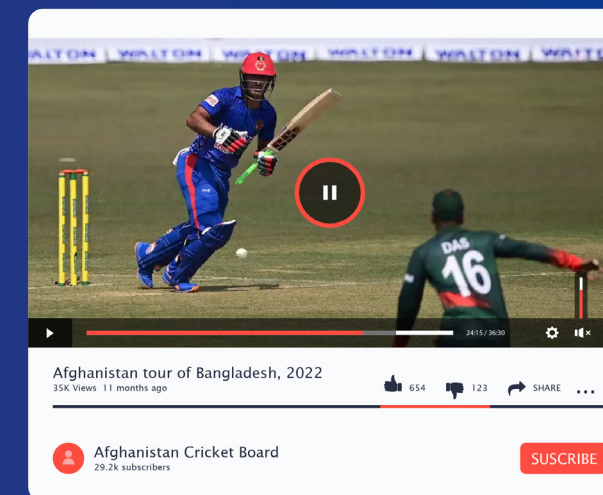
#### Afghanistan vs the Netherlands, three-match ODI series, January, Doha

Afghanistan Cricket Board hosted the Netherlands for a three-match ODI series from 21st–25th January in Doha, Qatar. The series was part of the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League during the ICC FTP 2018–2023 cycle and was eventually won by Afghanistan 3–nill and gained thirty important points in the Super League standings. Since it was a home series for Afghanistan, members from the Media department were sent with the national team to provide the production relevant arrangements, as well as to provide ample media coverage to the event including comprehensive match updates, photography and videography, behind the scene clips, match reports, and all other content through ACB’s social media platforms. The department had the overall lead in media coverage and communication aspects as it consistently provided information to the Netherlands relevant team and other local & international media and arranged proper press conferences based on need in an attempt to provide sufficient exposure to the event.



#### Afghanistan’s white-ball Tour of Bangladesh, February–March

Afghanistan National Team travelled to Bangladesh for a white-ball series consisting of 3 ODIs and 2 T20Is in late February. Unfortunately, Afghanistan lost the ODI series 2–1 before leveling the T20I series 1–1. The media department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board provided full coverage of the series with all relevant content shared across social media platforms.



#### Afghanistan’s white-ball Tour of Zimbabwe, June

Afghanistan National Team visited Zimbabwe for a white-ball series in June 2022. The tour was part of the ICC 2018–2023 FTP and the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League, in which Afghanistan performed exceptionally well and managed to complete a clean sweep of the hosts in both series, winning the ODIs & T20Is 3–nill respectively. ACB Media Department has reflected every activity of the team through some outstanding media publications throughout the tour.





**Afghanistan Tour of Ireland, 5 T20Is, August**

Afghanistan Senior National Team travelled to Ireland for a 5-T20I match series. The series was scheduled just before the ACC Asia Cup & the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup 2022 to maximize AfghanAtalan’s T20 cricket exposure in the lead-up to both mega-events. Afghanistan played well in the event by winning 2 games but the series decider was largely affected by rain and subsequently ended in Ireland’s favor to end the series 3-2 in favor of the hosts. The Media department, with the proper cooperation of the hosts, managed to provide the required media coverage for the event from its social media platforms.



**ACC Asia Cup, September 2022:**

The Asia Cup 2022 was hosted by the Sri Lanka Cricket Board in the United Arab Emirates from August 27 to September 11. Afghanistan, put on a tremendous show in the first round, winning both their games against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh comprehensively to advance to the Super Four stage of the event. It was a little unfortunate story for Afghanistan in the Super Four round, where AfghanAtalan played some very close games but couldn’t cross the winning line in all three games they played. A media representative was available with the team during the event, who provided the media department with all the required content for the overall coverage of Afghanistan’s journey at the Asia Cup 2022.

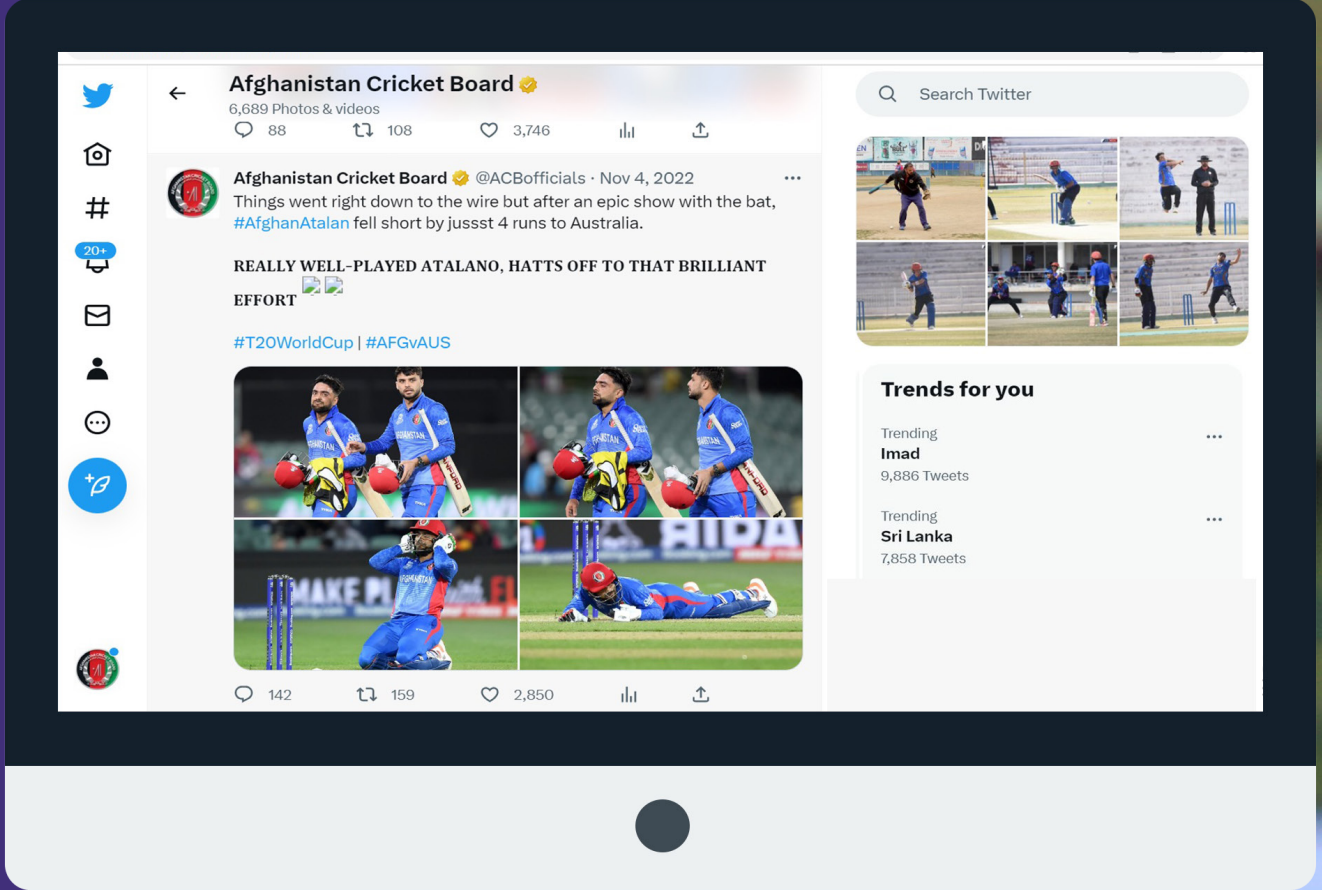
The Media & Communication department covered both the training camp before the event as well as our matches in the main draw of the event with informative articles, features, match reports, live match updates, photography, videography, short clips, training videos, dugout moments, interviews after victories, inter-squad moments, and others from its social media platforms.





## ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022, Australia

Afghanistan National Cricket Team featured in the 8th edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022. The event was hosted by Australia and was scheduled from October 17 to November 14, 2022. ACB Media department, with the co-operation of the ICC Media representatives, provided exceptional coverage of the event including articles, features, match reports, live match updates, player interviews, photos, videos, and other relevant content from ACB's official Social Media Outlets. Afghanistan was placed in group 1 of the event alongside the hosts Australia, England and New Zealand and the next spots were filled by Sri Lanka and Ireland. Afghanistan's run at the main draw of the event was way too unfortunate as the team lost its first game to England, and the next two games against New Zealand and Ireland washed out due to persistent rains in Melbourne. More than 10 days break between the game against England and Sri Lanka caused the players don't have the required game time as they lost the next two games against Sri Lanka and Australia, which meant Afghanistan return from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup without a solitary victory.



## Afghanistan Tour of Sri Lanka, three-match ODI series, November

Afghanistan's tour to Sri Lanka took place in late November, where they played three ODI matches against the hosts. The series was part of the ICC Cricket World Cup Super League and were scheduled for the 25th, 27th & 30th of November in PKICS, Kandy.

Afghanistan started the series with a thumping 60-run victory over the hosts, making it the 2nd time Afghanistan beat Sri Lanka in ODIs. The 2nd match of the series was washed out due to rain followed by a gem of an encounter between the two sides as the hosts chased 314 runs in the last over to level the series 1-1. It was quite a productive series for Afghanistan and we gained 15 important points and successfully managed to earn a direct qualification for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 which is going to be held in India.

A member of the Media & Communication department was sent with the team who has provided the department with all the required contents for the media coverage of the event including updated photos, videos, short clips, interviews, winning moments, live match updates, match reports, special articles, features and other relevant materials through ACB's social media metrics.



## ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup, January-February, Caribbean

Afghanistan National U19 Cricket Team traveled to the Caribbean to participate in the 14th edition of the ICC U-19 Men's World Cup 2022. A member of the ACB Media department was sent with the National U19s to provide the department with the relevant data including pictures, videos, and live coverage of the event. The tournament was provided full coverage by the media department with match updates, player interviews & biographies, behind the scene clips, match reports, and all other needed content. Afghanistan U19s started their journey in the main draw of the event with an impressive victory over Papua New Guinea, followed by a win over Zimbabwe which took Afghanistan to the quarter-finals. Then, after an incredible game of cricket, Afghanistan's Future Stars defeated Sri Lanka by just 4 runs to advance to the semi-finals, where Afghanistan lost a close semi-final game to England and subsequently not managed to make it through to the final.

## Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan Provincial Grade-Level Tournaments, Feb-March 2022

Afghanistan Cricket Board conducted two provincial-level tournaments from February to March. Both cricketing events were organized in two different phases, the first of which began on February 10th between 29 provincial teams in three different provinces of the country. The 2nd phase of the process, the Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan Provincial Grade I tournament, was conducted from Match 11-29 in Khost and Nangarhar provinces, from where the Kunduz and Paktia Provincial teams advanced to the final, where Kunduz went past Paktia province to win their first ever Grade I title. The ACB Media department

provided extensive coverage of the events including long and multiple short documentaries, match reports, live updates, player and officials interviews, and other contents from ACB's official Social Media Outlets. In addition, the Khost leg of the event was provided with one-end live streaming, which proved to be useful as it helped the department in providing better coverage to the relatively lower-ranked domestic events.

## Green Afghanistan One Day Cup 2022

The Afghanistan Cricket Board introduced the Green Afghanistan One-Day Cup in May. The three-team event was played in a double round-robin format and featured all the available centrally-contracted and some best & top-performing young players who are/were part of Afghanistan's emerging and development programs. The whole media team of the Afghanistan Cricket Board was in Khost province for the media coverage of the event. The event was broadcasted live through Ariana Television Network as well as was provided with extensive media coverage of regular photography, videography, countdowns, live-match updates, interviews, match reports and other relevant content from the Afghanistan Cricket Board's social media platforms.

## Mirwais Neka Regional Three-day Tournament, June

The Mirwais Neka Regional Three-day Tournament was the first major multi-day event of the year that was conducted between five regional teams from 1st to 25th June at two venues in Kandahar Province. This event saw the media department assign separate staff for both venues to provide the event with full media coverage including photography, videography, match reports, live updates, players & officials interviews

other contents from ACB's social media platforms. The event was provided by one-end live-streaming coverage in an attempt to examine the capacity of the relevant staff for providing streaming and/or broadcast services for multi-day domestic events, and the effort came off nicely.

## Najibullah Taraki Regional PwDs Cricket Tournament, June

This tournament was played among five regional PwDs teams from June 10 to 17 at Khost National Cricket Ground. This event was covered by our local media staff and was provided with regular photography, videos, interviews, live-match updates, and recordings of all the important moments for the ACB's media handles.







## Shpageeza Cricket League, July–August, Kabul

### Players Draft, June

Afghanistan Cricket Board launched the players' draft program for the 8th edition of the Shpageeza Cricket League on June 10. The Draft was fully covered by the Media Department, as the department provided exceptional coverage to the drafting process of the players by sharing pictures, videos and other relevant content in each round & category of the draft.

### Shpageeza Cricket League 2022, July–August

The highlight of the year was the eighth edition of the Shpageeza Cricket League which was organized from July 18 to August 4 at Kabul Cricket Stadium. The 8th SCL season was bigger, better and more exciting, with the number of teams in SCL2022 being increased to 8 by the addition of two new franchises, the Pamir Zalmi and the Hindu Kush Stars. The media department provided exceptional coverage of the tournament. The matches were streamed live on ACB's official Facebook pages, while pictures and videos relevant to the event were widely shared across social media with match reports and all required updates. The Media department also invited international commentators from India and Zimbabwe, apart from arranging Afghan English and Pashto commentators to cover the event and cater to the needs of a broader audience.





## Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class Tournament, Oct–Nov, Khost & Nangarhar

The Ahmad Shah Abdali Regional First Class Tournament was the biggest domestic event of ACB in 2021, which started on October 8 in Khost and Nangarhar Provinces and after 33 days of play, ended with the Amo Region crowned as champions. ACB Media department provided outstanding coverage of the event including informative articles, match reports, live updates, player interviews, pictures, videos, and other relevant content from ACB's official Social Media Outlets.

In addition, the last four matches of the Khost leg of the event including the final were produced by a 7-camera setup and were streamed live through ACB's social media handles as well as streamed live through HSL in the Indian Territory. The production and live streaming of a multi-day event is considered to be quite effective in terms of game/player development and in terms of the media department's future plan for the production and broadcast of domestic cricket events.

## Regional Club Championship, December, Nangarhar

Regional Club Championship featured five-regional teams and started on December 29 in Khost province. Mis-e-Ainak region's representative Danger Cricket Club was crowned champions after they beat Bost Region's Khpalwak CC by 50 runs in the final. The event was provided with live coverage, match reports, players' interviews, and other relevant aspects from ACB social media platforms.

