



LONDON, 22 May 2011

PRESS RELEASE

CANADA RECLAIM INTERNATIONAL CRICKET TOURNAMENT

HADHRAT MIRZA MASROOR AHMAD ATTENDS FINAL

The third annual 'Masroor International Twenty20 Cricket Tournament' concluded earlier today as Canada comfortably beat the UK to regain the title that they had lost last year to Germany. The three day tournament took place at various locations with the semi finals and final taking place at the Abbey Recreation Ground in Merton.

This year the number of participating teams had increased from previous years to 16. The tournament attracted teams from Europe, North America and Asia and the standard of cricket was generally extremely high. Perhaps the surprise package of the tournament was the Norway team who this year debuted and reached the semi finals where they lost to the UK. The other semi final was arguably the game of the tournament where Canada edged out the defending champions Germany in a tense and thrilling finale.

The highlight of the event was the attendance of the Head of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat, Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad at the final. His Holiness watched the final from the side of the pitch along with hundreds of spectators who had gathered to enjoy the cricket.

The final itself was very one sided due to a professional and disciplined bowling display by Canada who bowled the UK out for just 77. The Canadians reached their target in just the 9th over for the loss of one wicket and thus proved themselves to be the best team at this year's tournament.

The event concluded with a short address by Hadhrat Mirza Masroor Ahmad in which he said that a great benefit of sport was that it was a means to good health and thus a means for Ahmadi Muslims to utilise their full capabilities for the sake of the propagation of their faith.

His Holiness praised the efforts of two of the debutant teams, Jamia UK and Norway, for their respective strong performances and also said that he expected that Germany would come back strongly next year to try and reclaim their title. His Holiness ended by reminding the participants that sport should never be treated as a matter of life or death but much more important was that all sports should be conducted with a spirit of brotherhood and sportsmanship. He ended by expressing a desire that next year the number of participant teams in this global tournament once again increases.

End of Release

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