



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL



**ANNUAL REPORT
& ACCOUNTS
2010**



Asian Cricket Council

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DOOR
AGC U-16
Elite Cup



President's Report

AHM Mustafa Kamal FCA MP



It has been a singular honour to be the President of the Asian Cricket Council this past year. I have come to learn that cricket in Asia extends far beyond the Indian subcontinent and that it thrives in countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Kuwait, Nepal and Thailand.

From the onset I could appreciate that all of the Asian Test-playing countries and all associated with the Asian Cricket Council have a joint responsibility to develop cricket in the non-Test playing countries with all the vast experience and resources we have at our disposal.

No one can be in any doubt of how impoverished the family of cricketing nations would be without the massive public and commercial interest of the Indian subcontinent. The Asia Cup has been instrumental in creating the conditions necessary to promote cricket within the region. The benefits have been immense and the tournament stands as a vital symbol of unity and co-operation across our region in a manner which does great credit to the ACC.

Eighteen of our twenty-two members look to the Test-playing nations for inspiration and support. The four Test-playing nations are the focal point for over a billion cricket-lovers around the world and their successes home and away are to be applauded. The Asian Cricket Council was initially formed to bring these countries closer together under a common banner of fraternal interest. Many administrators and cricket supporters have worked tirelessly over the past 28 years to bring us to the current state of affairs where all the ACC member countries can feel truly united for a common cause.





Given the right conditions and every possible resource with which to develop, countries such as China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Maldives, Oman and Singapore are not far away from making themselves into truly competitive cricketing nations. UAE have long been established as a competitive force and if they develop their young cricketers will continue to succeed. All these countries have an excellent chance of featuring on the world stage in future ICC World Twenty20s.

Our main concern as a sporting body dedicated to raise the standard of play, coaching, curatorship and administration amongst our members, has been to concentrate on a policy of sustained development. Over the last year total playing numbers are up by an average of 11% across the board. From what I have observed there is also an increase in the standards of play. There are more qualified coaches than ever before, more accredited umpires, better trained curators, more educated administrators. The ACC's mission must be to ensure that this broadening and deepening of cricket's base in Asia continues.

The ACC Chief Executive and his colleagues have demonstrated a tireless commitment to the cause of raising the standards of cricket throughout Asia. It has been a modus operandi established by my predecessors as President and their immense contributions to the Asian Cricket Council must be noted.

Cricket Development has been a theme close to my heart for many years in Bangladesh domestic cricket and I have learnt at first hand just how much effort, planning and expenditure is required to achieve worthy things. My canvas of operation became broader and wider still when I took on the responsibility of heading not just Bangladesh cricket, but Asian cricket too.

Being the President of the Asian Cricket Council is an honour which I take very seriously. The Council's ideals as stated in the original constitution: "organising, developing and promoting the game of cricket in Asia" are ideals which I and all former Presidents have steadfastly endorsed.

The funds generated by the Asia Cup, the next edition of which takes place in Bangladesh next year, will go a very long way in making all the tournaments, coaching and umpiring and curators' programs possible and cement the Test-playing countries' support for the great unifying cause of cricket in Asia.

Mustafa Kamal





Micromax Asia Cup 2010 Winners: India



President, International Cricket Council

Sharad Pawar



The date: April 2, 2011. The venue: Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai. The occasion: The ICC Cricket World Cup Final 2011

A remarkable day at the end of possibly the greatest and most exciting in the history of ICC Cricket World Cups was a triumph not only for the India cricket team led by MS Dhoni, it was a triumph for the Asian Cricket Council and Asian cricket as well as the International Cricket Council.

Not only did India triumph, by six wickets, but the brilliant and valiant finalists were Sri Lanka and a third Asian team, Pakistan, reached the semi-final. Three Asian teams in the final four – a remarkable achievement.

But the achievements at this ICC Cricket World Cup were not only on the field but also throughout the cities and countries which hosted this astonishing event.

That's because the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 offered Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka a unique chance to showcase their organizational excellence, the impressive new venues and the unrivalled colour and passion for our Great Sport of cricket.

Our special thanks must go to the Central Organising Committee, which I had the privilege to chair, the individual Boards and the local organizing committees as well as the Governments in the three host countries. Not only can they share in the warm glow of success, they can only also reflect on creating a modern legacy for cricket in the region.

Cricket – world cricket – is now blessed with some of the most modern facilities to rival any sport anywhere in the world. Few cannot have marvelled at the transformation of Chennai, Mirpur, Colombo and of course, the venue of the Final, Mumbai.



President, International Cricket Council

In the next few years Asian cricket can build on this hard-earned reputation with ICC World Twenty20 events in Sri Lanka (2012) and Bangladesh (2014) and also the ICC Women's World Cup in India in 2013. I have no doubt that these events will be further examples of our ability to stage world class events.

The reputation of cricket in Asia was further enhanced in the last year by Afghanistan's triumph in the first-class ICC Intercontinental Cup and especially by the inclusion of the sport in the Asian Games for the first time in Guangzhou in November 2010.

We extend our congratulations to Bangladesh (men) and Pakistan (women) for their gold medal performances and continue to marvel at the growing stature of Afghanistan, who reached the men's Final. The rise of Afghanistan is one of the great successes of recent years and the Asian Games silver came only a few months after they made their debut in the ICC World Twenty20.

As we look forward to the next 12 months we can expect the Asian Cricket Council and Asian cricket to reach even greater degrees of success.

Sharad Pawar
ICC President
ACC President 2005 - 2006



Chief Executive's Review

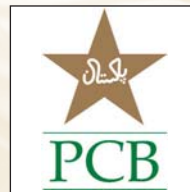
Syed Ashraf ul Huq



It has been a strong year for the Asian Cricket Council, with the completion of the tenth Asia Cup, the eighth ACC Trophy and the co-ordination of cricket at the Asian Games, along with four other tournaments. Of the US\$12.63 million we received from the commercial rights of the Micromax Asia Cup played in Sri Lanka in 2010, US\$8.5 million was allocated to our member countries with US\$2.65 million held in reserve, following expenses.

Asia's main asset is its togetherness and it is this very solidarity that leads to the establishment of the Asia Cup, the revenue from which forms a major part of our funding and which is now re-established on a biennial basis thanks to the co-operation of the Test-playing nations.

The Test-playing nations inspire us in their own way too. Their dynamism, ambition, administrative care and concern, their infrastructure and of course, the boundless skill of their cricketers represent all that every other ACC member aspires to be near and to be a part of.



The Test-playing nations of Asia reasserted their unity in bidding for a World Cup and the award of the 2011 event, and as unfortunate as it was for so many that Pakistan could not be hosts this time, subsequent World Cups to be in Asia every twelve years from now on can only be good for Asia as whole.

Development

Our Development Agenda at the ACC is structured around the stated key objectives of the ICC. These are:

- i) to promote the game within our region by raising cricket participation levels,
- ii) raising standards of coaching, playing, curatorship and umpiring and
- iii) raising the profile of the game in countries which have little or no cricket culture.

Our development strategy is a relatively simple one of grass-roots involvement and investment dovetailing with national squad level activity. The ACC Development Manager in his report will elaborate on the outline I present below. Nevertheless, it is incumbent upon me to stress how gratified I am by the diligence and application of all those who work for the ACC. It is easy enough, when you have the calibre of people such as Bandula Warnapura our Development Manager, who is so ably backed up by Aminul Islam, Venkatesh Prasad, Rumesh Ratnayake and Iqbal Sikander. Umpiring too, is an integral feature in maintaining the integrity of the game and we are honoured by the contributions of such eminences as K.T.Francis, Borni Jamula, Peter Manuel and Mahboob Shah.

Undeniably the catalyst for our activity is the coaching of coaches – when one considers that each coach would be likely to come into contact with twenty players a year – so developing a cadre of top-flight coaches across the region is the most effective way to reach new generations of young cricketers.



The biggest success of development has not just been creating jobs for a generation of former cricketers, rather it has been making the things that really matter to all of us — things like equipment, tournaments, education and facilities — come into being and more widely available.

Tournaments

Keeping an active engagement with 22 member states is no easy task, but our Development Officers maintain a constant level of activity through Coaching Assignments, Tournament Preparation and Course Management in all the countries for which they are responsible.

Our tournament structure has been formalised and countries can expect to have sufficient preparation for all age-group and representative ACC tournaments for all the non-Test playing countries. Already we have seen the fruits of our labours with ACC Trophy champions Afghanistan challenging strongly at world level. Their success in recent years and presence on merit at the ICC World Twenty20 last year, as well as their triumph in the ICC Intercontinental Cup has been an inspiration to all. UAE and Nepal are making strides too, as are Hong Kong and Malaysia, and Afghanistan will have to keep finding new talent in order to stay ahead.



Chief Executive's Review

Women's cricket – first played by ACC countries in 2007 – is now well established on the scene and one of the most heartening aspects of our development work is to see the purity and passion with which these athletes play.

The modern game is about women's cricket as well as men's and it is here that the gap between the traditional centres and the new countries is smaller than in the men's games and also where more native players are prevalent. Development must be about giving as many as possible the chance to play. We have created a whole new generation of national sportspeople with our youth tournaments in the past few years, long may it continue.



First and foremost the Asian Cricket Council is a development body and that is why age-group tournaments are so important. A number of our members have strong youth programs and it is those which are truly creating the foundations of success. The new ACC U-16 competition category heralds a significant step in the evolution of development practice in the ACC. Put in place of U-15 and U-17 tournaments as they featured much of the same players in both tournaments and thus mitigated against creating new players, the sine qua non of development, the U-16 event marks another significant development in the development process with it being the first ACC tournament to insist on each participating team having at least three indigenous boys of the country they represent on the field.

Previously, the minimum number of indigenous players required had been two on the field. It has initially made it difficult on the Middle Eastern countries, as not even children born in those countries become passport-holding citizens. Yet the fact of the matter is, if cricket is to put down roots and grow and break out of the relatively small cradle in which it currently is placed in many countries, it has to be played by, taken up by, as significant and substantial a part of the population as possible.



Three is a start, U-16 cricket is a start. More will come, at U-16 and U-19 cricket in the future and then the senior sides too. Cricket is increasingly an Asian game yet at the same time, it cannot be a game for the people connected to just a few Asian countries.

Because of the ACC mandate that youth teams must field at least three passport-holders in all ACC tournaments, Gulf teams struggled to take part prior to our U-16 Elite tournament in Nepal. The UAE have now taken concerted measures to hold domestic age-group tournaments, starting at U-12 level and that can only help because it just may be the case, with economic opportunities far greater in the subcontinent now than 20-30 years ago, that senior-team players will not be migrating to the Gulf or South-East Asia for work and that the young will access job opportunities in Europe, America, their ancestral homelands or China. Inflows potentially reduced, outflows potentially increased. To sustain success, a whole new source of cricketers will indeed need to be created and trained.

The face of the game is changing in many countries as more and more native players are emerging. Afghanistan is a prime example – cricket was unknown there ten years ago - and in another five years it is quite possible that Bhutan, China, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal and Thailand will all be playing together at ACC Elite Level.

What is most heartening about the progress of these countries is that cricket has created cricket. And it has created cricketers among native sons and daughters. There was no British Empire or Commonwealth game in all but two of those countries. Only when the Afghans spent enforced time in Pakistan and saw the game at its simplest right in front of them did they want to be cricketers. It took 20 years from 1980 to create a team of cricketers good enough to play in their first ACC Trophy in 2004. The core of that team, boosted by the influx of new talent has carried them further since. Pakistan has played a big part in Afghanistan's progress and that is a fact which should be lauded and held as an example of what is possible by way of what Bangladesh and India can do for countries like Bhutan and Nepal, what Sri Lanka can do for the Maldives and so on.



Chief Executive's Review

Much depends on two other factors, Governance and Facilities.

Following through on our activities by creating a solid infrastructure is critical. We have heard from many of our member states about the difficulties of maintaining optimal performance in the absence of adequate training facilities. Indoor schools and floodlit nets where necessary would go a long way to develop player performance.

We have instigated special ground development grants which countries have taken up and in 2010 we saw the inauguration of the Cricket Association of Thailand's own Terdthai Cricket Ground on the outskirts of Bangkok. It is a splendid facility. Myanmar are also creating their own ground at Saw Pong in Yangon and that will undoubtedly lead to better performances by the country's fledgling cricketers.



Cricket is one of the few sports that is played by Myanmar internationally and a good stadium, with the ability to host touring teams as well as allow local cricketers match practise is something that will have a positive social effect. The part cricket has played in uniting Afghanistans behind one common cause has been one of the most remarkable benefits of their ACC and ICC tournament activity.

Governance is critical to any country's long-term success. It is still galling, appalling and quite simply dismaying to encounter inefficiencies in some of our association's activities. When one thinks of the amount of time and money that is wasted by individuals who profess themselves to be agents for a cause bigger than themselves, it hurts. Every unit of production diverted from the out-stretched hand of a child who cannot afford a bat, ball or shoes is a crime. My message to those who are doing wrong, and not doing enough good is that sooner or later your time will be at an end and someone else who will do more and do better will come along to expose your achievements in their true perspective.

The Asian Games and China

It is important to remember that cricket is about far more than the professional game. Millions of people play, coach, umpire, curate, administrate and watch cricket at the grassroots level, in many cases they are supported by the revenues generated by the professional games of the ACC and ICC.

Last year, cricket became a medal sport in the Asian Games for the first time. If we are saying that cricket is an Asian game, if Asia is the true home of world cricket, then it is appropriately part of the biggest sporting event in Asia. At the invitation of the Olympic Council of Asia the ACC from the outset provided technical expertise, staffing support and all manner of guidance to the Guangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee and Chinese Cricket Association in order to showcase cricket's presence in a brand new territory. Developing new formats for cricket is a fine thing, developing new forums for the game is of equal merit.

Along with the Asian Games at the end of the year, the biennial South Asian Games in Bangladesh in January 2010 had cricket feature in it for the first time in its 26-year history. Three of the Test-playing nations plus Nepal and the Maldives competed.





China has dominated recent thinking with regards to globalising the game and much has been learnt about the challenges facing us.

China's land-mass by itself is the equivalent of the rest of Asia's, as is its population. For cricket to be noticed will take time. The Asian Games in Guangzhou, and the creation of a marvelous new world-class stadium for the teams taking part in the cricket event there in November was a terrific boost. As were China's women's stirring performances in narrowly missing out on a bronze medal. Pakistan were worthy winners of the women's event, and Bangladesh won a thrilling men's final over Afghanistan.

The ICC Chief Executive Haroon Lorgat and Special Adviser to the ICC President Inderjit Singh Bindra were at the men's medal presentation ceremony in Guangzhou. They were as humbled as I was by the scope and scale of sporting endeavour on display during the Games. Pakistan's women won their first Asian Games gold medal for decades in Guangzhou and Bangladesh's men won the nation's first ever gold. Cricket is big, national sport is biggest, international sport is bigger than all. Cricket won many new fans that day in Guangzhou, as it has done over the years in the countries of all those who took part in the Asian Games. Can we ever have enough fans, can we ever be content with the following that we have? Everything in the minds of those with a missionary zeal or a mercenary spirit will surely say not. Expanding cricket's reach is a win-win situation for all.

The Games themselves brought a different perspective to cricket as part of the second biggest multi-sport event in the world after the Olympics. The Asian Games mean a great deal for the smaller countries. They get additional grants from the Olympic councils for their development, bringing in additional benefits for everybody.



Chief Executive's Review



Winning matches and tournaments here and there is a common feature in many cricketers' lives. Winning World Cups and gold medals is a pinnacle in the life of any athlete and one that is understood by anyone in the world; treasured beyond measure by all.

The next step is to get India, the financial powerhouse of the world game, involved. In due course, given the fact that Twenty20 cricketers are increasingly differentiated from those who play the longer versions of the game, there is a greater chance that a representative side will be sent to join Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and the other participants, in the event.

There was a slight concern that Guangzhou would be a one-off until certain assurances were given to South Korea, the next hosts of the Asian Games at Incheon in 2014, by the Olympic Council of Asia (who know what a fillip to the Games, cricket's presence is) and ourselves, that the Asian Cricket Council would provide full technical assistance to construct the ground and to run the event as we had to the Guangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee.

Take away the medals, and what is left after the Asian Games is a cricket facility which can be used by ourselves, China and Hong Kong on a regular basis.

Our involvement, let's call it an investment, in 'The China Project' with a substantial amount put in is still the single largest sum spent on an ACC member-country this year, like the three before it. China because of its size and population is indeed a 'special case' and as with any investment, timing is critical and a medium- to long-term view must be taken. Once China's cricketers become established as a sporting force than every game they play, no matter at what level, has a chance of becoming a commercial venture.

A few years ago in my review I stated that the ACC and Chinese Cricket Association had established that US\$2 million is needed per year if cricket is to make sufficient impact on a scale sufficient to create self-sustaining development of cricketers across the mass of China, a country with a surface area the same size as the rest of Asia, with a population to match.



All the money being spent in China is with the aim of investing in cricket's future. It is one thing to offer an existing market a different product e.g. the Indian Premier League, it is another to offer a new market a new consumer. I've said it before and I'll say it again, China's participation on the global cricket stage will boost cricket's revenues greatly, not necessarily at the Test-playing countries' level but for all those Associates and Affiliates who will need a sporting giant to tour, host and play against. The support of Pakistan in particular, India and Bangladesh too has been tremendous and has played a significant part in improving China's cricket.

All the Presidents I have served under have made immense contributions to the game and I have learnt much from them. I am grateful that the Executive Board members are such strong supporters of our development charter and that we enjoy such a healthy relationship with the International Cricket Council. Its President Mr. Sharad Pawar has been an exemplar of grace and calming good sense during his time in office. I trust that we will all continue to benefit from his legacy in the years ahead.

Syed Ashraful Huq



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL



The Formation of the ACC

The ACC was formed in New Delhi on the 19th of September 1983, as the Asian Cricket Conference. The aims and objectives as stated in the original constitution were "organising, developing and promoting the game of Cricket in Asia" Aims to which it has adhered ever since.

The first Office Bearers of the ACC were:

President – N.K. P. Salve MP

Vice President – Gamini Dissanayake MP

Hon. Secretary – A.W. Kanmadikar

Hon. Joint Secretary – Syed Ashrafuq Huq

Hon. Treasurer – M. A. Chidambaram

The founding members of the ACC were Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore and Sri Lanka. Membership subsequently increased first with Hong Kong, then the UAE, followed by Nepal in 1990. Myanmar is the most recent member, joining the ACC in 2005.

In 1993 the Asian Cricket Conference became the Asian Cricket Council. There are two categories of membership at the ACC - Full and Associate – with the Test-playing countries and ICC Associate countries (Hong Kong, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, UAE) being accorded Full Member Status with the rest of the member countries ranked as ACC Associates.

It has been a steadfast policy of the ACC to expand the game and to take it boldly into new territories and thus truly globalise the game. Development activities go hand in hand with tournament activities in order to carry forward the original aims of the ACC.

Fiji, Japan and Papua New Guinea have all been members of the ACC and have competed in ACC Trophies. Following the ICC's formation of the East Asia-Pacific Region for development activity in that region, these countries ceded membership of the ACC.

Until December 1999 all administrative positions of the ACC were honorary. Since 1999 the Secretary and Treasurer have been drawing remuneration. Up to 2003 the headquarters of the ACC were shifted every two years with the biennial rotation of the President's and Secretary's home country. Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia was chosen to be the permanent headquarters of the Asian Cricket Council from the latter part of 2003.

Delegates at the Inaugural ACC Meeting on September 19 and 20, 1983, New Delhi



Standing (left to right): Prof. M.V. Chandgadkar (India), R. S. Mahendra (India), A.Sajjad (Pakistan), Q. Noorani (UAE), A. R. Falaknaz (UAE), S.K. Wankhede (India), M.A. Chidambaram (India), P.M. Rungta (India), S.Sriraman (India), M. Jaikishan (India), I.S. Bindra (India), J. Dalmiya (India)

Seated (left to right): A.Abbasi (Pakistan), A.R. Bukhatir (UAE), D.S.Gill (Malaysia), Air Marshal (Retd.) Nur Khan (Pakistan), N.K.P.Salve (India), G.Dissanayake MP (Sri Lanka), S.A. Huq (Bangladesh), N. Mohamed (Sri Lanka), A.W. Kanmadikar (India)

Member Countries

MEMBER COUNTRIES	ACC Member	ICC Member
 Bangladesh	1983	2000 (Full)
 India	1983	1926 (Full)
 Pakistan	1983	1953 (Full)
 Sri Lanka	1983	1981 (Full)
 Afghanistan	2003	2001 (Affiliate)
 Bahrain	2003	2001 (Affiliate)
 Bhutan	2001	2001 (Affiliate)
 Brunei	1996	2002 (Affiliate)
 China	2004	2004 (Affiliate)
 Hong Kong	1983	1969 (Associate)
 Iran	2003	2003 (Affiliate)
 Kuwait	1996	2005 (Associate)
 Malaysia	1983	1967 (Associate)
 Maldives	1996	1998 (Affiliate)
 Myanmar	2005	2006 (Affiliate)
 Nepal	1990	1996 (Associate)
 Oman	2000	2000 (Affiliate)
 Qatar	2000	1999 (Affiliate)
 Saudi Arabia	2003	2003 (Affiliate)
 Singapore	1983	1974 (Associate)
 Thailand	1996	2005 (Associate)
 UAE	1984	1990 (Associate)

The ACC was originally formed as the Asian Cricket Conference in 1983, changing its name to the Asian Cricket Council in 1993.

The ICC was originally formed as the Imperial Cricket Conference, changing its name to the International Cricket Conference in 1965 and then to the International Cricket Council in 1989.

Myanmar is the newest member of the ACC. Kuwait and Thailand became Associates of the ICC in 2005. Afghanistan is currently the only Affiliate nation to have ever played ODIs.



Office Bearers 1983 - 2010

OFFICE BEARERS 1983 - 2010



1983 - 1985:

President	N. K. P. Salve
Vice President	Gamini Dissanayake
Hon. Secretary	A. W. Kanmadikar
Hon. Treasurer	M. A. Chidambaram
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq



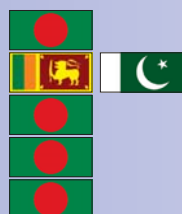
1985 - 1987

President	Gamini Dissanayake
Vice President	Lt. Gen. G.S. Butt
Hon. Secretary	Nuski Mohamed
Hon. Treasurer	Chandra Schaffter
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq



1987 - 1989

President	Lt. Gen. G.S. Butt / Lt. Gen. Zahid Ali Akhbar Khan
Vice President	S. Sri Raman / B. N. Dutt
Hon. Secretary	M. Ijaz Butt / A.A.K. Abbasi
Hon. Treasurer	Fasihuddin Khan
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq



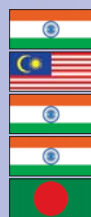
1989 - 1991

President	Anisul Islam Mahmud
Vice President	Nuski Mohamed / A. A. K. Abbasi
Hon. Secretary	Tanveer Mazhar Islam
Hon. Treasurer	Hafizul Islam
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq



1991 - 1993

President	Abdulrahman Bukhatir
Vice President	Harbans Singh
Hon. Secretary	Qasim Noorani
Hon. Treasurer	Mohammad Redha Abbas
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq



1993 - 1994

President	Madhavrao Scindia
Vice President	Tunku Imran
Hon. Secretary	C. Nagaraj
Hon. Treasurer	P. R. Mindle
Hon. Jt. Secretary	Syed Ashraful Huq

OFFICE BEARERS 1983 - 2010



1994 - 1997

President	I. S. Bindra
Vice President	Tunku Imran
Hon. Secretary	Jagmohan Dalmiya
Hon. Treasurer	S. K. Nair
Administration Officer	Syed Ashrafu Huq



1997 - 1998

President	Upali Dharmadasa
Vice President	Tunku Imran
Hon. Secretary	Tryphon Mirando
Hon. Treasurer	E. B. K. Weerasuriya
Administration Officer	Syed Ashrafu Huq



1998 - 1999

President	Thilanga Sumathipala
Vice President	Tunku Imran
Hon. Secretary	Saliya Ahangama
Hon. Treasurer	Nuski Mohamed



1999

President	Mujeeb Ur Rehman / Zafar Altaf
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2000 - 2002

President	Lt. Gen. Tauqir Zia
Vice President	Tunku Imran
Secretary	Zakir Hussain Syed
Hon. Treasurer	Mohammad Naeem



2002 - 2004

President	Mohammad Ali Asghar
Vice President	Tunku Imran
Hon. Secretary	Syed Ashrafu Huq
Hon. Treasurer	Habib-Ur-Rehman



2004 - 2006

President	Jagmohan Dalmiya / Sharad Pawar
Vice President	Jai Kumar Nath Shah



2006 - 2008

President	Jayantha Dharmadasa / Arjuna Ranatunga
Vice President	K. H. Imran



Office Bearers 1983 - 2010

OFFICE BEARERS 1983 - 2010



2008

President

Dr. Nasim Ashraf / Ijaz Butt

Vice President

P. Krishnasamy



2009

President

Ijaz Butt

Vice President

P. Krishnasamy / Tunku Imran



2010 -

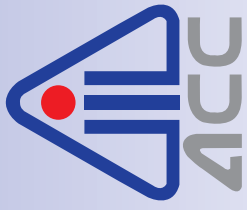
President

AHM Mustafa Kamal

Vice President

Binaya Raj Pandey





Delegates at the ACC Annual General Meeting in Singapore, June 30 2010



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

**ACC EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS
at December 31, 2010**



- Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal FCA MP – Bangladesh Cricket Board President, ACC President
- Mr. Binaya Raj Pandey – Cricket Association of Nepal President, ACC Vice-President
- Mr. Shashank Manohar – Board of Control for Cricket in India President
- Mr. Ijaz Butt – Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman
- Mr. D.S. De Silva – Sri Lanka Cricket Chairman
- Mr. Gazi Ashraf Hossain - Bangladesh Cricket Board Director
- Khwaja Imran – Singapore Cricket Association President
- Mr. Ravi Sehgal – Cricket Association of Thailand Chairman
- Mr. Pankaj Khimji – Oman Cricket Board Member
- Mr. Manzur Ahmed – Bangladesh Cricket Board Chief Executive Officer, Ex Officio
- Mr. N. Srinivasan – Board of Control for Cricket in India Honorary Secretary, Ex Officio
- Mr. Subhan Ahmed – Chief Operating Officer Pakistan Cricket Board, Ex Officio
- Mr. Nishantha Ranatunga - Sri Lanka Cricket Secretary, Ex Officio
- Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq – ACC Chief Executive, Ex Officio



**ACC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE at
December 31, 2010**

- Mr. D.S. De Silva – Chairman
- Mr. Binaya Raj Pandey – Cricket Association of Nepal President
- Mr. John Cribbin – Hong Kong Cricket Association Honorary Secretary
- Mr. Asad Baig – Kuwait Cricket Director General
- Mr. Manzoor Ahmad – Qatar Cricket Association General Secretary
- Ms. Shubhangi Kulkarni – Board of Control for Cricket in India Women's Committee Convenor
- Mr. Ijaz Butt – Ex Officio
- Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq – Ex Officio
- Mr. Bandula Warnapura – ACC Development Manager, Convenor



**ACC FINANCE & MARKETING
COMMITTEE at December 31, 2010**

- Mr. N. Srinivasan – Chairman
- Mr. Sujeewa Rajapakse - Sri Lanka Cricket Treasurer
- Mr. Subhan Ahmed
- Mr. Dinesh Tandon – Hong Kong Cricket Association Chairman
- Mr. AHM Mustafa Kamal - Ex Officio
- Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq – Ex Officio
- Mr. Thusith Perera – ACC Finance Manager, Convenor, Ex Officio



ACC WOMEN'S COMMITTEE *at December 31, 2010*

Ms. Shubhangi Kulkarni – Chairperson
Mrs. Monowar Anis Khan – Bangladesh Cricket Board
Mrs. Bushra Aitzaz – Pakistan Cricket Board
Ms. Vanessa de Silva – Sri Lanka Cricket
Mrs. Alice Jones – Hong Kong Cricket Association
Mr. Mustafa Kamal – Ex Officio
Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq – Ex Officio
Mr. Bandula Warnapura – Ex Officio



ACC DEVELOPMENT TEAM *at December 31, 2010*

Mr. Bandula Warnapura
Mr. Aminul Islam – Development Officer
Mr. Venkatesh Prasad – Development Officer
Mr. Rumesh Ratnayake - Development Officer
Mr. Iqbal Sikander - Development Officer
Mr. K.T. Francis - Resource Person (Umpiring)
Mr. Borni Jamula - Resource Person (Umpiring)
Mr. Peter Manuel - Resource Person (Umpiring)
Mr. Mahboob Shah – Resource Person (Umpiring)



ACC SECRETARIAT STAFF

Mr. Syed Ashraful Huq – Chief Executive
Mr. Bandula Warnapura – Development Manager
Mr. Ganesan Sundarammoorthy – Development Program Coordinator
Ms. Susan Moorthy - Development Program Assistant
Mr. Thusith Perera – Finance Manager
Mr. Philip Lee - Finance Executive
Mrs. Noor Faizah Dolah – Finance Assistant
Mrs. Juhaida Mohd. Hata – Accounts & Administration Clerk
Miss Sharifah Hafsah - Accounts & Administration Clerk
Mr. Shahriar Khan – Media Manager
Miss Anna Lalitha – PA to the Chief Executive
Miss Rina Erlin – Receptionist
Mr. Mohamed Suhaili – Office Assistant/Driver
Mr. Devadas Kalidas– Office Assistant/Driver



Development Manager's Report

Bandula Warnapura



Since the development program was introduced in year 2002, the number of activities, programs and events has grown significantly. Along the journey, we have witnessed changes, new ideas, restructuring, revitalizing and revolution towards our programs. Our main focus currently is to create and develop quality teams, education personnel, umpires, curators and scorers.

The Pepsi ICC World Cricket League is a very significant event of the International Cricket for the non-Test playing countries. The League has created a remarkable pathway for the Asian non-Test playing countries to elevate themselves. Afghanistan has really benefited from the League, rising from Divisions 5 to 1, gained ODI status until 2013. They played the ICC World Twenty20 qualifier in Dubai last February, winning the tournament. This ensured them a spot at the ICC World Twenty20 in the West Indies UAE just missed out on qualifying for that World Cup. We would like to witness more

teams in our region playing a higher level of cricket with the full members in the near future.

Teams participating in the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League from the Asian regions are, in order of rankings, Afghanistan, UAE, Hong Kong, Oman, Nepal, Bahrain, Singapore, Malaysia, Kuwait and Bhutan. Even though we often find ourselves in a situation where Asian teams knock each other out, the Asian teams played exceptionally well and made great progress moving forward towards the higher Divisions.



In a year of great success, across all formats they played, Afghanistan beat Scotland by seven wickets to win the ICC Intercontinental Cup. UAE finished as

runners up in the ICC Intercontinental Shield. In a year of great revenue for Afghanistan too, the Afghanistan Cricket Board was awarded prize money of US\$100,000 for winning the I Cup. UAE received US\$ 10,000 from the ICC for finishing second in the Shield.

The ACC has appointed former India international cricketer Venkatesh Prasad as its new Development Officer. He replaces Roger Binny in the role. Venkatesh will be working with Qatar, Thailand and UAE primarily as well as running the High Performance Programs of our top countries.

Besides that, the ACC has appointed Borni Jamula as an Umpiring Resource Person. Borni joins K.T.Francis, Mahboob Shah and Peter Manuel on the panel which oversees ACC umpires' coaching programs and activity.



Cricket at Asian Games 2010 has been a great success; we foresee that the game of cricket will have additional impact in the non-Test Playing Countries as a result. Recently we have received positive responses from many Asian countries wanting to introduce cricket in their respective countries which provides a good signal for the development of the game.

Venkatesh Prasad

Coach and Umpires Educators – Local

We have selected and appointed Coach and Umpire Educators for each of our member countries after conducting training courses.

These Educators will conduct local Level 0 courses in their respective countries and then ACC will conduct ACC Level 1 courses for the qualified, active and the interested candidates. This will cut down funds spent unnecessarily on non-active officials and will also reduce the number of our ACC educational courses at grass root level.

ACC-qualified umpires stood in the Asian Games and others have featured in the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League.



Development Manager's Report

Update on Facilities Development:

- Afghanistan – Almost finalizing the construction of new grounds (supported by UNICEF and the U.S. Embassy)
- Bhutan – 10 new astroturf side wickets and two centre pitches are to be constructed
- Hong Kong – Kai Tak ground to be developed
- Iran – Ground development proposed in three new cities. Estimates submitted
- Kuwait – New international stadium in progress and will be ready within two years
- Maldives – Developing indoor facilities and a pavilion as well as a new ground
- Myanmar – Proposal and estimate for Saw Pong ground approved
- Nepal – Work on Mulpani for a national academy and stadium is in progress. TU ground to develop as reported by the ICC
- Oman – Submitted a proposal and estimate for ground/ stadium development
- Saudi Arabia – Awaiting estimate and proposal for the construction of turf wickets at Damman and a stadium in Riyadh
- Thailand – Completion of Terdthai Ground in November 2010

We are greatly thankful to our four-Test playing countries for extending support to our above program and we look forward to their continuing support for future programs. This year once again we were able to achieve 100% implementation of our Development Program.

Bandula Warnapura





The ACC Non-Test Playing Countries Tournament Rankings

Purpose:

To categorize the member countries by performance in competitions.
 To motivate the member countries to have performance competition goals.
 To reward the member countries on their performance in ACC competitions.

Method:

The ACC ranking system is based on a 2-year cycle for men's cricket, as the range of age-group tournaments and ACC Trophy are completed over 2 years.

The rankings are determined on the teams' placings in the ACC Trophys, ACC U-19 and U-16 Cups.

The teams with the minimum aggregate ranking points based on their finishing positions in the tournaments are ranked highest.

ACC Trophy Elite 2010 Ranking/Points	ACC U-19 Elite 2009 Ranking/Points	ACC U-16 Elite 2010 Ranking/Points	FINAL COMBINED Ranking/Points
1. Afghanistan	1. Hong Kong	1. Singapore	1. Nepal
2. Nepal	2. Afghanistan	2. Nepal	2. Hong Kong
3. Hong Kong	3. Nepal	3. Malaysia	3. Malaysia
4. Malaysia	4. Qatar	4. Hong Kong	4. Afghanistan
5. Oman	5. Malaysia	5. Saudi Arabia	5. Singapore
6. UAE	6. UAE	6. Bahrain	6. Oman
7. Kuwait	7. Oman	7. Kuwait	7. Saudi Arabia
8. Bhutan	8. Singapore	8. Thailand	8. Kuwait
9. Singapore	9. Saudi Arabia	18. Qatar*	9. UAE
10. Bahrain*	10. Bhutan	18. UAE*	10. Bhutan

The ACC Non-Test Playing Countries Tournament Rankings

ACC Trophy Challenge 2010 Ranking/Points	ACC U-19 Challenge 2009 Ranking/Points	ACC U-16 Challenge 2010 Ranking/Points	FINAL COMBINED Ranking/Points
11. Maldives	11. Bahrain	11. Oman	11. Thailand
12. Saudi Arabia	12. Thailand	12. Iran	12. Bahrain
13. Qatar	13. Kuwait	13. Afghanistan	13. Qatar
14. Thailand	14. China	14. Bhutan	14. Maldives
15. Iran	15. Maldives	15. China	15. Iran
16. China	16. Myanmar	16. Maldives	16. China
17. Brunei	17. Iran	17. Myanmar	17. Myanmar
18. Myanmar	18. Brunei	18. Brunei*	18. Brunei

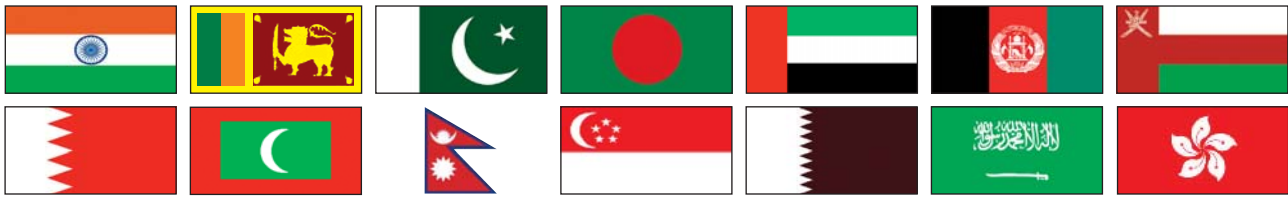
(*) Did not participate

The combined rankings for 2009 and 2010 will stay in place until December 2012. The top two teams in each Challenge competition are promoted into the following two-year cycle's Elite Division. The bottom two teams in each Elite competition are relegated to the Challenge Division in the following cycle.

The ACC Women's Tournaments are not included in the rankings system as not all members are participating in them. Countries who have not participated are given 18 points for each tournament missed.