## Documentary Initiation

The Media & Communication Department has the initiative to launch the process of making documentaries on various aspects of domestic cricket including street cricket, village cricket and the game of cricket being played in remote areas. A documentary named "New Talents, New Dreams" was made at the provincial Grade I event being played in Khost and Nangarhar provinces. Members from the Media department frequently travelled to the mentioned provinces to shoot and record the relevant data for the documentary, which was produced and recently published through ACB social media outlets. Similarly, the department produced multiple other long and short documentaries on

various domestic events, including Provincial grade II, the Ahmad Shah Abdali FC Tournament, the Green Afghanistan One Day Cup and the Shpageeza Cricket League to better expose & highlight the status of the game in Afghanistan. The outcome of the initiative was largely welcomed by the followers and supporters of Afghan Cricket and has had a good impact on the fans' engagement across ACB's social media platforms.

## Cordial Communication with Popular Cricket Media Agencies

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 agencies. The communication was a fruitful initiative that resulted in greater exposure and coverage for Afghanistan Cricket. In addition, the media department had the lead to arrange players' & officials' interviews and special programs for the national & international media agencies during domestic and international events and/or based on their requirements. Moreover, the Media Depart-

ment has provided journalists and media representatives with an in-depth analysis of how the coverage of cricket can have a significant impact on its development and emphasized 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 & game development affairs, an official verified Twitter handle alongside a Twitter account for 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 & Communication Department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board operates two platforms on Facebook representing the organization. The first one is the official Facebook page of the Afghanistan Cricket Board which is liked/followed by almost 2.75 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 which is primarily set to convey information about domestic cricket and game development activities. The information on ACB’s main Facebook 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 updates, match 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 674.2k users and is considered to be a vital source of information related to Afghanistan Cricket for fans and popular figures around the cricketing world and beyond. Besides this, Media Department established the @ACBDomestic account on Twitter which is mainly set to convey information about domestic cricket and game development activities.

## Instagram

ACB’s official Instagram account is used primarily as a photo & video-sharing platform in tandem with other platforms. The official Instagram account of ACB has over 276K followers currently and grows rapidly due to regular content updates. The platform’s IGTV feature is used to upload relatively longer videos which contribute 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 recorded and shared player videos, documentaries, biographies, interviews, and domestic matches’ highlights including the highlights of best individual batting & bowling performances in domestic cricket, and other diverse content on the platform. The unavailability of digital footage from Afghanistan’s international matches remains a core factor for the future growth and possible monetization of the Channel.

## Cricket.af

Cricket.af is the official website related to the Afghanistan Cricket Board which is primarily used to convey news and other recent updates featuring Afghanistan Cricket. The website has multiple columns which are made and categorized for conveying different contents. All the recent news, updates, press releases, features, bio-monthly magazines,

ty of other data and information are being conveyed through the website. 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 ACB and IT departments jointly manage the content dynamics on the website with the Media department being 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. As mentioned in the first section, the Media Department has completed the design process for the re-engineering of the website and is working closely with ACB’s IT & MIS department for the re-engineering process as per the plan to give the website a new look and a relatively simpler interface.





# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Information Technology and Management Information System (IT& MIS) department at Afghanistan Cricket Board manages all the technical needs of the organization. The department has a certain scope which includes activities like Applications Development, Networking & Telecommunications Development, Information and System Security, System & Network Administration, Business Process Management, Software Engineering & Development, Web Development, Network Engineering, Help Desk and Support services and more.

The followings are the main projects and activities that the department came across during the year 2022:

## Annual Budget Management System

The annual budget is a benchmark against which companies can measure progress and as use it as a tool to help better manage money. It's considered a blueprint for a company's planned expenditures over the course of a year. The Information Technology and the Management Information System Department in ACB designed and developed the system which allows

the departmental managers to plan their annual budget at the start of the year, and properly plan their probable expenses for one year. The system includes department-related information, the budget line, the budget ID which is generated by the system, the list of months, a blank form to be filled by the managers for their planned activities, and the requisition options to track the plan being processed and approved by the top management. This system will help the ACB to properly plan for the next year and make the required adjustments as well as helps the finance department to better manage their dough.

The system generates unique budget codes and provides the base data for all the financial processes. Only the managerial level employees are given access to the system, whereas the finance manager will be able to access all the budget plans submitted by managers. The departmental budgets are then integrated into a Master Budget plan, which presents the overall organizational budget plan for one year.

## Travel Request & Travel Report Modules Development

The IT & MIS department developed the Travel Request Module which refers to a form that gathers travel information from employees and helps the management to approve their travel and reimburse their expenses. The system is implemented to streamline employees' requests for travel and includes the purpose of the trip, the destination, the duration of the trip and the date-wise planned activities.

The Travel report module is also newly developed by the department and is used to describe the overall activities performed during the trip by an employee. This module includes the date-wise report of the activities performed during travel. These modules are accessible to all employees except interns, probationary and service contractors.

## Purchase Request System Enhancement and Integration

The IT & MIS department developed the Purchase Request System which automates purchasing processes and is used to manage and control the purchasing costs for goods and services. The system automatically generates the PR codes and includes a description of goods and services, budget code, per unit costs and estimates the total cost requested by the users.

The department later enhanced the system and added some extra functionalities by linking the budget codes to the PR system. This now helps the departmental managers to simply place purchasing orders by mentioning the budget code from their annual budget plan. The enhanced system further helps the managers to track their annual budget and know the exact amounts spent as well as the available balance. In addition, the system generates unique PR numbers and processes data/inputs from the approved annual budget of each department. It means the system doesn't raise PRs for the purchase of goods that are not included in the annual budget.

The system helps the departments create and share the purchase orders instantly as well as helps the ACB to make smarter budgeting decisions and ensure efficient purchase order management.





### Finance MIS Modules Development

The IT & MIS department developed several integrated finance modules in an attempt to digitalize the operational activities and bring all the tasks into a single system to make the routine organizational affairs more open, transparent and easily accessible.

Here are the key modules that are developed in this system:

- o Advance Request Module
- o Payment Request Module
- o Advance Liquidation Module
- o Per-Diem Request Module
- o Voucher Module
- o Salary Advance Request Module
- o Office Vehicle Request Module
- o Exit Slip Module
- o Taxi Reimbursement Module
- o SRN-GRN Module

### SCL2022 Players' Draft Management System Development and Implementation

The IT & MIS department designed the players' draft system to properly manage the players' draft process and present the players' and/or franchises' related data & graphics on a real-time basis during the draft ceremony. The system includes the complete list of players with their photos and full career statistics as well as

the franchises' related information. The main purpose of creating the system was to present players in the draft, categorized them into five different categories and manage the players' picking process.

Implementing the system portrays a strong message and indicates that the Afghanistan Cricket Board is eager to head into more professionalism, digitalization and adopting advanced systems & technologies over traditional systems.

The Players' draft system for the SCL2022 Players Draft Ceremony included the following main features:

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

### Accreditation MIS for the SCL 2022

The IT & MIS department developed the accreditation system for SCL2022. The system

was integrated with the ACB website and was broadly used by the franchises, ACB staff, team owners, media representatives, production crew, VIP guests, match officials, ball pickers & ground staff and other involved parties in the SCL2022. The system had a great impact on the accreditation process as it provided a convenient platform for the participants and helped improve security.

### Accreditation | Invitation Cards | Certificate and different printing support

Printing is an important service of the IT Help Desk which covers most of the administrative tasks related to other departments. IT relevant staff provides sufficient support to all ACB departments.

The IT & MIS department provides printing services and essential support including employee ID cards, accreditation cards for different domestic events, printing certificates for different educational workshops, vehicle cards, visa forms and other important document printing.

### Email Server Maintenance and Monitoring

Email is an important method of communication that is a fast, inexpensive and easily accessible way to communicate for businesses. The IT & MIS 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.



