

**FAREWELL SPEECH ON THE ELEVATION OF
HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE BADAR DURREZ
AHMED DELIVERED ON 29.03.2017**

**G. ROHINI
CHIEF JUSTICE**

Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed,
My esteemed brother and sister colleagues,
Shri Sanjay Jain, Additional Solicitor General,
Shri Kirti Uppal, President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,
Shri J.P. Sengh, Vice-President, Delhi High Court Bar Association,
Shri Amit Sharma, Secretary, Delhi High Court Bar Association,
Shri Rahul Mehra, Senior Standing Counsel, Govt. of NCT of Delhi
Other Standing Counsel of the Central and State Government,
Executive Members of the Delhi High Court Bar Association,
Office-bearers of District Courts Bar Associations,
Senior Advocates,
Members of the Bar,
District & Sessions Judges,
Family members of Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed,
Ladies and gentlemen.

We have assembled here to bid farewell to brother Justice Badar Durrez Ahmed, who on his elevation as Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court, is parting company. It gives me immense pleasure and happiness to offer, on my behalf and on behalf of all my colleague Judges, our warmest congratulations to him.

Born on 16th March, 1956 in Shillong (Meghalaya), Justice Ahmed was educated in some of the most premier institutions of the country.

After completing part of his schooling from St. Edmund's College, Shillong and later from St Columba's High School, New Delhi, Justice Ahmed did his graduation in Economics from St. Stephen's College, Delhi University. He also passed Tripos Examination in Economics from Cambridge University, U.K. in 1977 and obtained the Bachelors and Masters Degrees. His deep attachment in the field of Economics made him take on the responsibility of a Lecturer in Economics for B.A.(Hons) Second and Final Year students in St Stephen's College, Delhi while simultaneously studying law. He received LLB Degree in 1980 from Delhi University.

Having enrolled with the Bar Council of Delhi on 5th September, 1980, Justice Ahmed started his journey in the legal profession at the young age of 24 years.

Determination and legal acumen enabled Justice Ahmed to develop practice in various branches of law. He actively practiced in the Supreme Court of India and Delhi High Court in constitutional, commercial, company and banking laws apart from various other areas of civil laws.

In 1986, Justice Ahmed set up a law firm under the name of “Lawyers Associated”. Justice Ahmed also made contributions for the section on “Deeds and other instruments” for Halsbury Law of India.

His thoroughness in the study of cases, his affable manners and pleasing temperament won him the goodwill and admiration of both the Bar and the Bench.

After having a brilliant career at the Bar for almost two decades, Justice Ahmed was elevated as an Additional Judge of Delhi High Court on 20th December, 2002 and as a permanent Judge on 21st January, 2004.

In his long standing of fifteen years as a Judge in this institution, Justice Ahmed has been twice appointed as the Acting Chief Justice of High Court of Delhi from 10th June, 2013 to 2nd September, 2013 and from 17th February, 2014 to 20th April, 2014.

During his tenure as a Judge of this Court, Justice Ahmed has not only rendered path breaking judgments in various fields of law but has also set an example of leadership and organisational skills - and inculcated a sense of commitment to work and discipline among his colleagues, judicial officers and other staff members.

That day is still fresh in my memory when I took charge of this institution on 21st April, 2014 and I have no hesitation in admitting that Justice Ahmed has immensely helped me in understanding the procedural technicalities of this Court which are entirely different from AP High Court.

Being the son of Late Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, former President of India, and having come from a highly cultured family Justice Ahmed is man of etiquette.

I found him to be friendly and kind natured and one of the popular and successful Judges of this Court. He has always been courteous on the Bench and his willingness to listen has gained him respect from the members of the Bar.

While discharging his functions as a Judge of this Court, Justice Ahmed has exhibited his great learning and knowledge in every branch of law and any counsel who argued a case before him came out of the Court with full satisfaction of having taken part in an excellent intellectual exercise.

