

# VIRTUAL ROUNDTABLES ON ASIAN LAW SERIES

## BOOK DISCUSSION ON A HISTORY OF THE CONSTITUTION OF BANGLADESH

*"A History of the Constitution of Bangladesh: The Founding, Development, and Way Ahead"*  
Edited by Ridwanul Hoque & Rokeya Chowdhury (2023)

10 MAY 2024 (FRIDAY)

11.00AM TO 12.30NN (SGT)

VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

**MODERATOR:**



KEVIN YL TAN  
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF  
SINGAPORE

**GUEST-OF-HONOUR:**



JUSTICE SYED REFAAT AHMED  
SUPREME COURT OF  
BANGLADESH

**EDITORS:**

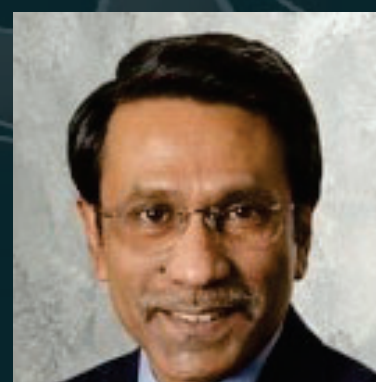


RIDWANUL HOQUE  
KENT INSTITUTE  
AUSTRALIA, MELBOURNE

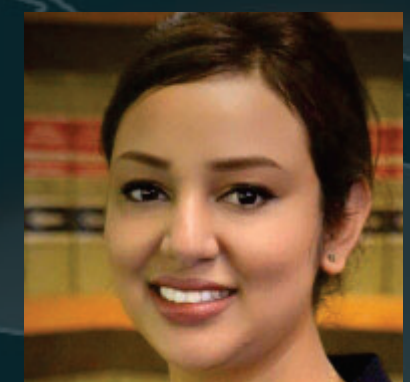


ROKEYA CHOWDHURY  
NEW ERA IMMIGRATION  
LAW FIRM

**PANELLISTS:**



ALI RIAZ  
ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY



CYNTHIA FARID  
THE UNIVERSITY OF  
HONG KONG

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## Speakers' Bios



### **JUSTICE SYED REFAAT AHMED (SUPREME COURT OF BANGLADESH) GUEST-OF-HONOUR**

The Hon'ble Justice Syed Refaat Ahmed is a judge of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, High Court Division. Trained as an advocate, he has an LLB (Hons) from University of Dhaka, a B.A. and an M.A. from Wadham College, University of Oxford, and a M.A.L.D. and a PhD from The Fletcher School, Tufts University where he was a Ford Foundation Fellow in public international law. He was elevated to the Supreme Court, High Court Division as an additional judge in 2003, and appointed as a judge to the same in 2005, where he currently sits. In addition to his judicial work, he has published extensively about the rule of law, constitutional law, international migration, refugee law, political history, and intellectual property rights in Bangladesh. Prior to becoming a judge, he was a practising advocate, lawyer in the banking sector in London, and also worked at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Hong Kong and in Washington DC. He has contributed a chapter, titled 'Rule of Law within the Constitutional Scheme: A Judicial Perspective' to the book, *A History of the Constitution of Bangladesh: The Founding, Development, and Way Ahead*, which is the subject of discussion in today's round table.



### **KEVIN YL TAN (NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE) MODERATOR**

Kevin YL Tan specializes in Constitutional and Administrative Law, International Law and International Human Rights. He graduated with an LLB (Hons) from the Faculty of Law at the National University of Singapore and holds an LLM and JSD from the Yale Law School. He currently holds Adjunct Professorships at the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS) as well as at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) where he teaches constitutional law, international law and international human rights.