The Facility and Turf Management Department has recently replaced the Engineering & Infrastructure Development Department in the ACB's new organizational structure. This department is responsible for the ACB's construction projects' design, cost estimation, re-estimation, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and Handover. The department also oversees all the grounds & academies, their machinery and equipment, their water-supply systems and is equally responsible for their maintenance and evaluation.

In addition, the department supervises the processes of pitches restoration & construction, grass cultivation & its upkeep, revenue collection from grounds & academies and manages the ground staff including curators, academy controllers and general ground staff. The year 2022 was a decent season for the Facility and Turf Management Department in terms of their activities, as the department completed many projects during the period. Following are some of the projects that were conducted by the department during the year 2022:



## **Kunduz Cricket Ground's Surrounding Wall:**

This project was awarded to Hewad Kargar Construction Company. The total budget for this project was (AFN 2,588,170) and the contract processes were completed by ACB's procurement department. The project was started in July this year and was 100% completed in November.

## **Najibullah Taraki Cricket Ground's 2nd Phase Construction:**

Najibullah Taraki Cricket Ground is located in the central part of the Jalal Abad city of Nangarhar province. The 2nd phase construction project includes the Surrounding wall, grass cultivation and water supply system, which was awarded to Noor Mattoon Construction Company. The total cost allocated for this project was (USD 200,000) which is equivalent to (AFN 17,600,000). The 2nd phase construction project has been 100% completed through which the ACB acquired around 55,000 square-meter land which is worth around AFN 534,000,000.





**Laghman Cricket Ground’s Pitches Construction, Water Supply and Solar System**

The Facility and Turf Management department, as per the top management’s instruction and in coordination with ACB’s procurement unit, initiated the project of pitches construction, water supply and solar system in Laghman Cricket Ground. The lack of water was a major challenge at the ground and was considered to be the main obstacle for the next phases of the ground construction. The water supply system was successfully completed which will now help ACB to conduct its provincial-level inter-club competitions there as well as will help in the completion of the next phases of the ground construction including ground leveling and grass feeding.

**Kandahar Outdoor Cricket Academy:**

The Kandahar Outdoor Cricket Academy is located inside the Kandahar Cricket Ground’s arena, next to the playing ground and the guest house. It’s among the ongoing projects of the Afghanistan Cricket Board, for which the total allocated budget is (AFN 600,000), and started in the middle of December 2022.

**Paktika Cricket Ground 2nd Phase Construction:**

This project is funded by the Ministry of Urban Development and Land. The construction progress is underway, which is completed by 20%. The approved budget for the mentioned project is AFN 75,000,000. 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. The construction progress of this project is halted due to some budget issues. However, the pitches construction and the Solar system development projects were completed by the Afghanistan Cricket Board which made the venue available and eligible for hosting the inter-provincial club competitions.

**Logar Cricket Ground (Mohammad Agha District):**

This project is also funded by MUDL. Its construction progress is 20% completed. The approved budget for this project is AFN 75,000,000. The construction includes a two-story pavilion, stands with a seating capacity of 5000 spectators, a surrounding wall, an outdoor academy, an oval ground, a fence around the green area, a water supply system, a water well and an underground water tank. Unfortunately, the construction works of this project have also been halted due to budget problems.

**Wardak Cricket Ground:**

The design of this project was done by ACB’s Facility and Turf Management Department. This project was also funded by the MUDL, with an approved budget of (AFN 68,000,000). The construction progress is 45% completed and the whole process includes a pavilion, stands with a seating capacity of 5000 spectators, a surrounding wall, an oval ground, an outdoor academy, a fence around the green area, a water supply system, a water well, and an underground water tank. Unfortunately, the construction works of this project have also been halted due to budget problems.

**Balkh Cricket Ground:**

This is also among the ongoing projects of the ACB which was funded by the Embassy of India in Afghanistan. The allocated budget for this project is (USD 1,000,000). This project includes a Pavilion, a Water Supply System, Grassing, Fence, Footpaths, Side Ditch, an outdoor academy, VIP rooms for players, stands with a seating capacity of 6000 people, and a surrounding wall. This project is 25% completed, but the rest of the progress is delayed due to the same budget problem.



Laghman Cricket Ground



Kandahar Outdoor Cricket Academy



Paktia Cricket Ground



Logar Cricket Ground



Wardak Cricket Ground



Balkh Cricket Ground



### Kabul Cricket Ground Fitness Gym and Rehab Center:

The decoration and maintenance project of ACB's central fitness gym and rehab center was started by the Facility and Turf Management department, which costs around (AFN 2,200,000). The service contract of the project was awarded to the Kabul Decoration Company which has successfully completed the assigned task on time. The project was completed in late November 2022 and is currently ready to be utilized by players.

### High-Performance Center

Afghanistan Cricket Board recently placed the High-Performance Center (HPC) in its re-vamped organizational structure. HPC provides a range of high-performance services across coaching, training, capacity-building programs, medical services and high-performance management. HPC is responsible to work on the overall development of teams/players by providing them with various training camps and skills development programs.

The High-performance center is a corridor for the players where they can enhance their cricket skills through systematic training programs in its indoor & outdoor academies under the consultation of national & international coaches, trainers & analysts. The main aim of the high-performance center is to produce quality cricketers and train the technical staff to meet the demand of modern cricket and tackle current and future challenges of international cricket.

The high-performance center offers modified training and playing camps; including planning, management, scheduling games and team development programs at every level.

Although the department was added to ACB's new organizational structure in the last quarter of the year 2022 but has still carried out the following activities.

### Redecoration of the Fitness Gym, Rehab Center and Massage Center

Fitness Gym always remains as one of the main requirements of the high-performance center which is needed for the players to develop more strength, fitness, stamina and endurance power. Gym plays an integral part in players' performance improvement, therefore, in order to provide a pleasant and convenient gym environment, the HPC planned to redecorate and re-equip the ACB central fitness gym.

In coordination with the Turf Management & Procurement departments, the HPC re-decorated and redesigned the Gym and purchase high-quality and modern machinery and equipment. In addition, the new partition of the rehab and massage centers has also been successfully completed, which is now available to be utilized.

### Skill Set Camps for National and Domestic Cricketers

In an attempt to improve the skill set of players, the High-performance center organized skill set camps and regular practice sessions for the national and domestic level players on a short, medium and long-term basis to help them spend more time in HPC and develop their game.

Similarly, the HPC provides the domestic cricket department with the required technical staff for their events as well as helps the ACB in its other development programs.





# THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee of the Afghanistan Cricket Board is responsible for the teams' selection for the representation of Afghanistan both in domestic and International cricket. The Selection Committee strives to select the best available team to represent Afghanistan at the international level and ensures that a fair, transparent and consistent approach to players' selection is maintained and that all players are treated fairly. The committee also plans and prepares a strong bench for the Afghanistan National Team and aims to promote players' capacities in order to participate in competitive cricket, thereby securing a bright future for the game in the country.

In addition, the selection committee observes the national team training camps and domestic & international events and based on performance evaluation, recommends both national & domestic players for awarding contracts.