Asian Cricket Council Champions



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL CHAMPIONS

ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

Asia Cup



ASIA CUP

- 1984, Sharjah: Champions **India**, runners-up Pakistan
- 1986, Sri Lanka: Champions **Sri Lanka**, runners-up Pakistan (India absent)
- 1988, Bangladesh: Champions **India**, runners-up Sri Lanka
- 1991, India: Champions **India**, runners-up Sri Lanka (Pakistan absent)
- 1995, Sharjah: Champions **India**, runners-up Sri Lanka
- 1997, Sri Lanka: Champions **Sri Lanka**, runners-up India
- 2000, Bangladesh: Champions **Pakistan**, runners-up Sri Lanka
- 2004, Sri Lanka: Champions **Sri Lanka**, runners-up India
- 2008, Pakistan: Champions **Sri Lanka**, runners-up India
- 2010, Sri Lanka: Champions **India**, runners-up Sri Lanka



ASIAN TEST CHAMPIONSHIP

Asian Test Championship

- 1999: Champions **Pakistan**, runners-up Sri Lanka (Bangladesh absent)
- 2001-2002: Champions **Pakistan**, runners-up Sri Lanka (India absent)

Afro-Asia Cup



- 2005, South Africa: The three-match ODI series between Africa and Asia was tied
- 2007, India: Asia beat Africa 3-0 in the ODI series, Asia beat Africa in the Twenty20 international, Asia Women beat Africa Women in their Twenty20 international



ACC TROPHY

ACC Trophy

- 1996, Malaysia: Champions **Bangladesh**, runners-up UAE
- 1998, Nepal: Champions **Bangladesh**, runners-up Malaysia
- 2000, UAE: Champions **UAE**, runners-up Hong Kong
- 2002, Singapore: Champions **UAE**, runners-up Nepal
- 2004, Malaysia: Champions **UAE**, runners-up Oman
- 2006, Malaysia: Champions **UAE**, runners-up Hong Kong

ACC Trophy Elite

- 2008, Malaysia: Champions **Hong Kong**, runners-up UAE
- 2010, Kuwait: Champions **Afghanistan**, runners-up Nepal



Trophy Elite



Trophy Challenge

ACC Trophy Challenge

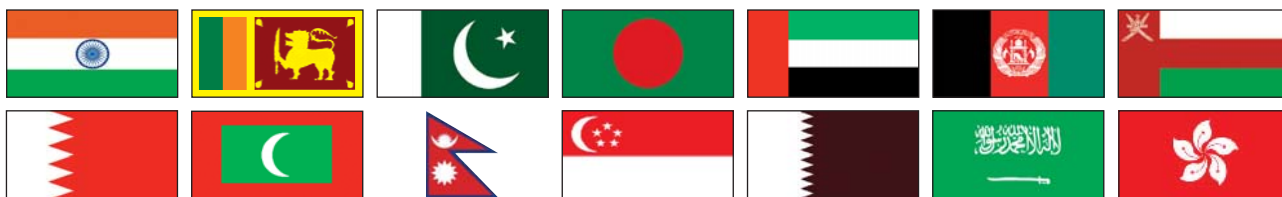
- 2009, Thailand: Champions **Oman**, runners-up Bhutan
- 2010, Thailand: Champions **Maldives**, runners-up Saudi Arabia

ACC Twenty20 Cup

- 2007, Kuwait: Champions **Afghanistan** and **Oman**
- 2009, UAE: Champions **Afghanistan**, runners-up UAE



Asian Cricket Council Champions



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL CHAMPIONS



Fast Track
Countries Tournament

Fast Track Countries Tournament

2004-2005, Champions **UAE**, runners-up Hong Kong

2005-2006, Champions **Nepal**, runners-up UAE

Premier League

2006-2007, Champions Nepal, runners-up UAE



PREMIER
LEAGUE



EMERGING
NATIONS

Emerging Nations Tournament

2004, Kuwait: Champions **Oman**, runners-up Bahrain

2005, Thailand: Champions **Maldives**, runners-up Thailand

2006, Kuwait: Champions **Bahrain**, runners-up Afghanistan

2006, Thailand: Champions **Maldives**, runners-up Thailand

U-19 Afro-Asia Cup

2005, India: Champions **India**, runners-up Sri Lanka



Afro-Asia
U-19 Cup



U-19 Asia Cup

U-19 Asia Cup

1997, Hong Kong: Champions **Bangladesh**, runners-up Papua New Guinea

1999, Singapore: Champions **Bangladesh**, runners-up Nepal

2001, Nepal: Champions **Nepal**, runners-up Malaysia

2003, Pakistan: Champions **Nepal**, runners-up Malaysia

ACC U-19 Cup

2005, Nepal: Champions **Nepal**, runners-up Malaysia



U-19 Cup



U-19 Cup
Elite

ACC U-19 Elite Cup

2007, Malaysia: Champions **Nepal**, runners-up Afghanistan

2009, Kuwait: Champions **Hong Kong**, runners-up Afghanistan

ACC U-19 Challenge Cup

2008, Thailand: Champions **Saudi Arabia**, runners-up Bhutan

2009, Thailand: Champions **Bahrain**, runners-up Thailand



U-19 Cup
Challenge



U-17
ASIA CUP

U-17 Junior Asia Cup

2000, Pakistan: Champions **Sri Lanka**, runners-up Pakistan

2001, Bangladesh: Champions **India**, runners-up Bangladesh

2004, India: Champions **Pakistan**, runners-up India

ACC U-17 Cup

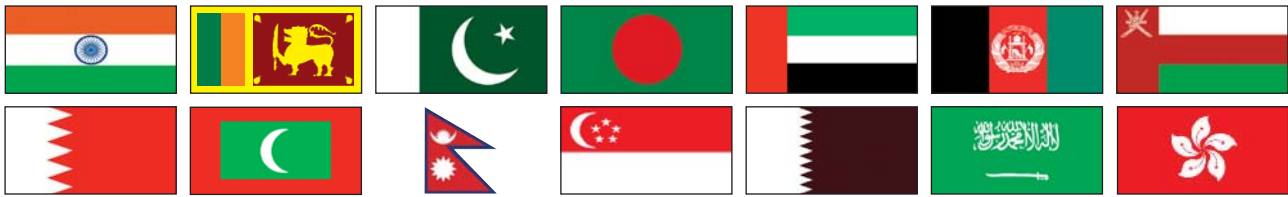
2005, Malaysia: Abandoned at semi-final stage due to inclement weather



U-17 CUP



Asian Cricket Council Champions



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL CHAMPIONS



**U-17 Cup
Elite**

ACC U-17 Elite Cup

2009, Nepal: Champions **Nepal**, runners-up Malaysia

ACC U-17 Challenge Cup

2008, Thailand: Champions **Afghanistan**, runners-up Oman



**U-17 Cup
Challenge**



ACC U-16 Elite Cup

2010, Nepal: Champions **Singapore**, runners-up Nepal

ACC U-16 Challenge Cup

2010, Malaysia: Champions **Oman**, runners-up Iran



Challenge Cup



**U-15
ASIA CUP**

U-15 Asia Cup

2000, Malaysia: Champions **India**, runners-up Pakistan

2002, UAE: Champions **Pakistan**, runners-up Sri Lanka

ACC U-15 Cup

2005, UAE: Champions **Nepal**, runners-up Afghanistan



U-15 Cup



**U-15 CUP
Elite**

ACC U-15 Elite Cup

2006, Malaysia: Champions **Nepal**, runners-up UAE

2007, Nepal: Champions **Singapore**, runners-up Kuwait

ACC U-15 Challenge Cup

2006, Thailand: Champions **Oman**, runners-up Bhutan

2007, Thailand: Champions **Qatar**, runners-up Bhutan



**U-15 CUP
CHALLENGE**



**Women's
Tournament**

ACC Women's Tournament

2007, Malaysia: Champions **Bangladesh**, runners-up Nepal

ACC Women's Twenty20 Championship

2009, Malaysia: Champions **Hong Kong**, runners-up Thailand



**Women's Twenty20
Championship**



**U-19 Women's
Championship**

ACC U-19 Women's Championship

2008, Thailand: Champions **Nepal**, runners-up Malaysia

2010, Singapore: Champions **Nepal**, runners-up Bhutan



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

ACC Tournaments

Micromax Asia Cup

ACC Trophy Elite

ACC Trophy Challenge

ACC U-16 Elite

ACC U-16 Challenge

ACC U-19 Women's Championship

Micromax Asia Cup

India Win

Dambulla, Sri Lanka: June 15 to 24, 2010
Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
1 venue, 7 matches

In a repeat of the 2004 and 2008 Asia Cup Finals, India took on Sri Lanka but this time it was India who triumphed. "This was a very satisfying win for us since we won three out of four games," Dhoni said. "It was an important tournament, four of the best sides were playing, and each side was quite balanced, overall happy with the performance."

India dominated a lacklustre Sri Lanka in the Final, which came as a surprise to many for in the round-robin match between the sides just two days earlier, Sri Lanka had won by 7 wickets with 75 balls remaining chasing 209. When it mattered most however Sri Lanka's fielding particularly let them down, India winning the Final by 81 runs.



ASIA CUP



ACC Tournaments



The tournament opened with an exciting game between Sri Lanka and Pakistan in which new Pakistan captain Shahid Afridi made 109 coming in at No. 6 before cramp and the fact that no other batsman could make more than 30, causing Pakistan to fall short by 16 runs in their chase of 242.

The game between India and Pakistan four days later was even better. Pakistan made 267 which looked a good score but in a perfectly-paced run chase, India never lost their momentum and won by three wickets with one ball to spare.



Bangladesh's bowlers struggled and their batsmen never really got going, their highest score being 246 against Pakistan, chasing 385, with Junaid Siddique making 97.



ACC Tournaments

With both teams having an eye to World Cup 2011 encounters, the Final was a chance for markers to be laid and it was India who showed the depth and focus of their batting line-up in methodically posting 268. Then, with conditions in the bowlers' favour, with India's Praveen Kumar, Zaheer Khan and Ashish Nehra finding swing and bite off the wicket. Sri Lanka's top-order struggled. Dilshan fell in the first over and at 51 for 5 with Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakarra out also, the game was over a contest.



"We need to improve our fielding, but one good thing, we had a few youngsters who did really well, so we don't really have to hide too many in this side," said the victorious Dhoni afterwards. "All our fielders are not brilliant but it was good in this series, if we gradually improve our fielding till the World Cup, we will be a safe fielding side, and fielding really contributes in one-dayers."



Micromax Asia Cup 2010

Final: Sri Lanka v India at Dambulla

INDIA WON BY 81 RUNS

India won the toss and chose to bat

India: 268 for 6 off 50 overs (D.Karthik 66, MS Dhoni 38, R.Sharma 41)

Sri Lanka 187 all out off 44.4 overs (T.Kandamby 31, C.Kapugedera 55*: A.Nehra 4-40)

Man of the Match: Dinesh Karthik



Player of the Tournament : Shahid Afridi

TOP BATSMEN

Qualification: 150 runs

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
Shahid Afridi		265	124	88.33	164.59
Gautam Gambhir		203	73	46.00	82.85
Kumar Sangakarra		184	79	41.60	73.01
Mahendra Singh Dhoni		173	56	57.66	78.99
Mahela Jayawardene		161	54	53.66	87.02

TOP BOWLERS

Qualification: 6 wickets

		W	Avg	BB	Econ
Lasith Malinga		9	14.00	5-34	4.44
Ashish Nehra		6	21.00	4-40	5.72
Zaheer Khan		6	24.66	2-36	5.01
Praveen Kumar		6	25.00	3-53	4.41



ACC Trophy Elite 2010

Kuwait: March 31 to April 9, 2010
Afghanistan, Bhutan, Hong Kong, Kuwait,
Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Singapore, UAE
3 venues, 22 matches – 50 overs a side



Afghanistan's Year

Following on from their triumph in the ACC Twenty20 Cup four months earlier Afghanistan confirmed their senior-team's strengths with a win in the ACC's leading 50-over tournament. They beat Nepal in the Final by 95 runs, blowing away the Nepali batsmen with a battery of well-directed pace-bowling.

Afghanistan came good when it mattered but had been pushed close in the group stage by a resurgent Malaysia who lost by just one run, and had earlier lost to UAE by two wickets in the last over, defending 217. The loss to Malaysia would have left Afghanistan with no chance of reaching the Final. Malaysia, chasing 236 for victory for 219 for 4 at the start of the 45th over but lost their last six wickets for the addition of just 16 more runs, the last man Sharulnizam Yusof being caught behind off the bowling of Nawroz Mangal with one ball remaining. "We shouldn't be in a position to lose to Malaysia, but what it proved is that we are fighters, we never give up and in a bowler like Hamid Hassan have someone who is not only devastating to the tail but can get out well-set batsmen at any time too," said Afghanistan coach Kabir Khan.

Malaysia impressed throughout the tournament, defeating UAE who had earlier beat Afghanistan, to progress to the semi-final. They met Nepal there who themselves were showing a more assertive side to their game. No longer content to simply prey on the opposition's mistakes, they were taking the game to their opponents and absolutely destroyed Hong Kong, Singapore, Kuwait and Oman in their group matches. "We realised that we had to change the way we play, teams are playing better especially at senior-level and the modern game, since the introduction of Twenty20 means that to win you have to not only score quicker than ever, you have to consistently take wickets," said Nepal's captain Paras Khadka.



Nepal were pushed hard by Malaysia in their semi-final. Having made their highest score of the tournament, 271, with Sharad Vesawkar top-scoring with 97, they then found themselves on the receiving end of a hard-hitting innings by Suresh Navaratnam who made 115 off 103 deliveries, to take Malaysia to the very brink of victory before he was caught off Paras Khadka off a swirler at cover. Nepal won by just eight runs.

Afghanistan had an easier time of it in their semi-final against Hong Kong though their top-order were still struggling as they had been all tournament. Afghanistan batted first in the Final; Nepal's bowlers and fielders stuck to their task well and never let the Afghan batsmen get on top. Until, that is, star all-rounder Mohammad Nabi joined senior batsman Raees Ahmadzai with the score at 114 for 6 in the 31st over. Raess (52 off 64 balls, using a runner for much of his innings) and Nabi (48 off 46 balls) put on 97 off 103 and gave their team's score some respectability in front of 5000 loudly-cheering fans, 20% of whom were estimated to be Nepal supporters.



Paras Khadka and Shakti Gauchan, Nepal on the back foot in the Final



224 was a par score, Nepal bat deep and have plenty of game sense. But Afghanistan have some exceptional pace-bowlers. And in hazy conditions, the pace men won. Nepal were 49 for 4 after 17 overs, shell-shocked into submission and only Gyanendra Malla looked able to combat the Afghans. Once he was run-out for 30, there was only going to be one winner. "We know in Nepal they don't see wickets of bounce so my bowlers gave them short-bowling to see what would happen. Nepal couldn't play it very well and we won," said Afghanistan's captain Nawroz Mangal.

Afghanistan won their first ACC Trophy and if the current players stay involved in the game, look capable of winning a couple more. Three weeks after this game, Afghanistan were playing in the ICC World Twenty20 in St. Lucia against India.



ACC Tournaments

ACC Trophy Elite 2010

Final: Afghanistan v Nepal at KOC Hubara

AFGHANISTAN WON BY 95 RUNS

Nepal won the toss and elected to field


Afghanistan 224 all out off 50 overs (K.Sadiq 58, R.Ahmadzai 52, M.Nabi 48; B.Das 3-35)

Nepal: 129 all out off 40 overs (G.Malla 30, S.Vesawkar 35)

Man of the Match: Raees Ahmadzai (Afghanistan)






TOP BATSMEN

Qualification: 200 runs

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
Saqib Ali		267	140*	133.50	101.13
Raees Ahmadzai		224	64*	74.66	72.72
Adnan Ilyas		213	82*	71.00	82.23
Asghar Stanekzai		253	151	63.25	100.39
Vaibhav Wategaonkar		238	65*	59.50	72.34

TOP BOWLERS

Qualification: 6 wickets

		W	Avg	BB	Econ
Hamid Hassan		16	11.81	6-18	4.51
Nadeem Ahmed		16	13.81	5-35	3.87
Moner Ahmed		12	14.66	4-19	3.46
Shahrulnizam Yusof		9	16.22	3-15	3.47
Suresh Navaratnam		10	17.50	4-29	4.37



ACC Trophy Challenge 2010

Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand: December 4 to 11, 2010
Brunei, China, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Thailand
4 venues, 18 matches – 50 overs a side

Maldives Buoyant

Maldives won their first ACC tournament since the 2006 Emerging Nations event by beating Saudi Arabia by one wicket in a gripping match in Bangkok.



“You cannot believe what this will mean to us,” said Maldives captain Moosa Kaleem, “the government are going to support cricket even more and a lot more youngsters are going to want to be involved. Full credit to the team who have worked hard to get here and to those who couldn’t make it, it feels great to win such a big tournament.”

A Presidential reception duly followed on the team’s return to Malé and already there are plans to build a dedicated cricket ground on one of the atolls along with concerted involvement in creating more cricketers.

As for the Trophy Challenge final played at Thailand’s own new cricket ground, Terdthai, on the outskirts of Bangkok, it was one of those low-scoring thrillers, the game decided in the end by nerve as much as skill. At one end the veteran Ismail Nihad, who had been playing cricket longer than his last-wicket partner Husham Ibrahim had been alive, needing 19 runs to win and the Saudi bowlers and fielders all over the Maldivians like fog on a swamp.



ACC Tournaments



Every run had to be fought for as Saudi Arabia pressed hard for their own victory, after making 139, having chosen to bat, thanks to a disciplined Maldives bowling performance. Saudi Arabia's young captain Shoaib Ali had top-scored with 39 (48 balls, 1 four and 1 six), using his feet well and playing some sublime strokes but it was with the ball that he truly shone. A tall off-spinner, he made the Maldives batsmen play almost every ball unconvincingly, beaten in the flight and foxed by the one that held its line. Bringing himself on in the fifth over, Shoaib bowled his ten overs straight through taking 5 for 25 including the big wicket of his opposing number Moosa Kaleem, caught and bowled for 10. Maldives were 65 for 4 in the 15th over at this stage, the game shading towards the Saudis.

Twirler Hussain Bhatti also bowled well for Saudi Arabia but Shoaib Ali only had 10 overs and Maldives had batsmen all the way down the order. The last two wickets put on 42, Ismail Nihad staying in 61 balls for his undefeated 18. Number 11 Husham Ibrahim ducked into a short ball but shook off the injury to hit the winning runs. Big game, huge win for a small country.

Thailand promise much too, and look most likely to duplicate the Maldives' elevation to the Elite group next time around for, as we've discovered, when teams are evenly matched nothing beats guts and determination.

ACC Trophy Challenge 2010

Final: Maldives v Saudi Arabia at Terdthai Cricket Ground

MALDIVES WON BY ONE WICKET

Saudi Arabia won the toss and chose to bat

Saudi Arabia: 139 all out off 43.3 overs (S.Ali 39, F.Habib 35; A.Faiz 3-19)

Maldives: 140 for 9 off 41.4 overs (A.Shahid 30; S.Ali 5-25; H.Bhatti 3-35)

Man of the Match: Ismail Nihad (Maldives)





Bowler of the Tournament : Hussain Anwar Bhatti



Batsman of the Tournament : Muhammad Afzal



Player of the Tournament : Abdulla Shahid

TOP BATSMEN

Qualification: 160 runs

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
Afzal Mohammad		245	103	61.25	72.91
Moosa Kaleem		173	51*	43.25	100.58
Shoaib Ali		164	87	32.80	92.13
Amir Sajjad		163	81	32.60	80.29
Abdulla Shahid		161	77	32.20	96.98

TOP BOWLERS

Qualification: 11 wickets

		W	Avg	BB	Econ
Hussain Bhatti		16	10.25	7-65	4.55
Md. Mahafooz		14	8.28	5-15	3.05
Omran Hussein		12	6.66	5-7	2.53
Shoaib Ali		11	9.27	5-25	2.96



ACC U-16 Elite Cup 2010

Kathmandu, Nepal: March 8 to 16, 2010
Bahrain, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand
3 venues, 18 matches – 40 overs a side

Singapore Shine

Singapore beat the rhino in its own den, winning the ACC U-16 Elite Cup over Nepal by 68 runs. It was the first time Nepal had lost an ACC Final at home since 1998.



The match was televised live by Nepal TV, the crowd at Tribhuvan University growing steadily all day to reach around 4000 at one stage. It was an excellent final, both sides playing as close to as well as they could with the ball, though Nepal will feel they underperformed with the bat.

Both unbeaten in the tournament Singapore had improved with every match since the start with Nepal revealing a reliance on just a few players. Singapore's strength was that they had batted all 40 overs in their four games up to the Final.

Singapore lost Keshav Sashiri early after choosing to bat, "we wanted to put up a score, ideally 160+plus, and put some pressure on Nepal," said Singapore's coach Arjun Menon. Devendra Somare was bowling well from the Pavilion End, inswingers at pace coupled with ones that held their line. Ilishan Shekhar gave the innings plenty of momentum initially, racing to 21 off 12 before miscuing to mid-off, Swichan Shah taking a good catch running in.

Some good running kept the scoreboard ticking over after Ilishan Shekhar's dismissal but as soon as the spinners came on, run-scoring became difficult. Much depended on Vikas Rajagopal, with three 50s in the tournament and the ailing Singapore captain Varun Sivaram but with turn from the first ball of left-arm spinner Nischal Pandey and his slow-bowling colleagues, run-scoring became difficult and survival was, at times, all Singapore could hope for.



*Bowler of the Tournament Nepal's
Nischal Pandey*

Varun Sivaram fell just after the drinks break, caught and bowled by Rajiv Shah for 14, with the score on 58 in the 19th over. Vikas Rajagopal gave two sharp chances soon after this but remained, accumulating steadily. Mohit Kulkarni fell pulling with the score on 79 in the 26th over and Singapore's chances of making a hefty score went with him.

Rajagopal hit Rajiv Shah to mid-off three overs later for Singapore's first boundary since Ishan Shekhar's departure at the top of the innings. Coming forward, getting as close to the pitch of the ball as possible to scotch the spin, he played an accomplished innings. He made a vital half-century.

Wicket-keeper Sam Franks struck the first 6 of the innings at the end of the 36th over to push Singapore to 118 for 4, and with a Powerplay called for soon after, 140-plus and a competitive score was on the cards. With Vikas Rajagopal miscuing to mid-off straight after however, out for 58 (107 balls, 2 fours). Sam Franks took on the hitter's role, every run vital to the cause. Singapore finished on 146 for 6. Nepal were going to have to work hard if they were going to win especially as Singapore's spinners are the equal of, if not superior to Nepal's.



Singapore's Vikas Rajagopal reaches 50

There was just a hint of swing in the hazy conditions but Nepal's openers Sharad Khadka and Nischal Pandey weren't unduly troubled by Singapore's opening pace-bowlers. Abhiraj Singh, Singapore's own young left-arm spinning star came on in the 5th over.

He struck in his second over, Sam Franks stumping Sharad and then two balls later off-spinner Navin Param made the big breakthrough, tossing one up wide and having Nischal caught behind. Nepal 31 for 2 in the 8th over. The crowd, around 4000 in number now, got behind their side, chanting "Nepal, Nepal".



Navin Param got his next wicket, Switchan Shah caught well by his opposite number Varun Sivaram at slip for 2, and Nepal were in trouble at 35 for 3. Not the fastest through the air, and tossing the ball up high, Param was getting considerable turn and bounce.

Param, composing himself at the top of his run-up Shane Warne-style before every delivery, struck in his next over too, dismissing the dangerous Dipendra Chand, plumb in front, and Nepal were 47 for 4. The crowd quiet. The fifth wicket fell to a run-out. Some in the crowd left.



ACC Tournaments

Wickets continued to fall, Abhiraj and Param weaving a web too sticky, too tight for the Nepali batsmen. Slow left-arm Sarisrakar Pogaru got in on the act too, picking up wickets. Shivam Ahuja, who's taken a bundle in the tournament up to now, castled the last man in his first over.



Sushan Shrestha is short of his ground and Nepal are 48 for 5

"We've worked really hard for this, played solid cricket, without fear, everyone chipped in and the boys thoroughly deserve this victory," said Singapore's coach. Spin works at this level, especially in Nepal. Navin Param and his colleagues know that for sure.

Nepal's coach Roy Dias said of his young team, "Nepal should actually be proud of these boys, with very little experience they got to the Final and already I can see that there is a lot of talent in the team which will develop as the players mature."

Malaysia and Hong Kong impressed at times and already look like having cricketers who could soon feature in the senior team.

Nepal have a phenomenal record in age-group cricket having won all the ACC tournaments over the years. Singapore, ACC U-15 champions in 2007 are building a fine record too and with age-verification protocols and higher standards all-round in place, Nepal cannot be assured of more victories.

Singapore's Navin Param



ACC U-16 Elite Cup 2010

**Final: Nepal v Singapore at Tribhuvan University
SINGAPORE WON BY 68 RUNS**

Singapore won the toss and chose to bat

Singapore: 146 for 6 off 40 overs (V.Rajagopal 58)

Nepal: 78 off 22 overs (N.Param 4-28, S.Pogaru 3-10)

Man of the Match: Navin Param (Singapore)

TOP BATTERS

Qualification: 140 runs

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
Mohammad Abdullah		201	86*	67.00	81.37
Syahadat Ramli		202	71*	50.50	79.84
Vikas Rajagopal		251	68	50.20	69.33
Miten Khatri		144	59	28.80	59.75
Ishan Shekhar		142	52	28.40	101.42

TOP BOWLERS

Qualification: 10 wickets

		W	Avg	BB	Econ
Nischal Pandey		16	6.18	5-15	2.56
Faheem Afrad		11	6.63	6-10	2.73
Shivam Ahuja		13	7.38	4-32	3.09
Syahadat Ramli		13	8.69	4-25	3.09
Kinchit Shah		11	12.63	4-17	3.65



ACC U-16 Challenge Cup 2010

Penang, Malaysia: July 12 to 19, 2010
Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Iran, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman,
2 venues, 14 matches – 40 overs a side

Oman Withstand All Challengers

The best was saved for last as Iran and Oman played a quality game in the Final of the ACC U-16 Challenge at the Penang Sports Club, Malaysia.



Oman had won the group-stage encounter between the two by 82 runs, but since then Iran had improved. In the end, Oman had just enough quality in the tank to prevail, winning by 30 runs.

Oman chose to bat, on a muggy morning, on Penang turf lusher than anything any of the players had ever seen before they came to Malaysia. Going into the match Oman were marginal favourites, they have more game-sense than Iran and a couple of pedigree players but Iran have immense team-spirit and were exceptionally hungry to win.



Oman's first wicket fell when Abishek Ramesh was well caught by Omid Durzadeh at mid-on, one-handed the ball still climbing when it reached him, 17 for 1 in the 8th over. The batsman had survived an lbw shout the ball before and unsettled, played a loose stroke. Iran were as busy in the field as they were against Afghanistan in the semi-final and Oman, focussing on singles, survived several shies at the stumps.



Iran kept plugging away putting the ball in the right areas. The dangerous Mohool Misra fell for 3 to a return catch by Dorzadeh and Oman were 23 for 2 in the 9th over, their target of 160 looking distant.

Boundaries on this lush, long-grassed field were difficult. Oman, like Iran chasing, were going to have to run almost all the way to their final score.

Iran's feisty little leg-spinner Masood Jayezeh bowled very well and was unlucky not to get more wickets. He bowled especially well to Oman's left-hander/right-hander combinations and looks a terrific prospect.

Much rested for Oman on the performance of left-hander Sweekrith Sajeevan. He hit the first 4 of the Oman innings in the 22nd over, off his 35th ball, a full-toss from Saeid Mullahzehi to move on to 11. Sajeevan hit the bad balls well, but there were few of those. From the 15th to the 25th overs, Oman scored just 28.

And lost Sajeevan at the start of the 26th, yorked by the first ball of Iran opening bowler Moin Beshkaneh's second spell.



Oman's Sajeevan takes on Iran's Jayezeh

Chirag Asher, Oman's captain, Batsman of the Tournament, the tallest, broadest, most talented player on the field came in. He hadn't faced bowling of this quality before. Masood Jayezeh came back on to bowl his fourth over. Jayezeh pitched his first delivery just outside leg, on a length, and Asher on the back foot, checking a cut stroke, to have the ball clip the bat and was stunned to see the ball clip the off-bail.

Huge wicket. Oman's titan was out. Silence in the Oman camp. Joy unconfined among the Iranians.

Kedar Gadgil had been in from the start, playing conservatively, but he fell for 27 slicing to cover after a 77-ball innings. Oman 93-6 now in the 31st over. The Oman 100 came up in the 33rd over. Thanks to some zip and zap from Gayash Dias (37 off 45) Oman ended their 40 overs on 139 for 8. Iran would have to bat better than they had this tournament so far to win.



Oman's Gayash Dias

The Iranian players impress so much when you consider how far they've come from the concrete and scrub of Chababar. Yet, like the Afghans in this competition, they lose a tremendous amount of goodwill when they berate the umpires for appeals not being upheld, behaving like the most petulant of children as they did, during Beshkaneh's last over.

Oman took the field with a spring in their step. Their opening bowlers weren't quite on a par with Iran's but the spinners were the danger men. Shreyas Malhotra and Muhammad Khan came on in tandem from the 8th over. Mohammad Houtinik skewed a drive to cover off Khan, Iran were 35 for 1 in the 11th over and not at all fluent against the slow men.

Beshkaneh went for a big heave just a few balls after playing the shot of the day, a square drive off Malhotra to the boundary, and was stumped. Hossein Lashari was bamboozled, no stroke offered, for 0 in Malhotra's next over and Iran were 50 for 3 in the 14th.



ACC Tournaments

Last ball before the halfway-mark, Iran's captain Ahmad Shadzehisarjou was run-out. Iran at 69 for 4 were up with the required run-rate but were hemorrhaging wickets. Victory was going to who hated defeat the least. Oman had been 55 for 3 after 20 overs of their innings.

With 15 overs to go, Iran needed 56, six wickets in hand. Jawam fell, lbw, sweeping Chirag Asher for 43 off 80 balls. Iran needed him to go on, but his innings had lost fluency and authority the longer it went on.



Number 7 Omid Dorzadeh was dropped in the deep on 1 but it wasn't an expensive miss. With 10 overs to go Iran needed 43, five wickets in hand. Malhotra caught Mullazeh well at cover. With 5 overs to go Iran needed 31, one wicket left.

Iran didn't score any further, last man Asif Masoodi falling to a great catch by wicket-keeper Sajeevan.

Oman have done consistently well at youth Challenge level, winning ACC U-15 events in former years. A number of the players on both sides will undoubtedly feature in U-19 cricket too.

Oman Captain Chirag Asher was proud of his team, "The boys did really well all throughout and Gayash batted really well at the end of our innings." Always great ambassadors for the game, Oman were worthy winners.



Afghanistan, conscious of not falling foul of the age-verification protocols brought a team of players particularly small of stature who were outfought by Iran in the semi-final. China, Myanmar and Bhutan had their moments.

ACC U-16 Challenge Cup 2010

Final: Iran v Oman at Penang Sports Club

OMAN WON BY 30 RUNS

Oman won the toss and chose to bat

Oman: 139 for 8 off 40 overs (G.Dias 37*)

Iran: 109 all out off 35.5 overs (A.Jawam 43; C. Asher 4-20)

Man of the Match: Gayash Dias (Oman)



Best Batsman: Kedar Gadgil



Best Bowler: Masood Jayazeh



Most Promising Player: Song Yangyang



Player of the Tournament: Chirag Asher

TOP BATTERS

Qualification: 90 runs

		R	HS	Avg	S/R
Chirag Asher		162	66	54.00	111.72
Mohammad Houtinik		117	51	29.25	47.76
Moin Beshkani		98	38*	24.50	80.32
Song Yangyang		93	71	23.25	52.25
Kedar Gadgil		115	41	23.00	41.37

TOP BOWLERS

Qualification: 8 wickets

		W	Avg	BB	Econ
Jafar Katawazai		8	4.62	3-7	3.36
Qayoum Zazai		9	4.66	4-13	2.33
Chirag Asher		11	5.91	4-20	3.00
Gayash Dias		8	6.62	4-11	1.48
Masood Jayezeh		11	6.91	4-5	2.12
Wahab Khorsand		8	9.25	4-11	2.47



ACC U-19 Women's Championship 2010

Singapore: October 4 to 12, 2010
Bhutan, China, Hong Kong, Kuwait, Malaysia, Nepal, Oman, Qatar, Singapore, Thailand, UAE
3 venues, 30 matches – 25 overs a side



Nepal Defend Their Title

A good ACC U-19 Women's Final, between two evenly-matched teams. Going into the match, Nepal had the edge in flair and firepower with Bhutan being more disciplined and correct. Flair won, combined with considerable discipline as Sarita Magar guided Nepal home in the 18th over of a rain-reduced 20-over match. Both teams were hungry to win, Bhutan still on their climb to the peak, Nepal as defending champions trying to beat down all claimants to their top spot.



Rain delayed the start by 63 minutes, the match reduced to 20-overs a side and would have been reduced further had the players of both sides not done great work in clearing the covers after a heavy rain shower of 30 minutes' duration, just before the game was due to start at 9AM.



Nary Thapa claims Dechen Wangmo and Nepal have a big breakthrough

Nepal won the toss and put the opposition in. When they win, the men's and youth team do so by capitalizing on their opponents' mistakes, Nepal's women hoped for the same here but Bhutan are made of relatively error-free stuff. Bhutan's captain and opener Ugyen Dema fell early, trapped in front by Rubina Chhetri which brought the nuggety Dechen Wangmo in. Straight of bat, solid of shot, strong of head. If Nepal could get her out early, they'd have a couple of fingers on the trophy. After one thumping drive to the long-off boundary, Dechen got the thinnest of edges, driving at Nary Thapa. Out for 7.

Bhutan were testing the Nepali fielders with their running, but runs were at a premium. Nepal were bowling very tightly. After 10 overs Bhutan were 21 for 2. Nary Thapa finished her 4 over-spell for the concession of just 4 runs and proved once again that she is a big-match player. Yeshey Choden, who'd been in from the start, was stumped going for one over the top in the 14th over with the score on 30. To make matters worse for Bhutan, it was a wicket maiden for the off-spinner Sarita Magar. Bhutan don't have much batting beyond their top five, and Nepal duly knocked them off one by one. Nepal bowled very well, attacking the stumps and giving the batsmen no room.



Nary Thapa finds the boundary

After having done so well to get to the Final, could Bhutan's weary seven-matches in nine-days players raise themselves for one last hour? For all the quality of Bhutan's bowlers, could they defend 53?

The skies remained heavy throughout the morning and Nepal, with a gathering bunch of fans, remained quiet for much of their run chase. A comedy of errors cost Nepal their first wicket, Sita Rana running two for none, as

Dechen Wangmo threw from behind the stumps back to the bowler's end for a direct hit with both Sita and Manisha at the striker's end. Nepal 1 for 1 in the second over.

Nary Thapa came in. She swung her first ball, a full-toss, onto the square-leg scoreboard. Stance like Lara, smites like Lara. Two balls later a four behind square. But Nary was caught, playing just a little too early, at square leg in the next over. Bhutan were back in it. Nepal 15 for 2 in the third over.

Manisha Rawal was then lbw next ball to Anju Gurung. Mamta Thapa kept out the hat-trick ball. Bhutan were sensing the chance of a victory and Nepal were ever so quiet.

After 5 overs Nepal were 21 for 3. Bhutan were going to have to take the seven wickets if they were going to win.

The doughty Sarita Magar eased the pressure with a super drive through cover, the first boundary since Nary Thapa's little flurry. The teams on the field were quiet, the watching Thailand, China, Qatar and Oman squads were not and were thoroughly enjoying the occasion.

It was when Nepal passed the half-way mark of 27 that the squad started cheering. Bhutan's fans tried to match them on that front too. But Nepal were undoubtedly winning.

Nepal needed 20 from the last ten overs, seven wickets in hand. Bhutan's bowlers just not able to break the partnership between Sarita Magar and Mamta Thapa, which was already comfortably the highest of the match so far.

Bhutan were pulling Nepal back when Mamta Thapa was bowled by Sonam Zam with the score on 34 at the start of the 13th over.



ACC Tournaments



Bhutan were really trying. All Nepal had to do though was nudge things along.

Bhutan set attacking fields. Nepal scrambled runs at every opportunity. The tall off-spinner Sonam Zam caused the batters problems but she just didn't have enough runs to play with. Shies at the stumps gave away valuable runs.

With five overs to go Nepal needed 11. With four overs to go they needed 5. Trishna Singh had been lightning between the wickets for Nepal but in backing up too far she was run out by a direct hit by Anju Gurung.

Sarita held firm to hit the winning runs. Nepal had defended the title they first won in December 2008.

Bhutan impressed throughout the tournament, playing with discipline and commitment and their semi-final against Hong Kong was one of the better matches of the year. The talented Hong Kong are just a player or two and a year or so away from being a side of true quality. China and Thailand sent particularly young sides that hold much promise. UAE remain the strongest of the Middle East sides and with 11 teams playing in the event, women's cricket at age-group level is thriving. And they play in the best possible spirit.

ACC U-19 Women's Championship 2010

Final: Bhutan v Nepal at Indian Association
NEPAL WON BY FIVE WICKETS

Match reduced to 20 overs

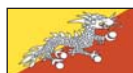
Nepal won the toss and chose to bat

Bhutan: 53 for 6 off 20 overs (R.Chhetri 3-15)

Nepal: 54 for 5 off 17.2 overs (A.Gurung 2-1)

Player of the Final: Sarita Magar (Nepal)





Bowler of the Tournament: Devika Darjee



Batter of the Tournament: Nary Thapa



Player of the Tournament: Yasmin Daswani



TOP BATTERS

Qualification: 125 runs

		R	Avg	S/R
Yasmin Daswani		205	41.00	101.49
Nary Thapa		191	38.20	101.46
Winifred Duraisingam		143	28.60	74.87
Yeshey Choden		135	19.29	43.27
Mariko Hill		127	25.40	85.81

TOP BOWLERS

Qualification: 10 wickets

		W	BB	Econ
Devika Darjee		11	5.73	14.55
Dewi Chunan		11	8.18	15.82
Sonam Zam		10	4.80	13.00
Aiswarya Subramaniam		10	8.90	18.00
Phira-on Khamla		10	9.60	15.50
Ishitaa Gidwani		10	9.60	16.90
Samiya Saleem		10	10.30	17.80



Cricket Initiatives

Afghanistan's 2010: Many Campaigns

It was a busy start to the year for Afghanistan's cricketers as the U-19s played in the World Cup in New Zealand in January and the senior team had the World Twenty20 Qualifier in February. To prepare for New Zealand's conditions the U-19s arrived a week early and the senior team took a squad of 25 to Sri Lanka.



In Sri Lanka Afghanistan played their third first-class match, an ICC Intercontinental Cup fixture against Ireland as well as their first full T20s against Canada and Ireland. Afghanistan also met Sri Lanka A in a 50-over

match and then in a T20 in what was a quadrangular between the teams. "We are going out there to enjoy our cricket, play relaxed," says Afghanistan's captain Nawroz Mangal. Nevertheless, "every match is like a Final," says veteran

middle-order batsman Raees Ahmadzai, who was a passenger in the vehicle that Nawroz Mangal was driving through the streets of Kabul when contacted by phone; "we will try to win every one."

