

**Speech of Chief Justice of Bangladesh Dr. Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed on Iftar
Mahfil of Bangladesh Ain Samity**

17/03/2025

Venue: Supreme Court Bar Association Auditorium

Hon'ble Chair of today's event,

**Hon'ble Senior most Judge of the Appellate Division Mr Justice Md. Ashfaul
Islam,**

Hon'ble Judge of the Appellate Division Mr. Justice Md. RezaulHaque,

Hon'ble Judge of the Appellate Division Mr. Justice S.M. EmdadulHoque,

Hon'ble Attorney General for Bangladesh

Esteemed members of Executive Committee of the Bangladesh AinSamity

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon,

The resolute spirit of the student-led revolution of July and August 2024 catalyzed our collective will to oust oppression and restore justice and equality. This, along with the defining moments in our history, i.e., the language movement of 1952 and the war of independence of 1971, remind us that the quest for justice is not a fleeting endeavor but a lifelong commitment, a commitment that forms the bedrock of our judicial mission.

It is in that spirit that on September 21, 2024, 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.

As part of my commitment to institutional reform and total independence of the judiciary, I have already taken decisive steps to establish the foundations for the

true separation of powers. This is significantly evident in the fully operational Judicial Appointment Council and Supreme Judicial Council, two autonomous internal bodies of the Supreme Court presided over by the Chief Justice of Bangladesh, and as are now overseeing the recruitment and the removal respectively of Supreme Court Judges totally free from executive interference. I have declared and initiated the process of creating a **separate Secretariat for the Judiciary**, a pivotal measure to ensure the judiciary's administrative autonomy.

The Judiciary has had a head start from September 2024 onwards in proposing and implementing its reform agenda spearheaded by the Supreme Court wherever possible. Furthermore, the Judiciary's extensive and detailed proposals on sectoral reform have been shared with key reform commissions and are reflected in their suggested proposals that have been placed before the Nation.

In this transformative phase, Bangladesh AinSamity, as the organization of former law students of Dhaka University, has a pivotal role to play. With its wealth of legal expertise and deep institutional ties, the AinSamity stands as a critical ally in advocating for and shaping these judicial reforms. The organization can be actively engaged with various reform initiatives, facilitating discourse, providing policy recommendations, and mobilizing legal professionals to ensure that proposed changes align with the principles of justice, efficiency, and accountability. Its contribution, both in leadership and practical engagement, will be reinforcing the judiciary's drive toward meaningful and lasting institutional reform.

The weeks and months ahead remain crucial for the judiciary, collectively influencing and directing the future course of institutional autonomy and reform. I hope that this common quest for reform shall be, indeed must be, a unifying factor to help bring about an entrenched political will to usher in the remaining structural

reforms. My expectation is that the Bangladesh AinSamity shall remain committed to keep the momentum going, doing its utmost to preserve and reinforce the gains already made under my watch.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During this period of the interim government, the judiciary is operating with strength and determination, ensuring that institutional autonomy remains at the core of judicial governance. It is also the case that the long-term sustainability of the reform initiatives undertaken by the interim government is largely dependent on the independence of the judiciary, and a truly independent judiciary can only function effectively once its institutional autonomy is secured through the establishment of a separate Supreme Court secretariat. In other words, it is of immense importance to set up this independent secretariat to ensure the sustainability of the reforms initiated by the interim government.

To reiterate, within the past seven months alone, the Supreme Court has been vested with substantial powers and autonomous mechanisms at institutional governance. This transformation marks a significant shift in how the judiciary perceives itself and how it is recognized as an assertive, confident, and revitalized principal organ of the state. These reforms are critical milestones towards a more formal separation of the judiciary from the executive and the legislature, ultimately ensuring that the Supreme Court is fully empowered to administer and oversee all matters of judicial administration. It is my ardent hope that you shall stand by me in this collective and fully participatory endeavour and claim equal ownership of the same during this crucial and defining period of our institutional history and indeed much beyond.

Thank you.