## AFGHANISTAN

Squad for

### ACC MEN'S ASIA CUP 2022



Rahmanullah Gurbaz (WK)



Hazartullah Zazai



Najibullah Zadran



Hashmatullah Shahidi



Afsar Zazai



Mohammad Nabi (C)



Karim Janat



Azmatullah Omarzai



Samiullah Shinwari



Rashid Khan



Fazal Haq Farooqi



Farid Ahmad Malik



Naveen ul Haq



Noor Ahmad



Mujeeb ur Rahman

### Reserve

- 1) Qais Ahmad
- 2) Sharafuddin Ashraf
- 3) Nijat Masood

#AFGHANATALAN #ASIACUP2022

ACB MEDIA



## AFGHANISTAN

### T20 World Cup 2022 Squad



Rahmanullah Gurbaz (WK)



Hazartullah Zazai



Ibrahim Zadran



Darwish Rasooli



Najibullah Zadran



Hashmatullah Shahidi



Afsar Zazai



Mohammad Nabi (C)



Karim Janat



Azmatullah Omarzai



Sharafuddin Ashraf



Rashid Khan



Fazal Haq Farooqi



Farid Ahmad Malik



Naveen ul Haq



Noor Ahmad

### Reserve

- 1) Qais Ahmad
- 2) Nijat Masood
- 3) Mujeeb Zadrn
- 4) Mujeeb Zadrn
- 5) Usman Ghani

#AFGHANATALAN | #ICCT20WC2022

The Selection Committee had a busy year in terms of teams' selection for ACB's national and international assignments. The committee selected teams for the home series against the Netherlands and the away tours of Bangladesh and Zimbabwe in the first half of the year. The second half of the year saw the selection committee select teams for the Ireland series, the Asia Cup, the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 and the Sri Lanka series in the later part of the year.

The selection was considered to be good as the team managed to win 8 ODIs during the year. Although the Ireland series and the T20 World Cup campaign were unsatisfactory but the Afghanistan National Team also put on a dominant show in the first round of the Asia Cup and the team managed to comprehensively beat Sri Lanka and Bangladesh respectively.

In addition, the selection committee also selected Afghanistan U19s for the ICC U19 Men's Cricket World Cup 2022 as well as selected teams for the various domestic events being held during the year.



# 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 umbrellas 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 the strategy of 1) Prevention, 2) Disruption, 3) Investigation, and 4) Prosecution.

The Unit is responsible for covering all the domestic and international cricketing events of ACB. The Unit is equally responsible for providing players' Code of conduct awareness programs for players & players' support personnel and officials being involved in events.

In ongoing efforts to be a world leader in the fight against corruption in sports, the ACB ACU has developed robust Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to ensure professionalism, transparency and uniformity in its work. 1) Effective partnerships, 2) Enhanced information

gathering and analytical capability, 3) Improved coordination and communication, 4) Consistent prevention and education and 5) Proactive investigation and prosecution; are the five principles that underpin all the measures being taken to protect cricket from corruption.

The department had a decent year in terms of activities; in coordination with the ICC's Anti-Corruption unit, the ACB's ACU successfully covered Afghanistan's home series against the Netherlands in Qatar 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 awareness materials prior to the start of each event.

The Anti-Corruption Unit of Afghanistan Cricket Board has also provided the participants of the Shpageeza Cricket League and the Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class Tournament with the Anti-Corruption relevant educational seminars and has subsequently covered the events 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 2022.

## Discipline Committee

The Discipline Committee of the Afghanistan Cricket Board is responsible for hearing disciplinary cases raised in professional cricket related to Afghanistan Cricket Board. The Discipline Committee is further responsible for adjudicating alleged breaches of the ACB's Rules and Regulations, in accordance with the Discipline Committee Codes.

The Discipline Committee aims to provide an efficient and fair system of dealing with alleged breaches of the ACB's Rules and Regulations. Similarly, the Unit is responsible for covering all the domestic and international cricketing events of ACB as well as providing players' code awareness programs for players & players' support personnel and officials being involved in events.

The unit had an eventful year in terms of activities; as the unit successfully covered ACB's international and domestic cricketing assignments during the year. The Discipline Committee successfully investigated disciplinary cases during the provincial grade-level events (3), Shpageeza Cricket League & Abdali FC Tournament (7) and the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 (4) where proper hearing and ruling were

held by the discipline committee following each case.

The unit has also provided the participants of the Shpageeza Cricket League and the Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class Tournament with committee's educational seminars as players (186) and players' support personnel (55) have received relevant awareness materials.

The unit has also investigated 17 different code breaches by ACB employees, provincial officers and ground staff; and is currently undergoing investigations of some of the code breaches that were made during the year 2022.

## Compliance Department

The Compliance Department is responsible for drafting and reviewing all legal documents including contracts, policies, and procedures to assure they are in compliance with the grand rules and spirits of the organization. The department is equally responsible to provide legal advice to the Management and other departments if needed. Similarly, the department is responsible for handling all commercial disputes and claims raised against Afghanistan Cricket Board from different stakeholders both nationally and internationally.

The Compliance Department along with other relevant departments jointly carried out some major high-value activities that resulted in the development of the efficiency and revenue of the organization. They are, a) along with other relevant departments, worked on the organizational structure and developed a new, concise and effective organizational structure for the ACB; b) Negotiated and reached an agreement with Rario on the digital engagement and Sponsorship Rights for the ongoing FTP; c) negotiated and reached a mutual cooperation agreement with the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) that will see the Afghanistan Cricket Board utilize UAE's world-class venues for its home fixtures without any sanction fee & any required approval.

Here are the major activities carried out by the Compliance Department:

## Organizational Structure

The Compliance Department along with the HR department started an organizational assessment at the beginning of the year 2022 and found that the ACB lacks a properly defined organizational structure. The Department tirelessly worked on the new structure and developed a structure to fit all the requirements of the organization while considering efficiency and effectiveness in the process. The proposed structure was then approved by the board members and is currently in the execution stage.

## Contracts Management

### Development

The Compliance Department, in coordination with other relevant departments, worked on and developed the franchisee rights ownership contracts of the eighth edition of the Shpageeza Cricket League. After a thorough assessment, the Department terminated the contracts of two franchisee rights owners for the inconsistency and failure of performance as per the agreement.

The Compliance Department, in coordination with the Marketing Department, developed the Afghanistan National Team's sponsorship agreements with the Super Cola Beverages Manufacturing Company and Kam Air for the team's



International assignments.

Negotiation

– The department, in coordination with the marketing department, negotiated the terms & conditions and reached a long-term agreement with Dream 11, which is an Indian-based fantasy sports platform, for the digital engagement and sponsorship rights of the Afghanistan National Team. The agreement is of huge value to ACB, both in commercial and financial terms.

– The Compliance Department along with the Finance Department, negotiated the agreement with AMANACARD (a payment gateway platform, which partners with charities & organizations, that struggle in the absence of banks to deliver financial support directly), for transferring the funds to Afghanistan, in order to skip the banking restriction on cash inflow to the country and facilitate ACB to continue its operations normally. The Agreement was successfully executed and ACB was able to receive the funds and pay the employees’ salaries and the vendors’ payments.

Assessment

– The Compliance Department, in coordination with the Marketing Department, assessed Afghanistan Cricket Board’s media rights agreement with Total Sports Marketing. Since the agreement was found to be vague and its scope was not well defined; therefore the Compliance Department reached a conclusion to terminate the global media rights MoU with TSM and sign a separate agreement only for the broadcasting rights of Bangladesh territory. The draft termination letter for the global media rights and draft agreement for Bangladesh territory and sponsorship rights have been shared to be signed.

Revision

– The Compliance Department developed and reviewed the bilateral agreement with the Bangladesh Cricket Board to host Afghanistan for a series of events to be conducted in the territory of Bangladesh.

– In addition, the department reviewed and completed National Team’s Sponsorship Agreement with Monarch Mart Ltd during the Bangladesh tour.

– The department has also reviewed the terms and conditions of the draft agreement

HSL for the sponsorship of the Green Afghanistan One Day Cup 2022.

– The department also reviewed the legal terms of the ACB’s MoU with the City Lab for Covid-19 tests and certificates.

Amendments

– The Compliance Department reviewed and amended ACB’s Kit Manufacturing contract with Kabul Sports Company in February. As per the amendment, the parties agreed to stop manufacturing kits for international events; but instead will keep working together for domestic events.

