

**'Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament-2018' &
'Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football
Tournament-2018' Prize Giving Ceremony**

Speech by

HE Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangabandhu National Stadium, Dhaka, Thursday, 21 Chaitra 1425, 04 April 2019

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Dear Colleagues,
Respected Teachers,
Junior Footballers &
Distinguished Guests,

Assalamu Alaikum.

I heartily welcome you all to this ceremony. I remember with deep respect the greatest Bangalee of all time Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib. I also respectfully reminisce the four national leaders, three million martyrs of the Liberation War and two hundred thousand dishonoured women who made their supreme sacrifices for our Independence.

I extend my sympathy to the wounded freedom fighters and members of martyred families.

I congratulate all the members of champion and runners-up teams of the Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament 2018 and Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament-2018. My greetings to all the participants

Distinguished Guests,

We are working on the goal of Father of the Nation of building a developed and prosperous nation. To this end, we want to build every child as a good citizen. Because, today's children will build future Bangladesh. Sports and extra-curricular activities are essential alongside education for children's healthy physical and mental growth.

As facilitator of physical and mental development, unity and competition, inter-primary school sports and cultural competition are being organised with the participation of all primary school students from 2011. Whenever we came to the power, we worked for the development of sports. We have been organizing Bangabandhu Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament and Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournament since 2010 and 2011 respectively.

We have started getting benefits from these events. Our teams based on age groups have already been formed. Women teams---under-14, under-16 and under-18, and 36 out of 50 national women footballers have come from Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib Gold Cup Primary School Football Tournaments. We have been succeeded in different national and international competitions. Recently, our Under-18 women team has become champion beating India at the AFC Cup in Bhutan and the Under-15 team became champion in the Jockey Cup in Hong Kong.

We want children to take part in physical activities along with study. This will improve their physical structure as well as merit. All including teachers and guardians have to come forward alongside the government to grow up children properly and healthy.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Awami League government has taken fresh responsibility of the country through the victory in the eleventh parliament elections. We have clearly stated in our election manifesto that the maximum allocation and effective use of education will be ensured, and we will completely free Bangladesh from the curse of illiteracy.

Today we are committed to building a hunger and poverty-free self-reliant Bangladesh that the Father of the Nation dreamt. We are continuously working aiming to transform vast

population of Bangladesh into human resources through educating them with modern science-based practical education. I believe that we will be able to establish a developed nation by uplifting our economical and human development indices if we can transform our children into human resources.

Beloved Kids,

The country where we have been living and its red-green flag did not come in one day. There is history of countless sacrifices behind it. The man who had sacrificed the most, who had created dreams of a liberated nation after tolerating oppression and deprivation of the Pakistani rulers, he is Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, our Father of the Nation. And Bangamata Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib was the source of inspiration of all works of the Father of the Nation. So, you, as the future generation of the country, should know the contribution of this motivational woman.

You will have to take Bangladesh forward. It is you who will build the future of Bangladesh. This is why you will have to listen to your parents and teachers, obey the rules and discipline, and live a decent life. You will develop the mentality of love, respect, sympathy and cooperation towards all. Through the active participation in family, social and school activities, you will become aware of your and other's rights, duties and responsibilities. You have to develop respect for national history, tradition, literature and culture.

You have to remember that we are the victorious nation. We have achieved victory through liberation war. The Bengalis do not bow down to anyone, nor will they. InshaAllah, we will be able to build this country as a peaceful, developed and prosperous country in South Asia.

Thank you all.

Khoda Hafez.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

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