Afghanistan's squad of 25 in Sri Lanka will be whittled down to 15 by the end of the tour, and it is those 15 who represent their nation at the ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier, which features the top 8 countries from ICC World Cricket League Division 1, amongst which are also the UAE. The top two teams in that eight-nation tournament will join Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies



and Zimbabwe in the Caribbean in April for the World Twenty20. "This year we could really be playing some serious cricket," says Raees Ahmadzai, "and coming up against the best teams in the world. It is our dream to do so and we will be trying very hard."

Fresh from victory in the ACC Twenty20 Cup in the UAE in December 2009, "the Afghan players undoubtedly have the talent," says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura; "if they get the proper support from their administrators they could really go far."

Afghanistan's U-19 cricketers were grouped with England, Hong Kong and India in the World Cup, their fixture on the opening day, against defending champions India was televised by ESPN STAR.



Developing Nepal's Future Stars

Over the years Nepal have proven their dominance at age-group level, winning six of eight ACC tournaments since 2005. ACC U-17 and women's ACC Under-19 champions at the start of 2010 Nepal were looking to get their hands on another trophy – the inaugural ACC U-16 Elite Cup, hosted by them in March 2010.

Nearly twenty years of developing regional and school cricket has now led to the creation of 377 cricket clubs along with 221 junior clubs across the country. With the Cricket Association of Nepal's hard work paying off, cricket has overtaken football as Nepal's most popular sport. A nine-day tournament for the six development regions in Nepal was held in January in the suburbs of Kathmandu.



Nepal's coach Roy Dias says, "Since now the ACC has only two age groups, the U-16s and U-19s, all the players participating in this regional tournament have a chance of getting into the under-16 national side. The selectors will pay close attention to all games and hopefully we can pick a strong squad."

"Most of the U-15 players I last worked with in 2007 are overage and therefore the players in this tournament are all newcomers. It will be a lot of work to coach them but it is something that needs to be done for the game to grow."

Roy Dias: Inspiring teacher

Since Roy Dias took over as Nepal's national coach in 2001, they have won the Youth Asia Cup in 2003, played in four U/19 World Cups being Plate Champions in 2006 and have won two ACC U-15, one ACC U-17 and two ACC U-19 tournaments. Nepal has never had trouble locating talent, just holding onto them. With players exchanging cricket for a career that can secure their future, Nepal have lost several national players who Roy himself has trained. "I can't blame them for leaving the game. After all, they can't make a living out of only playing cricket. Companies, airlines, hotels and banks should offer them jobs", explains the coach.



Cricket Initiatives

Selectors chose 30 players from the regional tournament before short-listing the squad of 14 for the ACC U-16 Elite Cup. Players from all the six regions underwent digital x-rays before the tournament for age-verification purposes to satisfy the ACC tournament requirements.

CAN President Binaya Raj Pandey says, "We follow the same protocol for both men's and women's cricket as far as development is concerned. We encourage more people to play and when we do we can scout out more talent and this tournament will bring us lots of it."

Nepal's considerable success at age-group level has led their supporters to expect similar achievements at senior-level, which haven't quite materialized, fourth-place being their best finish in the past ACC Trophys.



Nepal's senior team started the year focussed on their World Cricket League Division 5 participation in February 2010. Hosting the tournament, it will be the first World Cricket League to be broadcast on live television, thanks to Nepal's tremendous domestic fanbase.

South Asian Games Highlights Cricket

The 11th South Asian Games held in Dhaka at the end of January featured cricket for the first time. Five countries at the Games, hosts Bangladesh, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will play Twenty20 cricket contested by their U-21 teams.

With the Games being under the umbrella of the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic Council of Asia, and with more disciplines than ever before (23 in all), the Games are the largest sporting event to be ever held in Bangladesh.



"This year's South Asian Games will provide a good marker for the Asian Games to be held in China later in the year where cricket will also be played for the first time. Cricket finding new platforms for performance and exposure for new players can only be a good thing," says ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashrafu Huq. "A chance for the Test-countries to meet the non-Test ones at U-21 level, as well as the T20 format, will create every chance for the matches between them to be competitive," he added.

Nepal have beaten Bangladesh, Pakistan, New Zealand and South Africa in previous U/19 World Cups.

Hong Kong Aims For The Asian Games



Early in 2010 Hong Kong started a campaign to find and groom enough cricketers of sufficient quality to represent them in both the men's and women's T20 events at the Asian Games in Guangzhou in November.

"The passport-holders only rule is a key factor for selection at the Asian Games. Our men's team will have no problems, all the Pakistanis have Hong Kong passports," says HKCA General Manager Danny Lai. "The best of the U-19s currently in New Zealand for the World Cup will feature as well as the seniors in the squad we send to Guangzhou," he adds.



The women's team is currently made up largely of expatriate passport holders and fielding the same team that won the 2009 ACC Women's Twenty20 Championship will be impossible. "We are looking though to bring in new eligible players. We had a recruitment campaign through schools and universities and so far around 50 have come through, with more to come. The women's team in Guangzhou may not be the strongest but we'll have expanded the pool of available talent for the future and have built more awareness of the game here," says Mr. Lai.



Cricket Initiatives



A three-month skills development program for all new players was started by the Hong Kong Cricket Association at the end of December 2009.

Bhutan: Ambitious For 2010



Bhutan's rise from ACC Challenge to ACC Elite divisions at U-15 and U-19 level over the past three years, as well as their launch of a promising women's cricket team has infused them with ambition and optimism for the challenges ahead.

"My dream for 2010 is to be the finalists in the ACC U-19 Women's Championship (*achieved*), the finalists in the U-16 Challenge (*semi-finalists*) and do well in the Elite group of the ACC Trophy (*stayed up*)," says National Coach Damber Singh Gurung who also turned out for the senior side after a gap of four years.

Bhutan's cricketing rise from absolute minnows to Elite-level contenders has been the result of some dedicated work by Bhutan's coaches and cricket Board since 2004, the first year they competed in the ACC Trophy. From having cricketers representing Bhutan who learnt their cricket while at school in India, they now have 34 schools with cricket in the curriculum, a number which climbed to 50 at the end of 2010.

"When we first played in ACC U-19 most of the players from other countries were elder and experience than us but after winning few matches we know it is all about preparation not the age, says Bhutan's women's captain Pema Lhaden.



For a country with no history of cricket, without anything like a full-size ground, with a difficult climate and with little access to equipment, Bhutan has done extremely well in getting to the top of the Challenge groups they've competed in since the decision was made in 2006 to split the 18 ACC non-Test playing countries into two competitive divisions Elite and Challenge. A first foray into Elite level U-19 cricket resulted in a bottom-place finish and thus relegation back down to Challenge, but there's every chance they'll bounce back in 2011.



"More than 700 played in the school tournaments of 2009," says Mr. Gurung, with national squad candidates being coached in separate programs run by the Bhutan Board's ever-growing number of qualified coaches. "Increasing in coaching is different thing but increasing in playing is something we want," says BCCB CEO Jigme Norbu. With more cricketers of quality to choose from, Bhutan's performance should hold steady if not improve, as they have been increasingly reliant on the same core of cricketers to carry them through the youth-groups into the seniors.

Currently ranked 43rd in the world (out of 104) Bhutan's first step up the ladder to further global significance came in the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 8 fixtures at the end of 2010.

Brunei's New Gameplan

Brunei, a small country on the tip of the north-eastern Malaysia, started the year aiming to make a substantial impact on the cause of cricket development. The Brunei Darussalam Cricket Association (BDCA) has taken a significant step forward in promoting the game in their country by translating the Laws of Cricket into Malay. Both Brunei and Malaysia share Malay as their national language. "Translating the laws into Malay is a brilliant move. It will make teaching the local cricketers a lot easier," said the then BDCA CEO Manzur Ahmed.



"Translating the Laws may act as a motivating factor for the children of Brunei because it will be easier for them to learn from their Malay-speaking teachers at primary and secondary-schools. They can learn a new game in their native tongue and maybe even excel at it. People in Brunei do speak English but I think they communicate better with Malay," added Mr. Ahmed.



Cricket Initiatives

Brunei have already submitted their translation of the Laws to the ACC. The template has been forwarded on to the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) for verification. The Laws of Cricket have already been translated into Bengali, Mandarin, Urdu, Farsi and Arabic at the encouragement of the ACC. The aim is to eventually have the Laws of Cricket available in all the major indigenous languages of Asia.

Brunei is also keen to raise the standards of junior and university level cricket. Later this month, the BDCA will be holding a cricket exhibition at the University of Brunei Darussalam and the Institute of Technology in Brunei, the top two universities in the country. Mr. Ahmed said that “by February we are aiming to market the game to all five universities here. This will help us in the squad selection for the ASEAN University Games in Thailand this December. We are getting positive responses.” The BDCA were also looking to host an inter-university tournament later in 2010.

Brunei’s international age-group outings in ACC tournaments have not been yielding the best results, finishing last in the 2009 U-19 Challenge Cup and seventh in the 2010 ACC Trophy Challenge, while not fielding a team in the ACC U-16 Challenge. Even with these setbacks the BDCA are not discouraged. One of their strategic goals is to “infuse the cricketing culture within the country” and that is what they’re focussed on. Having had international exposure, the Under-19s, predominantly made up of boys who are below the age of 17, are a team for the future.

“We are not worried about short-term problems. The BDCA will not shift its focus which is to develop local talent. The game has to be pushed onto them and in that respect we are doing very well. In the future we’d like to have a good standing amongst the ACC countries and be more competitive. Soon we will produce more cricketers and that is our goal. From a personal standpoint, I am just glad to be a part of introducing cricket in the country,” said Mr. Ahmed.

Manzur Ahmed donating cricketing equipment to a school



With no turf wickets or turf nets and a long rainy season, Brunei faces greater challenges than its neighbours. Also, there is an exodus of players after the ‘O’ and ‘A’ level examinations. The children move abroad or focus wholly on their studies and leave the Brunei cricket scene. This is also why the introduction of cricket in the local universities is so critical to the sustained development of the game. It would provide the students with an opportunity to continue with their cricket after school. BDCA have also held talks with the Ministry of Youth and Sports to aid in providing indoor facilities.

ACC Development Officer for Brunei Aminul Islam says, “The development of cricket in Brunei will take time. The good news is that a lot of schools are showing tremendous interest and they are making progress. Brunei really is working very hard.”

China's Bio-Mechanics

ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam was on a three-week visit to Guangzhou in January to join national coaches Rashid Khan of Pakistan and Mamatha Maben of India to start preparations for the Asian Games in November. 14 men and 16 women chosen from 2009's tournaments and training sessions had been selected to take part in the camp.



"It's getting serious now. Only 10 months to go before the Asian Games. China as hosts want to do well and beat at least one more developing country," says Mr. Islam. For the first time, the bowlers will undergo a series of bio-mechanical tests monitored by Chinese sports scientists. China is the first ACC non-Test playing member to undertake this kind of rigorous analysis and January's is the first of three sessions scheduled over the year for bowling and batting. "By August we will have a complete picture of the team's abilities," says Mr. Islam, "and this will help us get the best from these players who want, like all Chinese athletes, to perform at the highest possible level."

The deviser of these tests is Dr. Liu Jingmin of the Department of Physical Education at Tsinghua University in Beijing, one of the country's best institutions of learning. A certified ACC Level II umpire, Dr. Liu has umpired in the 2009 ACC U-19 Challenge and the 2008 ACC U-19 Women's Championship and written a Cricket Manual in Chinese. "It has become clear that China needs to improve, particularly in batting. We are looking to improve the technique of our players. The results of these tests will be compared to that of Australian elite players so that we can measure our players' performance levels and technique against theirs," says Dr. Liu.



Dr. Liu Jingmin

Not one to do things by halves, Dr. Liu has a track-record of success. "A similar test was performed on the Guangdong baseball team and it brought positive results. They went on to win a gold medal at the 2009 National Games in Doha. This is the first time cricket in China will be using this method of training and I hope it will bring positives," said Dr. Liu.



Mr. Islam says, "This is a very technical approach of learning for a player. When you can actually see where you are wrong in the technique, it makes it easier to correct rather than having someone tell you how you should bowl or bat. Being the first ACC team to use this kind of technology, it shows the tremendous effort being put into trying to improve the standards of Chinese cricket."

Aminul Islam: Hands on in China



China Cricket's Biomechanics Research Project

Goal

The most important things in China Cricket nowadays is to make Chinese cricket team have a good progress and a better performance in XI Asian Games in 2010, Guangzhou. This project aims to improve bowling and batting techniques of Chinese cricket both male and female players through biomechanics methods. Comparing with abroad study results in cricket, we hope to find some weakness of best cricket players in China and key factors which are affecting their skills (such as bowling speed and accuracy) in this research. We hope that their skills in bowling and batting will be improved after special training in strength and fitness for three to eight months.

Methods

There are three main study processes: First, the respective top 5 bowlers in both male and female teams will be studied in January. Second, the most batsmen in both teams and the same ten bowlers will be studied in March again. Third, the whole national players will be studied in August.

Aim at first testing

- a. To capture the 3-D motion of the full delivery of bowling (pace and spin) by Hi-speed video camera, the bowling parameters of subjects will be compared with that of the Australian elite cricket bowlers.
- b. To determine the magnitude of ground reaction forces of the bowlers in a bowling stride, the relative parameters of subjects will be compared with those of the Australian elite cricket bowlers.
- c. Test fitness of all players at the beginning of training.

Data collection

- a. Data are collected in an indoor laboratory where bowlers were able to use their normal length run- up and bowl. Four piezoelectric force platforms are recessed beneath the front bowling crease and covered with a piece of poly flex surface. Bowlers perform an average of 12 deliveries. Information from the back foot to front foot contacting with the ground are obtained using three synchronized high speed video cameras. The three cameras are positioned side-on, front-on and back operated at 250 Hz.
- b. Data are collected in field able to use their normal length run-up and bowl at a set of stumps positioned at the end of pitch. The cameras are positioned side-on and front-on. Each Bowler performs an average of 12 deliveries.
- c. Ball release speed will be measured by radar measuring gun.

d. Fitness testing:

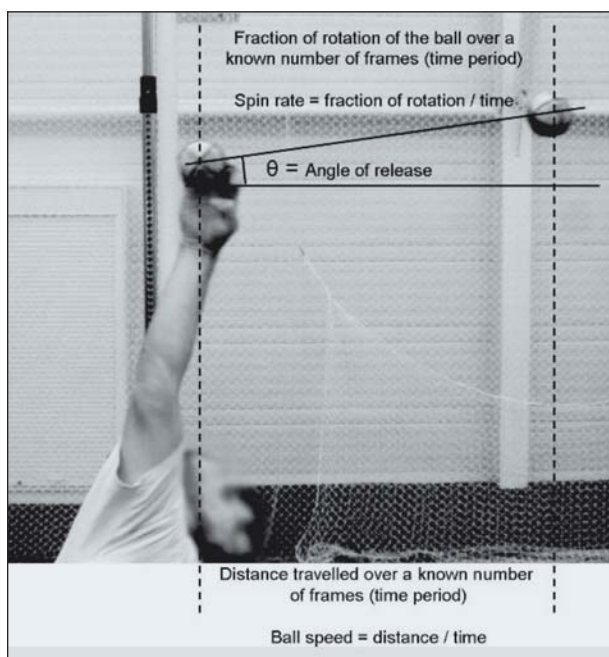
- Speed: 50m sprint
- Endurance: 3000m run (male), 1500m run (female)
- Strength: upper- pull up/push up, medical ball
- Lower- stand jump, vertical jump
- Core- lie sit up
- Flexibility: sit and reach test
- Agility: run a three
- Balance: stand at one leg with shutting eyes
- Body composition: muscle and fat distribution

Subjects

Five male and female bowlers will participate in the study at the first stage. Measurement of the ball release characteristics in training.

Data analysis

During this testing, the ball release characteristics of both pace and spin bowlers will be analyzed.



- a. Ball release speed, direction (Angle), and height.
- b. Ground reaction force data are: peak vertical force, peak horizontal braking force and vertical loading rate.
- c. Change of position and angles of each segment of the bowler when bowling.
- d. All of above data will be compared with those of Australian elite players.



Testing Schedule

Date	Place	Testing arrangement	Participates
2010.1.26	Guangzhou	Prepare testing ground	Liu and lab experts
2010.1.27	Guangzhou	Testing trial	Liu, Aminul and lab experts
2010.1.28	Guangzhou	Formal testing	Liu, Aminul, bowlers
2010.1.29	Guangzhou	Data disposal	Liu and lab experts
2010.1.30	Shenzhen	Take training videos for male	Liu and lab experts
2010.1.31	Shenzhen	Take training videos for female	Liu and lab experts
2010.2.1	Guangzhou	Data disposal	Liu and lab experts

*Dr. Liu Jingmin
11 – 01 - 2010*

Asian Development Winners



The ACC selected seven regional winners for the year's Pepsi ICC Development Programme Awards.



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

Malaysian cricket won three awards; the best Cricket Promotion and Marketing Program, Photo of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. Nepal took two awards; the best Junior Cricket Initiative and the Lifetime Service Award for Association President Binaya Raj Pandey while Qatar and Bhutan were nominated for the best Overall Cricket Development Program and the best Women's Cricket Initiative respectively.

The Pepsi ICC Development Programme Awards, now in its ninth year, recognizes and rewards the efforts of Associations and individuals who promote cricket in their countries. "It was difficult to select the Asian winners this year since there were so many to choose from. There was very close competition but we really do appreciate the entries and I would like to wish all Associations the very best as they go forward into the global reckoning," said ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura.

Pepsi ICC Development Programme Asia Region Winners 2009

Adjudicated and awarded in 2010

Best Overall Cricket Development Program
Qatar Cricket Association



Best Cricket Promotion and Marketing Program
Kuala Lumpur Cricket Association,
3rd KAF International Youth Cricket Carnival



Best Women's Cricket Initiative
Bhutan Cricket Council Board



Best Junior Cricket Initiative
Cricket Association of Nepal



Photo of the Year
Kuala Lumpur Cricket Association



Volunteer of the Year
Mohammad Sham Bin Jalil



Lifetime Service Award
Binaya Raj Pandey



Maldives Shore Up In Sri Lanka

Maldives's U-21 cricketers were in Sri Lanka for two weeks preparing for the biggest challenge of their young lives: the South Asian Games in Bangladesh from January 29 to February 8, where they took on the U-21 cricketers of Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Cricket Board of Maldives President Ahmed Hassan Didi says, "Our target is simple, that is to compete and to do it strongly."

Maldives played five Twenty20 games in Sri Lanka, against top-rated schools winning two and losing three.



The Maldives U-21s is predominantly made up of the ACC U-19 Challenge Cup squad that played in Chiang Mai in December 2009. On their return home from Chiang Mai, they used a local 50-over tournament for further match-sharpness. They have had five months of Twenty20 cricket in Malé as well.

In their match against DS Senanayake College, Maldives scored 157 for 5, winning by 26 runs, lost their second game to St. Joseph's College by eight wickets and their third to Ananda College by 81 runs. The Maldives beat St. Peter's College by ten runs. Their final game against Panadura Sports Club ended in a six-wicket loss.



The 11th South Asian Games has Twenty20 cricket for the first time. Explaining his country's intense preparation for the South Asian Games Mr. Didi said, "We have been given an opportunity here by the Maldives Sports Ministry. They have offered funding for the teams that are participating in the various sports at the Asian Games. It is good to see them encouraging sport. There is a lot we can learn from playing Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka."

During their time in Sri Lanka, two of the Maldives players, Mihusan Hamid and Hassan Ibrahim, impressed local officials enough for them to be invited to play for clubs in Sri Lanka after the conclusion of the Games.

KC and The Sunshine Band



Kuwait Cricket welcomed the first intake into its new Academy at the Entertainment City ground in January 2010. 160 children from the leading international cricket-playing schools in Kuwait turned up on the first day of tutoring at the new facilities in Doha, on the outskirts of Kuwait City.

Coaching is being conducted on Saturdays for now and Kuwait Cricket Secretary General Haider Farman affirms that "gradually the number of days will be increased and more training venues will be added."

On a bright and cold Kuwait winter's day, the full cast of Kuwait Cricket's ACC-trained active coaching retinue was on hand to guide the youngsters through their paces on the Academy's first day of operation, led by Kuwait Cricket's Director for Coaching Samir Desai, a Level III coach. He was supported by a group of Level IIs, including stalwarts such as Emad Al Jassem, Arjuna Amaratunga, Murali Kutticode, Tahir Khan, Tariq Rasool, Ayoub Shaikh, Arshad Shams and Kaleem ul Hasan. Lady Level I coaches Sandra Almeida, Jasleen Kaur and Nida Mirza were also in attendance as was Kuwait Cricket Director of Umpires Riaz Chaudhry and one of Kuwait's youngest coaches Aamir Kidwai Kaleem Ul Hasan. Also on hand was a volunteer coach from the Kuwait English School Steve Boyland.



Sameer Desai (foreground) takes U-19 training, Tahir Khan (in red) is in the background



Cricket Initiatives



Administrators there were too, all the great and the good of Kuwait Cricket along with Mr. Farman, Director General Asad Baig, Chairman of Kuwait Cricket Council Jeff De Lange and Board Member Major General Saeed Mubarak and. "I am very surprised and glad that so many boys should be coming to our Academy, many parents are supporting their children in cricket which is good and it is our aim to take Kuwait Cricket to even better performance by training these boys – and soon girls – in the Academy", said Mr. Baig.

Marvan Atapattu: "Singapore Has Talent"

The Singapore Cricket Association (SCA) engaged the services of former Sri Lankan captain Marvan Atapattu on a year-long contract as their Director of Coaching in January 2010.

Marvan's first outing with Singapore's national squad was at the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 in Nepal in February.



Marvan, 39, who retired from international cricket in 2007, having scored more than 14000 runs at the highest level, is upbeat about his first full-time assignment as a national coach. "I am looking forward to this assignment and to help Singapore Cricket. In the short time that I've been here I've seen just how talented some of the team are. We need to get the right people and management for the team and to encourage them. The team has the talent, they just need to believe it themselves," says the new Singapore coach.

In March 2009 Marvan worked with Canada Cricket as their batting coach for just over a month during the ICC World Cup Qualifiers in South Africa. Canada finished second in the tournament qualifying for the 2011 Cricket World Cup.

"The difference between Canada and Singapore is that Canada Cricket have a group of cricketers who are professionals. It is much easier to work with players who are committed full-time," he added.

Marvan spoke of the relatively few number of cricketers in Singapore and the need to increase them. Because of a compulsion of National Service, where they serve a two-year attachment to either the Singapore Armed Forces, Singapore Police Force or the Singapore Civil Defense Force, Marvan acknowledges that "there is a huge loss of players between the ages of 19 and 21. My task is not only to coach the national side but also to look at increasing the numbers of Singaporeans playing and enjoying this beautiful game."



In July 2009, the SCA appointed Australia's Trevor Chappell as coach and a month later Singapore were triumphant at the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 6. Singapore were undefeated in that tournament, winning the final against Bahrain by 68 runs. Marvan, having worked under Chappell when he was Sri Lanka's fielding coach in 1999, credited the win to both coach and the players.



"It is now my duty to take Singapore to Division 4. I will strongly focus on the fitness of the players in the upcoming weeks to get them ready. Sri Lanka's Test and ODI captain between 2003 and 2006, Marvan also spoke on passing on all his experience to his players. "I will be honest with them and pass on my thoughts, but they are only that, thoughts. The captain and players have to read the situations and need to trust their gut feeling. That will come with experience," he said.

ACC Development Manager, fellow Sri Lankan, Bandula Warnapura says of Marvan, "It's rare to get three things from a coach as you do with Marvan; batting, fielding, captaincy. He's played at the highest level with a certain class and if he could even bat a little in front of the Singapore players they will learn a lot just by watching him. I expect him and the team to do well."

China's Bio-Mechanic Platform

Ten players from the national squads have been the first to undergo bio-mechanical testing in China's new focus on sports science as a tool to improve their players' performance.

Five men and five women have been tested in the Guangdong Sports Science centre under the watchful eye of Dr. Liu Jingmin and three others. ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam helped the scientists set up the sensors and cameras and national coaches Rashid Khan (men) and Mamatha Maben (women) were on hand to prepare the cricketers.

"The sensor mat on which the players bowled and batted is the longest in Asia and costs over a \$1 million. The bowlers bowled six balls and the batsmen played their best six shots indoors and outdoors. The scientists used 3-D cameras at high and slow speed and analyzed balance, all types of force, speed, alignment, power etc. in the lab," says Aminul. "Front-foot and back-foot weight distribution was measured for the batsmen, vertical forces were measured for the bowlers."



中国板球协会
Chinese Cricket Association

Apart from being one of the most prominent sports scientists in China, Dr. Liu Jingmin is the author of *Banquijichujiaocheng*, a Cricket Coaching Manual in Mandarin, and a Level II certified Umpire. "My aim is for China to be a successful cricket nation," he says. After recording the results, Dr. Liu's team compared data with Australia's elite players and provided feedback to the national coaches.



Cricket Initiatives

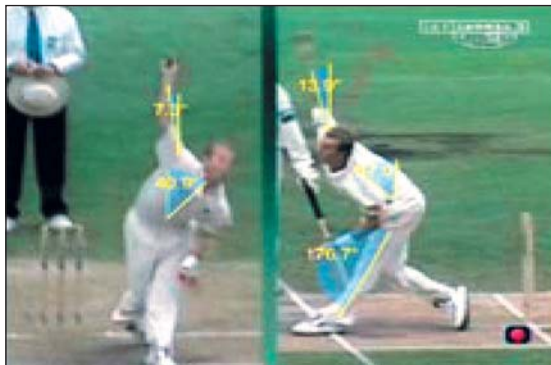
Some initial findings:

“The Chinese fast bowlers ground reaction force variables are less than the foreign elite players.”

“The capacity of China’s fastest male bowler (an 18-year old) is better than foreign females but less than males.”

“China’s fastest woman bowler is very close to Australia elite females.”

“Time to peak vertical GRF of Chinese bowlers is longer than elite players.”



Australian elite players



Chinese player



A professional baseball coach joined the national training camp in Shenzhen as a physical trainer. His role: to improve players’ fitness, throwing technique, upper body flexibility, speed, agility and mobility. At the camp the players’ day lasts from 6.30 AM to 5.45 PM, Tuesday to Saturday.

Nepal All Set To Go

Tribhuvan University, the Bhaktapur Army School and Pulchowk Engineering College grounds in Nepal were the three venues hosting Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 in February 2010. Upgrades were made to all the grounds following Nepal’s curators and administrators working tirelessly in the previous months.



Tribhuvan University Ground

The wickets on all three grounds have been relaid and all matches played at the TU (Tribhuvan University) Ground will be broadcast live on Nepali television. There has also been an upgrade of the facilities in the pavilion with the addition of a second restroom at the TU Ground. Previously, teams shared one restroom but now there are two separate toilets, one for each dressing room.



Nepal's cricket fans can be a boisterous bunch and the fencing around the ground has also been refurbished with the six-foot fences having an extra two feet added to them to prevent any form of pitch invasion. 7000 were at the U-17 Final last February, more than 10,000 have been at U-19 ACC matches featuring Nepal at Tribhuvan in the past.

“The TU Ground is Nepal's number one ground. The final of the World Cricket League is held there and it will be a great spectacle for all,” says Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) President Binaya Raj Pandey. The TU Ground is the only ground to cater specifically to cricket while the other grounds host other sports like football as well.

The last international tournament hosted by these grounds was the ACC U-17 Elite Cup in February 2009. The biggest problems faced by the Engineering College Ground were the standard of the wicket, the condition of the outfield and the open boundaries. A national U-16 tournament was held in Pulchowk, and conditions looked to have improved. Traditionally supportive to slow bowlers, the pitch looks good for batting, but with some surface grass it can also work to the advantage of the medium-pace bowlers. Additional soil and heavy rolling have smoothed the outfield to a large extent, with fencing also put all around the ground. These upgrades, with some maintenance, will be the long-term benefits for cricket in Nepal.



Cricket Initiatives

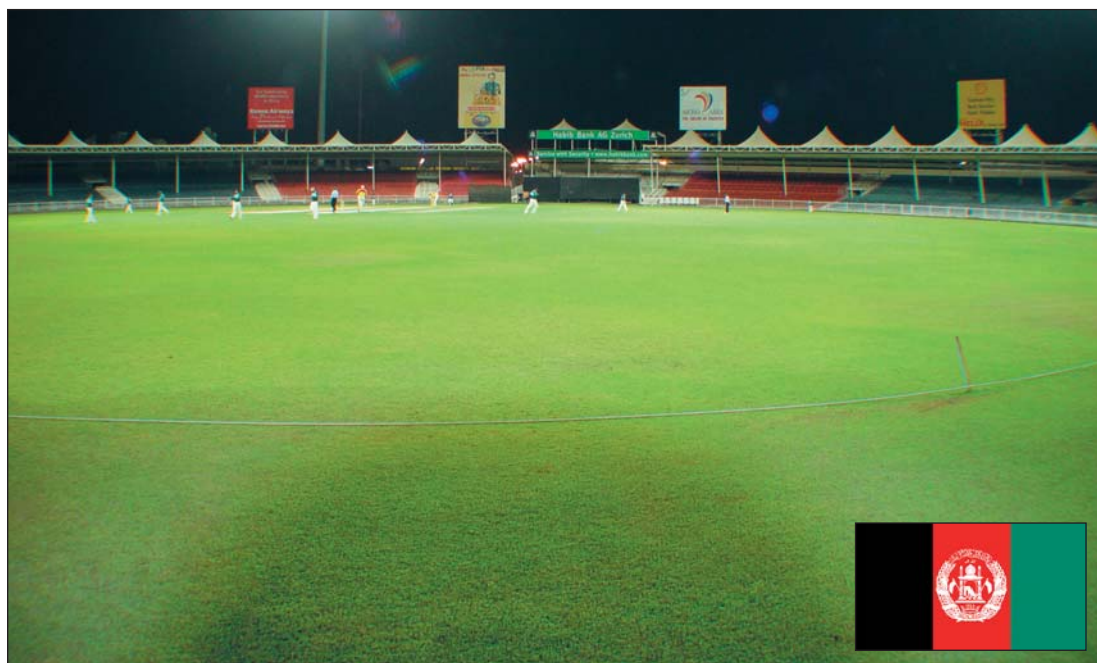


The Army School Ground in Bhaktapur is the farthest ground from Kathmandu, 14 kilometers away from the city centre. It is owned by the Army School but maintained by CAN. The ground has two pitches which have undergone an upgrade over the past eight months. An uneven outfield, caused by numerous army parades, has been rolled and soil has been added where necessary. “The pitch has too often been labeled as dusty but after the work done on it this is no longer an issue,” says groundsman Suresh Narayan. Temporary tents have been set up to act as pavilions.

“This event will bring a lot of publicity for the game and will hopefully generate more interest in the nation’s youth. We have been working very hard over the past months to prepare for this tournament and I am sure it will be a success,” added Mr. Pandey.

Cricket in Nepal is a national passion. The opening ceremony of the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 will be in the presence of the Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal. Bahrain, Fiji, Jersey, Singapore, USA The top two from the tournament move up to Division 4, to be played in Italy later in the year.

Afghanistan Has A New Home Ground



The Asian Cricket Council congratulates Afghanistan on its receiving of Sharjah Cricket Stadium as its ‘home ground’ for use in ODIs and first-class cricket. The grant was made by the foremost patron of cricket in the UAE Abdulrahman Bukhatir who said, “Bearing in mind the difficulties they have in Afghanistan, the cricketers deserve to have a place somewhere where they can come and feel that they are at home. Here they have good local support and they can make use of all the practise facilities in Sharjah Stadium, the gymnasium and nets as well as the grounds at Al Dhaid Cricket Village.”



“Afghanistan is not only the team doing the best at present in the developing world of cricket, they are also the team with the most potential,” says Asian Cricket Council Chief Executive Syed Ashraf Huq. “With very little in the way of facilities in Afghanistan the team have qualified for the World Twenty20 Cup this year and narrowly missed out on World Cup 2011 qualification. Being able to practise and play with frequency at Sharjah, to be able to invite other teams to their new ‘home ground’ can only help them improve as cricketers,” he adds.

Abdulrahman Bukhatir

UAE Emirates Cricket Board Administrator Mazhar Khan says, “7000 Afghan fans is what we have come to expect at every big match featuring Afghanistan in the UAE and giving Afghanistan use of Sharjah and Al Dhaid is not only a feather in the cap for cricket here but a revitalisation of cricket in the country. Sharjah Cricket Stadium, having marked its 200th ODI this week, is on course to keep on adding to this mark. Cricket should be played as much as possible and enjoyed by as many as possible at all times, and Afghanistan bring a freshness and energy to cricket that is good to see.”



Following on from their last two tournament successes in UAE, the 2009 ACC Twenty20 Cup and the ICC World T20 Qualifier 2010, Afghanistan’s national team remained in Sharjah to play a 4-day ICC Intercontinental Cup match against Canada where they made the ninth-highest run-chase in first-class cricket history, scoring 494 for 4 to win.



Brunei’s Beginnings

ACC Development Officer Aminul Islam went on an Assignment to Brunei in February 2010 where he worked with both the Under-16 and senior teams as well as local coaches. The Under-16 team were preparing for the ACC U-16 Challenge Cup in Malaysia in July and the focus was on helping school coaches develop the Under-16 team. Aminul also conducted basic coaching sessions for the seniors and says that “positive things are happening in Brunei”.



Cricket Initiatives

With Brunei's 2010 cricket season about to start, Aminul's fourth visit to the Sultanate focussed on player development. He held sessions with the players on warm-ups and stretching, both practical and theoretical. "Brunei's players are gradually improving but the numbers playing need to increase", said Aminul. Brunei's league consists of ten teams, two who have newly entered, and the games are held every Sunday. In the league, teams play three different formats; T20, 50-over and Brunei Cricket has also introduced a new 12-over format.

"Brunei's facilities are very limited and to work with what they have is commendable. Two nets are not nearly enough. What they need is a proper ground to accommodate the budding talent that they have. With every visit I can see that there is an increase in interest from the local people. They want to play cricket."



Cricket has already been introduced into the school system with eight primary schools already forming a cricket team. Aminul praised the Brunei Darussalam Cricket Association (BDCA) for all their hard work and now three more schools; Paduka Seri Begawan Sultan Science College (Maktab Sains), Sultan Saiful Rijal Technical College (MTSSR) and the Berakas Sixth Form Centre, have also begun to put together teams.



"We want to increase player numbers by getting more schools to introduce cricket as part of their co-curriculum activity. We want the next Bruneian superstar athlete to be a cricketer," he added.

China's Women In Bangladesh

China's women cricketers spent March in Bangladesh. 17 senior players along with 13 members of the Under-19 squad trained and play at the BKSP (Bangladesh Institute of Sports) and also watched the Dhaka Test between Bangladesh and England during their time there.



“Bangladesh’s basic coaching is far more advanced than China’s and this is why the girls will spend their time there training for the 2010 Asian Games. It will give them invaluable insight into the game as well as the passion for it,” said ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam.

China, advanced in so many other sports, lack the kind of cricket facilities available at the BKSP. The Chinese U-19 boys made use of BKSP in November last year, ahead of the ACC U-19 Challenge Cup in Thailand. Like the U-19s, the women’s senior team will play practice matches against local opposition and will have two high-performance Bangladeshi coaches, bowling coach Monjurul Islam and fielding coach Sohail Islam, with them for the length of their stay.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) also hosted Bahrain’s national cricket team in February. Bahrain played a one-day match against a Grameenphone-BCB National Cricket Academy XI before leaving for Nepal and the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5.



“BCB wants to help new cricketing nations. They have good facilities and its close proximity to China is also of great help as it is only a two-hour flight from Kunming to Dhaka. Hopefully the Chinese girls will learn more about cricket culture and take back good memories and some experience with them back home. With Bangladesh inviting China to train, the cricketing relationship between these two nations will also grow strongly,” added Aminul.

Player of the Tournament Sun Mengyao with Pakistan’s Javed Miandad, 2009 ACC Women’s Twenty20 Championship

China’s Women were on a six-match playing schedule and in conditions of high humidity and with temperatures reaching 41°C, “they never say ‘tired’” said Aminul. “Whenever they can, by themselves they go out and knock up and do fielding drills. They have a great enthusiasm and seriousness about the game.”

On the field the senior Chinese players’ fielding, fitness and running between the wickets was superior to their opponents and their three Twenty20 wins, against Azad Sporting Club, BKSP Academy (both of which had 4 national players) and the Clamon Asia Academy were by comfortable margins. Their loss to the BCB Women’s XI (virtually the national side) in a 25-over match was by nine wickets with nine balls to spare, after making 78.



Cricket Initiatives



Sun Mengyao

On non-match days, the cricketers had four hours practice and an hour-long English tutorial with retired Dhaka University Professor Abdul Hai, from whom Aminul Islam himself learnt the basics of Chinese.

There is a specialist fielding coach from the Bangladesh Cricket Board seconded to the visiting Chinese. Former Bangladesh national player Monjurul Islam is the bowling coach and Mamatha Maben is the batting coach. Aminul Islam is on hand in a supervisory role.

The Chinese women's team was formed in 2007 and its first senior international tournament was the ACC Women's Twenty20 in 2009. In November 2009 they were in Mohali, India, and have recently completed a tour of Hong Kong.

The men's U-19 team was in Bangladesh in November 2009 for a similar training camp at BKSP. China's women, however, are expected to do better than their men at the

Asian Games. "Training in Bangladesh where there are so much more facilities for cricket, so much more cricket all around, will help China develop more quickly than just being back at home," says Aminul.

Wang Meng, women's senior captain, says she is learning a great deal. "It is like a cricket heaven here. They provide us with the best facilities, best fields and best coaches to help us improve the skills," she said.

Former India captain Mamatha Maben, who became head coach of the Chinese women's cricket team in March 2009, said, "Although the players have the skills and potential, they are lacking of match experience. That's why we came here and arranged matches with local teams."

China's women ended their tour of Bangladesh having won five of their seven matches.