– Likewise, after amending the Kabul Sports agreement, the Compliance Department reviewed the clothing sponsorship agreement with TYKA, an Indian-based clothing manufacturing company, and presented the agreement for the sign-off.

Banking and Financial MoU with BMA

Afghanistan faced some serious Banking and Financial restrictions following the change of regime in the country, which halted major projects and the ACB was not an exception. Due to these restrictions, the ACB employees and vendors were not able to receive their respective salaries and payments in full. In the process, the Afghanistan Cricket Board pursued a solution for the issue and signed MoU with the Bank Millie Afghan – BMA to facilitate the banking and financial needs of the Afghanistan Cricket Board.

The Compliance Department along with the Finance Department negotiated and reviewed the agreement with BMA to open accounts for the ACB staff. As per the agreement, the banking institution guaranteed to process the salaries of the ACB staff in full and without any limitation in the withdrawal, which largely helped the employees overcome their family needs and requirements.

Policy and Manuals Revision

The Compliance Department, in coordination with the top management and the relevant departments, reviewed and upgraded the Cricket Operational Manual, and Procurement & Logistics Manual to increase their effectiveness and make them viable documents.



Mutual Cooperation Agreement with the Emirates Cricket Board

In order to resolve the long-lasting problem of lacking home grounds outside Afghanistan, the Compliance Department, in full coordination with the top management and the International Cricket Department, initiated a discussion and negotiated terms & conditions to reach a long-term mutual cooperation agreement. As per the agreement, the Afghanistan Cricket Board will utilize UAE’s world-class venues for its home fixtures without any sanction fee & any required approval. ECB will also provide valuable logistic support to ACB, including visa assistance and an office place. In return, Afghanistan will play a series of three-T20I matches annually, against the UAE, for the duration of the agreement.





The Event Logistics Management department was recently placed in ACB's newly developed organizational structure, which is responsible for providing overall logistics support for all back-stage coordination of ACB Events including AfghanAtalan's international tours, leagues, tournaments, conferences, workshops, education training, and all other events organized, managed and hosted by ACB.

The department is equally responsible for executing the Events Logistics Plan for ACB's national and international events in accordance with relevant policies and visions laid out by the ACB. The department also procures all logistics (goods and services/consultancies) required for the events as per ACB procurement policy and carries out sourcing, suppliers' selection and evaluation, vendor management, quality management, customer relationship management, performance measurement and reporting on the delivery of logistics services.

With the addition of this department in ACB, a separate logistics arrangements unit has been created in the organization, which coordinates all the relevant activities and provides essential logistical support to the International and domestic cricket departments during their abroad and domestic cricketing assignments. Before this move, the international cricket department used to arrange the logistics by itself, which would create an extra burden and an increased workload on the department. Previously, the logistical arrangements including (travel & transportation, catering, accommodation, clothing, goods delivery, printings and acquiring ambulance services & medicines) for domestic cricket events were provided by the procurement department, but these tasks are now included in the Events Logistics Management Department's Scope of Work which will carry onwards.

The department was added to ACB's new organizational structure in the last quarter of the year 2022 and has carried out the following activities.





**National Team’s preparation camp for the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup, Brisbane, Australia, October 2022**

Afghanistan National Team travelled early to Australia to put in a conditioning camp and get full preparations for the event. The camp was scheduled in Brisbane from September 30 to October 15 and all the arrangements were procured through open procurement standards, which saw the arrangements of the below activities for the national team:

- o Transportation & Ticketing
- o Catering
- o Accommodations
- o Ground and Academy facilities with complete services

**Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class Tournament, Khost & Nangarhar, Oct-Nov**

The Ahmad Shah Abdali First Class Tournament was held from October 8 to November 11 in two different venues in Khost and Nangarhar provinces. The Events Logistics Management department facilitated the logistical requirements and extended its full cooperation to the event.

Training Camp for the Sri Lanka Series, UAE, November

Afghanistan put on a two-week-long preparation camp in UAE before departing to Sri Lanka for the three-match ODI series. All the logistical arrangements including transportation & ticketing, catering, accommodation, clothing, and ground & academy facilities for the camp were provided by the Events Logistics Management department.

Regional Club Championship, December, Khost

The Regional Club Championship was the last domestic cricket event in the year 2022, which was started on December 29th in Khost National Stadium. This five-team event was successfully held with the help of required logistical support of the Event Logistics Management department.

In addition, the department facilitates and oversees daily ticketing and event-based purchasing and provides the required logistical facilities for departments and individuals when required.



# HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT

The Human Resources Department has a strategic role in ACB. It aligns the employee objectives with 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:

- Manpower Planning & Budget
- Alignment of employees’ objectives with ACB strategic objectives
- Recruitment and Selection
- Training and Development
- Performance Appraisals and Performance improvement plans
- Compensation Management
- Reward and Recognition
- Filing and Documentation
- HRMIS
- Organizational Culture
- Organizational Structure
- Investigation of Disciplinary Actions
- Policies Drafting and Communication
- Labor law compliance

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

**Rightsizing:**

HRD in coordination with Top Management & line department heads, conducted the organization’s wide manpower study and exercised the organization’s structure, which resulted in the laid-off of some employees. The motives of this exercise were to:

- o Assign staff based on the approved organizational structure
- o Ensure the right number of employees are on board
- o Enhance work quality
- o Control the budget deficit

**Organizational Structure:**

HRD in coordination with the assigned committee by the Top Management, revamped ACB’s organizational structure which was then approved by the Board of Directors. The structure demonstrates the reporting line, grade, and title of all employees in a department as well as clarifies the chain of command in the organization.

**Policy Revision:**

Looking at the policies living and evolving nature, a “Policies Review Committee” was made that revisited all the policies and brought some necessary changes to the HR manual & policies which will be presented to the Board of Directors’ approval in the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

**HRMIS Update:**

The new Human Resource Management Information System is further developed. HRD alongside the Finance Department working closely with the IT team to further upgrade the HRMIS. The new integrated system includes Performance Management, Annual Budget, Leave & Travel Requests, Travel Reports, Per-Diem Requests and Exit Permit forms which can further contribute to ensuring transparency and system digitalization in the organization.

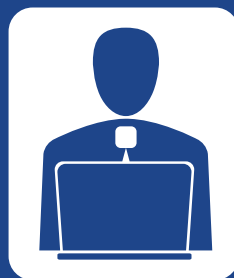


### Performance Appraisal 2022:

The performance appraisal procedure has been conducted by HRD to evaluate the employee's performance in Nov & Dec 2022 to award new contracts to employees for the year 2023.

Furthermore, in collaboration with the International Cricket and the domestic cricket departments, the HRD processed the contracts & payroll of 39 central contracted, 64 domestic contracted and 20 disabled cricketers.

The Human Resource Department also had the lead to create internship opportunities for newly graduated students from different universities as it has completed the fourth badge of internship which saw several internees completing their internship period with the relevant organizational units during the year 2022. The department, in coordination with partner universities, has also organized a training and development course (Project Management Professional – PMP) for some senior-level employees that help in capacity building of the staff which in return contributes to the overall productivity of the organization.



## ADMINISTRATION & SERVICE DEPARTMENT

Afghanistan Cricket Board's Administration & Service department is responsible for overseeing the daily administrative operations and creating an engaging & professional office environment in the organization. The department provides essential support & assistance to other departments and works closely with the Afghan government and other entities to ensure that ACB's essential needs are met on time.

The key functions of the department can broadly be described into different areas such as general administration services, communication with external stakeholders, inventory management, and maintenance services.

