

# ICRC Cricket Tournament for People with Physical Disabilities

Inaugural Ceremony

Speech by

**HE Sheikh Hasina**

Hon'ble Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium, Mirpur, Dhaka, Wednesday, 18 Bhadra 1422, 2 September 2015

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Bismillahir Rahmanir

My colleagues,  
BCB officials and organisers,  
Dear participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Good afternoon to you all.**

I am very happy to be here to inaugurate the first multinational ICRC International T20 Cricket Tournament for People with Physical Disabilities.

Five teams from Afghanistan, England, India, Pakistan and host Bangladesh are taking part in the tournament. I welcome and congratulate the participants, organisers and the officials of the teams. I hope your stay here would be a pleasant and memorable one.

**Dear participants,**

Disability is not a disease; it's a kind of challenge. You have conquered the challenge. You are the brilliant examples that disability of any form can never stand in the way of pursuing a dream.

Sports and games have no barriers and even with disability, excellence can be achieved through determination and hard work.

We have many examples in front of our eyes. Our athletes have made the country proud in the Special Olympics time and again while blind cricketers and physically challenged players have already gained international exposure, and are ready to compete.

People with physical disability are contributing in every sector of the society and cricket should be no different.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Cricket is a game, which is very close to the hearts of the people of Bangladesh. I am sure that the ICRC Cricket Tournament for People with Physical Disabilities would bring to mind passion and excitement and go a long way in creating awareness about the capability of the physically challenged people. It will also help us understand our collective responsibilities towards the physically challenged people.

My government is committed to improving the lives of persons with physical and intellectual disabilities. Our goal is to create a society, which will be free from all sorts of discrimination.

I would like to thank the ICRC and the BCB for organising this competition. I would also like to assure our government's continuous support for similar causes in the future.

More than the game and the competition, it is the spirit and tremendous willpower of the participants that will be instilled in our memories forever.

We are inspired by you, dear participants. With these few words, I declare the tournament open. Thank you all.

Khoda Hafez

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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