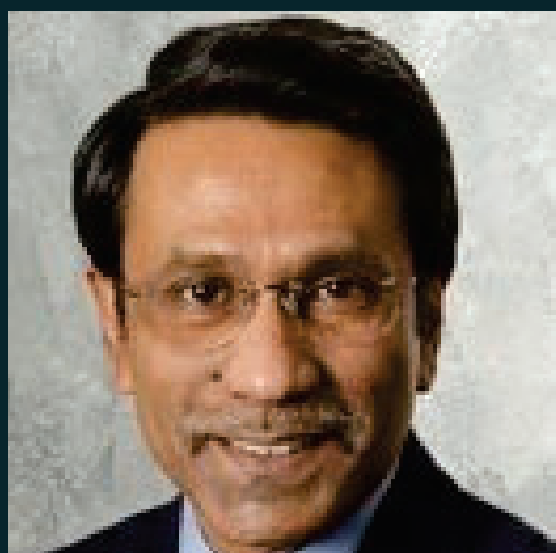
### **RIDWANUL HOQUE (KENT INSTITUTE AUSTRALIA, MELBOURNE)**

Ridwanul Hoque is a leading scholar in the Bangladeshi and South Asian constitutional laws. He was a law professor at the University of Dhaka until 2022 and had earlier taught at the University of Chittagong. Prof Hoque is currently Associate Dean at Kent Institute Australia. He has held visiting research and teaching positions at several universities including Cornell, Melbourne, and Edinburgh. Prof Hoque has given expert evidence before several UK courts on questions of Bangladesh citizenship law. His earlier publications include a book — *Judicial Activism in Bangladesh: A Golden Mean Approach*— and a co-edited volume (with Kevin Tan) — *Constitutional Foundings in South Asia*.



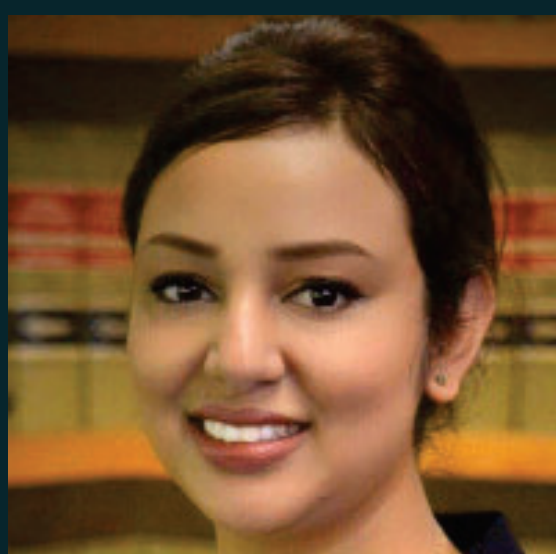
### **ROKEYA CHOWDHURY (NEW ERA IMMIGRATION LAW FIRM)**

Rokeya Chowdhury is a freelance researcher with a keen interest in interdisciplinary legal studies. Currently based in Montreal, Canada, her research primarily revolves around the subjects of identity, law, poetics, and performing arts. In 2021, Rokeya earned her doctoral degree from the Faculty of Law at McGill University. Prior to that, she obtained an LL.M. from the same university in 2013. Rokeya's academic journey began at the Faculty of Law, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh, where she completed her undergraduate and graduate legal studies.



### **ALI RIAZ (ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY)**

Ali Riaz is a Distinguished Professor of political science at Illinois State University, a Nonresident Senior Fellow of Atlantic Council, and the President of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies. He served as a Visiting Researcher at the Varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem) at Sweden (2023) and as a Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars at Washington D.C. (2013). His research interests are democratization, violent extremism, political Islam, South Asian politics and Bangladeshi politics. His recent publications include *Pathways for Autocratization: The Tumultuous Journey of Bangladeshi Politics (2024)*; and *The Charade: Bangladesh's 2024 Election (2024)*.



### **CYNTHIA FARID (THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG)**

Dr Cynthia Farid is an Advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. She is currently a Global Academic Fellow at the University of Hong Kong Law Faculty, and a member of the Global Young Academy in Germany. Having completed her bar from the UK and Bangladesh, she graduated with advanced degrees from Cornell Law School (LL.M) and the University of Wisconsin Law School (SJD-Doctor of Juridical Science). She has extensive experience in research, legal practice, and judicial reform and human rights programming with INGOs, think tanks, and legal rights organizations. Her research interests include constitutional law, legal history, law and development, and knowledge production processes in the Global South. She is also the organizer of two International Research Collaboratives at the Law and Society Association (USA) that focus on South Asian Legal Systems, and Scholactivism in the Global South.