### Inventory Management and Control

Admin & Service Department manages organizational assets and stock items. The department also supervises the flow of goods and inventories from stock to other offices in the organization. As a key inventory management function, the department keeps a detailed record of each inventory that is available in the stock and/or spread over the offices. The record includes a complete inventory count, keeping track of physical inventory with distribution orders, details, locations, histories, reports and adjustments.

### SOPs Development

The Admin & Service Department developed proper Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the proper usage of transport vehicles, fuel limitation as well as for kitchen raw materials and expenditures to improve routine admin services & operations.

### Annual Tax Clearances

The Admin & Service department, as the focal point of communication with the government, is also responsible to assist with customs and annual tax clearances of the organization. The department cleared the Municipality's annual taxes of the Kabul and Kunar Cricket Grounds respectively throughout the year 2022.

### Transportation facilities for staff and players

The department also facilitates transportation for the ACB staff and players during events throughout the year.

Accommodations Facilities for the Teams and Officials during Domestic Events

The Admin & Service 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, and Provincial Challenge Cup Events, etc.

The department has also provided the required accommodation facilities for foreign guests including international commentators and the foreign production crew during the Shpageeza Cricket League 2022.

### AGM Meeting 2022

Admin & Service department is further responsible for organizing and managing the affairs of ACB's Annual General Meetings (AGM). The Annual General Meeting 2022 was successfully held at the ACB Central Office in January, for which the arrangements and preparations were facilitated by the Admin department.

### SCL2022 Players' Draft

Afghanistan Cricket Board had planned to organize the 8th edition of the Shpageeza Cricket League in July-August. 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 successfully held with the assistance and logistical support of the Admin & Service Department.



# PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT

The procurement department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board is a key unit of the organization which has an overall responsibility for managing all the purchasing needs and functions of the ACB. Implementation of procurement policy including sourcing, suppliers' selection & evaluation, quality management, customer relationship management, performance measurement and reporting on delivery of procurement services are other functions that the department undertakes. This department also proactively manages ACB's strategic, tactical and all routine operational needs on a daily basis and works closely for the procurement of the following activities:

- Procurement of Construction & Maintenance
  - Procurement of Goods and Services/consultancies
- The department is mainly responsible to perform the following activities:
- Procurement for construction of Grounds and Academies
  - Logistic activities for the Events and

Tournaments

- Annual Framework Purchasing Contract
- Transportation and delivery of goods
- Procurement of Cricket Equipment
- Consultancies
- Contracts Management

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

## Part 1: Procurement for Construction of Grounds and Academies

Procurement for Construction of Najabiullah Taraki Cricket Ground (2nd Phase)

The Procurement department facilitated the process of the procurement for the construction work of the Najibullah Taraki Cricket Ground in Jalal Abad city. The 2nd phase of construction included the boundary wall and the ground leveling alongside grass feeding which were completed successfully.

## Procurement for Construction of Kunduz Cricket Ground's Boundary Wall

The Procurement department of the Afghanistan Cricket Board processed the construction

work of the boundary wall at Kunduz Cricket Ground. This process was undertaken via NCB bid announcement and a qualified vendor with a low-cost offer was awarded the contract. The project was started in June and was successfully completed in November 2022.

## Procurement for Construction of Water Supply Drill System and Water-Well Digging at Laghman Cricket Ground

The Cricket Ground in Laghman province was built recently but the construction work of the ground was not completed. The lack of water was a major challenge at the ground and was considered to be the main obstacle for the next phases of the ground construction. Based on ACB's top management instruction, the procurement department developed the process of digging a water well in the ground, and through an integrity procurement process awarded the water-well digging contract to a construction company. The department has also facilitated the purchase and installation process of the pipe, submersible pump and other relevant items. Since the ground is located in a mountainous area, where the well-digging process is not an easy task, but acquiring new technology and high-quality machinery, the digging process was successfully completed. This water

supply system will now help ACB to complete the next phases of the ground construction including ground leveling, grass feeding and pitch curation.

## Procurement for the Reconstruction of the Fitness Gym in Kabul Cricket Ground

The procurement department facilitated the reconstruction and design process of the Fitness Gym and the Rehab Center at the Kabul National Cricket Stadium. The department facilitated the purchasing process of some high-quality and modern machinery and equipment for the gym. In addition, the partition of the new rooms for the Players' Rehab Center has been successfully completed. The fitness gym is decorated in a beautiful design and a pleasant environment is created for the players to utilize new equipment and increase their fitness level.

## Procurement of Construction & Maintenance of the Cricket Ground and Academies

In addition to the above major construction activities, the Procurement department has processed the procurement procedures for the construction of the below-listed Cricket Grounds and Academies:

- Procurement of construction for pitches in Laghman Cricket Ground
- Procurement of construction for pitches in Najibullah Taraki Cricket Ground
- Procurement of repairing of Khost Ground Pavilion and the Ground Leveling
- Procurement of ground leveling, grass feeding maintenance and boundary wall installation.
- Procurement of the Ghazi Amanullah Khan Cricket Ground Maintenance.
- Procurement of installation of marketing billboards and flaxes in Kabul Cricket Ground.

## Part 2: Logistic Services for the Cricketing Events and Tournaments

The Procurement department also facilitated the logistic requirements for the cricketing events and tournaments both domestically and internationally. The procurement department is responsible for the logistic arrangements of the events including planning, catering, transport, ticketing and travel facilities, and clothing. The Department is responsible to provide all the relevant facilities through a legal channel in line with the Procurement standard policies and procedures including but not limited to issuing RFQ, EOI, preparations of bid documents, evaluation of bids, contract awards and goods

delivery.

The procurement department also processes the travels & transportation, catering, accommodation, clothing, goods delivery, grounds & dressing rooms maintenance, printings, hiring broadcast companies, acquiring ambulance services & medicines and other relevant assignments.

During the year 2022, the procurement department provided logistical assistance for the following cricketing events:

- ACB's home three-match ODI series against the Netherlands
- ACB's away white-ball series against Bangladesh
- Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan Provincial Grade II & Grade I events
- Green Afghanistan One Day Cup 2022
- Shpageeza Cricket League 2022
- Najibullah Taraki Regional PwDs Cricket Tournament



### Part 3: Purchase and Transportation of Cricket Equipment, Goods and Services

The procurement department also has the responsibility to purchase, deliver and transport the required goods & services for ACB operations and cricketing events. Some of these activities that the department has processed are listed as follow:

- Purchase of Pitch Soil in Pakistan
- Purchase of ground equipment such as Pitch Rollers (7 pcs), Grass Cutters (17 pcs) and Pitch Covers (12 pcs) from Pakistan and shifted to different provinces in the country
- Purchased 360 Kookaburra and 300 Grace Balls from abroad
- Purchased equipment and medications for the ACB central rehab center
- Purchased boundary ropes for different grounds in the country
- Facilitated the procurement process of making jerseys (playing kits, training kits, and travel kits) for international and domestic events when required. Transported the pitch soil from Kabul to Kandahar, Khost and Paktika provinces, as well as from some pitch soil was transported from Nangarhar to Laghman based on need in the province.
- Hired the rental services of guest houses on a short & long-term basis in Khost and Nangarhar provinces for the accommodation of the players during domestic events.

### Part 4: Consultancies

Apart from other activities, the Procurement department is also responsible for hiring the services of audit firms for auditing the ACB's financial reports annually. As per normal practices, the procurement department hired the services of an External Audit firm for auditing ACB's financial statements of the year 2021. The firm completed their task and submitted their Audit Report to the top management on time.

