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30th July, 2012.

Deur Mr. Karim.

I have been asked to thank you and the Editor of British Bangladeshi Who's Who for your letter to The Queen about the 2012 edition.

Her Majesty appreciates your kind words and sends her best wishes to both those who feature in, and those involved with, the publication.

> Christopher Sandamas The Chief Clerk to The Queen

Abdul Karim, Esq.







THE PRIME MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

21 August 2012

#### Dear Mr Karim

Thank you for your letters of 20 July inviting us to send messages of support for inclusion in the 2012 edition of the British Bangladeshi Who's Who. Please find below a message for inclusion.

"We are both very pleased to be offering a message of support for inclusion in the 2012 edition of the British Bangladeshi Who's Who.

There is little doubt that Britain today is a far more diverse and tolerant society than it was a generation ago. The many and various communities that make up Britain today energise our businesses and immeasurably enrich our cultural and social life.

The Bangladeshi community has a longstanding and welcome presence in our society, and offers us a wealth of examples of the kind of hard work and charity that lead to real success and lasting achievement.

It therefore gives us great pleasure to send you this greeting message for your publication and to wish you every success in the future."

Thank you for getting in touch.

RT HON DAVID CAMERON MP PRIME MINISTER

RT HON NICK CLEGG MP DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Mr Abdul Karim



#### British Bangladeshi Who's Who 2012

This publication is a fantastic opportunity to remind ourselves of the important contribution people from Bangladeshi communities make to the daily life of Great Britain.

From within my own party I am proud that many people from Bangladeshi origin chose to play an important part in the politics of our country - either as a member of the Labour party, as school governors or standing for election as councillors or MPs.

But this publication also reminds us of those in all fields from business to academia, from law to public services who play their role in making Britain a better place to live.

I pass on my congratulations to all those featured in this year's publication and I am sure there will be many more in the years to come.

> Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP Leader of the Labour Party

Ed Milibur





High Commission for the People's Republic of Bangladesh London, United Kingdom

#### Message from the High Commissioner

I am pleased to know that 'British Bangladeshi Who's Who 2012' directory is going to be published soon for the fifth time. This is no doubt a praiseworthy initiative to give recognition to the members of our community who have excelled in their personal as well as in social life. This publication also provides an opportunity to the new generation of British-Bangladeshis to know more about the hardworking community members who have achieved success in the UK in the areas of politics, business, tourism, Government services, education, art & culture, science and technology.

British-Bangladeshi community occupy an important position in the evolving Bangladesh-UK relations primarily because of the close link with the members of this community maintain with Bangladesh in terms of social family engagement as well as business and environment. People of Bangladesh have always been dignified, hardworking law abiding and peace loving. This vibrant community has been working sincerely not only for personal attainments but also for the development of both UK and Bangladesh. British-Bangladeshi community contributes significantly to the UK and Bangladesh economy. Bangladesh is proud of her expatriates living in the UK and recognizes their contribution for their country of origin. It is heartening to notice that British-Bangladeshi community is gradually integrating with the mainstream British society & culture and playing a vital role in strengthening bilateral relations between Bangladesh and the UK.

I wish all success to the British Bangladeshi Community.

(Dr. M Sayeedur Rahman Khan)



### Foreword from the Editor in Chief

Now it its fifth year, British Bangladeshi Who's Who has gone from strength to strength. Each year the publication with the support of our wonderful community has improved. We have unearthed some real hidden stars that have contributed immensely to society and who we, as British Bangladeshis, are very proud of.

This year we have also decided to change the format of the publication with award winners and new entries featuring in a separate section of the publication. This enables readers to pick up the publication and look at those who have particularly excelled in a given year and those who have not been previously recognised but now highlighted by this publication.

As the Editor in Chief it makes me extremely proud that our community is not only excelling in countless sectors, but we are making a positive contribution to Britain. I hope you enjoy reading the success stories of those who feature in this year's edition as much as I have.

Mohammed Abdul Karim (Goni) 29th September 2012



### Foreword from the Editor

It seems like five years have flown by, and we now find ourselves in a position where the talent and achievements of the British Bangladeshi community is being showcased to Britain through this publication annually.

I firmly believe that this publication has helped aspire many younger members of our community and has been responsible for seeking out some success stories amongst the many thousands of Bangladeshis who are settled here in Britain.

This year promises to be more exciting and there are some individuals who have until now veiled away from the spotlight. This publication is not a platform for individuals to display egocentrism but a medium through which the next generation is to be inspired.

The 5th edition is a thoroughly enjoyable read in my view; I sincerely hope you feel the same way.