Fundamental duty as a Judge is not only to dispense expeditious justice to the litigants but also to make it qualitative. The voluminous compilations of all his noteworthy Judgments, both on the Original Side and on the Appellate Side of this High Court, truly reflect that while giving priority to logical reasoning and careful analysis of facts & law, Justice Ahmed always ensured to maintain the cause of administration of justice.

His remarkable sense of justice and fairness, combined with simplicity and brilliance, has been his hallmarks as a Judge of this Court.

For the growth of this institution, Justice Ahmed has always been willing to take responsibilities beyond judicial work. On the administrative side, he has been a part of number of committees in various capacities like Administrative & General Supervision Committee, Building Maintenance & Construction Committee, Computer Committee, Cause List Committee, State Court Management Systems Committee, Committee to Oversee the Arrangements to Commemorate the Completion of 50 years of Delhi High Court, Committee for Finance and Budgeting, Core Group Committee and Committee to Examine the Pendency of Cases in Delhi High Court.

Today is the age of Information Technology and I am proud to say that it is with the endeavour and guidance of Justice Ahmed as Chairman of the Computer Committee that this Court has broken the shackles of conventional methods and adapted to this new age technology in a positive manner for the benefit of public at large.

The Delhi High Court became the first court in the country to establish E-Court on 15th December, 2009 and Justice Ahmed was amongst the few persons responsible for that historic moment to see the light of the day.

Being the Chairman of the Computer Committee, some other notable achievements of Justice Ahmed are establishment of E-filing counters; E-Cause list; E-Court Fee; SMS/E-mail alert facility; introduction of 'Case History' link on the official website of Delhi High Court; recording of evidence through video conferencing; digitization and weeding of records, and E-Post.

The introduction of electronic system has reduced the usage of paper to a large extent and made about 10 court rooms 'paperless'. Through digitization and weeding of records, we were able to re-allocate three floors of Administrative Block and basement of A-Block building for administrative and judicial works.

In a judgment delivered on 7th January, 2016 in **International Planned Parenthood Federation vs. Madhubala Nath**, speaking for the Bench, Justice Ahmed had extensively dealt with the technological advancements made by the Delhi High Court in the recent past. While permitting the appellant therein to record the testimony and cross-examination of its witness through audio video conferencing subject to certain conditions, he observed that courts must be liberal and pragmatic in allowing the witnesses to depose through video conferencing.

There are many landmark decisions rendered by Justice Ahmed. Though it is not possible for me to refer to the entire spectrum of his judicial views in the short time at my command, I may say that all his decisions reflect his thorough knowledge of law, forthrightness and fierce independence.

Many of us may not be aware that Justice Ahmed knows several computer programming languages as well and has also written two stand-alone accounting software packages for lawyers.

During his tenure as Chairman of Delhi State Legal Services Authority Justice Ahmed took personal interest in its functioning by organizing several legal aid programmes, seminars, workshops and Lok Adalats. His innovative approach and vision has helped the growth of Delhi State Legal Services Authority into a vibrant institution.

Justice Ahmed also rendered his invaluable contribution as Chairperson of the Organising Committee of Golden Jubilee Celebrations. Organizing such a big function was not an easy task and with the able assistance of Justice Ahmed, all the functions to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of High Court of Delhi, were conducted in a commendable manner.

Justice Ahmed is also a keen sportsman and played Cricket and Football for the school. He was member of the St Stephen's College Tennis Team and played Tennis and Squash for Trinity College, Cambridge, U.K. as well. He has also been the captain of Delhi High Court Judges Cricket Team and played several matches enthusiastically.

I have found Justice Ahmed to be a gifted personality, full of courage, confidence, conviction and compassion. As a Judge of this Court, Justice Ahmed has displayed exceptional caliber and firmness. He will always be remembered for the distinguished contribution made by him for development of this institution.

Elevation of Justice Ahmed as Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir High Court is a matter of pride for all of us. I heartily congratulate him and his family members on this joyous occasion and wish him on behalf of my brother and sister Judges and on my behalf, a successful and glorious tenure as Chief Justice of High Court of Jammu and Kashmir.

Thank you.