Bangladesh's Aminul Islam keeps an eye on China



Nepal Thrive In Five

Nepal's senior team won their first international cricket tournament since the 2006 - 2007 ACC Premier League when they beat USA at home in the Final of Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5. They won by five wickets chasing 172.

Cheered on by the biggest crowd yet seen at the Tribhuvan University Ground, 15,000, the match also broadcast on national television, Nepal were indebted to left-arm spinner Rahul Vishvakarma for victory. His 7-15 pegged USA back from 152 for 3 in the 40th over setting up his top-order batsmen's successful chase.



Had Singapore conceded just 2 fewer runs in the 250 overs they bowled in their group-stage matches, they would have piped Nepal for a place in the Final. It is Nepal who move up to Division 4 along with USA, to be played in Italy in August. A top-two finish there will take them to Division 3 (where Hong Kong and Oman wait), the same result will then take them to 2011's Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 2. Bahrain beat Singapore on the last day to clinch third place in Division 5.



ICC Global Development Awards For Nepal



Binaya Raj Pandey, President of the Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) received Pepsi ICC Development Programme Lifetime Service award. This was the second consecutive year that someone from the Asian region has been given this honour by the International Cricket Council, HRH Tunku Imran of the Malaysian Cricket Association (MCA) being recognized last year. As well as the Lifetime Service Award CAN won the Best Junior Cricket Initiative. Nepal's Development Awards came just two days after the national team's Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 victory.

Mr. Pandey has been involved in the Cricket Association of Nepal on and off for decades, first attending ACC meetings in 1991 and ICC meetings in 1996. He has been CAN President since 2006. A man of steely resolve, yet modest and soft-spoken, Mr. Pandey when contacted in Kathmandu said, "I've been dedicated to cricket for a very long time now. It was the ACC who first recognized my work and I am grateful for this award. I really have to give credit to my family because it is definitely not easy when I spend so much time on cricket. I'd also like to dedicate my award to everyone in Nepal Cricket," said Mr. Pandey.



Nepal victorious, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 2010

“Winning WCL Division 5 is also another highlight for us all in Nepal. This will move the overall cricketing structure forward in Nepal and hopefully prepare us for entry into the 2015 Cricket World Cup. Now we must immediately look ahead and start preparing for the ACC Under-16 Elite Cup, ACC Trophy Elite and the WCL Division 4 tournament in Italy in August,” he added.

“Winning the global award for our Junior Cricket Initiative is also good for cricket in the country as it recognizes the start of our five-year government sponsored program which is designed to help children across the country have more access to cricket. This recognition will make the Government feel even better about actively supporting the game.”



Development Starts



The new ACC U-16 competition category heralds a significant step in the evolution of development practice in the ACC. Put in place of U-15 and U-17 tournaments as they featured much of the same players in both tournaments and thus mitigated against creating new players, the sine qua non of development, the U-16 event marks another significant development in the development process with it being the first ACC tournament to insist on each participating team having three passport-holders of the country they represent on the field.

Previously, the minimum number of passport-holders had been just two players on the field. It has initially made it difficult on the Middle Eastern countries, as not even children born in those countries become passport-holding citizens. The fact of the matter is, if cricket is to put down roots and grow and break out of the relatively small cradle in which it currently is placed in many countries, it has to be played by, taken up by, as significant and substantial a part of the population as possible.

Three is a start, U-16 cricket is a start. More will come, at U-16 and U-19 cricket in the future and then the senior sides too. Cricket is increasingly an Asian game yet at the same time, it cannot be a game for the people connected to just a few Asian countries.

This 2010 U-16 tournament is where a new cycle of development starts. One hopes many, if not all of the players in this tournament will go on to higher honours as better cricketers in the years ahead.



ACC Umpires Bond



ACC Umpiring Resource Staff K. T. Francis, Peter Manuel and Mahboob Shah conducted a first of its kind 'Train the Umpires Trainer' course. The three-day course in Kuala Lumpur educated umpires on how to run the ACC Level 0 course in their own countries. 22 participants from 17 countries in the Asian region took part.

With these umpires grooming their local officials, the ACC will be able to select umpires, who are both active and interested, for future umpiring courses. "Previously there were a lot of Level I umpires who were inactive. After all the time, effort and funds put in to train them, it was a waste and this is what we are looking to avoid," says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura.

Henceforth, participants in all ACC-run programs will be asked to sign a two-year bond with their respective cricket boards. The bond will state that the individual will be active for a minimum period of two years, failing which the Board will face a penalty from the ACC where the individual's total program costs will be deducted from the Board's yearly funds.



Singapore's Sarika Prasad with Nepal's Vinay Kumar Jha

"What the ACC is doing is very good. This will help raise the umpiring standard and we will all work harder. This course was a good experience and we learnt a lot from our peers and now it is up to us to maintain the high levels set for us," says Singaporean umpire Sarika Prasad, who is one of the foremost Associate-level umpires. This year Mr. Prasad has officiated in the ICC U/19 World Cup, ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier and ICC World Cricket League Division 5.

All the participants at the 'Train the Umpires Trainer' course are Level II umpires and were jointly selected by the respective boards and the ACC to attend this course.

"We have received a very positive response so far. The umpires, now being trainers, will push themselves to master the laws of cricket and they will. In umpiring, there is a promise to rise despite not coming from a Test-playing nation and that inspires them to work harder," says ICC Regional Umpires' Performance Manager Peter Manuel.



“We have seen some good performances from an enthusiastic bunch. For a first time course, this has been a success but from now on we need to correspond with the participants and lend our support constantly,” adds ACC Umpires Assessor K. T. Francis.

K T Francis, match-refereeing for the ACC

Afghanistan's First Cricket Stadium

Chairman of the Afghanistan Cricket Board and Afghanistan Finance Minister Dr. Omar Zakhilwal laid the foundation stone of the first ever cricket stadium in his country in March. The stadium will be built in the Ghazi Amanullah Khan Township located 15 kilometers east of Jalalabad city on the Jalalabad – Torkham Highway in the eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar.



Dr. Zakhilwal said the stadium will cost US\$5 million which will be paid for by the Afghan government and the reconstruction arm of international society in Afghanistan, the Provincial Reconstruction Team. The Afghanistan Cricket Board say they have three million dollars in hand and that the rest of the funds would be acquired soon. “It will address the demand of cricket lovers,” he said of the project. The Provincial Governor's spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdulzai told us that if the scheme was stymied by financial constraints, local traders were ready to provide monetary support.

Dr. Zakhilwal said, “The stadium will be built on 30 acres donated by the developer of the Ghazi Amanullah Khan Township and the construction will take one year. Once completed, the stadium will not only help solve the difficulties Afghan cricketers currently face due to lack of proper playing facilities, but will enable the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) to invite other nations to play in an international standard venue in Afghanistan”. The stadium will include an advanced cricket academy and a hostel for cricketers to live in while practicing at the academy, said ACB Chief Executive Dr. Aimal Shinwari.



Cricket Initiatives



Jalalabad, to the east of Kabul, is known as the ‘capital of cricket’ in Afghanistan as its relatively mild weather allows for the playing of cricket around the year, contrary to some parts of Afghanistan where it snows and cricket can be played only during summer and spring only. Jalalabad is also home to cricket crazy fans who always celebrate Afghanistan’s victories in large numbers on the streets.

Afghanistan’s national team players present at the inauguration were of the view that building a standard stadium will help domestic cricket grow faster and will expedite organizing domestic cricket through playing regular cricket tournaments in the future stadium. Dr Shinwari said construction of the stadium (the main expense) would start as soon as the design of the stadium and the accompanied facilities are ready.

Level I Coaching For Iran

ACC Development Officer Iqbal Sikander spent a week in Iran in March when the Iran Cricket Federation (ICF) conducted their first Level I coaching course.

The course, held in Tehran, consisted of 23 participants from different regions in Iran. Mr. Sikander was assisted by Kambiz Rana, a local ACC Level I coach, and Ms. Minoo Hamdollahzadeh, in translating the lectures into Farsi with the course focussing on the basics of batting, bowling, fielding and wicket-keeping. All the participants were either ex-players, school teachers or Federation employees interested in growing their knowledge of the sport.

“All of them are very enthusiastic about cricket and majority of the coaches at the course were ladies; 15 out of the 23. The officials too are very keen to develop the game in Iran and I have given the participants drills to work on but I soon hope to provide them with training videos so that they can watch and learn from them,” said Iqbal.

The development of cricket in Iran “may be slow”, according to Iqbal, “but it is still a new sport and they have taken to it well. There is a lack of a lot of things like equipment, grounds and coaches and one positive is that the government is now supporting them,” he added. The ICF have been given grounds for practice in Tehran, Zahedan, Chabahr and Konarak. Previously the ACC, through the Pakistan Cricket Board, had sent a lady coach to Iran but now the ICF are looking for a permanent coach for the men’s and women’s squads.



Iqbal Sikander with course participants

“Recently the ICF received three Astroturf pitches from the ACC. A large amount of equipment has to be given them because their numbers are growing by the day,” said Iqbal.



ACC and UNICEF Team Up



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL



"With the understanding that cricket players can be agents of change and role models for children and families" is how the MoU between the United Nations Children's Fund and the Asian Cricket Council begins, in order to "develop advocacy initiatives aimed at promoting good nutrition, improved sanitation and the recognition that educated girls are fundamental to the health of families."

South Asia, particularly Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka is the focus of UNICEF's current campaign to promote "through the power of cricket" greater awareness of three core issues: good nutrition, improved sanitation and girls' education. The initiative is known as 'Cricket's Healthy Hat-Trick'.

The current MoU, follows those of 2004 and 2006 where the ACC and UNICEF used ACC events to boost understanding of UNICEF's valuable campaigns. One-third of the boundary boards at the 2007 Afro-Asia Cup were donated to UNICEF by the ACC.

"The ACC and UNICEF have long had a mutually beneficial relationship which makes both of us feel that we are not only reaching new people with UNICEF's message but adding to the knowledge that people already have of our two bodies' work," says ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashrafu'l Huq. "The Executive Board of the Asian Cricket Council joins me in wishing this endeavour every success. Good health and good parenting make for good cricketers and a better world."



M.A.Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai, June 2007



Thai Cricketers Demonstrate



Thailand's U-19s

"It's a revolution in Thailand," says Cricket Association of Thailand Chief Executive Mohideen Kader. Cricket is now firmly established as a part of the Thai sporting landscape with its introduction into the 10,000 athlete, 30-event National Youth Games currently going on in Phetchabun province in north-central Thailand. "There's been tremendous interest from Thai TV and journalists in cricket and even on our rest-day the organisers have asked us to play a demonstration game and run a coaching session so that more people can get to see cricket," adds Mr. Kader. Eighty children who had never before played cricket took part in the coaching, attended to by national players John Hottinger and Nopphon Senamontree.

11 men's and 9 women's teams applied to take part in this year's Youth Games, the organisers ultimately limiting the teams to twelve. "Next time in Uttaradit in 2012 there'll be even more, with the added advantage that the host province has to field a team, meaning that cricket will have gone to another new place," says the CAT Chief Executive.



In 2002 when development started, the game was confined to Bangkok, with sporadic Sixes cricket in Phuket and Chiang Mai. Since then coaches have travelled to schools in a number of provinces in order to encourage the take-up of cricket. The result has been Thai boys and girls playing in increasing numbers and winning places in the national team.

32 Coaches Complete Level II

An ACC Level II Coaching course was held in Malaysia in March 2010, with 32 participants from 16 countries including four women from Bahrain and Kuwait. The ACC's three Development Officers Aminul Islam, Iqbal Sikander and Rumesh Ratnayake conducted proceedings with the support of General Manager of Game Development Cricket Australia Ross Turner.



Iqbal Sikander assesses

Level II courses aim at sharpening not only cricketing skills but also man-management skills. Participants advance from Level I where coaching is only focussed on batting, bowling, fielding and wicket-keeping and in Level II are taught how to handle a team, make short-, medium- and long-term coaching session plans and enhance leadership qualities. The Level II course also touches on sports physiology and error detections in players. “What we’re essentially doing at this course is preparing these coaches for a more strenuous course which is the Level III. We are identifying the best and will notify the respective boards of the best,” says Iqbal. “The Level II graduates will hope to move to a more advanced role in their countries and in the case of the

newer nations they will be key people to help upgrade the level of cricket.

“These coaches are graduates of the Level I course and are products of the Development Officers’ courses in their respective nations. To come from that course to a centralized Level II is a sign that the system has matured. There is more dedication, commitment, an increase in skill-level and the desire to want to learn and improve is evident. In that sense the course has been successful,” said Ross Turner.

Ross Turner went on to praise the quality of the program and facilities and spoke about the challenges faced by the Development Officers in this course. “Most of these Level II representatives come from cricketing nations who’ve been playing for decades now but with coaches from Iran, Myanmar and China present, the tutors need to adjust and cope with them in the best possible way.”



Aminul Islam assesses

Iran’s Yousef Raeisi, a national cricketer and participant of the course, said, “I am happy to be here and learn. Their knowledge is very vast and all of it can be put to use by us when we return home.”



Iran’s Yousef Raeisi doing his practical

“The course enhances the skills needed to make sure a coach helps a player move to an advanced level. Biomechanics, planning, video analysis – all this is taught at Level II and will help the players grow faster. It is very encouraging to see four ladies here. They are all from the Middle East and it shows that they’re opening up to women’s cricket and they are very eager to do well in the course. It’s a huge step forward for the ACC,” said Rumesh.



Saudi Arabia: Kingdom of Ambition

The ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq, Development Manager Bandula Warnapura and Development Officer Iqbal Sikander went on a high-profile tour of inspection of Saudi Arabia in March 2010. Jeddah, Yanbu, Dammam and Riyadh were the sites visited during an intensive five-day schedule which included a meeting with the head of the General President of Youth Welfare Prince Sultan Bin Fahd and Deputy Governor of Al-Baha Region and Patron of Saudi Cricket Centre Prince Dr. Faisal Bin Muhammad Bin Saud Bin Abdulaziz.



"It is clear that Saudi Arabia wish to progress, it is up to them to work with us to help them achieve their aims, which include better facilities, and more access to high-level coaching and umpiring," said the ACC Chief Executive.

The example of Afghanistan, an ICC Affiliate nation which has climbed the ladder at great speed and is now playing in a T20 World Cup as well as being an ODI nation has inspired Saudi Arabia and its confreres. The ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura noted at a press conference in the Kingdom, "Saudi Arabia has already established its mark on the international sports scene, especially in soccer where it played in four World Cups. But playing in a cricket World Cup could become a reality soon if things are put in the right direction and perspective."



Looking to the future in Jeddah and Yanbu



Notwithstanding the talent in the country, distance between the locus points of cricket in the kingdom (Riyadh to Dammam 400 km, Riyadh to Jeddah 845km) and the lack of turf wickets throughout the country has so far held Saudi Arabia back from being able to create a well-trained cadre of international cricketers.

Sites at Dammam and Yanbu have been identified as potential locations for cricket stadia and plans to develop them will form part of a detailed development proposal to be submitted to Prince Sultan.

Charles In Charge at Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Cricket Association appointed Charles Burke as their new national coach in March 2010. Mr. Burke, formerly ICC East Asia-Pacific Development Manager, will start work in Hong Kong in May on a two-year contract with a brief to oversee cricket development for the national team and age-groups for both men and women. Speaking to the ACC from Jakarta, where he was conducting a Level I coaching course, Hong Kong's new coach said, "Initially I'd like to create an elite player pathway for the U-16s and U-19s to come into the national team and help develop a good structure and good competitions for the players and coaches."



HKCA General manager Danny Lai said that in contrast to former coaches in Hong Kong who have "focussed mostly on the national team, Charlie is going to spend a lot more time on player development from the base up. It may mean that Hong Kong takes one step back to go two steps forward but in the medium to long-term that is what we need here. He was selected by the newly established HKCA Coaching Committee out of 28 strong applicants including former Test captains."



Hong Kong have had some success in recent years, ACC Trophy Elite winners in 2008, ACC U-19 Elite winners in 2009 as well as ACC Women's Twenty20 Cup winners in the same year along with sound performances in the ICC World Cricket League and participation in the ICC U-19 World Cup. In their defence of the ACC Trophy this year Hong Kong finished third. "I've seen them play a fair bit recently, and at this stage it's just going to be a matter of getting the ones in the team to play more effectively, there's a fair amount of talent there but at Associate level you really don't play too many matches and the job at Hong Kong's about much more than the national men's and women's teams," says Mr. Burke.

Arjun Menon who coached Singapore to victory in the 2010 ACC U-16 Elite in Nepal, worked with Mr. Burke in Western Australia some years ago. "Charlie was a very young Senior Game Development Manager then, having come up

through the ranks from Community Cricket Officer and what was very clear was that he always had very good ideas for player development and coach education at the WACA. He played a decent level of WACA grade cricket and he's not going to have any difficulty in relating to the players wherever he is."



Qatar's Children Make Hay, On Grass

150 U-13 cricketers played on turf for the first time in Doha last week, in the Qatar Cricket Association's latest Junior Cricket Tournament. "This tournament will be of great help to provide exposure to cricket and create enthusiasm among the youngsters. The major objective of this tournament was to identify future national players and develop their techniques," says QCA General Secretary (International Affairs) Manzoor Ahmad.



10 schools took part in the day-long 6-overs a side event at the Industrial Area Cricket Ground, which will soon be relaid with top soil from Pakistan in order to create a playing surface fit for senior-level cricket.



The 24 most promising players from the tournament, selected on the basis of "Tactical Ability, Mental Power and Quality"

says QCA Development Program 2010 Joint Secretary Aruna de Silva, will be given regular coaching at the QCA Academy, in preparation for potential national team appearances, starting at U-16 level.

Dhukhan English School were the winners of this year's tournament, beating Pakistan Education Centre in the Final.



China's Best Woven Into Karachi Cricket



Six of China's national men's team went to Karachi at the special invitation of Pakistan's Ambassador for Cricket to China Javed Miandad in March. The elite China players trained at the PCB Regional Academy and playing in matches for Karachi sides. "The plan is for the boys to learn and play in teams where they will be asked to take a lot of responsibility," says China's coach Rashid Khan.

"It's a lifetime opportunity for the Chinese players," says China's coach, "to have direct input from Javed Miandad at this stage in their careers. Javed Bhai is

taking his job to help China cricket very seriously and it is just the small things he knows that are very big help to the boys." Javed Miandad (124 Tests and 233 ODIs for Pakistan) was given a special brief to assist cricket in China by Pakistan Cricket Board Patron-in-Chief President Asif Zardari at the start of 2009. From now, until the Chinese cricketers leave on May 10, Mr. Miandad is with the cricketers almost every evening in technical sessions. Last year Mr. Miandad spent time with China's women's cricketers in China and in Malaysia.



Pakistan's Ambassador for Cricket to China Javed Miandad and China's coach Rashid Khan



"The boys start training at 7AM for 90 minutes, then start a Twenty20 match. After a break they come back for more training from 4 to 6.30 PM," says Rashid Khan. Rashid is also bringing in Shoaib Akhtar, Faisal Iqbal and Danish Kaneria to work with the Chinese cricketers Song Dou, Zhao Gaosheng, Li Jian, Zhang Peng, Jiang Shuyao and Zhang Yufei.



With Danish Kaneria and Shoaib Akhtar



Two Putting Something Back



Nepal's Gyanendra Malla



Afghanistan's Hasti Gul

Afghanistan's Hasti Gul and Nepal's Gyanendra Malla have achieved much for their countries on the playing field, now they're trying to do more off the field. Both have started academies in their home towns, with an eye to creating their successors in the national teams of the future. "Of all the things I have done, this is what makes me feel the best," says Hasti Gul.

Swing-bowling, hard-hitting Hasti Gul, 26, was one of the players on Afghanistan's epic charge up the world rankings which took them to the brink of World Cup 2011 qualification and though out of the national team at present, he retains his immense popularity in a country in which cricket is increasingly being established as the most popular sport. "160 players daily come to my Academy in Jalalabad," says Hasti, "we have four turf wickets and two cement pitches and a coach from Peshawar Mr. Saad Muhammad. My dream is that 10 of these boys go on to play for the national team in five years and that many more will come and enjoy cricket in our country."



Hasti Gul with Shahid Afridi



Nepal's Gyanendra Malla, 19, is softer-spoken than Hasti Gul and is a player still performing at the highest possible level for Nepal. A middle-order batsman of grace and distinction who can bowl spin and throw with either arm, he has a maturity that belies his years. He has been playing for the national team since 2006 and is a major talent. There is no doubt that his 40 or so young charges, who come after school when they can but almost always on Saturdays weather permitting, respond well to Gyanendra's gentle encouragement and teaching. His pupils are as young as 5 and he has two of the national women's squad also enrolled in his Academy.



“It’s more of a Training Centre than an ‘Academy’” says Gyanendra modestly of his work in a vacant residential plot in the suburbs of Kathmandu. “Everybody has different needs, for the young it’s mostly a matter of getting them to enjoy the game, to realise how much they can achieve if they just try. For the older ones it’s just working with them on small things to make sure they keep doing the right things,” says Gyanendra. “We don’t have huge expectations here, we are just starting but I know that without someone to encourage you in the right way you can’t really be a good cricketer. Cricket is popular in Nepal but it is also hard to play for a number of reasons but its something that can really help the young have access to cricket. So few schools have teams, there are so few tournaments and the children who want to play don’t get enough chances. Here it’s about just playing and giving parents the confidence to send their children here.”

Gyanendra Malla: Laying a track for others to follow

Hasti Gul and Gyanendra Malla met on the playing field a few times themselves in ACC and ICC tournaments, in the future players they have helped develop may well do the same. “I will not play cricket forever but I want to help make cricket forever big in Afghanistan. I am saying 10 players for the national team, I also hope to have 10 teams from the Academy in domestic competitions in Afghanistan. And then international,” says Hasti Gul.



Hasti’s nets in Jalalabad

He and Gyanendra have achieved, are achieving, much and developing cricket in a vital and necessary way. They have already inspired quite literally hundreds of thousands, such is their appeal in their native lands. They are also directly helping as many as they can along the way.



"Fare Well, Afghanistan"

"Fare well, Afghanistan our team in the ICC World Twenty20", so spoke Saeed Hamad Al Hamli the CEO of their sponsor Etisalat hours before the team left Dubai en route through London to the West Indies.

Etisalat have been sponsoring Afghanistan since 2007, starting with ICC World Cricket League Division 5, the first tournament Afghanistan won on their way to ODI status and a place among the world's best at the World Twenty20. "Etisalat supported us when we were just starting and relatively unknown," says Afghanistan's coach Kabir Khan.



Afghanistan's captain Nawroz Mangal carrying the flag for his country and Etisalat

Commercials for broadcast in the UAE and Afghanistan have been shot with the team at Sharjah Cricket Stadium, and another with Hamid Hassan the star fast-bowler. Etisalat are unable to sponsor the Afghanistan team in the West Indies as one of the ICC World Twenty20's commercial partners are another telecommunications company, Reliance Mobile.

"This team has already won, reaching the highest level of competition....to achieve such success with so limited resources is a remarkable achievement," says Etisalat Afghanistan's CEO. "Rebuilding Afghanistan is a guiding principle for us, as it is for the team who have shown us the true value of sport to a country."

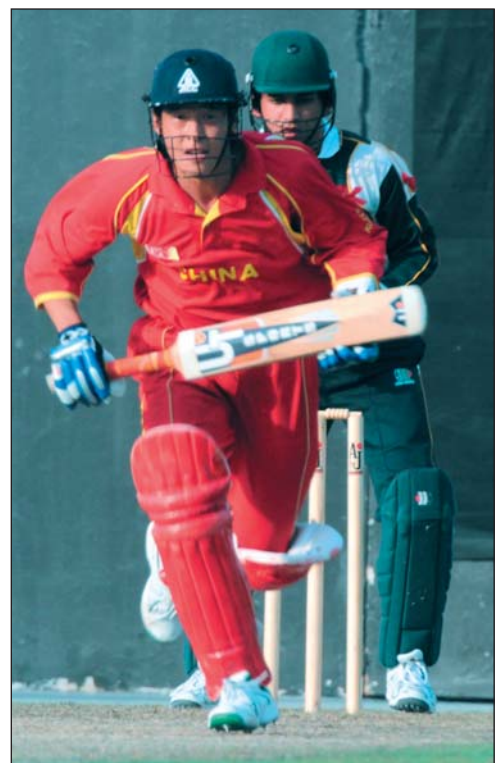
China Push On In Lahore

The six Chinese national team members who were training in Karachi went next to Lahore for a 12-day coaching camp. Coach Rashid Khan and Pakistan's Ambassador for Cricket to China Javed Miandad took the six Chinese cricketers to the National Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore.

Playing four games in Karachi, China's coach said that a lot of the locals were impressed with the skills of some of the Chinese players. "Zhang Yufei scored 57 in one game. It was a great experience for them. They played well and learnt a lot.



"Our aim here is to expose them to a higher quality of cricket. The facilities at the NCA are world-class and the more they play, the better they get. There is always visible improvement at the end of each day and that is very encouraging for us all," says Rashid Khan.



The players will be put under the same training drills as they were back in Karachi. With temperatures in Pakistan hitting a maximum of 40°C, the Twenty20 games are mostly played after 3PM. Pakistan's cricketers, Shoaib Akhtar, Faisal Iqbal and Danish Kaneria, were with the Chinese players (Song Dou, Zhao Gaosheng, Li Jian, Zhang Peng, Jiang Shuyao and Zhang Yufei) and Rashid Khan was looking to bring in more Pakistani talent to inspire his boys in Lahore.



"We've approached Akram Raza and Moin Khan. They have both been very accommodating and are ready to help. Being coached by cricketers of this standard will help teach my players a lot. And they are always eager to learn," added Mr. Khan.

ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam was confident that the boys' time in Pakistan will yield positives very soon. "These match scenarios are very important for the Chinese players. They need to play more games more often. It is like they have learnt the cricketing alphabet and now it is time for them to start reading and writing the paragraphs."

The six Chinese nationals returned to Karachi for two more games before flying to Chengdu where a national training camp began in May.



China's best with Javed Miandad, PCB President Ijaz Butt and Rashid Khan at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore

Baba Sourjah Returns To Guide Bhutan

Former Bhutan national coach Baba Sourjah has returned to the Thunder Kingdom. Sourjah coached the national team from 2003 to 2006 and is in Thimphu for three weeks to train Bhutan's coaches. He will also work with the Under-16 boys and the Under-19 girls teams.

A naturalized Sri Lankan who has lived in Australia since 1973, Mr. Sourjah is a Level III accredited coach and is currently the High Performance Coach with the South Brisbane District Cricket Club. He is "an amazing skills coach" according to ACC Development Officer for Bhutan Rumesh Ratnayake.



Cricket Initiatives

“Baba is brilliant when it comes to his cricket drills. A real disciplinarian, he is given a lot of respect from the Bhutan cricketers and firmly believes that before you start playing cricket on the field, you must first begin off it,” says Rumesh.



Baba Sourjah

Speaking from Thimphu, Baba went on to say that if Bhutan wanted to develop their talent, they'd have to improve on their facilities and fast. “It is disappointing to see because when I was last here in 2006, Bhutan were maybe peaking. In 2007, a synthetic centre wicket and three nets were removed as the site was used for the function of the crowning of Bhutan's new king.

“Now there are no more wickets and the level of cricket has dropped. This really hampers Bhutan's progress. A bowling machine is just sitting here because without proper facilities it cannot be used,” he added. Off the six grounds available for practice in Bhutan, there are no turf pitches,” said Bhutan's veteran coach.

In his sessions, the much-travelled coach first demonstrated various skill-building drills to the coaches and then guided the other coaches as they worked with their players. Almost all of the coaches he's currently training are players in the national team. Bhutan's National Coaching Coordinator and National Coach Damber Gurung credits his cricketing knowledge and skills to his former coach. “He has such love for the country and cricket and has done a lot for all of us. There is so much confidence he inspires in us all and with his guidance and exercises, the cricketers of Bhutan are sure to benefit greatly.”

Baba Sourjah revisited Bhutan in subsequent months and accompanied the Bhutanese to Malaysia for the ACC U-16 Challenge Cup in July.



The coach is optimistic for girls cricket in Bhutan

Afghanistan and Indian Cricketers “Bowl Out Polio” Together at ICC World Twenty20

India's and Afghanistan's cricketers went head-to-head for the first time ever in May in the International Cricket Council World Twenty20 Tournament. But off the field in St. Lucia, the teams put their bats aside to join forces to "Bowl Out Polio" in India and Afghanistan - two of only four countries remaining in the world battling the transmission of this crippling virus.

Indian Batsman Suresh Raina and Afghan Captain Nawroz Mangal exchanged “Bowl Out Polio” cricket bats autographed by members of each team to show regional solidarity to eliminate the polio virus from India and Afghanistan. “It is our obligation as athletes to make sure every child has the opportunity to run and to play,” said Suresh Raina. “We are happy to come together with the Afghanistan team for this important cause.”

Polio is a virus which cripples and kills young children. While most of the world has been polio-free for years, Afghanistan, India, Pakistan and Nigeria remain the only countries that have never stopped poliovirus transmission.

Cricketers in India have been intensively involved with the polio eradication effort since 2003, when the “Bowl Out Polio” campaign was launched by Sourav Ganguly, Rahul Dravid and Zaheer Khan. Today, players promote Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV) nationally, and especially in the endemic states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Since 2007, more than 40 per cent of type 1 polio cases outside UP and Bihar in India have occurred in migrant communities, underlining how critical it is for children to be vaccinated before they travel. “If we do not end polio in India, the rest of the world will suffer,” said Indian captain MS Dhoni, “Every parent must vaccinate their children regardless of travel schedules, work or anything else in our busy lives. Nothing is more important than our children’s future.”

In Afghanistan, polio has been largely restricted to Helmand and Kandahar where access to children has been compromised by ongoing conflict. Limited female service providers, an inadequate health infrastructure and regular population movements across the border into polio-infected Pakistan are other difficulties faced.



Murali Vijay, Piyush Chawla, Karim Sadiq, Suresh Raina, Nawroz Mangal, Raees Ahmadzai, Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja in St.Lucia, April 30 2010



Suresh Raina and Nawroz Mangal exchange bats signed by India and Afghanistan to be kept at their respective Boards



Cricket Initiatives

Education and OPV are considered to be inextricably linked in Afghanistan, and among the most critical rights for children's development. "My future as a cricket player was secured a long time ago, when I was a child," said Raees Ahmadzai, member of the Afghan Cricket Team and founder of Afghan Youth Cricket Support Organization (AYCSO). "Vaccination is essential to protect our children from the crippling disease of polio. Education is the social vaccine to boost our society. Both are essential for the future of both girls and boys."

Dr. Bruce Aylward, the Director of the Polio Eradication Initiative at WHO, paid tribute to the Afghanistan and India cricket teams for raising awareness of this issue at such a critical time. "Right now we have the best chance we've ever had to end polio forever," Dr Aylward said. The greatest threat to finishing the job remains a \$1.4 billion funding gap to eradicate polio globally by end-2012. "These cricket stars are challenging the global community to stand up," Dr Aylward said, "The world must not squander this unique opportunity to bowl out polio once and for all."

Cricket Spreads To Sarpang

Sarpang is situated in southern Bhutan and consists of 14 gewogs (group of villages). Targeted by the Bhutan Cricket Council Board (BCCB) to become the next cricket centre, after the capital Thimphu, plans have been made to develop more grounds and nets to cater to the growing interest there.

The BCCB have been finding it hard to carry out their desired cricketing activities due to the lack of grounds and the growing popularity of the game. There are only two grounds being utilized for cricket in Thimphu, Jigmethang and Changlimithang, and neither of these grounds belong to the BCCB, both being government-owned.



Jigme Norbu (red shirt) with the Gelephu Lower School Principal in Sarpang



Southern Bhutan is made up of plains, in marked contrast to the rest of the country. National Curator Ugyen Dorji, along with BCCB CEO Jigme Norbu and District Coordinator Tshering Dorji, have paid a three-day visit to Sarpang and also to Punaka District to assess ground conditions. "Flat land is hard to come by here and so in comparison to other countries, our grounds are quite small. For the development in Sarpang, Paro, Punaka and Wangdue districts, we have already advertised for a tender or quotation from a contractor in the newspapers in mid April", says Tshering Dorji.

"I am sure we will be getting a positive response soon. We have also advertised on the Bhutan Broadcasting Service for the whole of next week, our national radio and television service here in Bhutan. As soon as we get the tenders, things will move quickly in Sarpang. I am looking forward to have good facilities for BCCB," said Dorji.



Sarpang, Paro, Punakha and Thimphu are four of the 20 districts in Bhutan that have taken a keen interest in cricket - "a number that is rapidly growing", according to National Coaching Coordinator Damber Gurung. "My job is to make sure cricketing activities continue to take place here in Bhutan irrespective of the quality of the grounds. We will work hard and once the grounds are ready, we can have proper matches held for our schools and clubs," he says. A four-category school championship for classes 5 to 8 and an U-19 boys and girls tournament will start in Punakha in May.





BCCB CEO Jigme Norbu is positive that Bhutan Cricket, after succeeding at ACC Challenge level in recent years, will continue moving forward. "Cricket development will continue despite drawbacks. There are many districts interested in cricket and if they have an interest, development will go ahead."

Jigme Norbu (grey shirt) with some Gelephu cricketers

Maldives: Mix And Match

The Cricket Board of Maldives, aware that youthful talent needs to be seasoned with some experience for cricketing success, organized an U-25 tournament in June from which to select future internationals.

31 players were selected and divided into three groups according to their previous performances.

Most of the 31 have already participated in ACC age-group tournaments and impressed. The four teams making up the 40-over competition can also play three players over the age of 25 per side.



The Young Maldivians

There are however, a few restrictions on them: only two of them can play in a game and they can only bat after the fall of the 5th wicket and can bowl only five overs but only after the 20th over.

Cricket Board of Maldives President Ahmad Hassan Didi said, "The senior players are only included for the purpose of guiding the younger ones. There is much they can learn from them. We expect the seniors to steer and lead them on the field and give them tips on match situations as well."

"We'd like our boys to have more exposure and to play more games. The best of these players will be chosen to represent Maldives in the next ACC tournament and this tournament can be a start for some of them to start building a cricket profile," he added.

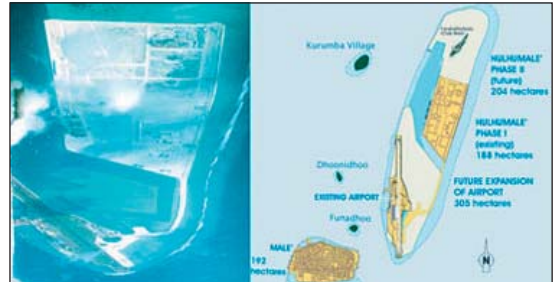


All games were played on an artificial pitch at the Sports Complex Ground in Malé.



Maldives Making It Happen

Maldives Minister of Human Resources, Youth and Sports Mohamed Rasheed Hussain met with ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraful Huq in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the building of an international cricket stadium in Hulhumalé. Hulhumalé is a newly developing island located in the Kaafu Atoll and is a 15-minute boat ride from Maldives capital Malé.



The concept paper submitted to the ACC by Mr. Hussain states, “The project is aimed at broadening international relationships and opening the market for investment in the Maldives with regards to the development of the country and its youth.” Of the multi-island nation’s 400,000 people, approximately one-third are between the ages of 18 to 35, many of whom are unfortunately beset by endemic drug abuse. This new venture is seen as a way to boost interest in sport amongst youths in a game regarded as character-building with much social benefit. A long-term aim is for the new stadium to host international cricket games.

Cricket Board of Maldives President Ahmed Hassan Didi says, “This is a very good business venture but it does need some financial backing and currently we are looking for that. Hulhumalé is reclaimed land that is set to meet the existing and future housing, industrial and commercial development demands of the Malé region as it is getting very congested there. The development of an international cricket stadium has been on the agenda for some time and we are very happy that the government is helping with this.”



According to Mr. Didi, five years ago at the request of former Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) were looking to play cricket matches in Maldives. The plan was called off when the BCCI realized that the facilities were insufficient.



There is considerable cricketing talent in the islands but with no proper turf wickets or dedicated grounds and only one turf net, cricketers have to share practice grounds with footballers. The new stadium at Hulhumalé has been allotted a total area of 57,000 square meters and will look to seat 9000 people in its stands. The distinguishing factor of this man-made island is that it is around 1 metre above sea-level, higher than Malé and many other Maldivian islands.

The ACC Chief Executive says, “The Maldives government are serious in building this stadium and this is a very positive sign for cricket in Maldives. We will do all we can to help and look forward to the completion of the stadium there.”

Afghanistan Goes Provincial

The Etisalat Afghanistan Domestic Cricket tournament, the largest domestic competition to be ever held in Afghanistan started in Kabul in May with 24 out of Afghanistan's 34 provinces taking part. The three-week tournament is being televised and "it is the most important event in Afghanistan domestic cricket," says Afghanistan Cricket Board Chief Executive Officer Dr. Aimal Shinwari.

Previous provincial tournaments have not had so many teams, been televised or been played over 50 overs. This one had teams from all but the eastern side of the country, with 30-minutes of highlights per day on national TV and was being played to match the conditions of international cricket as much as possible at the National Youth Cricket Ground.



The tournament was inaugurated by the Governor of Kabul Province Dr. Zabihullah Mojaddidy with the ACB CEO and ACB Vice Chairman Shahzada Masoud in attendance. "We appreciate the vision of Etisalat Afghanistan to promote cricket in the country and supporting cricket at the grass root level. This domestic cricket tournament will serve as an excellent platform for the players to sharpen their skills and shall also help in finding new talent to represent Afghanistan in future international cricket tournaments," said Dr. Shinwari. "Most of the people didn't

believe that it is the domestic match on Shamshad TV. For them it's surprising to see cricket being covered like this," he added.

The 24 teams (Jalalabad, Konar, Khost, Loghar, Paktia, Khost, Kabul, Kandahar, Paktika, Ghazni, Laghman, Panjshair, Wardak, Juzjan, Baghlan, Noristan, Heart, Parwan, Badakhshan, Orozgan, Parwan, Zabul and Kapisa). Loghar, with a number of the national team playing for them, have been the strongest side in domestic cricket in recent years.



