

## **4<sup>th</sup> Roll Ball World Cup 2017 Closing Ceremony**

Speech by

**HE Sheikh Hasina**

**Prime Minister**

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**

Thursday, 23 February 2017, Bangabandhu National Stadium

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### **Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim**

The Chair,  
Colleagues,  
Participants of the 4<sup>th</sup> Roll Ball World Cup,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

#### **Assalamu Alaikum and a very good morning to you all.**

I extend my sincere greetings and felicitations to all at the closing ceremony of 'The 4<sup>th</sup> Roll Ball World Cup-2017'.

February is the month of language movement. Just a day before, we observed the Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day. The resonance of the pride of Amar Ekushey is still resounded in the hearts of the world people surpassing the boundary of Bangladesh. The 21<sup>st</sup> February is now being observed as International Mother Language Day over 190 countries in the world.

At the outset, I pay my homage to the greatest Bangalee of all time, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. I recall with great gratitude four national leaders. In this month of remembrance of our glorious language movement, I also recall all fearless language martyrs who laid down their lives for the sake of our mother-tongue. I pay my deepest gratitude to 3-million martyrs of the liberation war and 2-lakh women who lost their innocence in achieving our great independence in 1971.

Bangladesh Roller Skating Federation arranged 'The 4<sup>th</sup> Roll Ball World Cup-2017' from 17 to 23 February in Dhaka for the first time. 39 countries and 625 contestants have participated in the event. I would like to thank the organizers for organizing the grand event.

The roll ball sport is not very much familiar in our country. But the game is spreading day by day. Though India started the sport, it is now popular in Europe, Africa, North America and the countries in the Middle East.

#### **Sport-loving spectators,**

Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman wanted to make the country self-dependent in all sectors. He dreamt that the golden boys of the country would raise their heads in the world and glorify Bangladesh. The dream of the Father of the Nation is going to be come in true.

Bangladesh is now 'Role Model' not only in Socio-economic front but also in the fields of sports and culture. We have already organized many international sports competitions, including ICC World Cup, Asian Cup, SAF Games, International Table Tennis and Bangabandhu International Football, successfully. The world community has lauded the events.

Our government has been building stadiums in all upazilas and improving the district level stadiums. Besides, the government has been implementing the projects like building swimming pools, specialized and international-standard stadiums and sports complex in big cities.

#### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Internationally Bangladesh is now a very familiar name in the field of sports and games. We are proud of the success of under 18 football recently held in Malaysia and women cricket team. Bangladesh is now a strong team in cricketing world.

Bangladesh has achieved the qualification playing the ICC World Cup for the first time during our government in 1997. Organizing ICC Mini World Cup in 1998 successfully, we showed

our organizing capacity. Beating Pakistan in 1999 World Cup, Bangladesh wondered the cricket world.

We arranged the inaugural ceremony, 8 matches and 4 practice matches of ICC Cricket World Cup in 2011 very successfully. Moreover, Bangladesh is the successful organizer of many sports events including Bangabandhu SAF Football Championship-2009, 11<sup>th</sup> South Asian Games-2010, ICC Women World Cup Cricket Selection Part-2011, Asia Cup Cricket-2012, Asia Cup Cricket-2014 and World T-20 Bangladesh-2014.

ICC gave Bangladesh one-day status in 1999 and Bangladesh got the recognition as 10<sup>th</sup> Test playing country in 2000 during Amami League government tenure. Now our Women Cricket Team has also achieved the one-day status. Bangladesh Football Team earned gold medal at the 8<sup>th</sup> SAF Games.

Bangladesh has succeeded in different international sports events like hockey, shooting, handball, basketball, archery, gymnastic and beach football. Participants from Bangladesh have also earned accolades in Special Olympic.

Our government has been allocating adequate budget for the development sports infrastructure. Due importance has been given to protect the playground in village and town.

There are places, which lack enough space for playgrounds. The local games which take little space have to be introduced there.

Players are being selected from grassroots level and they are being provided training in different games. Proper budget will have to be allocated to all Sports Federations and District and Upazila Sports Organizations to further strengthen the training activities.

Sound health is needed to maintain mental health. So, I always think that allocation for sports is an investment to maintain a sound national health. Surely, it is not expenditure.

Our government has been increasing budget in sports and games sector in every year. But this is not good enough. For this reason, taking special package on allocation, we will ensure the overall development in sports sector.

In future, steps will be taken to increase sports training, specialized sports training and overall development in sports and games sector. Initiative has been taken to build a spacious sports village in the shoals of the river Padma.

There is no alternative to practice of sports and culture to keep away the youths from terrorism, militancy and drugs. The government has been working to turn the youths into patriots and ideal citizens with the philosophy of 'sound mind in sound body'. Therefore, the government has taken different measures to increase the facilities of games and sports.

The leadership quality will be explored and physical and mental fulfillment will be met for the activities taken by the government. If we can make the students inquisitive of sports and games beside their studies, they will become worthy citizens. I urge the industrialists, the businessmen and the financial organizations to come forward to allocate fund for the practice of local non-traditional games as part of social responsibility.

We will take more practical steps to provide higher training and improve professional skills for the referees, the umpires, the trainers, and the physicians.

The participation of women players alongside their male counterparts in the roll ball skating tournament is an example of gender equality and their equal rights. The role Bangladesh in empowering women is internationally recognized. I wish success of our women players.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I hope that Roll Ball Skating will get popularity in Bangladesh through this tournament. Initiatives will be taken to build indoor stadiums and other facilities at district and upazila levels to attract the players towards this game.

I would like to thank the players, organizers, representatives and invited guests of the participating teams from 39 countries, including Bangladesh, in the 4<sup>th</sup> Roll Ball World Cup-2017.

Sports and games don't only help build fraternity among the players, but they also cast influence in the relations among nations and strengthen regional relation.

I request you all the 625 foreign players and other participants to tell the story of Bangladesh in your respective countries as I consider you as Ambassadors of Bangladesh.

I would also like to extend my thanks the organizers of the event.

Thank you all again.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu

May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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