Shahadoth Karim Barrister-at-Law 30. IX. 2012

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- Shelim Hussain MBE
- Mrs Shamim Azad
- Enam Ali MBE

- Ahmed Us Samad Chowhury
- Dr. Hasanat M. Husain MBE
- Muquim Ahmed
- Barrister Anis Rahman OBE JP
- Dr Mahfuzur Rahman



# WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2010

- Abdul Gaffar Choudhury
- Miss Rushanara Ali MP
- Sapnara Khatun

- Dr. Wali Tasar Uddin MBE JP DBA FRSA
- Amin Ali
- Sir Fazle Hasan Abed

# WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2011

- Lutfur Rahman
- Dr. Nazia Khanum OBE
- Syed Samadul Haque
- Dr. Muhammad Abdul Bari MBE

- Mr Naufal Zamir
- Muhammed Siraj Ali
- Monir Ahmed
- Al-Haj M Noor Miah

# BRITISH BANGLADESHI WHOS WHOS WANTED 2012

# Award Winners 2012



# **Iqbal Ahmed OBE**

Sector: Business

Iqbal Ahmed was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh in 1956 and came to the UK in 1971. He completed his secondary education at the City College in Westminster, London and joined the family business in Oldham in 1976. Subsequently, his brothers, Kamal and Bilal joined him and the expansion of the business began.

Iqbal is married with three children, two of whom have left university to make their way in the world, one with Seamark, the other a doctor, and the third has begun her degree course at Manchester University.

He pioneered the import of frozen fish and seafood products in refrigerated containers and was the first to import the black tiger shrimp into the UK and EU.

Iqbal Brothers & Company soon became the leading supplier of warm water frozen fish and shrimps in the EU with a national distribution network it retains to this day.

Seamark plc followed in 1991, specializing in the processing and stocking of warm water shrimps, especially the black tiger and the fresh water king prawn. After processing and packing, these were exported to most countries in Europe, as a result of which, Seamark received the coveted Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1998. This was followed in 1999, by the first prize in the prestigious Business in Europe Awards.

In Bangladesh Seamark received a national award and gold medal for Bangladesh (didn't undertand one word he wrote here) ... consecutive years 2001, 2002, 2003, the highest export of seafood.

As a British investor in the third world, with the support and encouragement of DTI, a new, ultra modern factory, costing USD10 million, was constructed in Chittagong, Bangladesh. HRH The Princess Royal was invited to perform the official opening in November 2000, which she did in the presence of many distinguished guests. The Chittagong factory is operating at full capacity and has been expanded, within the existing site areas, producing value added and ready to eat products such as seafood and vegetable somosa's, paratha and vegetables. In addition, two further seafood processing companies have been taken over in Bangladesh and the group now boasts its own fleet of deep sea shrimp trawlers equipped with on board freezing facilities, as well as its own hatchery where high quality shrimp can be farmed for export to the world.

In 2001, we opened our USA sales office in New Jersey and have since acquired a warehouse and a cold store in Brooklyn, New York to distribute our products in North America including Canada.

In 2005, Seamark constructed a factory in Manchester on a 6.25-acre

on a nearby site in East Manchester. A further development to this site involves a large Thai restaurant called Vermilion, which opened in at the end of November 2007. Vermilion features an exceptional décor and the site includes a 200 cover restaurant on its first floor and a bar with a capacity of 300 and a large private function room for over 100 people on its second floor. All three units have bars and kitchens and are capable of handling large and small events, weddings, business conferences.

This complex has provided a new and much larger suite of offices and a cold store (one of the biggest of its kind in Europe with a capacity to store 12,500 tonnes of frozen food) for Seamark's associated business Ibco Limited (formerly Iqbal Brothers) who, in addition to their well established frozen and ambient food trading has opened a new venture from this site, a wholesale cash & carry unit named Restaurant Wholesale, with the aim of providing everything the modern restaurant will require.

Over the years, Iqbal has been appointed to a number of Government committees and Advisory bodies, among which are the Southern Asia Advisory Group under DTI, the Competitiveness Council, BOND (the British Council) and the Manchester Forum. He is the Director of New East Manchester Limited, the partnership company between Manchester City Council, English Partnerships and North West Development Agency charged with the task of the regeneration East Manchester. In 2006 he was invited to become a member of the Ethical Trading Champions' Group, set up under the government's Food industry Sustainability Strategy (FISS). Iqbal represents the interests and concerns of the Frozen Food Manufacturers. The British Frozen Food Federation nominated him for the position on the Champions' Group and they submitted their report and recommendations to the government at the end of March 2007. He is also the Northwest Regional President of the Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce.

In November 2007, he was personally invited by George Osborn; Shadow Chancellor to join his newly formed New Enterprise Council.

He is also involved in many charities in the UK and in Bangladesh, including the development of a secondary school and college (Burunga Iqbal Ahmed High School and College) for 1,200 pupils in Sylhet in Northeast Bangladesh. He is Founder and Vice- Chairman of Masjidul-agsa Islamic Centre.

