# *Indomitable Cricketer*



**– Rise of a Differently abled tiger**

This is the story of a promising, Inspirational and indomitable person with disability from Bangladesh. Yes, I am talking about the man named Mohammad Mohasin. He was born at 6th October 1987 in a village named Morkun East Para under Gazipur district in a poor family. He is the first son of his parents were quite happy with him till he attacked by polio at the age of six month. Due to the wrong treatment of polio disease, he has lost his sensitivity of legs and certainly become a person with disability in the beginning of his life. Due to social stigma about disability his life became so complicated that he has to stop his education and confined in house. His wish of go to the field and play with the boys of his age was universal appeal. Social discrimination failed to tame his spirit so he started went to field by rolling his feet with very difficult for playing with the children's as boys of his age did not want to take him in game.

Mohasin's love affair with cricket started at the age of 12 when he started playing with his classmates. The sight of a teenager in a wheelchair batting with gusto seemed a fascinating sight for local people in his village and they would especially come to watch him bat. As he grew older, he finished his school and set up a telecom shop to support his family. But Mohasin could not get cricket out of his mind as it gives him a social value and sense of identity as a part of the society which make him promising for his community. To keep his memory alive, he started posting his Cricket playing pictures in face book from his telecom shop computer. One day an interested person from India named Mr.Haroonur Rashid started asking him about disability cricket in Bangladesh. Since, mohasin does not understand Hindi language he started seeking help from a friend named polash about communication issue and reply back to Mr.Haroon that he is interested to play cricket and make a team in Bangladesh.

This gave him an opportunity to be engaged with cricket again so he started seeking the persons with disability and willing to play cricket in Facebook. With very difficult, he finally managed to find some player with the help of **Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralyzed (CRP)** and some well-wisher of him. He invited Mr.Haroon to bring his team in Bangladesh and play first physically challenged India vs Bangladesh T20 Cricket series where Bangladesh lost the series. After the event, time passes by but his life remain unchanged and becoming confined that boring schedule of shop to home where his thirst for cricket was killing him. So he decided to establish a Cricket team and started professional cricket of physically challenged people though he is the only wheelchair user disabled person in the team. Thus, he formed first ever disabled cricket team of the country named **BANGLADESH CRICKET ASSOCIATION FOR THE PHHYSICALLY CHALLENGED (BCAPC)**.

After that he went to join **Taj Mahal Trophy championship tournament** at Agra, India in 2014 by selling his telecom shop which was his only source of income of his life. The most challenging decision he took in his life did not make him disappointed as his team performed well and they won the series. Winning Taj Mahal Trophy was the turning point of his life as it brings glory for country and they got reception from **Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina** was the most inspiring event of his life.

Suddenly a rule was implemented internationally in physically challenged cricket that for the sake of speed of the game wheelchair user disabled were excluded in physically challenged cricket team and his hope of playing professional cricket became darkened. So, he became frustrated for playing cricket day by day and started consult with his old friend. Soon they realized that there is a marginalized invisible group lives in the society but in reality they are extant named wheelchair User disabled persons.

Then he thought himself - ***"Why not starts a wheelchair cricket team?"*** Ever since the idea struck, Mohasin and Polash has left no stone unturned to make it work, especially since wheelchair cricket players were excluded from physically challenged cricket teams. The journey, of course, was paved with problems as most of the organizations he approached refused support. But the cricket-crazy Mohasin stuck to his guns and eventually got support from Harunur Rashid again. Along with his friend, they navigated several roadblocks that crop up when sports and a disability are involved – from financial support to mindset problems. Consequently, Mohasin Managed to establish **Wheelchair Cricket Welfare Association Bangladesh (WCWAB)** in 2016 with the help of **Imago sports management ltd.** Along with polash and Noor Nahian one of his play mates by organizing a national tournament in Dhaka. Next year, **Wheelchair Cricket Welfare Association Bangladesh** achieved prestigious **JOY BANGLA YOUTH AWARD 2017** of its outstanding contribution for society and innovative initiative - out of 1300 participants throughout the country.

**<u>Journey towards the dream</u>**

Key successes over the last few years –

**Reception from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with Taj Mahal Trophy, 2014, Prime Minister Office, Dhaka.**



**Receiving prestigious JOY BANGLA YOUTH AWARD 2017 form Sajib Wazed Joy is the ICT Advisor of Prime Minister, Dhaka.**




**Receiving the champion trophy of 'Walton Bangladesh-India Wheelchair Cricket Series 2017' in Dhaka**




**Receiving the runners up trophy from the chief guest of '1st International Wheelchair Cricket T20 Tri-Series 2017' in Nepal.**



**Bangladesh Wheelchair Cricket Team with the champion trophy of 'International Bilateral Wheelchair T-20 Cricket Series 2018' in Mumbai, India.**



**Receiving the Champion trophy from the chief guest of '2nd International Wheelchair Cricket T20 Tri-Series 2018' in India**



**Mohasin has also become an ambassador of sports for accessibility in Dhaka. Along with Shamsin Ahmed, he operated "Odommo", an accessibility project under the Dhaka Hub of Global Shapers Community by world Economic Forum, a youth organization that is committed to the development of Dhaka. Odommo recently collaborated with "Bata"** (a leading shoe company in the world) **to make their Dhaka store accessible in time for World Disability Day (December 3, 2016). The idea of Odommo is to create accessibility for people with all kinds of disabilities (Odommo means "indomitable" in Bangla).**



**"As Sky is the limit "why should stop?**



## Glimpse of playing action





WHEEL CHAIR CRICKET WELFARE ASSOCIATION BANGLADESH

***A beacon of the people with disabilities***

**Promise**

Every differently abled person will be empowered through sports and will be working in the mainstream of the society as well as making an accessible discrimination free Bangladesh.

**Struggle for the cause of humanity**

The tragic twist of fate did not dominate him in the movement of his life. Confined in wheelchair did not make him weak rather he turned into it strength. He lives with limited movement but stands out with endless vision. Workings with physical challenge for the physically challenged people with almost empty hand made him indomitable. He teaches us that only will power is enough to work for Humanity. Sometimes he was unable to give food in the field to the players and people called him crazy but he did not stop on the way of his dream.

**Inclusive society –**

Recently his Association WCWAB launched a project named "Dreams on Wheels" an inclusive initiative of Sports And Education by the support of US Embassy, Dhaka and trying to Establish a Women wheelchair Cricket Team in Bangladesh.



**Source of Funding**

Donation, Sponsorship and help from Friends and well-wishers.

**Window to future possibilities:**

Empowering people with disabilities with special attention to reduce discrimination and uniting them to improve their social and economic condition. He wants to give a platform to differently capable people to show their latent talent. So they can get equal rights and a defined life in the society. We believe cricket that binds the nation together regardless caste, race, political ideology and religion can play a pivotal role in getting support for the wheelchair cricketers. Primarily he will focus on empowering wheelchair cricketers through sports and gradually incorporate life skills training to better equip them to compete in the mainstream society to fulfill his dream "**Discrimination free accessible Bangladesh**". Thus, no one will lag behind in the developing country.

**Dream of accessible Bangladesh**

