

**Speech of the Honorable Chief Justice of Bangladesh**  
*At the Deputy Commissioners' Conference*  
**Venue: Auditorium, Supreme Court of Bangladesh**  
**Date: 17/02/2025**

**Distinguished brother Judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh**

**Cabinet Secretary, Government of Peoples Republic of Bangladesh**

**Secretary, Coordination and Cooperation, Cabinet Division**

**Registrar General of Bangladesh Supreme Court**

**Divisional Commissioners**

**Deputy Commissioners**

**Members of Supreme Court Registry**

**Good Afternoon**

I begin by honoring the memory of the martyrs of 1971, whose sacrifices gave us an independent nation. We also remember the determined spirit of the student-led revolution of July and August 2024, which played a pivotal role in ending oppression and restoring justice, equality, and humanity. These moments in our history remind us that the fight for justice is not temporary but a lifelong responsibility, forming the foundation of our judicial mission.

I address you at a critical juncture in this nation's history marking at transition from the old to the new and from the derelict to the transformative. A once-in-a-life time opportunity is at hand to reinvent a moribund system into a dynamic one in which

all organs of the state are equal partners and stakeholders. We do not have the luxury to squander this rare opportunity.

When I had the distinct honor of taking the oath as the 25th Chief Justice of Bangladesh, I was deeply aware of the immense responsibility placed upon my shoulders. This role is not merely a position of leadership but a solemn trust bestowed by the people of this nation to uphold fairness, equity, and ensure access to justice for all, irrespective of their status or circumstances.

From the very moment of my appointment, I recognized the urgency of addressing the challenges that have long impeded the full realization of our judiciary's potential. To this end, on September 21, I unveiled a comprehensive **Roadmap for Judicial Reform**. This initiative is a cornerstone of my vision to strengthen our judiciary and its capacity to serve the people with integrity and efficiency.

I am pleased to inform that the Judiciary has had a head start from August 2024 onwards to devising its own internal reformist policy blueprint and has provided substantial input that has informed much of the legal framework has institutional independence that is now being placed before the Nation.

### **Distinguished participants**

The Deputy Commissioner, in our administrative structure, embodies the convergence of governance, public service, and justice. You are the bridge between the executive authority and the people, bearing the delicate task of maintaining law and order, overseeing development initiatives, and upholding the dignity of the State. Yet, an indispensable aspect of your role, which I wish to emphasize today, is your interface with the judiciary. The district judiciary and the

district administration are two pillars standing in close proximity, each distinct in function yet inextricably linked in purpose.

The judiciary exists to uphold rights, deliver justice, and ensure that no person irrespective of status remains without redress. The executive, on the other hand, is tasked with implementing policies, maintaining stability, and facilitating governance. These functions, while separate, must harmonize, and not be in conflict with each other. A district where the judiciary functions independently, fairly, and efficiently is one where confidence in the legal system flourishes. And where the administration respects and supports this independence, governance reaches its highest moral standing.

Our Constitution enshrines the separation of powers, yet practical governance requires seamless coordination. It is here that I seek your vigilance, wisdom, and cooperation. Article 112 mandates all executive and judicial authorities to support the Supreme Court and follow its orders. No government directive, circular, or notification can override or delay a Supreme Court order. This Article in so far as relates to your role in executing judicial directives, assisting in case management, and facilitating logistical necessities for the courts is fundamental.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The **Deputy Commissioners (DCs)** play a pivotal role in ensuring justice reaches the most vulnerable segments of society through their active involvement in district legal aid committees, jail inspections, and collaboration with the judiciary.

As active members of the District Legal Aid Committee, DCs alongside District Judges are responsible for facilitating access to justice for underprivileged individuals. Their leadership ensures that legal aid services are effectively

delivered, case backlogs for indigent litigants are addressed, and public awareness about free legal assistance is enhanced.

In **jail inspections**, DCs, alongside district judges, ensure that prisoners' rights are upheld, detentions are lawful, and the living conditions in correctional facilities meet human rights standards. Regular inspections prevent overcrowding, ensure the timely release of detainees eligible for bail, and reinforce accountability within the prison system.

In **law enforcement**, DCs act as key coordinators between the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, and the local administration. Their role in executing judicial orders, ensuring timely investigation and prosecution, and maintaining law and order in tandem with district judges and magistrates fosters a justice system that is efficient, responsive, and fair. A well-coordinated effort between the administration and judiciary strengthens public trust and upholds the rule of law at the grassroots level. The current situation demands that Deputy Commissioners (DCs) take firm measures to maintain law and order, ensuring stability and public safety. It is expected that they act decisively and responsibly to uphold the rule of law, thereby contributing collectively to national security.

### **Distinguished participants,**

In all my Official Inspection Tours around the country I have had the most constructive engagements with the local administration during each such visit. Divisional and Deputy Commissioners alike have impressed me with their sense of dedication to service and often their innovative ideas touching on matters as diverse as efficient administration and the preservation of local heritage. And without fail, on each such visit I have received assurances of the district

administration's commitment to work together with the district judiciaries and magistracies.

As some of you know, I am now in the midst of a Reform Roadshow that has already taken me to several divisions and districts. On each such occasion I have witnessed with much satisfaction the mutual respect shared by the civil and judicial services. The relationship between the district administration and the district judiciary is indeed a symbiotic one. They complement each other in a complex tapestry of public order, rule of law, and societal stability.

### **Dear Participants,**

Judges and magistrates do not operate in isolation; they work amidst the same communities you serve, addressing the grievances of the people you serve. The swift execution of judicial orders, support for law enforcement in upholding court directives, and timely communication between your office and the courts can reduce case backlogs, curb procedural inefficiencies, and enhance public trust.

At times, conflicts may arise differences in interpretation, jurisdictional questions, or administrative challenges. But let not these moments turn into contestations of authority. Instead, let them serve as opportunities for dialogue, for institutional refinement, and for reinforcing the shared goal of justice and governance.

Our people look to you as the representatives of the government and to us as the interpreters of the law for fairness, impartiality, and integrity. When a farmer, a laborer, a woman seeking protection, or an entrepreneur striving for security comes before you, they expect not bureaucratic hurdles but solutions. And a robust,

independent judiciary, functioning alongside a principled administration, ensures that those solutions are just.

I call upon you to continue your commendable service, but with a renewed commitment to upholding legal sanctity. Work with the courts and facilitate justice, not hinder it; and remember always that governance and justice are not separate roads but are instead parallel tracks leading to the same destination: a just, secure, and prosperous Bangladesh.

Remember that the future will judge us not by the power we hold but by how we wield it in the service of justice.

I wish you success in all your endeavours.

**May justice and governance walk hand in hand for the betterment of our nation.**

**Thank You**