Singapore Umpires Go From 0

The Singapore Cricket Association (SCA) has conducted a Level 0 Course for aspiring new umpires. 27 participants attended the course which was conducted by Singaporean umpires Sarika Prasad, M.V. Ramesh and Mithilesh Mishra.

This is the first course conducted after Sarika Prasad and Mithilesh Mishra attended the 'ACC Train the Umpires Trainer' course in Malaysia earlier this year. A similar Level 0 course held in Singapore last year had 25 participants. The aim is to start the umpires on a pathway which will see them officiating in domestic cricket and then Associate and Affiliate international cricket should that be their wish.



Aspiring Level 0 umpires



Cricket Initiatives

After this Level 0 Course the total number of umpires in Singapore will be over 80. With close to 1200 fixtures a year in the SCA league, the need for quality officials is paramount. SCA's cricket calendar runs for nine months of the year and there are more than 90 teams playing in club, corporate, institution leagues with more in school cricket.



On conclusion of this course Sarika Prasad said, "I have been running these courses since 2003 and this was another successful one. We take the participants through the MCC laws as well as local and ICC Playing Conditions. On the last day we do a short practical and then it's onto the exams. Most of them did very well and the growing number of umpires in the SCA panel bodes well, with the steep growth of cricket in Singapore."

Among the non-Test playing Asian nations, Singapore has the most Level II umpires, second only to Nepal. Ten ACC-certified Level II umpires officiate in the SCA League. Sarika Prasad is a member of the ICC Associates & Affiliates Umpiring Panel and with M.V. Ramesh has stood in the Final of many ACC events. Both have been nominated by the ACC to the panel at the Asian Games in Guangzhou.

"To be selected to umpire in the Asian Games is a great honour for me because it is the first time cricket is being played in the Asian Games. It is a prestigious tournament and I'm looking forward to it," said Mr. Prasad. "I have been lucky to have achieved a lot as an umpire, it is my duty to give something back to the system and help create more."

Sarika Prasad



Bhutan Takes Steps

The Bhutan Cricket Council Board (BCCB) has taken cricket into four more districts in the country, Wangdue and Punakha in the centre, Sarpang in the south and Paro in the east. The project aims to build ground and net facilities.

For all of Bhutan's promising performances at ACC Challenge level (finalists in recent U-15, U-19 and Trophy events) when they have come up against Elite level competition they have struggled.

"The problem is not just getting the senior players free from work it is also the lack of practise matches at home because there are so few facilities and the weather is so difficult for cricket," says Coaching Coordinator Damber Singh Gurung, who had to come out of retirement in order for the national team to make up the numbers at the recent ACC Trophy Elite.



The pocket-sized playing area in Bhutan's capital Thimphu

Following an inspection tour of Bhutan earlier in 2010, ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura authorized the construction of nets and grounds in Bhutan, earmarking US\$43,500 for the project.



Small ground, tiny square, rutted outfield: local conditions in Bhutan



Cricket in Paro

Sarpang Higher Secondary School will receive one net while Gelephu Lower Secondary School and Pelrithang Middle Secondary School will receive two nets each along with synthetic matting. The BCCB plans to construct a covered playing area at Gelephu so that people can play cricket even during monsoon.

In Punakha and Wangdue, Ugyen Academy and Bajothang Higher Secondary School will receive net facilities and synthetic matting. Paro College of Education will receive the same.

“The foundation to a quality and standard cricket in the country can be built in schools with majority of our youth in schools. Such facilities in the schools will help produce good players which will ultimately improve cricket quality,” said the BCCB Chief Executive Officer Jigme N Norbu.

Development Officers Develop

Development Officers from the ICC's five development regions gathered in Dubai in May for an ICC Development and Performance Officers Forum. The forum had eight speakers from the ICC workshopping topics such as the 'ICC Development Programme 2009 and 2010', 'The Role of Member Services', 'ICC Research Data and Collection' and 'International Cricket in 2020'.

The over-riding theme of the four days was of how to take cricket forward in all regions.



Delegates were involved in discussions in Assessor and Presenter Training, Coach Education and the new Cricket Administrator Programme (CAP). CAP has been introduced to assist the management of their national bodies. It contains four main modules; how to hold 'Effective Meetings', 'Financial Management' and how to deliver 'Community Cricket' and 'Governance'. Further modules which will include 'Sponsorship and Marketing' will be developed soon. The Development Officers raised various problems they faced and were given specific guidelines to follow by the ICC to counter these issues. There were also guidelines on how to achieve their various targets up to 2012.



Cricket Initiatives



ACC Development Officer Aminul Islam said, “The long-term target is for all countries to become self-sustainable in terms of governance and training. This Forum was very educational for us all and has opened our eyes and shown us where Asia stands in terms of cricket development.”

(L to R): Aminul Islam (Asia), Philip Hudson (Europe), Rumesh Ratnayake (Asia), Andy Pick (Americas), Graham McMillan (Africa), Iqbal Sikander (Asia), Tom Evans (East-Asia Pacific), Chris Porter (Europe), Wendell Copplin (Americas)

The main objectives submitted by the ACC Development Officers in their Education and Training,

Development and Implementation Plan to the ICC were to: increase the numbers of Level II and Level III coaches and umpires and curators, and to also retain good coaches by offering them full-time coaching jobs. Their main focus is to provide more High Performance Programs for the Asian participants in ICC tournaments and to develop Chinese cricket.

Towards the end of the Forum, delegates were given a tour of the new and close to full completion ICC Global Cricket Academy (GCA). “The GCA is a fascinating arena for cricketers. The facilities are well maintained and as a cricketer everything is there. Pitches from different countries have been built for players to adjust to various conditions,” added Aminul.

Speaking on the ICC website, Head Coach Dayle Hadlee focused on the benefits of the GCA’s cricket programme. “It will help the player become more aware of their strengths and weaknesses and the programme is more specific. It always comes down to performing the basics well and as a coach that is what I try and get established with a player.”



ICC Global Cricket Academy, Ground 1 of 2



Indoor facilities at the ICC Global Cricket Academy

UAE Thinking Out Of The Box'

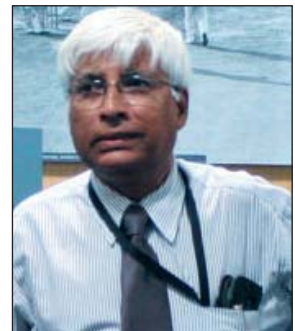
The Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) held a Level 0 coaching course at the end of May 2010 focusing on the basics of cricket which went hand-in-hand with a workshop by ACC Development Officer Rumesh Ratnayake run at the same time. The 'Thinking Out Of The Box' workshop was designed to provide coaches with more coaching options rather than a by-the-book approach.



Rumesh Ratnayake

Rumesh spent four days in Abu Dhabi and three in Sharjah with the workshop, which took place after he attended the ICC Development and Performance Officers Forum. "What I find in coaches nowadays is that even if they were ex-players, when they coach, they forget to utilize their experience in the sessions. I find it vital that they open up instead of going into their shell after doing coaching courses. That was my main aim - to open them up as coaches," says Rumesh.

The 50 participants consisted of former and current cricketers as well as physical education teachers. All of them "took part very enthusiastically and are looking forward to Rumesh coming back," said Emirates Cricket Board Administrator Mazhar Khan.



Mazhar Khan

Mr. Khan is confident these new coaches will do a good job for Emirates cricket. "They got good advice and are very positive for the game. Many of the participants are still playing in league matches and by doing the Level 0 course they, along with current cricketers, can teach and help upcoming UAE talent," added Mr. Khan.

UAE had previously dominated the ACC's senior developing nations' tournaments winning four consecutive ACC Trophies from 2000 to 2006. In 2008 they were losing finalists to Hong Kong but in the 2010 tournament they finished sixth, their worst placing in the ACC Trophy.



Cricket Initiatives



The search for new coaches may well be a fresh start for cricket in the Emirates. The UAE have 15 academies which run cricket coaching clinics for children. Each of these academies train close to 100 children so it is "vital that the people involved in coaching have proper training in safety and technical skills to guide the younger talent," said Mr. Khan. The participants of this course will begin coaching immediately and the ECB are hoping to conduct a Level I course for them by the end of the year.

The UAE are scouting for Emiratis to play the game in growing numbers.

Exciting Developments For The Growth Of Cricket

A new and expanded global qualification system will be established to give the ICC Associate and Affiliate Members a distinct pathway towards the ICC World Twenty20.

The qualification tournament, which has previously involved six or eight teams, will be expanded to a 16-team tournament in early 2012 to give those sides the chance to represent their countries at the prestigious ICC World Twenty20 2012 in Sri Lanka.



Meeting in Jakarta, the ICC Development Committee has designed the new-look tournament to comprise the six which currently enjoy ODI/T20I status plus 10 qualifiers from regional Twenty20 events.

The exact details of the regional qualification network will be announced in due course but the intention is to give all 94 Associate and Affiliate Members a clear pathway of opportunity towards the finals of this truly global tournament.

In another exciting development, the committee has pledged US\$2million towards major cricket facilities developments in leading and targeted Associates and Affiliates, in partnership with Members and third-parties.

Specifically, the Members eligible to apply, under a system to be finalised in due course, will include each of the top six-ranked Associates/Affiliates, China, USA and a Member nominated by each of the Africa, East Asia-Pacific and Europe regions together with any Associate or Affiliate scheduled to host certain ICC events.

Commenting on these decisions, ICC Chief Executive Haroon Lorgat said: "These are two extremely exciting, strategic and encouraging developments for the future of our great sport. They represent a clear sign of our ongoing commitment to growing the game beyond its traditional boundaries and ensuring that each of our members has the opportunity to develop and become the best they can be.

"Cricket has never been stronger. We now have three viable formats of the game at international level – something no other sport can boast – and cricket continues to grow in popularity in almost every corner of the globe. These initiatives are steps along the path towards continued sustainable growth.

While in Jakarta, the Development Committee received a presentation from Cricket Indonesia and attended the national under-17 championships, which involved teams from 12 regions across that vast nation. In addition, Mr Lorgat met with representatives from the Indonesian government and the national Olympic committee.

“Indonesia is an outstanding example of an Affiliate Member on an upward move. It is the fastest-growing member in terms of participation numbers and I believe this is due to excellent staff, volunteers, strategies, plans and partnerships that are in place,” added Mr Lorgat.

The ICC Women’s World Cup Qualifier 2011, which will determine the four teams to join England, New Zealand, Australia and India at the ICC Women’s World Cup 2013 in India, will be staged in Bangladesh in November. The competing teams will be the West Indies, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Japan plus one qualifying team from the Americas and two teams each from Africa and Europe. This event will double as the women’s qualifying tournament for the ICC World Twenty20 2012 to be staged in Sri Lanka.

Thai Coaches Emerge

In June 2010 Cricket Thailand held a Level I coaching course for 16 participants from across Thailand at St. Stephen’s International School in Khao Yai, 200 kilometers north of Bangkok. The five-day course was run by ACC Development Officers Aminul Islam and Rumesh Ratnayake who were also assisted by Cricket Thailand’s Chief Executive Mohideen Kader and Saurabh Dhanuka.

According to Mr. Kader, the course “was a success and was run at a higher level than previously held Level I courses.” The Development Officers offered a more in-depth view into the skills and technique sessions as compared to previous Level I courses since all the participants have a sound knowledge of cricket, have previously played the game and most of them are already coaching in schools. The course was held completely in English but the native Thais were allowed to do their presentations, assessment and session plans in Thai.



“Normally the Level 0 courses are done in Thai because most the participants are native Thais but this course had a good mix of people. This Level I course ran well and we also tried to incorporate some fun into the exercises,” added Mr. Kader. At the end of each day’s session, the participants would play a short game. The idea behind the game was to incorporate the skills and techniques they had learned throughout the session. The skills sessions were held indoors in the school’s gymnasium.

Saurabh Dhanuka gave a presentation on fielding drills, while Mr. Kader presented the topic ‘Role of a Coach’.

Cricket in Thailand has seen a steep rise in interest and has been included in the 30-event National Youth Games in Phetchabun, a province in northern Thailand, brand new territory for cricket.



ACC Captains Unite for UNICEF'S Healthy Hat-Trick

The captains of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka took time out from the Micromax Asia Cup here today to commit themselves to playing for a hat-trick of another kind, "Cricket's Healthy Hat-Trick".

At a joint press conference between the Asian Cricket Council and UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, the message to governments and communities was: invest in a healthy hat-trick – good nutrition, sanitation and girls' education – three critical interventions to save children's lives. Three million children under the age of five die in South Asia each year from malnutrition and diseases related to poor sanitation. Educating girls is also key to the survival and health of children and families.



"There is a great energy propelling this region forward at the moment. South Asia is a potential powerhouse, we have seen strong economic growth but this has not yet been translated into improving the lives of women and children," said Philippe Duamelle, Representative of UNICEF Sri Lanka. "Almost half of all children under five years old in the region are undernourished, and if nothing is done about this their future will effectively be bowled out."

The ACC and UNICEF called on governments and communities to join the cricketers and commit themselves to take bold action for children.

"Cricketers are not just sportsmen. They are champions, champions for children, champions for change," said the Asian Cricket Council Chief Executive Syed Ashraf Huq, "Like in any world class cricket match a hat-trick is that rare and magical creation we all aim for. Investing in a Healthy Hat-Trick, good nutrition and sanitation and girls education, is the ultimate for children and for cricketers."



Afghans for MCC Against Pakistan

Hamid Hassan and Mohammad Nabi, two shining stars of Afghanistan, have renewed their acquaintance with the best in world cricket after appearing for the MCC against Pakistan at Lord's. Sourav Ganguly, Chris Jarris, Ian Harvey, Brian Lara and Chaminda Vaas were among their illustrious team-mates as the MCC lost by just 6 runs, chasing 165 in a Twenty20 match.

"It was a great experience," said off-spinning all-rounder Nabi after bowling four overs for 18 and taking the wicket of Kamran Akmal in a full-strength Pakistan line-up. Hamid Hassan didn't fare so well with the new ball, finding it hard to adjust to the Lord's slope in his run-up and went for 42 off his three overs, but he did hold a good catch to dismiss Salman Butt.



Hamid Hassan takes on South Africa in the ICC World Twenty20 2010

Nabi is arguably of a class to play in any international one-day side and Hamid isn't far behind, both having impressed significantly during the recently completed ICC World Twenty20 in the West Indies. Hamid was the most economical bowler in World Twenty20 2010. His seven overs, against India and South Africa, cost just 4.14 runs each and he took the wickets of Jacques Kallis, Mark Boucher, J.P. Duminy and Murali Vijay. The two next join their team-mates for Afghanistan's fixtures in the ICC Pepsi World Cricket League Division 1 in the Netherlands.



Mohammad Nabi



More Cricket = More Umpires In UAE

The Sharjah Cricket Council conducted an umpiring course in July in order to provide professional umpires for the growing number of matches in the UAE.

With over 1500 matches being held during the cricketing season (September to April), there are more than 3000 umpiring appointments needed a year.



A turf wicket at Al Dhaid cricket ground

UAE have added grounds in recent years to meet the demand for cricket. The forthcoming Level 0 course will serve as a refresher to some umpires with the majority of them taking the qualification for the first time. Sharjah will be holding two floodlit tournaments during Ramadhan in August – a 25-over event at the Sharjah stadium and a Twenty20 event at the Al Dhaid Cricket Village. Although the participants of this course will not be ready to stand in either event, the long-term goal is to get them ready for the start of the new season.

In the UAE cricket is currently played in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Fujairah, Al Ain, Ras al-Khaima, Umm al-Quwain and is quickly spreading. “We need more professional umpires and this is a good start for us. Altogether there are about 70 to 80 umpires in the UAE, not all qualified though and some cannot communicate in English. For them, the course and the exam afterwards will be in Urdu,” said Farid Malik, who conducted the course with Iftikhar Ali and Fidel Jaary.

Farid Malik has umpired at numerous ACC tournaments, the ICC Trophy in 1997 and the World Cup in 1996 and invariably seems to stand in exciting matches.

The course which is open to anyone with an interest in the game, will not only focus on the 42 Laws and its various interpretations. “Apart from the Laws, we need to teach them how to be good umpires. They obviously cannot make mistakes with the laws but they also need to know how to behave and the requirements to become a good umpire”, added Mr. Malik.



Umpire Farid Malik on duty

ACC Appoints New President

The President of the Bangladesh Cricket Board AHM Mustafa Kamal FCA MP was appointed the ACC's 21st President at the ACC's AGM in Singapore. Mr. Kamal takes over from Pakistan Cricket Board Chairman Mr. Ijaz Butt, who had held the post since 2008.



ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL



ACC President 2008-2010 Ijaz Butt hands over to Mustafa Kamal

"I consider this as a great honour for Bangladesh. I wish to thank everyone for their support and seek cooperation from all ACC Member nations so that we can take Asian cricket to new heights," said Mr. Kamal. Mr. Kamal will hold the post for the next two years as Bangladesh's nominee.

Mr. Binaya Raj Pandey who is the President of the Cricket Association of Nepal was appointed the new Vice-President of the ACC.



Delegates at the ACC AGM, Raffles Convention Centre, Singapore, June 30 2010



CAN Produces Video For ICC



The Cricket Association of Nepal (CAN) produced a three-minute video at the request of the ICC which was screened at the ICC Annual Conference in Singapore. The video, a compilation of footage of international tournaments hosted by CAN, was made to show Associate and Affiliate nations how media exposure plays a role in cricket development.

Scenes of 20,000 fans cheering their team at the Tribhuvan University Ground dominate the reel and CAN has added footage from ICC World Cricket League Division 5 as well as ACC tournaments held in Nepal. "During the Division 5 tournament the ICC were impressed with the coverage the event got in Nepal. We were then asked if we could make a video that would help demonstrate how vital it is to get the local media support to promote an event such as this," said CAN President Binaya Raj Pandey.



Nepal's fans cheer on their team, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 2010 ©ICC



Few Associate and Affiliate countries receive the exposure in cricket that Nepal does. Mr. Pandey pointed out that the ICC World Cricket League Division 5 was the first ICC development tournament to be telecast live, following three ACC events since 2005 also broadcast live on NTV.

"The video turned out very well considering we had to scramble to put it together. We are very pleased with it and hope other countries can also produce something like this as it would help promote the game tremendously," added Mr. Pandey.

CAN are looking to add more content onto the video to help make it a permanent presentation when they approach the government and local companies for sponsorship deals.

Omanis Beat The Heat

Following the success of last year's event, Oman Cricket held their second All Omani Summer Cricket Tournament in July 2010. The tournament was set up to increase the playing opportunities for those of Omani origin. "There is an increase in locals playing cricket since last year," say Oman Cricket, and the tournament now has four teams of Arab Omanis compared to last year's three.



A Twenty20 event played in a league format, matches were held on Fridays in temperatures which reached the high 30s Centigrade. Under the new playing conditions for ACC youth-tournaments, each country has to have a minimum of three passport-holders in their playing XIs. The cricketing countries of the Middle East, which have citizenship laws different to those of Europe for example, where non-Arabs born in those countries do not receive a passport of their country of birth, therefore have to reach into the local population in order to be eligible to participate in ACC youth events.



Oman won the 2010 ACC U-16 Challenge, a few days after the start of the All Omani Summer Cricket Tournament with three Arab players (Ahmed Husain, Omar Al Balushi and Sultan Al Rahbi) in their XI, in a competition which was made up of six other teams - Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, Iran, Maldives and Myanmar - that had native players throughout. Current development strategy is based on expanding and deepening the take-up of cricket across Asia, starting with the native population in each country in much the same way that cricketers have been sought in out-station areas of Sri Lanka (Sanath Jayasuriya, Lasith Malinga), the frontier provinces of Pakistan (Shahid Afridi, Younis Khan) and the farthest zones of India (MS Dhoni). Creating new opportunities for new cricketers undoubtedly benefits the game.

Singapore Elevates

"The time has come for cricket in Singapore to elevate itself" says Singapore Cricket Association President Imran Khwaja. "The SCA recognises the enormous potential for Singapore as a cricketing nation, as a venue for international cricket events, and as a regional hub including, an international cricket laboratory. We have identified revenue opportunities that are available to be maximised to their fullest and ploughed back into development and facilities which will aid the growth of the sport in our country."

Singapore cricket's plans to put their country on the global sporting dovetail with the Singapore Sports Council's plans. The F1 track has been established, the inaugural Youth Olympics will be held in August and a Sports Hub for multi-purpose use to be built on the present site of the National Stadium at Kallang is due for completion in 2014.



Singapore's Chetan Suryawanshi lifts the Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 6 Trophy



Cricket Initiatives

Speaking at a Gala Dinner hosted by the Singapore Sports Council for visiting ICC Annual Conference delegates to the nation-state (only the second time the Conference has been held outside London in 101 years) Singapore's Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam said, "In Singapore, too, cricket has re-emerged as a popular sport. The Singapore Cricket Association today organises matches for 91 teams in local leagues compared to just 14 in 2003. We now have the largest number of officially-sanctioned cricket matches amongst the non-Test playing countries of the world - with over 1,200 matches to be played in the 2010 season. Cricket enthusiasts at all levels play the sport on 14 cricket grounds across our small island. We are glad our national team was ranked number one in Asia and sixteenth in the world among non-Test playing countries, but we too aim to do better over the next decade. We are seeing cricket once again become a sport for all, starting with the young enthusiasts in our schools."



Just before the ICC Annual Conference, the SCA appointed Nimbus Sport as their marketing agents. "Nimbus Sport will bring its many relationships in the sporting, media and corporate world to work to help the SCA develop Singapore into an attractive cricketing destination that offers an ideal venue to federations and cricketers, an optimal time zone for broadcasters, a brand-friendly environment to sponsors, and sporting and tourist attractions that add greater appeal to cricket fans travelling to the Republic," says Nimbus Sport International Director Digvijay Singh.

Newly-elected ICC President Sharad Pawar said he was impressed with Singapore's passion in developing world-class cricketing facilities. "We will help the Singapore Cricket Association develop cricket and do whatever we can to support its move to stage international matches," said Mr. Pawar.

Speaking on the impact of hosting the ICC's Annual Conference SCA General Manager Dharmichand Mulewa said, "It was definitely the key for SCA, the Sports Council and other ministries involved in promoting sport to hold this event and showcase Singapore as a venue for international fixtures. It feels great to work towards a success story of cricket in Singapore and to take the game and the country higher on the international map. All we needed was the support from the big cricketing nations and now that we have got that it is next the time for execution."

Maldives Values Cricket

The Cricket Board of Maldives have held an event to promote its values among their youngest cricketers and their families. The values: Focus, Trust, Timeliness, Caring, "are more than values for cricket, they are values important in all aspects of life. Be it work, family life or play," said Board President Ahmed Hassan Didi at the opening of the event.



The Cricket Board of Maldives will be holding monthly talks on these values, each to be delivered by an eminent member of the community and will host a social cricket game on Fridays.



The Board's values expressed in full: "The secret to success in cricket is the players' focus. If a team concentrates on collective goals and individual aspirations that are complementary to each other, victory will no doubt be in reach."

"Without a good understanding and trust for one's team-mates, a team will not get together in a desired manner. We aim to build trust among cricketers, administrators, peers and parents, and indeed everyone involved in cricket activities in the Maldives."

"Respect for set time patterns and deadlines is an essential part of life, as in cricket. Timeliness increases our sense of achievement and satisfaction."

"Cricket is a game of human emotions and strong affiliations and ties. Players learn to work as a team, give selflessly to one's mates and place the goals of the team before one's own aspirations. In the process, players learn to care for each other and to develop close friendships."



Farid Malik: Rest In Peace

It was with considerable sadness that we heard of the passing of Farid Malik of the UAE, one of the region's most eminent umpires. He passed away at the age of 59 in July 2010, having suffered a heart attack. It was not just his skill at umpiring that distinguished him, he was a warm and personable individual whose smile and common sense were readily apparent to whoever encountered him.



He had achieved much in life since moving to the UAE in the 1970s from Lahore. Mr. Malik was TV umpire in four matches of the 1996 World Cup and stood in seven matches of the 1997 ICC Trophy and once the ACC set up its own regular events he stood in all the ones held in the Middle East. He had the knack of umpiring particularly exciting matches. He was extremely active on the local cricket scene in Dubai and Sharjah, mentoring players and umpires alike. His links to the UAE cricket community were deep and he was a massive presence on the circuit.

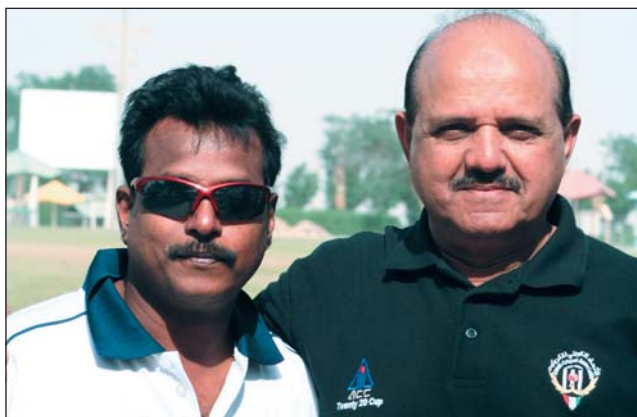


Singapore's T20I umpire Sarika Prasad who stood with Mr. Malik a number of times said, "Umpiring with him is a very pleasant experience. He is very calm and has all the good qualities needed of an umpire. He takes all the pressures easily and is very relaxed in his decision-making. He was helpful to his younger partners and even after the game passed on his experience and advice to the others."

Emirates Cricket Board Administrator Mazhar Khan said Mr. Malik was a "true gentleman and so popular in the UAE cricket fraternity."



Cricket Initiatives



“He had a passion for cricket that cannot be explained in words,” said Shahzad Altaf, a UAE World Cup 1996 player, “he had dedicated his life to the game and continued to do so. He was easily the best umpire in the UAE.”

Farid Malik is very much missed.

Boxed In Bahrain Try To Break Free

Since the start of this year, two weeks after winning the ACC U-19 Challenge and three months after they reached the Final of Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 6, Bahrain’s cricketers have lost their regular training facility the BCA Academy at Al Najma, their position in the top 10 of the ACC Elite, couldn’t advance out of Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 and finished sixth out of ten at the ACC U-16 Elite.

“The National Team took part in the WCL which was held in Nepal without proper training as there was no facility as mentioned above. The poor results of the WCL tournament is the proof. The Under-16s had also come to Nepal without proper training,” says ACC Development Officer for Nepal Rumesh Ratnayake.

But a change is going to come.

The largely ACC-funded BCA Academy at the Al Najma Club in Manama, which had fencing, lights, synthetic wickets, nets, which Rumesh says was “a very effective area for training as it had a grassed football ground adjoining this,” was closed off to the Bahrain Cricket Association (BCA) following a 312% increase in rent by the club. The matter has been resolved to the extent that a fresh one-year lease has been negotiated by the club and the BCA, which while not totally satisfactory to the ACC, at least gives Bahrain’s cricketers time and room to develop.

“Unless fresh thinking is applied, cricket in Bahrain is in a very difficult. It is a shame because under their coach Mohsin Kamal they were doing well,” says Rumesh. “Another problem they have is that the senior side is made up of players who are 28-34 years old, and there is an urgent necessity to develop a healthy and skilful younger generation.”



Bahrain in Guernsey in 2009, on the way up, Pepsi ICC WCL Division 7 ©ICC



The BCA Academy when it was in use



Bahrain's U-19s triumphant in 2009

To that end, on his last visit to the Kingdom Rumesh unrolled his 'Think Out of the Box' presentation, and headed for the schools. He visited four, and "to my surprise they were all very keen to start and participate in any tournaments organized by BCA. I was invited to the assemblies of these schools and had a chance of encouraging the probables while telling the Principals that their teachers could be used and trained as coaches for the future by BCA/ACC for which they were very happy."

His presentations at the school assemblies, assisted by Bahrain Level II coach Prachur Shukla, focussed on:

1. How cricket can help team spirit which helps in normal day to day life.
2. Cricket being a great leveler and taking humility as an example from great players, namely Sachin Tendulkar.
3. To do small and simple things right which are appropriate in day to day life.



Rumesh also held a workshop for nine coaches (seven of them accredited Level IIs), via Powerpoint and "in the practical sessions I demonstrated and made them do and feel how important it is to have power and control, variational options and how to be more effective tactically. This was shown to them with the view that they can teach the kids, thus seeing results in a faster and more effective manner."

"Bahrain have had a history of going one step forward two steps back, for a number of easily solvable reasons, now if they can just get things stabilized the cricketers and coaches who want to do well can really be a force in the region," says Rumesh.

Oman and UAE Umpires Start

The Oman and UAE cricket boards hosted Level 0 Umpiring courses in their respective countries in July. The course in Oman was conducted by veteran ACC and Oman Cricket tournament umpire A. R. Srinivasan who was assisted by Afzal Sher Khan and R. Chidambaram and in UAE by senior Sharjah umpires Iftikhar Ali, Fidel Jaary and Talib Hussain, deputizing for the late Farid Malik.

Both courses were run over five days with Oman drawing 31 participants and UAE 25.



Cricket Initiatives



ACC Development Officer for Oman Iqbal Sikander was present in Muscat at the start of the course and congratulated all participants for their enthusiasm shown in taking up umpiring. The 31 future Omani umpires were also urged by Oman Cricket Board (OCB) Honorary General Secretary Madhu Jesrani and OCB Member Madhu Sampat to regularly stand in their upcoming domestic tournaments.



For the first time ever, a woman took part in an Oman umpiring course. Panna Rashmi Ray, a schoolteacher from Muscat, attended the Level 0. “The explanation of the Laws have made things a lot more simple and enjoyable. I liked how the classes were conducted and it was nice to learn so much about a game that I love. There’s one thing for sure – I will never criticize an umpire again. They are always under a lot of pressure and have to make a correct decision in such a short time,” said Ms. Ray.

Iqbal saw the addition of a female umpire as a sign of things to come. “It was something new and exciting to have Panna with us. She’s very interested and shows great potential. We hope there will be more lady umpires and maybe after a year’s experience, we can use them in our women’s tournaments,” he said.

Oman and UAE have conducted the Level 0 course because “the ACC has placed more importance on local boards running the basics”, said Iqbal. After a year’s practice, these umpires will progress to the Level I. “Future Level I courses could also be run locally under the supervision of the Development Officers for coaching courses and ACC umpiring personnel for the umpiring courses, with the local coaches and umpires taking the lead” said Iqbal.

Rashid Latif Joins Afghanistan

Former captain of Pakistan Rashid Latif joined Afghanistan as a batting coach in July 2010. In Kabul, announcing the appointment ACCB CEO Dr. Hamid Shinwari said he was “delighted to welcome such a high-level coach. We hope that he will bring even more success to the team.”

Rashid Latif said “I am ready to serve Afghan players everywhere in the world, I came here with hopes to develop cricket.”

ACB CEO Dr. Hamid Shinwari introducing Afghanistan’s new batting coach Rashid Latif to the media





Asia's newest ODI nation

Primarily a wicket-keeper, Rashid had no doubt he could have an effect, not just with batting; "I will also teach the players fielding tactics and help with wicket-keeping." Rashid Latif's credentials as a cricketer notwithstanding, (37 Tests and 166 ODIs) his appointment was initially questioned by some of the cricket community in Afghanistan once his name was first mooted in April by former CEO Dr. Aimal Shinwari. Subsequently Afghanistan's national coach Kabir Khan, primarily a bowler in his playing days, himself called for another coach to help the national team with their batting.



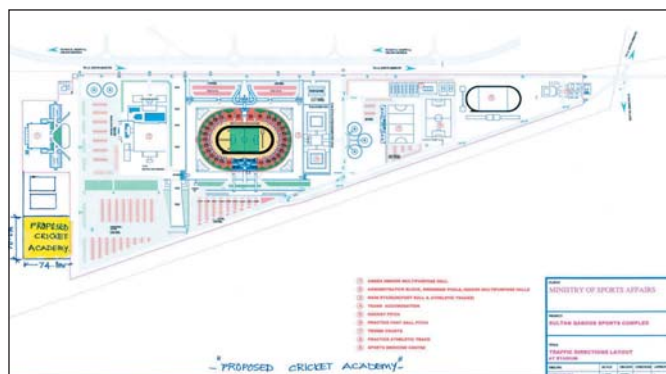
Rashid Latif explained that "the weakness of Afghan batting is that players do not play regular matches. They have a lot of talent, if they play regularly they can challenge Bangladesh, Scotland very easily and they will be ready next year to play against Pakistan.....I know well most of them; they are endowed with outstanding skills and have the knack for upsetting even the superlative outfits. There is great potential in Afghanistan for cricket to become a major sport and I want to help them out. I think Afghani players have the talent and will to compete with other Asian nations."

Rashid Latif's first assignment was the national team training camp in Jalalabad after which the squad went to Scotland for an ICC Intercontinental Cup match. After that, "I have more ideas for young and school cricketers' development in Afghanistan," says the man who has more than a thousand enrolled in his own academies in Karachi.

Oman Plan A New Academy

After some years of planning, false starts and overweening ambition, the Oman Cricket Board finally look to be on the verge of securing their own turfied training facility, with room for nets and a small ground on a 5000 sq.metre-sized site at the Sultan Qaboos Sports Complex in Muscat.

"It's a very important step for Oman cricket," says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura of the proposed Omani Riyal 132,790 (approx. US\$355,000) project. "It is just the planning stage now, a lot of work needs to be done and funds need to be secured from local sponsors as well as approval from the ACC for ACC funding, but their own ground is very much needed if Oman cricket is to progress," added the ACC Development Manager.



Cricket Initiatives

Without turf to call their own, in competition against other countries more familiar with turf, Oman typically take much of the length of those tournaments to acclimatise, coming good towards the end of the events, by which time it's invariably too late. The country's talented cricketers can only benefit from a new turf facility and the Oman Cricket Board hope to be working closely with the country's Ministry of Sports Affairs on the project.



More Coaches and Umpires for Iran

The Iran Cricket Federation (ICF) conducted a Level I Coaching Course in July 2010 in Chabahar in the south of the country where ACC Development Officer Iqbal Sikander was assisted by local Level II coaches Yousef Raeisi and Mohzdeh Bavenpour. At the same time a Level 0 Umpiring Course in Tehran was run by local Level II lady umpire Narges Lafooti. The courses drew a total of 58 participants.



Iran currently have the most number of lady coaches and umpires in the Middle East region. The numbers of players, coaches and umpires have been on the rise in Iran and Iqbal is clearly impressed with their progress. "Iran, although it only recently started playing cricket, has taken a huge interest in the game. Presently, there are about six ladies teams playing regular tournaments organized by ICF," says Iqbal. National women's captain Nahid Hakimian says, "We are very frustrated that we cannot play more sport but cricket with its costume suits Iranian culture very well and we really want to improve and succeed."



Bavenpour and Raeisi's coaching drills

"The ACC has been supporting the efforts of the ICF by providing them with proper cricket equipment, astro-turf pitches and also with coaching support. The Iran Under-16s were finalists in the recent ACC U-16 Challenge Cup in Malaysia. All this indicates that things are looking good in Iran," said Iqbal.



The Iranian government have been supporting the game strongly over the past three years. Land has been allocated for cricket in Tehran, Zahedan, Chabahar, Konarak, Neksher, Isfahan, Kerman, Kermanshah and Iranshah. Most of the cricket played by men is in Chabahar, Konarak and Nekshar while the ladies have taken up the game in Tehran, Zahedan, Kerman, Kermanshah, Isfahan and Mashhad.

Mrs. Lafooti ran the Level 0 Umpiring Course with help from Mrs Habibi, who was also trained by the ACC. The course was the first opportunity for the participants to formally come into contact with the rules of cricket. Lady umpires are needed for the growing numbers of women playing cricket in Iran.

"The Level I Coaching Course was meant for coaches who have already been playing cricket and are now keen to take up coaching along with playing. It was a very interesting course where the participants enjoyed learning the skills of coaching besides participating in game sense and other activities," added Iqbal.



Yousef Raeisi, who has played for the national team and coached the Under-19s, says, "We are getting more coaches and umpires and we still need better facilities and more opportunities to play. There is a lot of talent in Iran and a determination to do well. I hope that courses like this will help many cricketers in Iran."

Bhutan's Domestic Champions

After two months and 19 matches the inaugural BCCB Super League 2010 came to a close with a five-wicket win for Rigsum CC over BTCL. Man of the Match in the Final at Thimphu was national player Kencho Norbu for his unbeaten 105.



The 50-over competition featured teams sponsored by individuals and corporations, with overall event sponsor being Bhutan's national airline Druk Air. Bhutan's senior squad players featured across all the teams. The Final was played in good conditions, which was a relief for the organizers after a number of earlier matches had been affected by rain. BTCL won the toss and lost wickets early on but gutsy middle-order batting by Phuntsho Wangdi, Tandin Wangchuk and Jigme got them up to 158 before they were all out.



Cricket Initiatives



Kencho Norbu



In contrast Rigsum's openers Kencho Norbu and Manoj Adhikari put on 61. Off-spinner Phuntsho then took two more wickets in quick succession, and had it not been for Kencho Norbu taking charge, Rigsum could have been in some trouble. The compact Kencho reached his maiden century just before the target was reached. "It's a great satisfaction to score your first hundred and that too in a Final, I'm proud that I could win the match for my team," said Kencho.

The winners Rigsum CC picked up a cheque for 40,000 Ngultrums (approx. US\$870) from Bhutan Cricket Council Board Hon. Treasurer and Druk Air Finance Manager Ugyen Tenzin, while runners-up BTCL took home 25,000 Ngultrums.

China's National Champions

Shenyang Sport University continued their dominance in Chinese cricket by winning the National Championships for the fifth consecutive time. No other team since the Championships were first held in 2007 have won the event. "It shows that they have the best training and best players but other teams are challenging strongly and next year, Shenyang will be pushed even harder," says ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam.

Last year, in another sign of the game's development across China the National Championships took place in Linhai in Zhejiang province in east China, following on from previous events held in Beijing and Shenyang. Twenty-eight teams won through to the National Championships in the categories for University, High School Senior, High School Junior, High School Women and Primary School Boys and Girls from 98 across China that took part (61 took part in 2009).