### Part 5: Procurement Contract Management:

Procurement Contract Management is the process of managing contracts associated with procurement or purchasing as part of legal documentation shared with partners, suppliers or even customers.

The procurement department has signed the following contracts with the suppliers.

- Annual framework contract for the fuels and gas
- Annual framework contract for the meals and bread
- Annual framework contract for the clothing with Kabul Sports
- Annual framework contract for the beverages and water
- Contract for calf meat for the year 2022
- Contract for chicken meat for the year 2022



# CHALLENGES

### ACB's Limited Marketing Outreach:

The Afghanistan Cricket Board's limited marketing outreach is a major challenge for the organization which is hindering its ability to secure sponsorship deals with multinational companies. Unfortunately, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) lacks the resources and/or networks to reach out to multinational companies and is unable to effectively connect and engage with them to secure sponsorship deals.

### Lack of Association with Global and Reputed Sports Marketing Agencies:

Having effective relationships with a sports agency could be beneficial for a sports organization like the Afghanistan Cricket Board, as it could provide ACB access to the resources and networks that can help the ACB to properly promote and market its brand and events and subsequently increase revenue through sponsorship and other marketing opportunities. Unfortunately, the Afghanistan Cricket Board lacks association with global and reputed sports marketing agencies and doesn't have access to the networks and expertise that these agencies can provide. This limited access to global net-

works is considered another major challenge for Afghanistan Cricket Board as it often results in less effectiveness of the organization in promoting and marketing itself, which in turn limits the organization's ability to attract more sponsors and increase revenue.

### Budget Constraints (Cost Compromise)

The limitations and restrictions on the number of financial resources at the Afghanistan Cricket Board somehow affected and limited the organization's ability to carry out all its activities, invest in new initiatives, and/or expand its operations. Similarly, this has sometimes led the organization to make compromises on some of its expenses and/or make difficult decisions about how to allocate its limited budget/fund. In addition, the ACB found it difficult to cover all the expenses that are needed to conduct all of its domestic cricketing events and/or run other relevant organizational activities in 2022, which has somehow impacted the ability to achieve organizational goals. Therefore, budget constraints and cost compromise remain major challenges for the Afghanistan Cricket Board over the years.

### Hosting ACB's Home series in Foreign Countries

Hosting bilateral series and other tournaments is a significant challenge for Afghanistan. Since the start of Afghanistan's journey in international cricket, the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has had to host all of its "home" games in neutral countries such as the United Arab Emirates, India, or Qatar. This has resulted in increased expenses for the ACB, as it has to host both the Afghanistan team and the visiting team at the same time, which incurred higher costs for logistical arrangements and accommodation for both teams. This caused the ACB to spend more than what is typically required for hosting a single team.

Hosting ACB's home games in abroad is a significant issue for the Afghanistan Cricket Board as it puts a strain on the budget and has limited the organization's ability to host games and tournaments. It also made it difficult for the organization to promote the game and build a fan base within Afghanistan. Even though Afghanistan Cricket already has a large fan base within Afghanistan, if ACB had been able to host home games within the country, the fan base would have been even larger and more enthusiastic. Hosting games in the country would allow for



more people to have access to the games and would also provide an opportunity for fans to support their team in person. This would increase the overall excitement and interest in the game among the local population, which would in turn lead to a bigger fan base.

### **ACB's Absence as a local entity abroad**

The Afghanistan Cricket Board does not have a physical and legal presence or representation in other countries. It means that the ACB does not have a registered or incorporated address as a local entity in foreign countries, which has somehow limited its ability to build relationships with local potential local partners, promote its brand, and/or seek out sponsorship and other commercial opportunities in those countries. This is also been considered a challenge for the Afghanistan Cricket Board and will surely look forward to coming across it in the near future.

### **Banking and Financial Issues**

The recent political changes in the country have made it more challenging to transfer money into Afghanistan due to imposed international sanctions. This has caused difficulties for the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) as most of its income comes from ICC distributions, the payments, which are made twice a year. However, the ACB's leadership and finance team have been working closely with the ICC to find alternative ways to transfer funds into the country to support the organization overcome this issue in the long-term. Fortunately, through determined efforts, the ACB was able to secure an agreement with Amanacard, (a payment gateway platform that partners with charities and organizations that have difficulties in the absence of banks), to transfer funds into Afghanistan and help the ACB to make necessary payments to employees and vendors.

### **Recognition Process and the Imposed Restrictions on IEA**

The process of gaining formal recognition as an independent state is taking longer time for the Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan, which alongside the restrictions imposed on the government is having a negative impact on overall development efforts. Apart from affecting the country's economy, society, and political stability, these restrictions have also impacted the sporting sector, affecting the operations and development of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) and the game of cricket in the country.

In addition, the travel restrictions and limited governmental formal links with many countries are causing difficulties for the ACB in obtaining the necessary travel documents for players and staff, which causes delays and obstacles for the ACB in its plans to organize events and/or travel to other countries for cricket-related purposes.

Overall, the rapid rise of cricket in Afghanistan and the high level of interest among the population in the game presents both opportunities

approach to meet this challenge and to continue to develop the game in the country.



# WAY FORWARD **TO 2023**

The Afghanistan Cricket Board has a busy schedule in 2023, with a full slate of international matches for the national team and a variety of domestic competitions to develop and promote new talent.

As the country's economy improves following political changes, there will be more opportunities for the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) to secure sponsorship deals for the busy cricket season ahead. The logistical challenges faced in 2022 also led the Afghanistan Cricket Board to find new venues to host home series, and a recent agreement with the Emirates Cricket Board will make it easier for the ACB to conduct its home fixtures there.

One of the main goals for the ACB in 2023 is to ensure the national team is well-prepared for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023 in India. This will involve a mix of home and away tours, which will include hosting teams like Pakistan, Zimbabwe, and the West Indies, as well as visiting countries like Bangladesh, India, and Zimbabwe, apart from participating in the Asia Cup 2023. With more matches and extra game time, the players will get more opportunities to play in different conditions and against different playing styles, which will help them gain more exposure and better prepare for the mega event.

In terms of domestic cricket, the Afghanistan Cricket Board will continue to focus on developing and promoting the game at the grassroots level. ACB has laid out a comprehensive plan for domestic cricket, which is consisted of 13 different cricket tournaments, including competitions for different age groups and two regional events for people with disabilities.

Another key area of focus for the Afghanistan Cricket Board in 2023 will be to secure more financial resources to support the growth and development of the game in Afghanistan. ACB has laid out key strategic plans to generate good revenue through Media Rights, Marketing Revenues and Sponsorship deals.

Infrastructure development is also a priority for the Afghanistan Cricket Board to provide facilities for the current and future potential players by building new cricket grounds & academies, investing in equipment, and creating training facilities for the players to improve their skills.

In addition, the ACB will work to maintain positive and stronger bilateral ties with different stakeholders such as the ICC and other cricketing countries, media outlets and corporate partners to secure more funding and support for cricket in Afghanistan. Similarly, Government support is key in going forward, and in terms of the future plans that we have got for the ACB, we are committed to maintaining effective ties with the government and expect the government to support us all the way through, so we could achieve our organizational objectives.

Overall, the Afghanistan Cricket Board will continue to work towards the development of cricket in Afghanistan by providing the best possible support to the national team and domestic cricket, and by creating a sustainable financial model for the game. The ACB will also ensure to maintain transparency and accountability in all its activities and decisions to build trust and confidence among its stakeholders.





AFGHANISTAN

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA 2022

#T20WorldCup

TARNDANYA

AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIA

AFGHANISTAN

AFGHANISTAN

BYJU'S

BYJU'S

BYJU'S

BYJU'S

4 Good

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA 2022