

**Speech by Dr. Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed**  
**Chief Justice of Bangladesh**  
**On the Occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Constitutional Court of**  
**Türkiye**  
**Istanbul | 25 April 2025**

---

Honourable H.E. Kadir Oykaya, President of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Türkiye,

Honourable Justices,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a profound honour and privilege for me to stand before this august gathering on the momentous occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Constitutional Court of Türkiye. On behalf of the judiciary of Bangladesh that I have the honour to lead, I extend my warmest congratulations to the people of Türkiye and their venerable Constitutional Court. This celebration is more than a ceremonial landmark, it is a tribute to the enduring principles of constitutionalism and to the guardianship of justice.

The constitutional journeys of Türkiye and Bangladesh, though rooted in different cultural and historical contexts, are bound by shared aspirations as are universal in nature.

In this regard, the question of access to constitutional justice gains prominence. If the Constitution as social contract is to operate live meaningfully in the lives of

ordinary citizens, then courts must be made more accessible, transparent, and responsive to the lived realities of the marginalized. In Bangladesh, we have seen how judicial activism, especially through suo motu interventions and creative invocation of public interest litigations, has opened new vistas of justice for those traditionally excluded from legal processes. These collectively ensure the enduring relevance of the judiciary as one of the organs of the state enjoying co-equal status with the executive and the judiciary.

The demands of our age also require constitutional courts to embrace a broader vision, one that transcends national borders. Climate justice, digital rights, data protection, artificial intelligences and transnational inequality demand a jurisprudence that is both contextually rooted and globally attuned. The courts of Türkiye and Bangladesh must remain alert not only to domestic injustices but also to the global forces that shape and often distort local realities.

Your Excellency, the 63rd anniversary of the Constitutional Court of Türkiye marks not just the passage of time, but the perseverance of an institution committed to constitutional fidelity. In this spirit, I offer my heartfelt appreciation for your kind invitation and for the generous hospitality extended to me and my delegation. This visit comes at a time of an ambitious and far-reaching institutional and constitutional reform already embarked upon by the judiciary in Bangladesh and will provide invaluable insight to forge critical relationship of mutual cooperation between ourselves.

Let this occasion, therefore, serve as a reaffirmation of the enduring friendship between our twofraternal nations, and more importantly, as a reaffirmation of our shared judicial callingto defend constitutionalism, protect human dignity, and uphold the rule of law.**Thank you.**