2010 Chinese National Cricket University Champions Shenyang Sport University

"A good thing to see was the rise of teams from Shanghai where cricket is also growing," says Aminul. The semi-final between Shanghai's Tongji University and Shenyang Aviation University was won by Shenyang Aviation with a 6 off the last ball in a high-quality game. Possibly over-extended by their efforts, Shenyang Aviation could only manage 64 in their 20 overs against Shenyang Sport and lost by seven wickets.



The Women's University Championships were held in Guangzhou in the middle of August – the first matches to be played at the new Asian Games stadium. Shenyang Sport University's women are the defending champions.

Chinese National Cricket Women's High School Champions Zhejiang Shaojiadu High School

2010 Chinese Cricket Association National Championships

University:

1. Shenyang Sport University
2. Shanghai Aviation University

High School Women

1. Zhejiang Shaojiadu High School
2. Shandong Yuhua Middle School

Senior High School

1. Beijing Zhichunli High School
2. Shenyang 28 High school

Primary School Boys and Girls

1. Shandong Kuangshan Middle School
2. Shenzhen Yucai Primary Middle School

Junior High School

1. Shenzhen Tongle School
2. Zhejiang Shaojiadu High School



More Coaches To Emerge From Maldives

The Cricket Board of Maldives (CBM) conducted an ACC Level I Coaching Course for school teachers in Malé in August. The week-long course was aimed at educating, and increasing the number of coaches training Maldives' future cricketers who are looking to break into the national teams. 14 schools from Malé and more from six other islands took part in the Youth Development Program and identifying coaches is now CBM's priority.



12 sports supervisors (10 men and 2 women) from different schools took part in the course. Run by ACC Development Officer for Maldives Rumesh Ratnayake and assisted by CBM's Imad Ismail and Saudhan Ibrahim, this course was meant to "provide the coaches with the skills needed to help better school cricket" according to CBM President Ahmad Hassan Didi.



"We have seen an increase in the playing standards of the boys in our school tournaments after they took part in the youth development program. We want to maintain and possibly even raise that standard of play and getting more coaches who can assist the children will lead to that," added Mr. Didi.



Rumesh was impressed with the CBM's youth program and confirmed that the future of Maldives cricket was bright. "This seven-day course will lead to many good things for cricket amongst these islands. These new coaches will help lift cricket in Maldives even higher."

Rumesh Ratnayake: Overseeing Maldives cricket

Thailand's New Ground

On land leased from a former cabinet Minister, the Cricket Association of Thailand finally have what they have wanted for a long time: their own ground in Bangkok. "It was getting to a stage where with so much training going on for the women's team and the U-19s and the men's senior teams, we needed a place for them to play as much as possible," says Association Chief Executive and National Coach Mohideen Kader.



The Cricket Association of Thailand up to now has been exclusively reliant on hiring grounds across Bangkok for training and tournaments.

The picturesque site at Lard Krabang on the border of Bangkok and Samut Prakan provinces is near Suvarnabhumi Airport and beside both a cock-fighting arena (packed to the rafters on Sundays; the Minister is quite a fan) and a song-bird competition centre. Cricket, thus, literally occupies a place in between the two poles of the Thai character.

“We’ve used the same grass for the square as has been used for so many years at the Royal Bangkok Sports Club ground,” says Mr. Kader, “and everything’s in place for us to start playing in October as soon as the rainy season finishes.” The full-sized ground also has space for four nets with two turf and two artificial wickets. Dressing-rooms and a pavilion will also be built in readiness for the ground’s first international event, the ACC Trophy Challenge in December 2010. Before that the ground was being used on weekends for fielding practice by the national women’s and U-19 teams who stay in Bangkok in National Sports Authority accommodation.



Thong and Mohideen Kader, Lard Krabang August 2010

200 cubic metres of sand will go on the outfield to bring it into proper playing condition along with the construction of a 9-metre high chain-link fence to protect cars and passers-by. Thong the curator also teaches cricket at five nearby schools and the plan is for Lard Krabang to be used throughout the week for domestic cricket activity.

Green Is Go In Guangzhou

China has its first fully turfed ground in Guangzhou. In preparation for the Asian Games in November, the ground is being used for Chinese domestic matches. The first tournament held at the state-of-the-art stadium in the grounds of the Mega High Tech Education Centre was the Chinese National Women’s Championships.



Guangdong International Cricket Stadium © Travis Pittman

The top three women’s teams from the eight regions playing cricket in China were in Guangzhou for the final stages, where they were joined by Hong Kong. The Final was played between the Special Administered Republic and Shenyang Sport University, Shenyang winning by 25 runs in a low-scoring 20-over match.



Cricket Initiatives



The captains of China and Hong Kong Wang Meng and Neisha Pratt © Travis Pittman

"The stadium is incredible," says the indefatigable Chinese Cricket Association Deputy Secretary General Zhang Tian, "Guangzhou Asian Games Organizing Committee has done a great job." Work on the stadium started in May 2008 and even in August 2009, the ground was little more than a flattened patch of mud. The ground now has a full-time Bangladeshi curator in Jasimuddin, seconded from the Kinrara Oval in Malaysia, and is close to completion with just a heavy roller needed to season the seven playing strips (the women played on a mat) as well as the placing of sightscreens and an electronic scoreboard.

"The ground is going to be a worthy home for the first ever Asian Games T20 cricket tournament and it is has every chance of being of an ODI-standard after that," says ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam. Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 3 matches will be played at Guanggong International Cricket Stadium in March 2010.



The ground was designed by Chinese architects with materials sourced from Guangdong province, the wicket square using clay from Shaanxi province in central China, the seed turf imported by the Chinese Cricket Association from America.

Hong Kong's Po Kong

Hong Kong started their new season in September with a new ground, the redeveloped Po Kong Village Road Sports Centre. It is the tenth cricket ground in the region and is being leased on a long-term basis from the government.

The Hong Kong Cricket Association (HKCA) will be using the ground on Saturdays and the first Sunday of each month throughout the season, which runs to April, with provision for Wednesday evening cricket too.



Hong Kong's newest operational cricket ground at the Po Kong Village Road Sports Centre © HKCA / Travis Pittman

"This ground, along with another at the Po Kong Reservoir (a huge concrete tank upon which there is grass and an astro-turf wicket) will be used exclusively for juniors and women, as their numbers are growing the most in Hong Kong," says HKCA General Manager Danny Lai. Two women's teams have joined the Hong Kong League this year. "More men's teams are waiting to join the League, but we can't slot them in as we don't have enough grounds yet. We expect that these new grounds will ease the pressure on the others and we can expand the competitions next year, adds Mr. Lai.

In addition to these two grounds in Kowloon, another became ready at St. Stephen's College in Stanley at the start of October, a small football ground with an artificial wicket in the school compound.



With land at a premium in the Special Administered Republic, Hong Kong has shown much ingenuity in creating sports facilities, cricket has been played at the site of the old Kai Tak Airport since last season. Furthermore, once the 2010 Asian Games in nearby Guangzhou are completed, Hong Kong cricket is expecting to make use of Guanggong International Cricket Stadium.

Thailand's Umpires Widen

With an increasing number of teams in the leagues across the country, the Cricket Association of Thailand have expanded their pool of umpires with a series of Level 0 Umpiring workshops. With a three-day course run by Chiang Mai resident and Level II umpire David Walker, a graduate of the March 2010 ACC 'Train the Umpires Trainer' course, ten new officials were taken through their first steps to officialdom in August.



"Everybody learnt something new no matter how long they had been involved in cricket," says the Cricket Association of Thailand (CAT), with a number of long-standing match referees and umpires in Chiang Mai league matches being the principal beneficiaries. "Phuket is next, for the local umpires there. There are more teams in the league so they're needed and it's also important that an accredited pool of umpires are always able to stand in the keenly-contested fixtures," says CAT Chief Executive Mohideen Kader. "The best umpires based on performance in the local courses and on-field will be selected for the next ACC Level I Umpiring course in Thailand.



99% of the current Laws of Cricket have also been translated into Thai by Chiang Mai schoolteacher Worawut Suttajit. On completion, the Thai Laws will be sent to the National Sports of Authority of Thailand for approval prior to being sent to the MCC to be certified.



Kabul Shapes Up

Following the success of the Etisalat Inter-Provincial one-day tournament in May last year, the Afghanistan Cricket Board staged an Inter-Provincial T20 tournament in September. 24 teams from 34 of the provinces that make up Afghanistan will take part. As before, the event will be televised by local broadcasters Shamshad TV, reaching out to the Middle East, the Far East, Australia and New Zealand via their satellite feed.

Ground improvements are already underway, with an extra wicket strip being laid at the National Youth Cricket Stadium along with sightscreens, a scoreboard and seating for 2000 spectators along with raised banking for more fans. Dressing rooms and a press box are also being put up and an adjacent mosque is also accessible to the fans at the ground. The wicket block is being prepared with local soil from Loghar in eastern Afghanistan which is similar to that used across the border in Pakistan.



Four more provinces have applied to join the competition but the ACB have said they have to wait to play a qualifier among themselves before they can play. The national team players will only be allowed to join their provincial teams at the quarter-final stage. "The second Inter-Provincial tournament this year is a good step for Afghanistan and shows that cricket is becoming more and more settled in the country. Being on television means that cricket will become even more popular," said the Afghanistan Cricket Board's Domestic Development Manager Dawlat Ahmadzai.

China Go To Andhra

The Chinese Women's team went to Andhra Pradesh in south-east India for a three-week tour in September 2010 to prepare for the Asian Games. They took part in a T20 Triangular against the state women's team and an Invitational XI. "It's a great chance for the players to get used to playing tough cricket on turf," says ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam.





The Chinese were captained by all-rounder Wang Meng and coached by former Indian captain Mamatha Maben of Karnataka and Level II coach Ge Tao of Liaoning. The team stayed in housing at the new stadium built specially for women's cricket by the Andhra Cricket Association in Guntur under the presidency of Gokaraju Ganga Raju.

The Andhra Women's Cricket Academy is the first of its kind in India exclusively for women. It has two turf pitches, with a further two turf and one Astro practice wickets and was completed in June 2009 at a cost of US\$200,000. 50 local cricketers are already enrolled there for cricket and academic tuition.

China's latest tour of India came about through the offices of another former Indian captain Poornima Rao of the ACA, who felt that China has good potential and did well on their tour of India last year. "We are confident that this tour will help our cricketers to prepare for the tough matches of the Asian Games in November," says Ge Tao from the team's training base in Shenyang, "and we are grateful to Andhra Pradesh for hosting us."



Mamatha Maben with Mei Chun Hua and Yu Miao

Thailand's Women In Bangalore



Thailand's Women's Team will be in Bangalore for two weeks in September, training at the National Cricket Academy. They will be playing four Twenty20 matches against Karnataka representative sides. Former ACC Development Officer and Bangalore native "Roger Binny was instrumental in setting up the program," says Cricket Association of Thailand Chief Executive Mohideen Kader, a former school-mate of Roger's.

With financial support from Thailand's National Sports Council the women's team have been in rigorous training for 18 months. There have been few opportunities on turf however. "The purpose of this tour to Bangalore is to give the players practise on turf. It has been raining consistently in Thailand this summer and the players have had no opportunity to be out in the middle in match-conditions. Playing in India will be challenging and a good experience," says Mr. Kader.



Cricket Initiatives



India's women's team at the BCCI NCA in August 2010



Thailand's captain Sornnarin Tippoch

Thailand, as with China's women who were also in India at the same time, were preparing for the Guangzhou Asian Games in November.

Afghanistan's Domestic Development

Speaking from his Kabul home, the Afghanistan Cricket Board's Domestic Development Manager Dawlat Ahmadzai outlined his innovative plans to develop cricket across Afghanistan.

"It starts with regional offices controlling their related provinces."

"The key is to develop provincial cricket. For a long time cricket has been based in Jalalabad, near the Pakistan border, which has been good for the start of cricket in Afghanistan, but now, if cricket is to truly represent the whole of the country and if Afghanistan is to find the best possible players for the national team then cricket has to reach into the provinces and manage them and help them play with the highest standards possible," said Mr. Ahmadzai directly after performing an afternoon prayer during the month of Ramadan.



"When we play against Ireland and Scotland and India and South Africa I do not think that their team's players only come from just one or two parts of their country, they go and find as many good players as possible from everywhere. I think if we develop provincial cricket in Afghanistan in the following ways:

- School cricket
- Facilities
- Academies
- Age-group cricket
- Regional administration

"With a strong standard of domestic cricket I think that at least one in four cricketers that play for the top teams in the provinces can be good enough for the national team. Then there will be good competition for international cricket."



The circumstances which led to the formation of Mr. Ahmadzai's generation of cricketers, with so many of them learning the game in Pakistan as their families were forced to leave Afghanistan in the wake of the Russian Wars from 1979 to 1991, will not be repeated. And this generation of stars; Asghar Stanikzai, Hamid Hassan, Karim Sadiq, Mohammad Nabi, Nawroz Mangal, Samiullah Shenwari Shapoor Zadran, Mohammad Shahzad etc etc etc of whom Mr. Ahmadzai was one just a few months ago, before his retirement, needs to

find other players to join them and surpass them. Of the current national squad, only Noor Ali Zadran and Mirwais Ashraf are Afghans who have learnt the game from scratch from within Afghanistan.

Mr. Ahmadzai wants cricketers in Afghanistan now learn the game in Afghanistan to reach a sufficient standard to one day soon, beat Pakistan. "Pakistan is our friend and it is our biggest target. If we can play well against them, beat them, then it will be great for the country. The gap is getting smaller, I wish that it is a genuine 50-50 when we meet them," he says.



"In school cricket there should be enough coaches to just guide and encourage the players to do the basics with a soft ball. As they get older they can use the hard ball. Softball cricket will also suit the youngsters as there will be few good grounds for a while. I want there to be a school tournament in the regions. And then age-group cricket. Women's cricket too. The ACB will fund development through the regions. There will be first-class facilities for every region but not every province."

The Domestic Development Manager has placed his country's 34 regions into five regions: North, Central, East, South east and South and has appointed regional officers in each. "Managing Afghanistan may be difficult, managing its cricket I hope will be easier," he says. "I expect monthly progress reports from the regional managers and twice a year we will have workshops to discuss different issues." Mr. Ahmadzai held his first meeting for provincial representatives at the end of



Dawlat Ahmadzai rallying his charges



August, where he stressed the need to keep cricket in the regions fair and free of politics. Strict criteria have been established for the managers under him.

Dawlat Ahmadzai takes an Irish wicket in Sri Lanka, February 2010



Cricket Initiatives

Bhutan's School Tournament Expands

Having completed their inaugural Super League for seniors, the Bhutan Cricket Council Board started their third cycle of school tournaments since the first in 2009. There are five separate competitions: U-16 and U-19 for Girls and Class V and Class VI, Class VII and Class VIII, and U-19 for Boys. The thirty players rated highest at the end of the tournaments will be taken for specialized training.

Two new schools in Thimphu, Yangchengaytshel Lower Secondary and Pelki High School play in the tournament this time, joining the others in the capital, Paro, Sarpang and Punakha as the game spreads across Bhutan with more facilities and more players coming online every year.

"All the matches are conducted during weekends and government holidays to avoid disturbances in academic work," said National Coaching Co-ordinator: Damber Singh Gurung.



Emirates Central Benefits



The seven Emirates of the UAE have each been given responsibility by the UAE Emirates Cricket Board to manage all the cricket activity that takes place within their regions. Cricket in Abu Dhabi and Al Ain will be governed by the Abu Dhabi Cricket Council; Sharjah, Ras al Khaimah and Fujairah under Sharjah Cricket Council; Dubai under Dubai Cricket Council and Ajman and Umm Al Quwain under the Ajman Cricket Council.

In a move designed to have all cricket in the Emirates to move forward in the same direction with the common goal of 1) creating the strongest possible national team and 2) creating the best conditions for the development of players, speaking at a press conference at Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi, ECB Chief Executive Officer Dilawar Mani said the policy was to "make every regional council aware of the cricket activities taking place within their jurisdictions. It shall be the responsibility of the councils to ensure development in these jurisdictions and encourage participation in the sport of cricket. Uniform playing conditions developed under the ICC guidelines shall be strictly followed in all formats of the game by the respective councils."

"All data will be fed into a central database maintained by the ECB and accessible by the regional councils and umpires to ensure teams and players are allowed to participate in various approved cricket activities," he added. In effect, private cricket becomes public cricket and every ball struck and wicket taken thus becomes woven into the fabric of UAE cricket as a whole.

The policy covers registration of players and umpires, jurisdiction of the four cricket Councils, playing conditions, junior cricket development, senior men's league cricket, women's cricket and umpiring. As with the ACC and ICC funding model, all funds received by each council must be allocated to cricket activity.

The UAE Emirates Cricket Board Chief Executive Officer with Administrator Mazhar Khan



The UAE has until recently had the most successful senior team in the ACC along with the most cricket activity but in recent years their standing has slipped with the rise of Hong Kong and then Afghanistan. And earlier this year, because of the ACC mandate that youth teams must field at least three passport-holders in all ACC tournaments, the UAE were unable to take part in the ACC U-16 Elite in Nepal.

It is now incumbent upon each UAE cricket Council to conduct a minimum of one tournament in the following categories: U-12, U-14/U-15, U-16/U-17 and U-19. "We are also planning to have inter-emirate tournaments in the future which would help us unearth the cream of cricketers at the junior level. The winner in this tournament will be the national champions," said Mr. Mani. Senior cricket will be played by 18 teams in two divisions with promotion and relegation between them every year.

"What this has done is not only to bring together the cricket activity of the country," says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura, "but also create good conditions of competition between the UAE Councils. UAE cricket should benefit."



UAE, 2010 ACC Trophy Elite



Kuwait: 2012 For ODI Ground

Kuwait is developing an ODI-standard ground. The ground, in Salmiya one of the most prominent areas of Kuwait City, is currently under construction and once completed will be the fifth turf facility in Kuwait. "We have been planning and working on this for more than three years already," says Kuwait Cricket Director General Asad Baig, "and thanks to good work from everybody we are on target for completion by the middle of 2012. We then hope to invite the top teams to play here."



The dawning of Salmiya Cricket Stadium, September 2010

Kuwait will be hosting Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 8 in November 2010, at its four other grounds at KOC Hubara, KOC Unity, Doha and Sulaibiya. ACC Development Officer for Kuwait Iqbal Sikander who recently completed an assignment in Kuwait reports that even though Sulaibiya is currently suffering due to a lack of water in the summer months the situation there will soon be rectified and all grounds will be in good shape. Kuwait, fourth in the overall 2007-2008 ACC tournament rankings hosted the ACC Trophy Elite finishing eighth out of 10, and along with Bhutan, who finished ninth, will be taking part in WCL Division 8.

"Our ambition has always been to do the best we can on the field but there are some things you cannot control as easily as the construction of a ground, which itself is hard enough!" says Mr. Baig. "Kuwait's cricketers really deserve all the support Kuwait Cricket can give them, many of them sacrifice a lot to play. Sometimes their results do not go as well as we would like but without support there would be even less success. The ACC Trophy, ICC Division 8, Salmiya all these are the stepping stones to more achievements."



Kuwait Cricket's Haider Farman and Asad Baig

"What distinguishes Kuwait in comparison to other developing countries and gives them a very good chance of succeeding is the close relationship they have with their Olympic body," says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura. It doesn't hurt of course that the Olympic Council of Asia has its HQ in Kuwait and shares a common executive in Haider Farman (Secretary General of Kuwait Cricket and Manager Asian Games Department for the OCA).

Salmiya was actually once planned to be a unique hybrid of turf wicket and Astroturf outfield in a mixed-use project catering to Salmiya's residents but now it will be fully turfed and will be what so many of the long-

established cricket grounds of the world, built between 1850 to 1950 are – a showcase for the best possible cricket in a central residential and commercial area. Cricket will become increasingly central to Kuwait's sporting destiny.

Kabir Khan To Coach UAE



Former Pakistan international Kabir Khan became coach of the UAE in October, replacing former England international Colin Wells. "I have agreed to take over as UAE coach on a three-year deal and my target will be to help the team to the World Twenty20 in Sri Lanka in 2012," said Kabir Khan from his home in Peshawar. He joins UAE after the end of a successful spell with Afghanistan and it is the second time he takes charge in the Emirates, having been there for a short period in 2007, during which the UAE won ICC World Cricket League Division 2.

In his 22 months in charge of Afghanistan from October 2008 to August 2010 the team advanced from a bunch of amateurish big-hitters into a collection of match-savvy professionals, picking up ODI status, a place in 2010's World Twenty20 and then third in Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 1. His primary aim for the UAE is to have them qualify for the T20 World Cup in Sri Lanka in 2012. UAE, World Cup participants in 1996, have been the Asian development region's foremost senior team for much of the subsequent period but have recently seen themselves challenged strongly by Hong Kong and fall behind Afghanistan, sometimes just by a whisker but behind nevertheless.

"Kabir has done wonderfully well for Afghanistan," says Emirates Cricket Board Administrator Mazhar Khan, the day after Kabir signed his contract, "we welcome him back. He'll be based in Sharjah 24/7 working with the junior and senior players five to six days a week."

A new and expanded global qualification system has been set up to give the ICC Associate and Affiliate Members a distinct pathway towards the ICC World Twenty20. And the qualification tournament, which previously involved six or eight teams, will be expanded to a 16-team tournament in early 2012 to give those sides the chance to represent their countries at the prestigious ICC World Twenty20 2012 in Sri Lanka.



The new qualifying tournament will have the six teams which currently enjoy ODI/T20I status (Afghanistan, Canada, Ireland, Kenya, Netherlands, Scotland), plus 10 qualifiers from regional Twenty20 events. At the last ACC T20 Cup Afghanistan beat UAE in the Final in Abu Dhabi.

"UAE has a lot of potential and the administration is also keen on improving the team, so I will do my best to help UAE regain their status at international level and there is enough talent to achieve that," says Kabir. His team's first assignment was a tour of Kenya to play four 50-over matches followed by the Intercontinental Shield Final against Namibia at home at the end of November.

Afghanistan's Grounds Grow

It has been the ambition of the Afghanistan administrators for a number of years to embed cricket into the fabric of the country, and spread it beyond the regions bordering Pakistan. Afghanistan is now to have at least one cricket ground in all of its 34 provinces within the next two years, says Afghanistan Cricket Board Chairman Dr. Omar Zakhilwal. Outside of the ground development funds made available by the ACC and ICC, US\$1.1 million is being given by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Alongside these funds, individuals across the country are being encouraged to support cricket and a number are coming forward with parcels of land and financial backing.



Cricket Initiatives



Nangarhar claim Afghanistan's 2010 Inter-Provincial crown

Dr. Zakhilwal was speaking at the conclusion of the ACB Inter-Provincial Cricket T20 Tournament in October 2010 which was won by Nangarhar, who beat Logar in the Final by 120 runs after making 227 for 6. the ACB Chairman said that the existing Ground in Kabul where the Inter-Provincial Final was held will be upgraded and fixed seating built for 6000 as well as it becoming the new headquarters of the Board. Dr. Zakhilwal, also Afghanistan's Finance Minister, said that new grounds will be completed in 10 provinces in 2011, and in the others in 2012. Two of them, in Kabul and Nangarhar will be of international standard. In addition 15 Academies are to be built over the next two years across the country.

The Inter-Provincial tournament was a significant money-spinner for the ACB, with revenue coming from the sale of television rights, sponsorship and tickets. And as a development exercise, "the 90 best players were selected from the (24) participating teams to be given a chance for the national team," says ACB CEO Hamid Shinwari.



Double-decker delights at Kabul Cricket Stadium

China Deep In Preparation

Host nation China prepared in October for the Asian Games in Guangzhou at a special camp deep in the Guangdong Province countryside, 160 kilometres from Guangzhou. "It has been hard, grinding, repetitive work for the men's and women's teams. Rashid Khan, Mamatha Maben, Monjurul Islam and the Chinese coaches have been doing all kinds of drills and fine-tuning as the Games get near," says ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam.



In anticipation of facing the highest calibre of bowling yet seen in the Chinese mainland, the men's team have adopted a practise handed down to them by Pakistan's 'Ambassador for Cricket to China' Javed Miandad playing short-pitched bowling off a slab of marble placed on a length. Javed used it from the 1980s onwards in preparation for any encounter against the West Indies, "and on the new Guangzhou wickets which could be fast, and a guaranteed game against Pakistan or Bangladesh, he recommended it," said former Pakistan team-mate Rashid Khan. Javed Miandad was on the phone to the camp every day, receiving reports and passing on advice.

"The men and women are very fit and are definitely going to be among the best fielding sides in the Asian Games. It has been a three year project for the women and a five year one for the men, they have come a long way and though the women have the better chance in the event the men will play with honour and courage and that will reflect well on the CCA," says national coach Rashid Khan. "The women," their Indian coach Mamatha Maben, has famously said, "could definitely" beat India in a few years, and indeed have good medal chances in Guangzhou.



Wang Lei plays Zhang Yufei off marble

"It's the chance of a medal in our home country. It is for China and everyone who has made us succeed," says women's captain Wang Meng.



China's players have travelled epic distances on trains across their country, gone to India and Bangladesh, trained in freezing conditions in Shenyang and humid conditions in Shenzhen and they even had to face down invertebrates at the Qingyuan camp. "One of the girls hit a ball into the paddy fields and in going to get it had a snake jump out at her," says Aminul. "She spread her arms out wide when we asked her how big it was. She wasn't scared at all and laughed it off. Nothing seems to scare them."



Myanmar Get A Ground



The Myanmar Cricket Federation received government approval to build a dedicated cricket ground. The venue at Saw Pong, 15 kilometres from the centre of Yangon, is a former football ground. "It has a good water supply with a river next to it, and with improvements in stages should end up in being a full-sized international ground," says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura, who inspected the site.

"A ground for cricket would be an undoubted advantage," says MCF President U Nyunt Win, "at present training is hampered by poor conditions and our weather." Right next to the Saw Pong field there is an indoor training facility which can be used for nets and physical conditioning. "Knowing that practise and play is possible when I call the players is a great help to me and to them," says national coach Ashfaq-ul-Islam. "Even coming to the practises for the boys is not easy and once they are together we all want to be able to give them the best chance of playing cricket," he adds.

Work on the ground started at the end of October 2010.



Bandula Warnapura at Saw Pong flanked by Michael Moosajee, ground curator Maung Maung and Ashfaq-ul-Islam

Afghanistan Trials U-19s

Afghanistan, who won through with Hong Kong to play in the ICC U/19 World Cup in New Zealand earlier this year, started their campaign to qualify for the U/19 World Cup in February 2012 early.

500 aspiring players turned up in Kabul in October 2010, from all over the country, to be welcomed, before being put through their paces, by Afghanistan Cricket Board CEO Hamid Shinwari who guaranteed a fair selection process.



Registration of the players with their National Identity cards took three days by itself, some Afghans travelling from Pakistan to take part and staying with relatives or in temporary accommodation during the week they were in Kabul. From the 500 trialled, 100 will be selected. The 100 will initially be portioned out into five regional U-19 teams, encompassing 29 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces.

14 players will take part in the ACC U-19 Elite Cup in Thailand in February 2011, Afghanistan being runners-up to Hong Kong in 2009. A reserve squad will be known as the National Academy Team.



"Afghanistan have started to take their domestic cricket development seriously which is good to see as the special set of circumstances which created such a great group of players over the past ten years is changing. In the last U/19 World Cup they underperformed because of the loss of several players in key positions with no adequate replacements. The more players that play organised cricket and who can be channelled into the national team based on merit will continue the upward trend of cricket in the country. There are high expectations of Afghanistan now, especially inside the country and a successful U-19 team will do a lot to strengthen the game there," says ACC Development Officer for Afghanistan Iqbal Sikander.



Former national player and now Chief Selector Ahmad Shah Ahmadi with the best view in the house

Afghans Move Forward

"You can't have proper cricket without proper grounds." Check. Afghanistan's working on them and had six across the country by the start of the 2011 season. "Perfect preparation makes for perfect performance." Check. Afghanistan's already started trialling teenagers in anticipation of the 2012 U/19 World Cup. "You can't play properly unless you play by the rules." Check. Afghanistan completed a Level I Umpiring Course, its first after four and a half years, in October.



The previous two Umpiring Courses in Afghanistan (in 2005 and 2006) were made up of national players in the main, many of whom were in their infancy in the game. That generation went on to be Asian Cricket Council champions in 50-over cricket, and 20-over cricket and play in the ICC World Twenty20. Cricket activity in the country was then largely confined to those players and their few teams, now thanks to their inspiration and example, cricket has spread to many parts of Afghanistan, in numbers which demand attention, management and support.



Cricket Initiatives



At the ICC World Twenty20

Afghanistan Cricket Board CEO Hamid Shinwari says, “cricket in Afghanistan is experiencing a huge increase in participation and interest and we are committed to developing the necessary capacity to ensure that the game reaches elite international levels.”

In a significant sign of cultural and cricketing advances three of the 29 participants were women in the six-day long cricket umpiring course held in Kabul. ACC Resource Person Mahboob Shah (Umpire in 28 Tests and 32 ODIs) conducted the course and after its conclusion said, “many of the umpires in the workshop have talent and only need more experience. It is good that the ACB is working on their development.” The course was held in Urdu and English with the intensity

of the final day’s practical leading Mahboob Shah to say “I had not experienced this kind of a serious cricket match staged in other countries for purposes of trialling umpires.”

Three NGOs in Afghanistan (UNICEF, Afghan Connection and AYCSO) are working to support women’s cricket in the country and Afghanistan hoped to be sending its first ever women’s team to the ACC Twenty20 in February 2011.

“Our strong commitment to the development of women’s cricket means that it was very important that three young women participated in the umpiring workshop,” said Mr. Shinwari said, “they are already the leaders of the women’s cricket movement and this training will increase their ability to develop and promote the women’s game.”



“The fact of the matter is that for cricket to succeed and be the game it can be, in being a place where parents can know their children are engaged in a healthy activity, where rules and discipline are being maintained, where they can play in as safe conditions as possible – all this has to happen in a well-connected way. Many countries have one element but not the others, it is good to see Afghanistan making a fresh start in this. There is a long way to go yet and as the game grows so will the challenges,” says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura.



10,000 Afghan fans in Kuwait in 2006. 1,000,000 more in Afghanistan in 2016

Afghanistan’s cricket has succeeded in the past almost in spite of its limitations, take those away it could do significantly well for many years to come.

Myanmar Plants A Seed

Myanmar have inaugurated their new cricket ground at Saw Pong in Yangon yesterday, Cricket Federation President U Nyunt Win along with his fellow administrators, planting the ceremonial first flower on the boundary's edge. "It was a great day for us, finally we have a ground we can call our own," said Mr. Win.

The MCF President, a left-handed dasher and fast bowler in his day, played the bulk of his cricket 8000 feet above sea-level on a makeshift ground in Darjeeling, "this new ground in Myanmar will be of international size and I would like it to host visiting teams of other countries for proper matches once it is completed in 2011," he says.

"Myanmar cricket has a good future, we have 24 school teams of boys and girls in Yangon, 18 in Mandalay and 12 in Taungyi and we are hoping to start next in Bago. A ground like this will offer all in the country a centre to play in and we hope to organise more and more local tournaments," says Mr. Win who has used his role as one of the leading actors, producers and directors in Myanmar, to popularise cricket. (Bo Ba directed by Mr. Win, a Burmese remake of 'Lagaan', was a nationwide hit in 2009).

"What has been the biggest problem for Myanmar is not that it doesn't want to play cricket, it is that there are so few places for them to play," says national coach Ashfaq-ul-Islam. "This ground will focus attention, there's an indoor hall next to it, so that when I call the cricketers (and so many of them come from so far to play and practise) even when it rains we can be active."

The land has been donated by the Myanmar government, "after a long period of negotiation," says Mr. Win. He would not be drawn on how many kyats it was eventually going to cost but affirmed, "the ground is there for anybody who wishes to play cricket. As long as there is cricket in Myanmar this ground will be with us."



Saw Pong Curator Maung Maung with the MCF's Than Win, Nyunt Win and Ashfaq-ul-Islam. Akhter Abowath and Michael Moosajee are in the background



Nepal's and Bhutan's Women Win Big

In recognition of their victory, ACC U-19 Women's Champions Nepal were awarded the highest cash prize in the history of Nepali cricket by the Ministry of Youth and Sports. The award of Nepali Rupees 100,000 (US\$1500) was made by Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal at his official residence with the Minister for Youth and Sports Gopal Tiwari Nepali, office-bearers of the National Sports Council and officials of the Cricket Association of Nepal in attendance.



"It's quite a significant thing," says Ujjwal Acharya, one of Nepal's foremost cricket and political correspondents, "it's the first time the government has taken the initiative in reaching out to the players. It is a long overdue thing and will let a lot of people know that Nepal cricket is something to be encouraged especially now that the men's team is in a quiet phase." The Cricket Association of Nepal also gave each player NR 15,000 and national sponsor Wai Wai Noodles awarded the squad NR 50,000. The latest figures for per capita income in Nepal are US\$1100.

Nepal's women defended the title they first won in 2008 in October, beating Bhutan by five wickets. In recognition of their achievement in reaching the Final Bhutan's U-19 cricketers themselves were accorded a Ministerial reception and individual cash prizes of Ngultrum 10,000 (US\$225) directly on their return from the ACC U-19 Championship final in Singapore.

"Until this U-19 tournament they didn't know us. We got to the Final and many people now know that Bhutan is doing something good in the world," says national coach Damber Singh Gurung.

The ACC is delighted to provide opportunities for young cricketers to play international cricket. We are highly encouraged by the increasing amount of recognition and support that regional governments across the region are providing to their cricketers.



Buddhi Still Busy



When not officiating, one of the Associate nations' premier umpires Buddhi Pradhan (18 ODIs and counting) gives courses on umpiring within his home-country Nepal. The latest, an elementary program in Birgunj in south-central Nepal on the Indian border took in 18, including one lady who, as is their wont, scored the highest marks in the concluding examination.

ICC Associate and Affiliate International Panel Umpire Buddhi Pradhan conducted the course with the assistance of local umpires Manohar Adhikari, Hiralal Yadav and Basu Dew Karna. "The main issues to communicate were the changes in Laws in the past two years particularly with T20s and Powerplays. I was glad that the umpires and scorers picked them up quickly," said Buddhi. In his concluding remarks former Cricket Association of Nepal Vice-President current Birgunj District Cricket Association President Tarani Bikram Shah highlighted the importance of skilled human resources for the development of cricket in Nepal.

Qatar and UAE: Cream of the Creche

10 primary schools in Qatar have taken part in a junior coaching camp in Doha in October. 75 boys aged from 8 to 11 were taken through their paces by ACC certified Level II coaches Malik Nazar Mohammad, Aruna de Silva and Amjad Baig. The coaching program forms part of the strategy of the ACC and ICC in promoting cricket among youngsters.



The UAE holds camps for children in Sharjah for children three days a week between the ages of 6 and 16, including three Arab boys. The ACC accredited coaches are headed by Mohammed Hyder (Level III).



Saudi Arabians Shine In T20s



The winning WPCA team, SCC T20 National Championship 2010



The four Associations of the Saudi Cricket Centre (SCC) played out a T20 National Championship in November from which Western Province Cricket Association came through as champions. They beat Southern Province Cricket Association by 141 runs after making 245-5.

The five-day tournament was organized, says the SCC, “to introduce a new level of competition in an effort to promote an active participation and motivation of regional players at national level.”

Venkatesh Prasad: New ACC Development Officer

The ACC has appointed former India international cricketer Venkatesh Prasad as its new Development Officer. He replaces countryman Roger Binny in the role. Venkatesh, 41, will combine his duties with the ACC with work as bowling coach for the IPL’s Chennai Super Kings.

Speaking of his new role Venkatesh said, “It’s going to be a different kind of challenge for me, after having worked with national, state and provincial teams as well as the IPL cricketers. It may well be a test of my coaching and patience in communicating things! I look forward to learning about new cultures and fresh ways of doing things and would like to see these Asian developing countries climb further up the ladder.”



Venkatesh Prasad on his first day at the ACC Secretariat in Kuala Lumpur



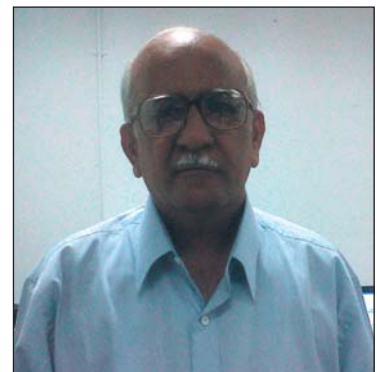
Bandula Warnapura flanked by Venkatesh Prasad and Aminul Islam

Development Manager Bandula Warnapura welcomed Venkatesh Prasad to the ACC saying, "we have another former international in our team of champions (Aminul Islam, Rumesh Ratnayake, Iqbal Sikander) and Venky adds a great deal of expertise to our team of Development Officers. He'll be working with Qatar, Thailand and UAE primarily as well as running the High Performance Programs of our top countries. Having recently worked at the highest international level he brings a lot of leading-edge thinking to our developing cricketers." Venkatesh's first assignment was an ACC Coach Educator Level II Course in Chiang Mai, Thailand in the first week of December 2010.

New ACC Umpiring Resource Person

In December 2010 the ACC appointed Borni Jamula as an Umpiring Resource Person. Mr. Jamula joins K.T.Francis, Mahboob Shah and Peter Manuel on the panel which oversees ACC umpires' coaching programs and activity. Mr. Jamula, 57, has been a first-class umpire since 1982 in India.

"Borni comes highly recommended and has a great deal of on-field and administrative experience. As we seek to raise the standard of play and umpiring, he will be an asset to us," says ACC Development Manager Bandula Warnapura.



In a 25-year long career as a BCCI first-class umpire Mr. Jamula umpired in 5 ODIs, the first in 1990. He has been a Level III Umpire Educator in India and has been an umpiring coach, with accreditation also from the England and Wales Cricket Board. "I am honoured to be asked to provide my services to the Asian Cricket Council, India has many resources which can also be used to support umpires development across Asia," said Mr. Jamula.

