

ICC Associate Members

Time for more opportunities?

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Most Bangladeshi cricket fans remember that fateful defeat by Afghanistan in the Asia Cup last year. Just a few days back, at a warm-up match between Bangladesh and Ireland, the latter bagged a well-earned victory. You may hold grudges against the associate nations, but you have to admit: these young teams are stepping up. The fight for Bangladesh and Zimbabwe to be among the top 10 nations in cricket has never been this tough.

Bangladesh earned its Test status back in 2000. The journey has been full of ups and downs since then, with a few stunning wins being marred by some very sloppy defeats where the team was left in tatters. Even with star players like Shakib Al Hasan or Mushfiqur Rahim, many a time the team has literally snatched defeat from the jaws of victory, much to the distaste of critics and fans. The growth of Bangladesh cricket has often been put in contrast to the Sri Lankan side, who were the eighth team to receive the Test status in 1981 and won the ODI World Cup within 14 years, beating other teams on a regular basis.

What about Zimbabwe? Once they received the Test status in 1992, improvements were steadily apparent. The late '90s were their golden days with players like the Flower brothers, Heath Streak and Murray Goodwin teaming up to beat other Full Members of ICC. Unfortunately, due to politicisation of cricket in the country, the quality of the team was thrown into a steep decline. Later the economic crisis only worsened the scenario.

On the other hand, the Associate Members show much promise. Each tournament, there have been sparks from the associates and the frequency of victories against the top 10 is steadily rising. While

Ireland has been lauded as the best associate nation thus far, the relatively younger Afghanistan is growing up to be a worthy team. Scotland and UAE are participants in this World Cup too, while Nepal, Hong Kong and the Netherlands have proven themselves in the T20 World Cup 2014. If you remember, Hong Kong and the Netherlands beat Bangladesh and

provided more exposure and training. Imagine how these talents may be honed if more international matches are offered to these deserving teams.

The ICC Cricket World Cup 2015 has 14 teams competing for the ultimate title of world champions. However, the 2019 World Cup is set to be played with 10 teams, which comes as a shock to the asso-



Zimbabwe respectively in the group stages of that tournament.

The associate nations complain about the lack of facilities and support from ICC compared to Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. They want to be highlighted more often in the world arena. Porterfield, Shenwari, Joyce, Nabi and a handful of other players from these teams have displayed great cricketing skills that almost match the world class players who were obviously



ciate nations as they have to face a tough challenge to overthrow Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, who have everything to lose and hence, are likely to fight ferociously. Reducing the number of sides only discourages the spread of cricket.

Cricket has been around for about two centuries and yet there are just ten teams having regular matches between themselves. Isn't this the right time to add a few more Full Members?



IS YOUR BODY READY?

Workout clothes

T-shirts, jerseys, track pants and football shorts are good workout clothes for guys. Check if you can do lunges and side lunges to make sure your pants are not too tight. Don't wear oversized shorts. Consider the material as well, don't work out in something that's likely to tear if stretched. It's convenient when you don't have to keep pulling up your pants after every set – wear something with an elastic waistband. I personally don't like wearing black because then I can't see the sweat. Sweat serves as a visual reminder of how hard I pushed myself with the day's workout. For girls, wear yoga pants and a sports bra. If you're going to the gym then wear a big T-shirt on top. If you're doing deadlifts then you might want to wear thick tennis socks.

Keep a few sets of these clothes available at home.

Imagine – Write Creatively

United International University and The Daily Star launch programme for English medium students

KAZI AKIB BIN ASAD

United International University (UIU) and The Daily Star (TDS) joined hands to launch a year-long project, titled "Imagine – Write Creatively" – an initiative to improve the communication skills of English medium students.

The idea for the project was conceived back in September 2014. On February 26, 2015, a contract was finally signed between UIU and TDS at the Tawfiq Aziz Khan Hall, The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka. Professor Dr. M. Rezwan Khan, Vice Chancellor of UIU and Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of TDS, signed the papers on behalf of their respective organisations. Also present at the event were Professor Dr. Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, Pro Vice Chancellor, UIU; Habib Abu Ibrahim, Treasurer, UIU; Abu Sadat Md. Mostansirbillah, Assistant Director (PR), UIU; and Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed, Managing Editor, TDS, among other officials.

"This is the first joint programme between The Daily Star and a university.



VC of UIU, Professor Dr. M. Rezwan Khan speaks at the contract signing ceremony of "Imagine – Write Creatively" at The Daily Star Centre on February 26, 2015.

The initiative to develop interest in creative writing and communication among students is commendable, and I request the teachers and trainers to work together in order to keep that interest on a rise," said Dr. Salehuddin Ahmed,

Managing Editor of The Daily Star.

The VC of UIU, Professor Dr. M. Rezwan Khan, expressed his views on the collaboration. He said, "This project should facilitate the development of English medium students' learning

capacity. I am delighted that The Daily Star and UIU have jointly taken this initiative."

He also mentioned that UIU provided scholarships worth BDT 10 crore in the last year, has more international programmes than any other private university in the country, and has received multiple research grants from international organisations, especially in the field of renewable energy.

Mahfuz Anam, Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star, emphasised on the importance of imagination in his speech. He used examples of famous personalities like Leonardo Da Vinci and Albert Einstein to spread the message that imagination should primarily be encouraged among students at an early age.

As part of "Imagine – Write Creatively", over a period of one year, 24 workshops will be conducted, each at a prominent English medium school in Dhaka city. The workshops will provide the students with valuable tips and tools to enhance their creative writing and communication skills

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