Mr. Jamula's first assignment was at the ACC Umpires Educator Level I Course in Thailand earlier in December.



Participants and instructors at the Umpire Educators Course, Bangkok, December 2010



Malaysia Gets Refreshed

ACC Development Officer for Malaysia Aminul Islam took 14 Malaysian Level I coaches through a refresher course at the Kinrara Oval in December 2010. "This refresher course has helped them to come out from their comfort zone and to advance their thinking. This course was designed taking Malaysian cricket's context into consideration. The ACC and ICC have four tournaments potentially lined up in 2011 for Malaysia. During this course, we discussed the strategies for Malaysia's national teams for these tournaments," says Aminul.


Be Specific

- "Once you have decided on your teaching approach, remember to remain true to the principle of specificity.

The encoding principle of specificity states that the more the practice context resembles the test (game) context, the better the performance will be."


Simply put, teach them what you expect to be repeated under game conditions

Showing the benefit of his own recent Level III coaching qualification Aminul's time with the Malaysian coaches, assisted by S.Chinnadurai and K.M.Satchi of the Malaysian Cricket Association, was directed at not only creating better coaches but better cricketers.



Coaching Methods

- **SPIR method**
 - Show**
Name the Skill/ Activity
Demonstrate Fully
Give Coaching Points (maximum of 3)
Repeat the demonstration if necessary
 - Practice**
 - Instruct**
Observe
Provide instruction/ feedback
 - Reward**



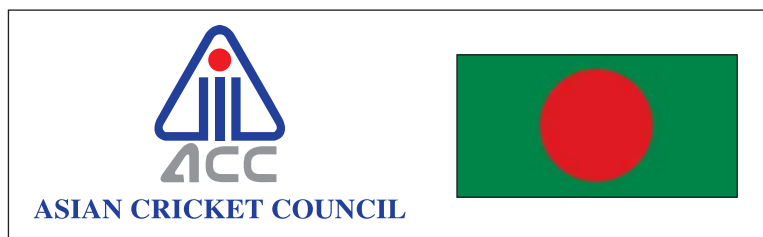
Aminul 12

The three-day course was held alongside considerable activity at the Kinrara Oval, with an Army v Navy carnival taking place at the same time. "It was interesting to see the attitude and fitness of the cricketers on the field, they held two catches in front of us which were outstanding for their nerve and athleticism. Throughout the course it was stressed that cricket skills should be added to core fitness, footwork and agility. These coaches are working with youngsters in the main and once a coach has good raw material to work with, a cricketer can develop. Top-class cricketers need 10,000 hours of skill-building

practice. In Malaysia, let alone in many other countries, that may not be possible but every hour spent with a cricketer has to be focused and with an objective, otherwise it is a waste of time."



Asia Cup 2012



The next Asia Cup will be played in Dhaka from March 1 to 11, 2012. At a meeting in Bangladesh in December 2010 of the Asian Cricket Council Executive Board, the decision was taken to hold the 11th Asia Cup at Mirpur Stadium in Bangladesh. It will be the third time that the Asia Cup has been held in the country. India are defending champions, having won Micromax Asia Cup 2010 and will again take on the hosts and Pakistan and Sri Lanka in the 2012 event.

Asian Cricket Council President and Bangladesh Cricket Board President Mustafa Kamal MP said "I am delighted that Bangladesh will host the next Asia Cup during my term as ACC President. It is always an event which carries a great deal of prestige as we search for Asia's champions."



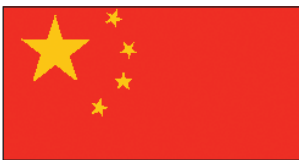
The ACC and BCB President

During the ACC Executive Board Meeting in Dhaka it was also decided that a series of Men's A Team, U-19 and Academy Team tournaments will take place from 2011 which will encompass the four Test-playing nations and four qualifiers from the ACC Associate and Affiliate nations. A Women's tournament will also be held on the same basis among the Test-playing nations and four others from the ACC region.

"These are exciting times for the cricketers of Asia, they are closer than ever to playing top-flight cricket against the very best and we look forward to the emergence of a number of countries that can compete with the Test-playing nations at youth and A Team level. We are grateful that the Test-playing countries are taking such an interest

and expanding their spheres of activity. The development of the other nations will go apace with the advances in the Test-playing countries, nevertheless, if a country like Afghanistan can sustain its current success - and that is the real test of development - and if other countries can match them, within a number of years I can see the Asia Cup being credibly expanded to being more than just the top four countries," says ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashrafu Huq.







中国板球协会
Chinese Cricket Association



HONG KONG CRICKET ASSOCIATION
香港板球總會



كويت كريكت



MALAYSIA
CRICKET



Development in Action

January - 2011

ANNEXURE 4E

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	ICC WCL Div 3	Hong Kong 22-29 January, 2011	ICC	USA, Italy, Hong Kong, Oman, PNG, Denmark	Winner: Hong Kong Runner-up: PNG
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Aminul Islam	China 9 to 17 January, 2011	ACC/CCA Level I Coaching Course		Implemented Report received
2	Venkatesh Prasad	Qatar 4 to 10 January, 2011	U19 National Team training		Implemented Report received
		Hong Kong 14 to 20 January, 2011	National Team training for WCL		Implemented Report received
3	Iqbal Sikander	Sri Lanka / Hong Kong 8 to 30 January, 2011	Oman National Team training for WCL		Implemented
4	Rumesh Ratnayake	Sri Lanka 26 to 29 January, 2011	Bahrain U19 National Team tour to Sri Lanka in preparation for ACC U19 Elite Cup 2011		Implemented

February - 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	ACC U19 Elite Cup 2011	Thailand 1 to 10 February, 2011	ACC/CAT	Hong Kong, Afghanistan, Nepal, Qatar, Malaysia, UAE, Oman, Singapore, Thailand, Bahrain	Winner: Afghanistan Runner-up: Nepal
2	ACC Women's T20 Tournament 2011	Kuwait 18 to 25 February, 2011	ACC/KC	Hong Kong, Thailand, China, Nepal, Singapore, Malaysia, Bhutan, UAE, Oman, Kuwait	Winner: Hong Kong Runner-up: China
3	ICC CWC 2011	Bangladesh / India / Sri Lanka 19 February to 2 April, 2011	ICC	India, Australia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Ireland, Sri Lanka, England, New Zealand, South Africa, Zimbabwe, West Indies, Canada, Netherlands, Kenya	Winner: Runner-up:
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Rumesh Ratnayake	Maldives 8 to 14 February, 2011	Country Assignment Maldives		Implemented Report received
		Sri Lanka 12 to 16 February, 2011	Hong Kong Women's National Team tour to Sri Lanka in preparation for ACC Women's T20 Tournament 2011		
2	Iqbal Sikander	Kuwait 18 to 25 February, 2011	ACC Women's T20 Tournament 2011		Implemented
3	Aminul Islam	Myanmar 10 to 15 February, 2011	Country Assignment Myanmar		

March - 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	ACC Women's Committee Meeting	TBC March/April, 2011	ACC		<i>postponed</i>
2	ACC Development Staff Coordination Committee Meeting	TBC March/April, 2011	ACC		<i>postponed</i>
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Iqbal Sikander	Iran 10 to 20 March, 2011	Country Assignment Iran / Level I Coaching & Umpiring Course		<i>postponed</i>
2	Rumesh Ratnayake	Nepal 13 to 20 March, 2011	Country Assignment Nepal		<i>postponed</i>
		Hong Kong 24 to 31 March, 2011	Country Assignment Hong Kong		
3	Aminul Islam	Malaysia 24 to 30 March, 2011	Country Assignment Malaysia / Preparation for WCL		

April - 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	ICC WCL Div 2	UAE 8 to 15 April, 2011	ICC	UAE, Namibia, Bermuda, Uganda, Hong Kong, PNG	Winner: Runner-up:
2	ACC Coach Education Course Level II	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 29 April to 4 May, 2011	ACC	All member countries Selected participants	
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Peter Manuel	Oman 18 to 24 April, 2011	ACC/OCB Level I Umpiring Course		
2	Iqbal Sikander	Kuwait 18 to 30 April, 2011	National Team training for WCL		
3	Rumesh Ratnayake	Bahrain 3 to 9 April, 2011	Country Assignment Bahrain		
4	Aminul Islam	Singapore 8 to 16 April, 2011	Country Assignment Singapore		
5		Malaysia 22 to 30 April, 2011	ACC Coach Education Course Level II		

Development in Action

May - 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	ICC WCL Div 7	Botswana 1 to 8 May, 2011	ICC	Botswana, Norway, Nigeria, Japan, Kuwait, Germany	Winner: Runner-up:
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Peter Manuel	Qatar 2 to 8 May, 2011	ACC/QCA Level I Umpiring Course		
2	Iqbal Sikander	Saudi Arabia 18 to 30 May, 2011	U19 Team training / Level I Coaching & Umpiring Course		
3	Rumesh Ratnayake	Bhutan 12 to 20 May, 2011	Country Assignment Bhutan		
4	Aminul Islam	Brunei 6 to 13 May, 2011	Country Assignment Brunei/Training for ACC U19 Challenge Cup		
		China 20 to 27 May, 2011	ACC/CCA Level I Coaching Course		

June- 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	ACC Umpiring Course Level II	Dhaka, Bangladesh 17 to 25 June, 2011	ACC/BCB	All Member Countries Selected participants	
2	ACC U19 Challenge Cup 2011	Kuala Lumpur / Penang, Malaysia 26 June to 2 July, 2011	ACC/MCA	Saudi Arabia, Bhutan, Kuwait, China, Maldives, Myanmar, Iran, Brunei	Winner: Runner-up:
3	ACC AGM	TBC	ACC	All Member Countries	
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Iqbal Sikander	Oman 18 to 30 June, 2011	Country Assignment Oman / Level I Coaching & Umpiring Course		
2	Venkatesh Prasad	UAE	ACC/ECB Level I Coaching Course		
3	Rumesh Ratnayake	Nepal 1 to 10 June, 2011	Country Assignment Nepal		
		Hong Kong 20 to 29 June, 2011	Country Assignment Hong Kong		
4	Aminul Islam	Singapore 5 to 11 June, 2011	Country Assignment Singapore		
		China 15 to 23 June, 2011	Preparation for ACC U19 Challenge Cup		

July - 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	ACC U19 Asia Cup 2011	Malaysia 31 June to 6 July, 2011	ACC/MCA		Winner: Runner-up:
2	ICC U19 CWC Qualifier	Dublin/Derry, Ireland 28 July to 9 August, 2011	ICC	Namibia, Kenya, Scotland, Ireland + 2 Asia + 2 EAP + 2 Americas	Winner: Runner-up:
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Iqbal Sikander	Malaysia 31 June to 6 July, 2011	ACC U19 Asia Cup 2011		
2	Rumesh Ratnayake	Maldives 10 to 17 July, 2011	Country Assignment Maldives		
3	Aminul Islam	Malaysia 4 to 17 July, 2011	Preparation for ACC U19 Challenge Cup		
		China 21 to 28 July, 2011	ACC/CCA Level 0 Coaching Course		

August- 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
	<i>Ranzan & EID</i>	<i>31 July to 31 August, 2011</i>			
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Rumesh Ratnayake	Nepal 10 to 18 August, 2011	Country Assignment Nepal		
2	Aminul Islam	Myanmar 2 to 8 August, 2011	ACC/MCF Level I Coaching Course		

September- 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	ICC WCL Div 6	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia 17 to 24 September, 2011	ICC	Guernsey, Malaysia, Jersey, Fiji + 1st & 2nd from Div 7	Winner: Runner-up:
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Iqbal Sikander	Afghanistan 21 to 30 September, 2011	Country Assignment Afghanistan / Level I Coaching & Umpiring Course		
2	Rumesh Ratnayake	Hong Kong 1 to 9 September, 2011	Country Assignment Hong Kong		
		Bhutan 15 to 22 September, 2011	Country Assignment Bhutan		
3	Aminul Islam	China 15 to 25 September, 2011	National Tournament		



Development in Action

October- 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	ACC Management Course	Dubai/Kuala Lumpur (TBC) 14 to 22 October, 2011	ACC	All Member Countries	
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Iqbal Sikander	Dubai/Kuala Lumpur (TBC) 14 to 22 October, 2011	ACC Management Course		
2	Rumesh Ratnayake	Bahrain 30 September / 7 October, 2011	Country Assignment Bahrain		
3	Aminul Islam	Singapore 5 to 11 October, 2011	ACC/SCA Level I Coaching Course		
		Malaysia 20 to 27 October, 2011	ACC/MCA Level I Coaching Course		

November- 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	26th SEA Games 2011	Palembang, Indonesia 11 to 25 November, 2011	ACC	Demonstration Sport: Cricket	
2	ICC Women's CWC Qualifier	Dhaka, Bangladesh 14 to 26 November, 2011	ICC	West Indies, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Japan, USA, Ireland, Netherlands, South Africa, Zimbabwe	Winner: Runner-up:
3	ACC Development Staff Coordination Meeting	TBC November/December, 2011	ACC		
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Iqbal Sikander	Oman 25 to 30 November, 2011	National Team training for Men's T20		
2	Rumesh Ratnayake	Nepal 1 to 10 November, 2011	Country Assignment Nepal		
		Maldives 18 to 24 November, 2011	Country Assignment Maldives		
3	Aminul Islam	Brunei 4 to 10 November, 2011	Country Assignment Brunei		

December - 2011

Sl.#	Events	Venue/Dates	Resource Person	Participants	Implementation Status
1	ACC Men's T20 Tournament 2011	Kathmandu, Nepal 1 to 10 December, 2011	ACC/CAN	Afghanistan, Nepal, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Oman, UAE, Kuwait, Bhutan, Maldives, Saudi Arabia	Winner: Runner-up:
2	ACC Coach Education Course Level III	Colombo/Dambulla, Sri Lanka 1 to 9 December, 2011	ACC/SLC	All Member Countries Selected participants	
ACC Cricket Development Officers					Implementation Status
1	Iqbal Sikander	Iran 20 to 30 December, 2011	Country Assignment Iran		
2	Rumesh Ratnayake	Bahrain 15 to 22 December, 2011	Country Assignment Bahrain		
3	Aminul Islam	China 13 to 18 December, 2011	Country Assignment China		
4		Colombo/Dambulla, Sri Lanka 1 to 9 December, 2011	ACC Coach Education Course Level III		



Women's Cricket Summary

Women took part in 10 of our regional and central courses last year and typically make up 5% -15% of all participants.

Afghanistan

- The Afghanistan Cricket Board would like to start women's cricket at school level and have communicated with their Ministry of Education in this regard.
- However, due to security issues and threats from certain elements of society, the ACB have reluctantly decided to stop women's cricket for a while.



Bahrain

- Started girl's cricket in 2009 by promoting it through shorter and softer versions of the game. Bahrain Cricket Association took the initiatives through social clubs/organizations to patronize ladies' softball cricket tournaments. Three successful tournaments have been conducted since.
- BCA now has a Ladies Cricket Development Program in place and conducts training for the various age-groups and is aligning with other social clubs and schools to organize inter-school/club tournaments. BCA has conducted coaching camps for their Senior, U-19 and U-16 girls in August with follow-up indoor softball and outdoor hardball tournaments. 19 took part in a training camp at the National Academy.



Bhutan

January 2010 -February 2010

Winter Coaching Camp, Thimphu District (35 girls selected from school tournaments)

March 2010

Start of school coaching to prepare teams for School Cricket Championship.

- An U-16 and U-19 school cricket championship was played from August-September in Thimphu and Sarpang districts.
- Second place at the ACC U-19 Women's Championship meant an audience with the Bhutanese Prime Minister and cash awards from the Bhutanese government.
- ACC U-19 Women's Championship participants



Brunei

January -March 2010

- 8 girls from ITB University (aged 18 to 22) picked up cricket through the Brunei Darussalam Cricket Association's project 'Educational Institution Adoption Program'. They are involved with cricket once a week.
- 10 girls from a secondary school (aged 12 to 15) are involved with cricket and play once a week. Girls from another school are expected to join.
- 10 girls (aged 18 to 20) are involved with cricket in a central training program of BDCA. They train four days a week, in the afternoons.
- Through BDCA projects/central cricket training program, girls from various universities and secondary schools are now involved with cricket.



China

January -April 2010

- 5 women players from the national squad were the first to undergo bio-mechanical testing at the Guangdong Sports Science Centre (in China's new focus on sports science as a tool to improve their players' performance).
- Training camp at Shenzhen.
- ACC Development Officer Aminul Islam visited Zhejiang and Shandong in search of talented junior women players.



Development in Action

- China's women cricketers spend a month in Bangladesh - 16 senior players along with 14 members of their U-19 squad trained and played at the Bangladesh Institute of Sport An English Language course has also been arranged for them.
- The Women's University Championships were held in Guangzhou in the middle of August. Hong Kong and China played the inaugural match at the new Asian Games stadium.
- September 2010
- Training camp at Mohali India for Asian Games squad, at the special invitation of Inderjit Singh Bindra of the Punjab Cricket Association.
- ACC U19 Women's Championship participants
- Asian Games participants

Hong Kong

January -March 2010



- Hong Kong Cricket Association started a campaign to find and groom enough cricketers of sufficient quality to represent Hong Kong in both the men's and women's Twenty20 events at the Asian Games in Guangzhou in November 2010. HKCA had a recruitment campaign through schools and universities and 50 came through for a three-month skills development program, one of whom is Yip Sze Wan who is found to be a 'natural' cricketer.
- Hong Kong Women faced China in a 50-over friendly in February at the Kai Tak Cricket Ground.

September 2010 - December 2010

- HKCA announced an Elite Player Twenty20 competition in September for the best men and women players. Japan joined the top Hong Kong players in this series as a prelude to a 50-over international match.
- Members of the Hong Kong senior team and U-19s travelled to Guangzhou in mid-August to play against regional teams from China in the China National Cricket Tournament. Hong Kong played four matches against teams in the competition; however their matches did not count towards the championship title.
- ACC U-19 Women's Championship participants
- Asian Games participants

Iran

February-March 2010



Iran Cricket Federation's first Level I coaching course. 23 participants from different regions in Iran took part, 15 of which were women. All the participants were either ex-players, school teachers or Federation employees interested in growing their knowledge of the sport.

- Have hired Pakistani lady coaches twice through the ACC to train their various ladies cricket teams. Currently they have about eight full fledged ladies cricket teams playing in different cities in Iran. Iran at present has the highest number of lady coaches and umpires in the entire Middle East Region.
- Recently they had a level 0 umpiring course conducted by their own lady umpire who is ACC Level II qualified who has also passed the tutor's course. The umpire was the sole lady to stand at the ACC U-19 Women's Championship.

Kuwait

- 74 women cricketers attended open trials in June held by Kuwait Cricket in order to prepare a team for the ACC U-19 Women's Championship. Currently they have both senior and junior ladies teams. Coaching is being done regularly by ACC qualified lady coaches.
- ACC U-19 Women's Championship participants



Malaysia

- March 2010
Malaysian Cricket Association formed a women's cricket committee.
- September – December 2010
 - Centralized training for U-19 squad
 - Trials and centralized training for Asian Games squad
 - Kinrara Cricket Carnival for boys and girls (about 200 students participated)
 - Cricket Clinic for Kinrara girls (about 20 girls attended the clinic)
 - Training done in schools, Royal Malaysian Air Force and Navy base
 - Armed Forces Inter Services competition (Men's and Ladies)
- ACC U-19 Women's Championship participants
- Asian Games participants



Maldives

- July 2010
 - Anchor Junior (Girl's) Cricket Cup (6 teams participated)
- December 2010
 - Coaching Camp for boys and girls (35 girls participated)



Myanmar

- Since August 2009, MCF has conducted Inter-school tournaments in Yangon and Mandalay; a schools' cricket coaching initiative throughout schools in Yangon and Taungyi; a basic education coaching refresher course for school teachers in Yangon and Mandalay and an umpiring and scoring course in Yangon.
- MCF has also provided cricket sets to 25 schools in Yangon, Mandalay and Taungyi to conduct training programs and inter-class competitions.
- Training camps in Yangon schools focus on boys and girls aged 10 to 14 years.
- October - December 2010
 - New Recruit Schools Girl's Cricket Tournament in Mandalay and Yangon
 - Senior School Girl's Cricket Tournament, Mandalay and Yangon
 - School Cricket Coaching Program in 13 Yangon schools



Nepal

- An Inter-School District Tournament was held from January to February in 10 districts. The winning school teams from each district then participated in the Cricket Association of Nepal's Wai Wai Inter-School Girl's U-16 T20 National Tournament held in April
- Wai Wai Regional Cricket Tournament followed in the month of May with a total of 21 district teams participating. Thereafter, each Region selected the players for their respective Regional teams.
- Wai Wai Women's National League Cricket Tournament held in Kathmandu from May to June. The six regional teams took part.
- October - December 2010
 - District Level Women's Tournament (23 District Teams)
 - Wai Wai Regional Cricket Tournament (8 Regions)
- ACC U-19 Women's Championship participants
- Asian Games participants



Oman

- Training programs started in April followed by an U-19 Inter-School Tournament.
- September – December 2010
 - National Women's Team training continues and short games/drills are held in between
 - Inter-School match preparations and competition
 - Matches between A and B Teams
- ACC U-19 Women's Championship participants



Qatar

- Practice sessions organized for the girls selected from an U-16 tournament and from the national team, to prepare them for the ACC U-19 Women's Championship.
- Apr 2010 - December 2010
- Women's Umpiring Course, September
- Women's Tournament, November 2010- January 2011
- ACC U-19 Women's Championship participants



Saudi Arabia

- There is no women's cricket officially permitted due to cultural and religious reasons, nevertheless, Saudi Cricket has been promoting cricket in girls' schools.



Singapore

- Four women took part in the ACC/SCA Level 1 Coaching Course conducted by ACC Development Officer Aminul Islam.
- ACC U-19 Women's Championship participants



Thailand

January 2010

The Women's National Team achieved the qualification criteria set by the Thailand National Olympic Committee and participated in the Asian Games held in Guangzhou. The Sports Authority of Thailand approved Thailand's women's team participating in the Asian Games. As a result the senior team received assistance from the Sports Authority of Thailand for their preparations.

- Cricket Association of Thailand with the assistance of the Sports Authority of Thailand initiated Phase 1 of their Asian Games preparation consisting of the regular training sessions during the week, games on the weekends and a trip to Sydney, Australia for 15 squad members and three officials in April.
- The Sports Authority of Thailand, recognizing the growth of cricket in the country, included cricket as one among the 42 disciplines in the National Youth Games.
- Thai media started covering cricket on a regular basis
- CAT conducted coaching and umpiring courses for women. The National level tournaments are officiated exclusively by women.
- Centralized camps organized to prepare the teams for international tournaments. The senior women attended a six month centralized camp in preparation for the Asian Games. The team also visited Bangalore in September and played six games against Karnataka teams.
- Matches organized between the U-19 and senior women and the seniors and the U-19 and U-16 boys.
- Competitions are organized at all levels. The provinces organized inter-school tournaments which formed the base for choosing the provincial teams for national tournaments. Provincial teams took part in the National Youth Games and the National Youth Cricket Championship.
- Women's cricket grew from seven provinces to twelve provinces.
- ACC U-19 Women's Championship participants
- Asian Games participants



UAE

- 8-a-side Inter-School Girls Shield organized by the Sharjah Cricket Council in conjunction with the Emirates Cricket Board, held in April 2010 in preparation for the ACC U-19 Women's Championship.
- September 2010
- U-19 camp and practice matches against U-15 boys
- October 2010 – December 2010
- Emirates Cricket Board Senior Camp and practice matches against U-15 boys
- ACC U-19 Women's Championship participants





Country Profiles



Afghanistan

Population: 29,121,286 (2010 est.)

Population Aged 0-14: 43.6%

National Coach: Rashid Latif

National Captain: Nawroz Mangal

Cricket teams: 320

Grounds: 34

Turf wickets: 13

Playing season: September to May

ACC Member since 2003

ACC Development Officer: Iqbal Sikander



Recent Achievements:

- 2006 Finalists, ACC Middle East Cup
- 2006 Defeated MCC in Mumbai
- 2006 Tour of England – won six out of seven matches, defeating Leicestershire 2nd XI, Essex 2nd XI, Glamorgan 2nd XI, Hoddesdon, Ditchling and the Royal Military Academy
- 2006 Third, ACC Trophy
- 2007 Finalists, ACC U-19 Elite Cup
- 2007 Joint Winners of the ACC Twenty20 Cup
- 2008 Winners, ICC World Cricket League Division 5
- 2008 Third, ACC Trophy Elite
- 2008 Winners, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 4
- 2008 Winners, ACC U-17 Challenge Cup
- 2008 Third, ACC Trophy Elite
- 2009 Winners, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 3
- 2009 Achieved ODI Status, ICC World Cup Qualifier
- 2009 Finalists, ACC U-19 Elite Cup
- 2009 First class and ODI victory v Netherlands
- 2009 Qualifiers for ICC U/19 World Cup 2010
- 2009 Winners, ACC Twenty20 Cup
- 2010 Winners, ICC T20 World Cup Qualifier
- 2010 Winners v Canada, ninth highest run-chase in first class cricket
- 2010 Winners, ACC Trophy Elite
- 2010 Participants, ICC World Twenty20
- 2010 Third, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 1
- 2010 Third, ACC U-16 Challenge Cup
- 2010 Finalists, Asian Games T20
- 2010 Winners, ICC Intercontinental Cup
- 2010 Winners, ACC U-19 Elite Cup



Fourth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Eighth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : Level I – 2, Level II – 2

Umpires : Level I – 41, Level II – 4

Curators : Module I - 2

ICC WorldTwenty20 qualifiers, ACC Trophy Elite champions, ACC Twenty20 Cup champions, ICC Intercontinental Cup champions, Asian Games silver medallists and Asia's newest ODI nation: Afghanistan are the rising stars of Asian cricket. Already with a global following, they play with dash and panache, care only for winning and consider every match played to be a matter of national honour. Since becoming ACC members their progress has been rapid and they have reached unprecedented heights for an Affiliate nation, reaching the ICC World Twenty20 in 2010 where they impressed.

Never a part of the British Empire, it was only in the camps established during the Afghan Wars of Liberation in the North West Frontier Province region of Pakistan from 1979 onwards, that cricket first became popular amongst the displaced Afghans.

From zero-access to cricket 10 years ago, and with precious little other sport on offer in the country, Afghanistan's international success is generating tremendous interest. With the highest proportion of school-age children in the world, one in five, according to the United Nations and 60% of the country below age of 21, there is huge potential for cricket to play a huge part in establishing sport as a social force in Afghanistan. Indeed, junior playing numbers have increased substantially in the country in 2010.

Robin Marlar, President of Marylebone Cricket Club, said in 2006 that there are a couple of Afghan cricketers already good enough to play Test cricket. Current MCC committee member and former England cricketer Matthew Fleming visited Kabul in November 2007 and said that "If Afghanistan played England in Twenty20 cricket, they would win at least one match out of ten." At the ICC World Twenty20 in the West Indies which England duly won in May 2010, Afghanistan performed creditably in the field in their two matches against India and South Africa.

Once it becomes apparent to the newly-formed Afghanistan Cricket Board themselves that 'one out of ten' actually under-estimates their potential, then deep-rooted improvements can be made, because as their then coach former Pakistan international Kabir Khan said at the start of 2009, "it is just raw talent because there is no real infrastructure back there." Much needed improvements are being made to their domestic structure as it has become a matter of national pride that cricket continues to flourish in the country. 34 grounds have sprung up in the past year, funded by the public and private sector.

Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the Middle East has been granted to Afghanistan for use as their 'home ground' for training and matches by Abdulrahman Bukhatir, founder of cricket in Sharjah and a prime mover behind Dubai Sports City.



Country Profiles



Bahrain

Population: 738,004 (2010 estimate)
 Population Aged 0-15: 25.9%
 National Coach: Mohsin Kamal
 National Captain: Azeem ul Haque
 Cricket teams: 125
 Grounds: 10
 Turf wickets: 0
 Playing Season: October to April

ACC Member since 2003
 ACC Development Officer: Rumesh Ratnayake



Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **ACC Middle East Cup Winners**
- 2006 **ACC U-15 Elite Semi-Finalists**
- 2009 **Winners, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 7**
- 2009 **Finalists, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 6**
- 2009 **Winners, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup**
- 2010 **Third, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5**

Twelfth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Eleventh in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : **Level I – 13, Level II – 2**
- Umpires : **Level I – 12, Level II – 3, Umpire Trainers – 1**
- Curators : **Module I – 1, Module II – 2**



Bahrain's debut in the ICC World Cricket League in 2009 started with them winning Division 7, becoming runners-up in Division 6 and then finishing third in Division 5. The U-19 team winning the ACC Trophy Challenge in December 2009.

Assuming all the elements in Bahrain coalesce and their potential is realised, the senior team could mount a serious challenge to the top teams in Asia. There was a 30% increase in playing numbers in 2010 with a new T20 Divisional tournament established during the year. Women's domestic cricket has started.

"Bahrain is one of those countries that could go a long way in relation to its size, compared to its neighbours," says ACC Development Officer Rumesh Ratnayake.



Third, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 2010 in Nepal



Player of the Tournament Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 Tahir Dar



The 2010 ACC U-16 Elite Cup squad

Country Profiles



Bhutan

Population: 708, 247 (2005 census)
 Population (Aged 0-14): 28.9%
 Coaching Co-ordinator: Damber Singh Gurung
 National Captain: Tshering Dorji
 Women's Captain: Pema Lhaden
 Cricket teams: 8
 Grounds: 2
 Turf wickets: 0
 Playing Season: September to May

ACC Member since 2001
 ACC Development Officer: Rumesh Ratnayake



Bhutan, 2010 ACC Trophy Elite squad

Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
- 2006 **Finalists, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
- 2007 **Finalists, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
- 2008 **Finalists, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup**
- 2009 **Finalists, ACC Trophy Challenge and Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award**
- 2010 **Finalists, ACC U-19 Women's Championship**

Tenth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Thirteenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons



Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : **Level I – 17, Level II – 2, Level I Coach Educators - 2**
- Umpires : **Level I – 10, Level II – 2, Umpire Trainers – 1**
- Curators : **Module I – 4, Module II – 3, Module III – 3, Advanced - 2**



Nestled as it is in the heart of the Himalayas, for centuries none but the most intrepid made it through the steep mountain passes to reach proudly independent Bhutan. Archery being the national sport guaranteed the country considerable protection against invaders. But the Bhutanese were helpless before the onslaught of electromagnetic waves carrying television signals.

Starting in 2001, Indian television started threading its way through the highlands and in its wake came an appreciation for movies, soap operas and cricket.

Out of a population of around 700,000, close to 3000 are active cricketers, with the numbers rising. The biggest ground in the capital Thimphu (2.3 km above sea level) isn't quite big enough for ICC-sanctioned cricket but serves its purpose in training the national senior and youth teams. They even play in the winter months, braving intermittent sleet and snow. Administrators are currently trying to maximize playing opportunities by taking the game south towards the plains and the Indian border, to take advantage of the land and climate more conducive to cricket than in Thimphu. Cricket is being taken to the schools and forms a fundamental part of the BCCB's development program.

Wherever they are, wherever they play, the cricketers retain a unique Bhutanese flavour. All batsmen bow their heads in supplication to the cricketing gods before taking the field. "We do not pray for victory", says national captain Damber Singh Gurung, "we pray for each other to give our best and to emerge complete from the competition." The Dechephu Lhakhang temple in Thimphu is the spiritual home of Bhutan Cricket and cricketers visit before every tournament to invoke the protecting deities.

Finalists in recent ACC U-15 and U-19 Challenge Cups and Elite level contestants at senior level, with a women's team that is also making strides, they show the virtues of good skills, sound technique and hunger for victory. Though they have struggled when they're playing bigger, faster, stronger opponents more versed in cricket, Bhutan invariably triumph.

2010 marked their first appearance in the ICC World Cricket League, starting with Division 8 in Kuwait at the end of the year.



Finalists at the ACC U-19 Women's Championship in Singapore



Dirt, matting, dynamism: local cricket in Bhutan



Site for a potential new cricket centre in Ugyen

Country Profiles



Brunei

Population: 401,890 (2011 est.)

Population (Aged 0-14): 25.5%

National Coach: Surya Thapa

National Captain: Sujaya Kamat

Cricket clubs: 8

Grounds: 2

Turf wickets: 0

Playing Season: Year – round

ACC Member since 1996

ACC Development Officer: Aminul Islam



Brunei squad, ACC Trophy Challenge 2010

Recent Achievements:

2004 **First international tournament participation in ACC Trophy**

2009 **ACC Trophy Challenge Participants**

2009 **Translators of Laws of Cricket into Malay**

Eighteenth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Eighteenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I – 2, Level II – 1**

Umpires : **Level I - 9; Level II – 1, Umpire Trainers - 1**

Curators : **2, Module II – 1, Module III – 1, Advanced - 2**



The smallest of the ACC member countries, Brunei is aiming to make a virtue of its youth and size. "Currently there are around 100 junior players (10 to 12 years old) including girls in Brunei Darussalam and we aim to reach out to secondary students," said then Brunei Darussalam Cricket Association Chief Executive Officer Manzur Ahmed in early 2010.

ACC Development Officer Aminul Islam has been to Brunei four times since November 2007. "With every visit I can see that there is an increase in interest from the local people ... they want to play cricket," he says.

"Now we want to increase that number by getting more schools to introduce cricket as part of their Co-Curriculum Activity. We want the next Bruneian superstar athlete to be a cricketer," he adds.

Eight primary schools already have cricket teams while three secondary schools have also started to form teams. The next target is for the game to reach university level. For the long-playing seniors spread among ten teams there are three competitions a year, contested on matting at the one ground there is available for cricket.

Brunei has pioneered a T12 version of cricket in the region in 2009 and in 2006 were the first to make use of Level 0 coaching and umpiring for those with relatively little exposure to cricket. In 2009 the BDCA also completed a translation of the Laws of Cricket into Malay in an endeavour to make the game easier to understand among the teachers and academics at the schools in which they aim to introduce the game. The translation will be available to Malaysians in Eastern and Peninsular Malaysia.

An 'Education through Cricket' project has been started with the aim to introduce approximately 250 English words to the students who intend to take part in the sport and who are weak in spoken English. All the selected words will be cricket-related but can also be used for day-to-day conversation.

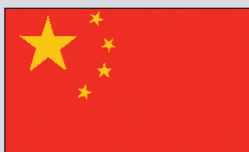


Aminul Islam: Helping Brunei take guard



In action against eventual winners Maldives, ACC Trophy Challenge 2010

Country Profiles



China

Population: 1,336,718,015 (2011 est.)
 Population (Aged 0-14): 17.6%
 National Coach: Rashid Khan
 National Captain: Wang Lei
 Women's Coach: Ge Tao
 Women's captain: Wang Meng
 Cricket teams: 52
 Grounds: 7
 Turf wickets: 1
 Playing Season: April to October

ACC Member since 2004
 ACC Development Officer: Aminul Islam



China's best with Javed Miandad, PCB President Ijaz Butt and Rashid Khan at Gaddafi Stadium, Lahore, April 2010

Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **Participants in the ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
- 2007 **ACC Women's Tournament Semi-finalists**
- 2007 **Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
- 2008 **ACC U-17 Challenge Cup Participants**
- 2008 **ACC U-19 Women's Championship Participants**
- 2009 **ACC Women's Twenty20 Championship Participants**
- 2009 **ACC Twenty20 Cup Participants**
- 2009 **ACC Trophy Challenge Participants**
- 2010 **Fourth, Asian Games Women's T20**
- 2011 **Finalists, ACC Women's Twenty20 Championship**

Sixteenth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Fifteenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I - 20; Level II - 5**
 Umpires : **Level I - 79; Level II - 1**

That China has finally started playing what they call 'shen shi yun dong', 'the noble game', is a significant step forward for cricket. In the words of former ICC President Ehsan Mani, "Cricket cannot call itself a global game when one-fifth of the world's population is not aware of it."

They are aware of it now. Media coverage of China's emergence has rivaled that of Afghanistan's; with the interest however, has come a lack of understanding of just how large the challenge is to introduce cricket into China. "Developing cricket in China is a twenty-year project," said ICC Global Development Manager Matthew Kennedy in 2006. It still holds true.

Introducing cricket into China is a threefold testing-ground: i) for the Asian Cricket Council Development Program, ii) the Chinese state sporting machine and iii) the appeal of the game of cricket itself.

China's coach Rashid Khan, seconded by the Pakistan Cricket Board since 2006, said in 2008, "Development is new, coaching systems are new and China is new to cricket so it is not easy. It is like me learning Chinese by reading a dictionary and watching Chinese movies. To those who want quick results I say it is not possible, to those who want good results I say it is possible. But only if good things are done every step of the way."

Women's coach Mamatha Maben, seconded by the Board of Control for Cricket in India, in 2009 said "in another three or four years I definitely see them being good enough to beat India."

Since the ACC formally introduced cricket to mainland China in 2005, much progress has been made. Coaches, umpires and, most importantly, player numbers in schools, have risen dramatically ever since then.

The primary target was the creation of a men's and women's team for the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou. As hosts, China is guaranteed entry. China's men and women put on a spirited performance in front of their country's onlookers and won many new fans.



In order for China to play to the best of their abilities and meet their undeniable potential, a detailed plan has been outlined by the CCA with the help of ACC. The ACC Development Officer Aminul Islam, the national coach for China Rashid Khan and other local coaches, following a wide-ranging search for talent in 2008 have compiled a detailed information base of the players and their standards in batting, bowling and fielding. It is now to be maintained for future planning, development and training purposes.

In 2009 Javed Miandad was appointed Ambassador for Cricket to China by the Pakistan Cricket Board and he has worked for long stretches with the players and coaches in China, Malaysia and also in Pakistan.

Tours of Bangladesh and India were undertaken in 2009 by the men's U-19 and women's teams in order to raise playing standards and in April 2010 the elite men's players spent three weeks in Karachi and Lahore where national team players worked with them. There is also increasing interaction with Hong Kong.

Non-professional sports in China (i.e. not table-tennis, badminton, soccer or basketball) face one major problem: children between the ages of 13 and 18 are compelled by their parents and schools to put their studies ahead of all other interests. "No teenager in China plays sport for fun," says Dr. Liu Jingmin of Tsinghua University, Beijing who is a Level I coach and umpire and has written a textbook on cricket in Mandarin.

Unless there is an exceptional push by their schooling institution, non-income generating sports are not played by China's youth. The ones who have been representing China in ACC tournaments are coming to terms with international cricket much in the way anyone who is learning Mandarin from scratch would.

The Asian Cricket Council and International Cricket Council consider China to be a 'Special Project' and have allocated funds specifically to develop cricket in China. In the words of the ACC Chief Executive Syed Ashraf ul Huq, "Global revenues for cricket will increase by 30 – 40% once China becomes an established cricketing nation, either as a venue, a participant or a breeding ground for future cricketers in the decades ahead."

ACC Development Officer for China Aminul Islam says that "China thinks cricket is the fastest way for them to earn money from sport and this motivates them very much."

The CCA's motto is 'ming tien hui gen hao', 'a better tomorrow'. They have the desire, they seek the knowledge, they wish to repay investment and in turn make cricket their own. They're Chinese. It's possible.



A spirited performance by China's women at the Guangzhou Asian Games



Country Profiles



Hong Kong

Population: 7, 097, 600 (2010 est.)
 Population (Aged 0-14): 17%
 National Coach: Charles Burke
 National Captain: Najeeb Amar
 Women's Captain: Neisha Pratt
 Cricket teams: 107
 Grounds: 12
 Turf wickets: 3
 Playing Season: September to April

ACC Member since 1983
 ACC Development Officer: Rumesh Ratnayake



Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **Finalists, ACC Trophy**
- 2007 **Qualifiers for ICC World Cricket League Division 3**
- 2007 **ACC Women's Tournament Semi-Finalists**
- 2008 **Participants, STAR Cricket Asia Cup**
- 2008 **Winners, ACC Trophy Elite**
- 2008 **Finalists, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 4**
- 2009 **Winners, ACC U-19 Elite Cup**
- 2009 **Winners, ACC Women's Twenty20 Championship**
- 2009 **Qualifiers for ICC U/19 World Cup 2010**
- 2010 **Third, ACC Trophy Elite**
- 2010 **Third, ACC U-19 Women's Championship**

Second in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Seventh in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : **Level I - 15; Level II – 11, Level III – 1, Coach Educators - 1**
- Umpires : **Level I – 4, Umpire Trainers - 1**
- Curators : **Module I - 4; Module II - 2; Module III – 2, Advanced - 1**



Winning their first ACC Trophy in 2008 (defeating four-time champions UAE in the Final and Afghanistan in the semi-final) gave Hong Kong tremendous confidence and has carried them through to success in ACC and ICC competitions at all levels. The team, a well-balanced mix of fearless youth and aged guile, improved with each subsequent outing and only narrowly missed out on reaching the 2009 ICC World Cup Qualifier for a place in the 2011 World Cup. The young players' promise was confirmed by victory in the 2009 ACC U-19 Elite Cup and qualification for the 2010 ICC U/19 World Cup after a ten-team global playoff in Canada. The women's team are current ACC Twenty20 Champions, having successfully defended their 2009 title.

Hong Kong's status as a former British colony has given it a long-standing foundation for cricket. The Hong Kong Cricket Club was founded in 1851 and succeeding generations have all contributed to the growth of cricket. What was once a purely Anglicized expatriate game now encompasses a significant number of sub-continental migrants who come together at senior and all age-group levels to represent Hong Kong. What is most significant, however, about current cricket activity is that the game has been embedded in the curriculum of primary schools throughout the territory. As such, thousands of native Chinese boys and girls have been introduced to cricket. The Hong Kong Cricket Association has created opportunities to sustain that initial contact and interest not only in the school system but outside it too. A thriving club cricket scene for men and women provides plenty of playing opportunities.

Along with ACC funding and ICC support, the Hong Kong Cricket Association is healthily placed to find, nurture and develop internationally competitive cricketers. One thing that has held them back for a while is the absence of a full-sized international-standard ground but one will come online at Mission Road midway through the 2010-11 season, to join the nine other smaller turfed and mixed-use grounds in the Special Administrative Region. There are also well-developed plans to make use of the Guanggong International Cricket Stadium built specially for the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou in which Hong Kong's men's and women's teams took part.

A period of retrenchment and reform is being embarked upon, with the aim of expanding the reach of the game in the territory, particularly among those children starting secondary school. The intention is to create more cricketers in future years. "It may mean we take one step back to take two steps forward, but the benefits will become apparent in due course," says HKCA General Manager Danny Lai.



The U-19 Women in Singapore



Pace spearhead Irfan Ahmed

Country Profiles



Iran

Population: 77,891,220
 Population Aged 0-14: 24.1%
 Men's Coach: Mahmood Rashid
 Men's Captain: Yousef Raisi
 Women's Coach: Hajra Sarwar
 Women's Captain: Nahid Hakimian
 Cricket teams:
 Grounds: 4
 Turf wickets: 0
 Playing Season: September to April

ACC Member since 2003
 ACC Development Officer: Iqbal Sikander



Cricket in Chabahar

Recent Achievements:

- 2006 Participants in the ACC Middle-East Cup
- 2006 ACC U-15 Challenge Cup Semi-Finalists
- 2006 Participants in the ACC Trophy
- 2009 Participants in the ACC Trophy Challenge
- 2009 Participants in the ACC Women's Twenty20 Championship
- 2010 Finalists, ACC U-16 Challenge Cup

Fifteenth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Sixteenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : Level I – 48, Level II – 2
- Umpires : Level I – 15, Level II – 2, Umpire Trainers - 2
- Curators : Module I – 1, Module II - 1; Module III - 2



Iran has been one of the beneficiaries of the globalization mantra that pervaded the cricket development ethos of the late 1990s. The administrators have subsequently taken advantage of their proximity to Pakistan to create a following for the game.

Iran has, however, to paraphrase Churchill, been an enigma wrapped around a riddle inside a mystery, for much of their international cricket life since becoming members of the ACC and ICC.

While cricket in Tehran itself remains largely an expatriate game, there is much activity in the southern Chabahar and Baluchistan regions of Iran. These regions border Pakistan and there is increasing evidence, as they develop commercially and welcome cross-border interaction, that cricket is attracting more and more local people.

Cricket because of its body-covering uniform is seen as something that women can observe and participate in and women's cricket is being increasingly encouraged. The majority of accredited umpires in Iran are currently women.

At present the cricketers are made up of two distinct parts: - the Tehran-based ones and the cricketers of the regions bordering Pakistan who truly have learnt cricket the hard way.

The women's team, along with the men's and youth teams have shown considerable competitive spirit in their outings and once more discipline is added to their determination, along with better preparation, they will cause some upsets. There are eight provincial women's teams in the country playing regular cricket.



Finalists, 2010 ACC U-16 Challenge Cup



Iran's first Level I coaching course, March 2010



Nets at Azadi, Tehran

Country Profiles



Kuwait

Population: 2, 595, 628 (2011 estimate)

Population Aged 0-14: 25.8%

Men's Coach: Basil Jayawardene

Women's Coach: Tariq Rasool Shah

National Captain: Hisham Mirza

Women's Captain: Siobhan Gomez

Cricket teams: 381

Grounds: 11

Turf wickets: 4

Playing Season: September to May

ACC Member since 1996

ACC Development Officer: Iqbal Sikander



Recent Achievements:

- 2006 Hosts, ACC Middle East Cup
- 2007 Hosts, ACC Twenty20 Cup
- 2007 Third, ACC Twenty20 Cup
- 2007 Finalists, ACC U-15 Elite Cup
- 2008 Host of the ACC U-19 Elite Cup
- 2008 Completion of fourth turf facility, Sulaibiya
- 2008 Participants, ACC U-19 Women's Championship
- 2009 Third, ACC U-19 Challenge
- 2010 Hosts, ACC Trophy Elite
- 2010 Winners, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 8



Fourth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : Level I – 13, Level II – 5, Level III – 1, Coach Educators - 5

Umpires : Level I – 19, Level II – 6, Umpire Trainers – 1

Curators : Module I – 6, Module II – 4, Module III – 4, Advanced – 4



Kuwait, with a decent team at all age-group levels, sound administration, plenty of domestic commercial support, exceptional facilities and a desire to truly be a vibrant member of the international cricketing community, has plenty of things going for it.

Current indications suggest greater success at ACC level and then ICC level cannot be far away. At the start of the 2010 season Kuwait had four fully-turfed grounds, the same number as the UAE. Women's cricket is played with a passion, in growing numbers.



At the end of 2010 Kuwait hosted Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 8, going through it unbeaten.



The 2010 U-19 Women



Kuwait's Saad Khalid, more talent than he sometimes knows what to do with



Members of Kuwait Cricket's Executive Board and Executive Council (from l to r) Emad Al Jassam, Yousef Ali Bash, Asad Baig, Haider Farman, Jeff de Lange



Kuwait's captain in full flow, 2010 ACC Trophy Elite

Country Profiles



Malaysia

Population: 28,274,729 (2009)
 Population Aged 0-14: 31.4%
 National Coach: Thushara Kodikara
 National Captain: Suhan Kumar
 Women's Coach: Haris Abu Baker
 Women's captain: Emylia Rahim
 Cricket clubs: 30
 Grounds: 59
 Turf wickets: 10
 Playing Season: Year-round



The Men's Senior Team

ACC Member since 1983
 ACC Development Officer: Aminul Islam

Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **Hosts, ACC U-15 Elite Cup**
- 2006 **Hosts, ACC Trophy**
- 2006 **Hosts, DLF Tri-Series between Australia, India and West Indies**
- 2007 **Beat Bangladesh U-19s in a 50-over match**
- 2007 **ACC U-19 Elite Cup Semi-Finalists**
- 2008 **Hosts, ICC U/19 World Cup**
- 2008 **Beat Zimbabwe, U/19 World Cup**
- 2008 **Finalists, ACC U-19 Women's Championship**
- 2009 **Finalists, ACC U-17 Elite Cup**
- 2010 **Third, ACC U-16 Elite Cup**
- 2010 **Semi-Finalists, ACC Trophy Elite**



Third in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Fifth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : **Level I – 45, Level II – 10, Coach Educators – 5**
- Umpires : **Level I – 63, Level II – 4, Umpire Trainers – 2**
- Curators : **Module I – 11, Module II – 7, Module III – 8, Advanced – 8**

Speak to anyone who knows anything about cricket in Malaysia and they'll say, "Malaysia has the best facilities amongst the non-Test countries of Asia." Its abilities to organise and deliver a top-class international tournament were demonstrated by the 2006 DLF Tri-Series between Australia, India and the West Indies in September 2006 and the 16-nation ICC U/19 World Cup in 2008. The ACC has found Malaysia an accommodating host for numerous tournaments.

Notwithstanding the considerable commercial and administrative acumen that is evident among many of those connected with cricket in Malaysia, cricket has not received its due reward in the country. Much of that is due to the core national consciousness not being geared to cricket or indeed participatory sport.

Malaysia has produced one outstanding cricketer in recent years, their former captain Suresh Navaratnam, an all-rounder who impressed the visiting Australians mightily in his net sessions with them during the DLF series and who has enjoyed something of a renaissance in 2010. To create the next generation, using the revenue from the Tri-Series and U/19 World Cup, a far-reaching development program was established to harness talent across peninsular and eastern Malaysia. With a third of the country under 16 years of age, there is plenty of opportunity to grow the game.

Signs of a revival in national fortunes were evident in 2008 with two players being chosen as Players of the Tournament in the 2008 ACC Trophy Elite, batsman Suhan Kumar and bowler Dinesh Muthuraman. Suhan Kumar, national captain since 2009, has benefited significantly from time spent on a scholarship to Australia. The women have done well too, reaching the Final of the 2008 ACC U-19 Women's Championship, though they have been caught by other countries in the region since.

The men's team impressed at the ACC Elite Trophy and the Asian Games. Fresh thinking and fresh players are being introduced with the more seasoned players enjoying a surge of form.



Manrick Singh at the Asian Games



The 2010 U-19 Women



Suresh Navaratnam, Malaysia's leading wicket-taker with 10 in 5 matches, 2010 ACC Trophy Elite

Country Profiles



Maldives

Population: 395,650 (2010 est.)
 Population Aged 0-14: 22.3%
 National Coach: Brendon Kuruppu
 National Captain: Moosa Kaleem
 Cricket teams: 54
 Grounds: 0
 Turf wickets: 1 (net)
 Women's Cricket: No
 Playing Season: September to April

ACC Member since 1996
 ACC Development Officer: Rumesh Ratnayake



Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **Winners, ACC Emerging Nations Tournament**
- 2006 **Winners, Asia Region's ICC Development Award for Best Cricket Promotional and Marketing Program**
- 2008 **Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup**
- 2009 **Third, ACC Trophy Challenge**
- 2010 **Winners, ACC Trophy Challenge**

Fourteenth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Fourteenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : **Level I – 13, Level II – 5, Level III – 1, Coach Educators - 1**
- Umpires : **Level I – 16, Level II – 3, Umpire trainers – 1**
- Curators : **Module I – 4, Module II – 5, Module III – 4, Advanced – 4**



The fact that grass on this coral atoll is a rarity and that the land mass is so small and disparate are factors which the Cricket Board of Maldives have enthusiastically overcome. A nation where over half the population are below 21, like Bhutan, makes it a fertile place for the promotion of any sport. Cricket has caught on in recent years thanks to the reach of televised cricket from the subcontinent. And more importantly, the success of the national team in international competition.

The Maldives' victory in the 2005 ACC Emerging Nations Tournament was the nation's first ever international sporting triumph. The team received a rapturous welcome on their return from Thailand and a presidential reception. Some will say it was a small tournament but if it had not been held and if the Maldives had not won, cricket would not have received the boost it did nation-wide. The Maldives successfully defended their title in 2006 and have continued to shine in subsequent ACC tournaments.

The age-group cricketers promise much and may indeed deliver on that promise in the next few years as their skills and competitive instincts develop. Fast-bowling is a particular strength along with some lusty hitting. Cricket is the game to play now in the islands and sponsors and the media are increasingly behind the sport. Development has been managed well by the CBM and turf wickets have been installed for practise along with a well-participated tournament structure. There has been a fall in junior involvement which is cause for some concern however.

Should they manage to strike the most productive balance between their senior players and the youngsters in the national team, the Maldives will start to make rapid progress up the ranks. Victory in the ACC Trophy Challenge at the end of 2010 was a significant triumph.



National captain Moosa Kaleem



Ismail Nihad, guts and guile



Country Profiles



Myanmar

Population: 53,414,374 (2010 est)

Population Aged 0-14: 25.3%

National Coach: Ashfaq-ul-Islam

National Captain: Ye Myo Tun

Cricket teams: 92

Grounds: 4

Turf wickets: 1

Women's Cricket: No

Playing Season: October to May

ACC Member since 2005

ACC Development Officer: Aminul Islam



Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **Participants in the ACC Trophy**
- 2007 **First international victory, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
- 2008 **Spirit of Cricket Award, U-17 Challenge Cup**
- 2008 **Winners, Asia Region ICC Development Award for Best Cricket Promotional and Marketing Program**
- 2009 **Spirit of Cricket Award, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup**
- 2010 **Spirit of Cricket Award, ACC Trophy Challenge**

Seventeenth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Seventeenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I – 4, Level II – 1**

Umpires : **Level I – 2, Umpire Trainers – 1**

Curators : **Module I – 2, Module II – 2, Module III – 1**



Myanmar embodies the truest spirit of amateur cricket in the ACC and arguably, the world. The Myanmar Cricket Federation is a benevolent parental body which offers holistic encouragement to all who wish to play. That cricket is even played in Myanmar is a cause of celebration.

The MCF have realised that creating the proper conditions for cricket will inevitably lead to creating a proper national team in the years to come, one which truly represents not just the spirit of Myanmar but the spirit of cricket.

To that end since they became ACC members in 2005 and the 97th member of the global ICC family in 2006, cricket has been taken to primary and secondary schools in Yangon. The construction of nets and then a ground for school cricket led to the first Inter-School tournament in January 2007 with six teams taking part. "Not very exciting as yet, but we shall improve," said MCF President U Nyunt Win.

On becoming ACC members in 2005, the MCF released a song for public consumption which did much to establish cricket in the public consciousness. Its chorus – "Cricket – Cricket – Cricket – Cricket / Play cricket – Achieve Subtle Supremacy." In 2008, U Nyunt Win (a legendary actor) directed a Myanmar movie 'Bo Ba' which told a story very similar to 'Lagaan' and was a huge hit across the country. Many of the national players are featured in the story as extras.



Player numbers have increased by 20% from 2009 to 2010 and the national team has players who can put bat to ball along with an enthusiastic cadre of seamers. The team shows plenty of heart and no little skill and under the tutelage of their Bangladeshi coach Ashfaq-ul-Islam have been improving with every outing. 74 beginner coaches were active in Myanmar in 2010, the most in any ACC non Test-playing member country.

Work started on construction of a new ground in Saw Pong, a suburb of Yangon in November 2010.



Saw Pong will be Myanmar's first dedicated cricket ground



Country Profiles



Nepal

Population: 29, 951, 852 (2010 est.)
 Population Aged 0-14: 36.6%
 National Coach:
 National Captain: Paras Khadka
 Women's Coach: Jung Bahadur Thapa
 Women's Captain: Nary Thapa
 Cricket teams: 1176
 Grounds: 64
 Turf wickets: 16
 Playing Season: September to November;
 March to May

ACC Member since 1990
 ACC Development Officer: Rumesh Ratnayake



Winners of 2010 Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 ©ICC

Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **Winners, Plate Championship, U-19 World Cup**
- 2006 **Winners, ACC U-15 Elite Cup**
- 2006 **Runners-up, ACC Fast Track Countries Tournament**
- 2006 **Winners, Asian Region's ICC Development Award for Best Women's Cricket Initiative**
- 2006 **Winners, ICC Region's ICC Development Award for Best Women's Cricket Initiative**
- 2006 **Winners, ACC Premier League**
- 2007 **Finalists, ACC Women's Tournament**
- 2007 **Winners, ACC U-19 Elite Cup**
- 2008 **Plate Finalists, U/19 World Cup**
- 2008 **Third, ICC World Cricket League Division 5**
- 2008 **Winners, ACC U-19 Women's Championship**
- 2009 **Winners, ACC U-17 Elite Cup**
- 2009 **Third, ACC Women's Twenty20 Championship**
- 2010 **Winners, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5**
- 2010 **Finalists, ACC U-16 Elite Cup**
- 2010 **Finalists, ACC Trophy Elite**
- 2010 **Winners, ACC U-19 Women's Championship**

First in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Second in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : **Level I – 31, Level II – 5, Level III – 1, Coach Educators – 3**
 Umpires : **Level I – 64, Level II – 7, Umpire Trainers – 2**
 Curators : **Module I – 4, Module II – 3, Module III – 4, Advanced – 1**

For many years at age-group cricket Nepal were peerless and won tournaments at every level of ACC competition. Wins were based on disciplined, error-free cricket. 2009 saw them relinquish their long-held U-19 crown and in 2010 they were beaten for the first time in an ACC Final at home since 1998, when Singapore won the U-16 Elite Cup in Kathmandu.

Sri Lanka's legendary batsman Roy Dias who took over as coach in 2001 has been the architect of Nepal's triumphs and moulded a nation high on enthusiasm and short of experience into a fine competitive force. His last match in charge was Nepal's Asian Games encounter against Sri Lanka which Nepal came very close to winning.



The youth stars of before, in graduating to the senior side have advanced the national cause. Previously the seasoned talents of full-strength sides which play a more dynamic form of cricket were too strong for Nepal's men's team. Afghanistan filleted them in the 2010 ACC Trophy Elite Final though in being runners-up, Nepal showed they were a side that had come good at senior level. Winning Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 in February 2010 sets the team up for a good run towards higher honours, although they did suffer a setback later in Division 4 in August. They remain a team with some exceptional players.

The Cricket Association of Nepal has adopted a more professional approach to development in recent years. Increased sponsorship and more focussed domestic competitions have been the result. There is still plenty of potential remaining and increased quantity could still be met by more quality. Work is expected to start on a National Academy, felt to be vital for indoor practice given the extremes of Nepal's weather, which will be partly funded by the ACC. Two grounds outside Kathmandu, in Mulpani and Pokhara are also planned.

Women's cricket is thriving and the national team (made up of top athletes from other sports) did very well to reach the final of the 2007 ACC Women's Tournament. Nepal successfully defended their ACC U-19 Women's Championship in 2010 and were third in the 2009 ACC Women's Twenty20.



Shakti Gauchan takes a catch in front of thousands



Fans wherever they play, these are in Kuwait



Country Profiles



Oman

Population: 2,967,717 (2009 estimate)
Population Aged 0-14: 42.7%
National Coach : Mazhar Saleem Khan
National Captain: Hemal Mehta
Women's Captain: Vaishaly Jesrani
Cricket Teams: 57
Grounds: 4
Turf Wickets: 0
Women's Cricket: Yes
Playing Season: August to April

ACC Member since 2000
ACC Development Officer: Iqbal Sikander



Winners, ACC U-16 Challenge Cup 2010

Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **Winners, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
- 2007 **Joint winners, ACC Twenty20 Cup**
- 2007 **Runners-up, ICC World Cricket League Division 2**
- 2008 **Runners-up, ACC U-17 Challenge Cup**
- 2009 **Winners, ACC Trophy Challenge**
- 2009 **Participants, ICC World Cup Qualifier**
- 2009 **Third, ACC Twenty20 Cup**
- 2010 **Winners, ACC U-16 Challenge Cup**

Sixth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Eleventh in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : **Level I – 17, Level II – 10, Level III – 1, Coach Educators – 1**
Umpires : **Level I – 33, Level II – 3, Umpire Trainers – 1**
Curators : **Module I – 3, Module II – 2, Module III – 2**



Packed with match-winners, when Oman are good, they are very very good.

They are a team of mature, personable individuals who bring much credit to themselves and their country. Their rise has been based on having a team of many all-rounders with a couple of highly capable players in specialist positions, along with superb team spirit. And they almost always come through when they're in close matches.

Oman have all the ingredients for success, including a vigorous national association. But they still do not have turf. Artificial wickets have been introduced that simulate grass to better prepare for international competition. Once they have turf facilities on which they can play and practise regularly, they will truly become a cricketing force. Arab Omanis are being encouraged to play in increasing numbers. The much-anticipated turf facility may yet come to fruition in 2011.

2010 was a relatively quiet year for the senior team but the U-16s were unbeaten in the ACC Challenge event in July, defeating Iran in the Final.



2010 ACC Trophy Elite



Deep Trivedi



Vaibhav Wategaonkar



The 2010 U-19 Women

Country Profiles



Qatar

Population: 840,926 (2010 est.)
 Population Aged 0-14: 21.5%
 National Coach: Aruna de Silva
 National Captain: Umer Taj
 Women's Captain: Rishika Reddy
 Cricket teams: 133
 Grounds: 15
 Turf wickets: 1
 Women's Cricket: Yes
 Playing Season: September to April

ACC Member since 2000
 ACC Development Officer: Venkatesh Prasad



Recent Achievements:

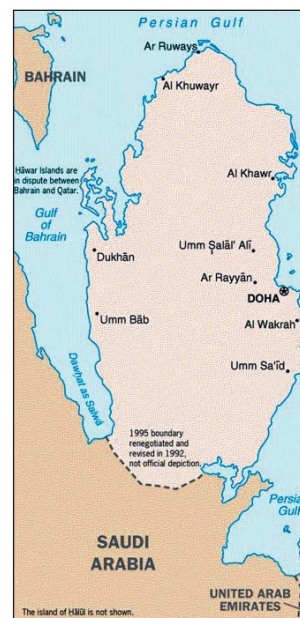
- 2006 **Winner of the ICC Development Award for Asian Region's Volunteer of the Year: Malik Nazar Mohammad**
- 2007 **Winners, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup**
- 2009 **Semi-Finalists, ACC U-17 Elite Cup**
- 2009 **Semi-Finalists, ACC U-19 Elite Cup**

Thirteenth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Fifth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : **Level I – 10, Level II – 5, Coach Educators – 1**
- Umpires : **Level I – 22, Level II – 3, Umpire Trainers – 1**
- Curators : **Modul1 – 4, Module II – 3, Module III – 3, Advanced – 1**



Qatar is one of those countries currently girding their loins as they seek to capitalise on the talent and resources they have available.

Qatar has one of the best young batsmen in the Middle East in nineteen year-old Tamoor Sajjad. Upon one player a team cannot be built, however, so they invariably struggle in the critical stages of every tournament. Still, there is talent around Sajjad and Qatar are a dangerous side.

The lack of turf is a handicap for them as players currently practise almost exclusively on matting and cement wickets. An attempt was made recently to produce turf wickets on reclaimed land from the Doha Golf Club. It hasn't yet proven successful.

Qatar's Olympic Committee has allocated a ground to the QCA at the Industrial Area, about eight miles from the centre of Doha. This ground has been grassed, with turf wickets.

Recently, the QCA has been in discussion with the petroleum corporations to make use of two grounds outside Doha. Both the grounds are fully grassed with concrete pitches.

The state is booming and spending on sports facilities is at its peak. Cricket hopes to cash in.

“Turf is something which is critical to progress for Qatar, as well as for the other countries in the region. You see the players struggle when they come to international tournaments and they are not able to do themselves justice,” says Venkatesh Prasad.

The women’s team show enthusiasm and have played in two ACC tournaments.



75 schoolchildren at a QCA camp in November 2010



Tamoor Sajjad



Rishika Reddy, Umpire Narges Lafooti at the 2010 ACC U-19 Women’s Championship



Saudi Arabia

Population: 26, 131, 703 (2011 estimate)
 Population Aged 0-14: 29.4%
 National Coach: Asim Hussain
 National Captain: Shoaib Ali
 Cricket teams: 633
 Grounds: 48
 Turf wickets: 1
 Women's cricket: No
 Playing Season: October to April

ACC Member since 2003
 ACC Development Officer: Iqbal Sikander



Finalists, 2010 ACC Trophy Challenge

Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **Tournament record of fifty-two 6s in ACC Trophy**
- 2007 **SCC Development Manager Nadeem Nadwi appointed as Asia Region Affiliates representative at the ICC Annual Conference**
- 2008 **Winners, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup**
- 2010 **Finalists, ACC Trophy Challenge**

Tenth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : **Level I – 8, Level II – 3, Coach Educators – 1**
- Umpires : **Level I – 15, Level II – 2, Umpire Trainers - 2**
- Curators : **Module I – 2, Module II – 2, Module III – 3, Advanced – 2**



Saudi Arabia's senior side haven't quite lived up to expectations generated by their barnstorming performance in the 2006 ACC Trophy in recent senior ACC competitions, nevertheless they beat the defending champions UAE in the 2008 ACC Trophy (UAE's first defeat in eight years in the biennial competition) and at the end of 2010 gained promotion back into the ACC Trophy Elite.

They won the 2008 ACC U-19 Challenge Cup playing superb all-round cricket and were good enough to beat eventual tournament winners Hong Kong in the 2009 ACC U-19 Elite Cup. This, coming from cricketers who do not go anywhere near turf in Saudi Arabia. Finishing in the top 10 of the ACC Rankings after the tournament seasons of 2007 and 2008, had their Chief Executive Officer Nadeem Nadwi say that, "It will definitely energize our efforts to promote cricket in the Kingdom. This will give our team an extra boost and strength to believe that, with honest efforts and hard work we have every possibility to go even higher on the ladder and improve our ranking further in the next two years." That they did climbing three places to be seventh in the 2009 – 2010 rankings.

Cricket is receiving active royal patronage in the kingdom and the Saudi Cricket Centre are active in reaching out to as many as possible who wish to play the game. The intention of the Saudi Cricket Centre (SCC) is to develop the kingdom's infrastructure, youth and competition programs. "Youth development is the prime objective," says Mr. Nadwi, "the targets are primary and secondary schools, where we hope to introduce the children to the basics of the game by way of interactive and video demonstrations."

A tournament structure for age-groups for U-13, U-15, U-17 up to U-19 as well as regional competitions for the seniors are proposed with particular emphasis being put on investing in turf surfaces at all the new academies and grounds. There is also a great desire to attract Arabs to cricket.

To that end, the kingdom is being divided into six regional bodies for the purposes of development: Jeddah, Riyadh, Dammam, Medina, Abha and Yanbu. The expectation is that by 2013 at least 180 schools will be competing in nationally-managed competitions. "We have set a target of increasing each age-groups schools per region by five a year from 60 in 2009," says Mr. Nadwi.

The intention is to create a focussed pathway for talented players to progress. Structured training programs and scholarships for the most promising players are proposed with full support being given to the new generation of coaches, curators and umpires that will be needed.



2010 ACC U-16 Elite Cup squad



Shoab Ali



Top prospect Hassan Sharif

Country Profiles



Singapore

Population: 4, 839, 400 (2008 est.)
Population Aged 0-14: 13.8%.
National Coach: Saad Khan Janjua
National Captain: Saad Khan Janjua
Women's Captain: Diviya GK
Clubs: 72
Grounds: 20
Turf wickets: 4
Playing Season: January to November

ACC Member since 1983
ACC Development Officer: Aminul Islam



Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 2010 ©ICC

Recent Achievements:

- 2006 **Winner of ICC Development Award: Best Overall Cricket Development Award**
- 2007 **ACC U-15 Elite Winners**
- 2008 **First, ACC Rankings 2007- 2008**
- 2009 **Winners, Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 6**
- 2010 **Winners, ACC U-16 Elite Cup**

Fifth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

First in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : **Level I – 35, Level II – 7, Coach Educators – 4**
- Umpires : **Level I – 13, Level II – 4, Umpire Trainers – 2**
- Curators : **Module I - 4, Module II – 3, Module III – 3, Advanced – 3**



500 cricketers, 176 teams, 80 umpires, 35 fixtures a week and a corps of emerging young male and female cricketers, Singapore Cricket is riding an upswing of interest in the game. Domestic cricket has never been busier with many new teams joining the Association in the past two years with a range of league and Cup matches arranged last year. Singapore holds the highest number of officially-sanctioned cricket matches of any non-Test playing country in the world. To put this growth in context, there were just 14 Singapore League fixtures in 2003.

An influx of seasoned new players is adding to the strength of the team and if Singapore can master the transition of junior cricketers to the senior ranks, then they'll have a truly competitive team. In 2010 former Sri Lankan ace Marvan Atapattu came on board as national coach, following a short and successful spell by former Australian international Trevor Chappell. Singapore missed out by the narrowest of margins, in controversial circumstances, on a place in the final of Pepsi ICC World Cricket League Division 5 last year, something which has threatened to derail much of their forward momentum.

Nevertheless, the Singapore Cricket Association are actively engaging with the state in order to seek further state support and funding. They are emphasising cricket's virtues as a character and team-spirit builder in order to do so, knowing full well that these will appeal to the administrators of the nation-state.

Singapore are reaping the reward for having a strong forward-thinking administration coupled with players who have consistently shone at youth level. "We will spread our programs now to reach other areas," adds Mr. Imran. "Being No.1 was great. Now we must apply a fresh perspective to the younger lot of players." The U-16s repaid that attention in winning the 2010 ACC U-16 Elite Cup. The senior team and U-19 team have slipped down to the Challenge Division but are confident of winning promotion back to the Elite next time round.



“Singapore’s position at the top of the table has been achieved through no coincidence,” says Singapore Cricket Association President Khwaja Imran. “The performance of our various teams in the Asian tournaments has been praiseworthy and we have done well only because of the various programs put in place by the different people in the different committees. The players must be congratulated for their sacrifices.”



Shoib Razzak



Pramodh Raja



Winners of the 2010 ACC U-16 Elite Cup

Country Profiles



Thailand

Population: 66,720,1533 (2011 estimate)

Population Aged 0-14: 19.9%

Men's Coach:

Men's Captain: Zeeshan Khan

Women's Coach: Thiti Kader

Women's captain: Sornnarin Tippoch

Teams: 177

Grounds: 22

Turf wickets: 6

Playing Season: November to May

ACC Member since 1996

ACC Development Officer: Venkatesh Prasad



2010 ACC Trophy Challenge

Recent Achievements:

- 2006 Finalists, ACC Emerging Nations Tournament
- 2006 Third, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup
- 2007 Winners, Spirit of Cricket Award ACC U-19 Elite Cup
- 2007 Hosts, ACC U-15 Challenge Cup
- 2008 Hosts, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup
- 2008 Third, ACC U-17 Challenge Cup
- 2008 Third, ACC U-19 Women's Championship and Winners of Spirit of Cricket Award
- 2009 Finalists, ACC Women's Twenty20 Championship
- 2009 Finalists, ACC U-19 Challenge Cup
- 2010 Hosts, ACC Trophy Challenge

Eleventh in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Ninth in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

Coaches : Level I – 36, Level II – 3, Level III – 1, Coach Educators – 5

Umpires : Level I – 40, Level II – 6, Umpire Trainers - 2

Curators : Module I – 7, Module II – 2, Module III – 4, Advanced – 2



Thailand has progressed considerably since the ACC took an interest in them and they now stand as one of the true exemplars of cricket development. The game has spread across the large country, spreading out from Bangkok to Chiang Mai and Khon Kaen in the north, Hua Hin in the east and Phuket in the south.

A peaceful revolution happened in Thailand in 2009, a year that was the best in their cricket history, one in which the finals of two international tournaments were reached and a year in which

Thai cricket became increasingly associated with Thais – Thais of ethnic origin and Thai citizens with deep roots in the country. After being a demonstration sport in 2010 cricket became a discipline at the 2011 National Youth Games, the first Thai cricket competitions sanctioned by the Sports Authority of Thailand.

The drivers of change may initially have been the Asian and Anglo-Antipodean expatriates but subsequent progress has all been due to the fact that once the game was taken to the indigenous population, Thai youth cricketing activity has flourished. Local Thais have a presence in the age-group squads and a number have played for the seniors already. Women's cricket is a significant part of development activity. At the start of 2009 nets were put up for the first time in government schools, in Chiang Mai.

Facilities are in place in Bangkok and Chiang Mai to host multi-venue tournaments and the award of ICC Associate status in 2005 was due recognition of the potential that Thailand shows for cricket. Potential that is, to a large extent, being realised. In 2010 the Cricket Association of Thailand took possession of their own cricket ground, close to Bangkok Suvarnabhumi airport.

Greater exposure to competitive cricket will raise playing standards and allow them to climb the ACC tournament rankings where they are currently just outside the Elite group. "If cricket is to prosper in Thailand then it needs to develop the local cricketing human capital," says Association Chief Executive Officer Mohideen Kader, "not just players but umpires and coaches too."

It is the women who are making the most significant strides. The women's teams are 100% Thai (in contrast to the 60% expatriate men's team) and they are playing some remarkably good cricket for those who have only been active for 48 months. "It is a tribute to the Thai character and to cricket that the game is flourishing in Thailand," adds Mr. Kader.



Thailand's women's captain at the Asian Games



The 2010 U-19 Women



Pundarika Prathanmitr on what might have been, at the Asian Games

Country Profiles



UAE

Population: 5, 148, 664 (2011 est.)
 Population Aged 0-15: 20.4%
 National Coach: Kabir Khan
 Women's captain: Shruti Pandey
 Cricket Teams: 556
 Grounds: 64
 Turf wickets: 10
 Playing Season: September to April



The 2010 U-19 Women

ACC Member since 1984
 ACC Development Officer: Venkatesh Prasad

Recent Achievements:

- 2000-2006 **ACC Trophy Winners**
- 2007 **ACC U-19 Elite Cup Semi-Finalists**
- 2007 **Winners, ICC World Cricket League Division 2**
- 2008 **Participants, STAR Cricket Asia Cup**
- 2008 **Finalists, ACC Trophy Elite**
- 2009 **Participants, ICC World Cup Qualifier**
- 2009 **Participants, ICC Intercontinental Cup**
- 2009 **Finalists, ACC Twenty20 Cup**
- 2010 **Hosts, ICC T20 World Cup Qualifier**
- 2010 **Finalists, ICC Intercontinental Shield**



Ninth in ACC Rankings for 2009 and 2010 seasons

Third in ACC Rankings for 2007 and 2008 seasons

Active personnel qualified from ACC Courses:

- Coaches : **Level I – 18, Level II – 9, Level III – 1, Coach Educators – 3**
- Umpires : **Level I – 30, Level II – 1, Umpire Trainers – 1**
- Curators : **Module I – 3, Module II – 2, Module III – 3**



For many years the UAE were close to peerless in Asia when it came to senior-level cricket. Losing the 2008 ACC Trophy Elite Final to Hong Kong ended their run of four consecutive ACC Trophies and heralded a change in the competitive rankings. Many feel the UAE still have the best players and the best grounds as well as deep-rooted cricket patronage so a return to winning ways over all should not be far away but Afghanistan are a little ahead at the moment and Hong Kong and Nepal are close. The UAE's games against Afghanistan are among the competitive highlights of every season.

They remain a side packed with match-winners and along with the die-hard stalwarts who have been the backbone of the side for the past half-a-dozen or so years, they always seem to be unearthing dynamic new talent. Competition for places in the national side is fierce. They reached the Final of the four-day ICC Intercontinental Shield at the end of 2010 and at the start of the year were just one win away from qualifying for the ICC World Twenty20. Kabir Khan, the man that took Afghanistan to the top has been recruited as the UAE's new coach.

At age-group level other Asian countries tend to find the UAE beatable but even there, such is their ability to throw up talented cricketers, they remain one of the strongest teams. The catchment area for cricketers is starting to spread outside the traditional confines of Sharjah and Dubai into the other Emirates.

UAE pioneered the take-up of women's cricket in the Gulf by fielding a team in the 2007 ACC Women's Tournament and have subsequently continued to promote women's participation in the game.



2010 ACC Trophy Elite



ECB Administrator Mazhar Khan,
ICC Lifetime Service Award Recipient



Saqib Ali, a match-winning 93* v Afghanistan, 2010 ACC Trophy Elite