Hobbies include traveling, watching documentary programmes, going to the cinema, playing golf, tennis and swimming.

Ragib Ali is a leading industrialist, tea-planter, and is also associated with bank, Stock exchange, insurance companies, and many other business houses.

He has endlessly contributed to establish many schools, colleges, masjids, madrashas and medical colleges, and universities throughout the country. Born in 1938 in Bishawanath, Sylhet in Bangladesh, Mr Ali was educated there before moving to the UK in 1956.

Mr Ali, through his hard work and perseverance transformed himself from an ordinary waiter to a leading entrepreneur in the UK. He built up a successful restaurant business, acquired a huge wealth through share market and real estate business.

Mr Ali's foresight, exceptional business acumen and strategic vision, honesty, talents and energy were the key factors for achievement of these wonderful feats. He soon returned to his native country with all his funds to contribute in national development. Mr Ali is the current Chairman of Sylhet Tea Company Ltd and several other tea estates in Sylhet and Chittagong. He is also the Managing Director of Kohinoor Industries Ltd. and TLRA Holdings Ltd (owner of Kohinoor Detergent Factory) and has served as Chairman of South-East Bank Limited.

Mr Ragib Ali has an endless contribution in social development. His endeavour in this field is diverse in promoting education, healthcare, sports, culture, literary works, journalism and communication.

He has contributed towards the development of many schools, colleges, universities and madrashas. One of these is Jalalabad Ragib-Rabeya Medical College and Hospital, which has become an excellent centre for medical education and healthcare in the country. A great philanthropist and a definitive patron of the poor, throughout his life Mr Ali has devoted himself for their well being. His philanthropy extends to every aspect of their lives. He has made many roads, bridges and culverts. In his name there are more than 220 projects, which are directly changing lives of millions.

Mr Ali prefers a simple living and maintains absolute simplicity. He is very polite in his dealings and mixes freely with people of every walk of life. He is happily married to Begum Rebeya Khatun Chowdhury who has been an inspiring force for her husband and also inhibits a big philanthropic personality. The couple are blessed with a son and daughter.



# Ragib Ali

**Sector: Entrepreneur and Philanthropist** 



Lisa Aziz

Sector: Media

Lisa Aziz started her broadcasting career as a trainee radio news journalist and newsreader at radio city in liverpool in the early eighties. From there she joined BBC regional TV in bristol as a journalist, reporter and presenter and was then approached by HTV, bristol to be a main reporter and deputy lead presenter.

Lisa got her big break when headhunted to join tv-am as a senior reporter and was then made main newscaster shortly afterwards. she went on to join sky news where she was a main anchor for 13 years...before being approached again by itv news, to head up all news programming in the west country.

Throughout a trail-blazing 25 year career lisa has also won numerous awards including a tric and a rts and worked for many other organisations including bbc world news, cnbc, financial times tv and dubai tv. she has also run a successful career alongside as a worldwide business corporate host and as a charity campaigner.

Lisa recently returned permanently to London, to work for BBC radio, lbc and classic fm, write for a major sunday newspaper and head up the fundraising department at a global media charity, tve/television for the environment.

# **Amirul Choudhury**

**Sector:** Telecom/Media/Property

Amirul Choudhury is a high-profile entrepreneur with businesses in the telecommunications, property and media sectors.

He is the Managing Director and and a major shareholder of Janomot, the favourite weekly newspaper of the Bangladeshi community in the UK.

Mr Choudhury is also Managing Director of ChyTel, a wholesale distributor of mobile phone handsets based in Tower Hamlets, London.

Founding his telecommunications business in 1994 at the start of the second generation mobile phone revolution, which transformed mobile phones into multi-media devices, ChyTel has grown into a familiar brand among the Bangladeshi community.

Mr Choudhury was among the first generation of Asian businessman to have a mobile phone dealership in the market introducing T-Mobile (previously known as one2one) in the Asian market.

With many ethnic groups previously excluded from the mobile phone market because the large mobile phone companies marketed their goods in English only, Mr Choudhury negotiated deals bringing low cost and easy to understand tariffs and terms to ethnic communities in the UK. By translating the marketing material into a number of languages including Urdu, Hindi, Turkish and Polish, it can be claimed that he introduced mobile phone technology to the hundreds of thousands of people from ethnic minorities in the UK.

Chytel distributes mobile phones throughout UK from its head office in Tower Hamlets and it also offers a walk-in Nokia Care repair service and a retail shop at the premises.

In 1997 Mr Choudhury became a major shareholder of Janomot, the first weekly Bengali newspaper in the UK, and has since made a major contribution to its growth and stability. It is a highly respected newspaper well known for its editorials on social and community issues. It was Mr Choudhury's policy to use these editorials to bridge the gap between communities and help Bangladeshis integrate into the British way of life.

Today Janomot has become the UK's largest circulation Bengali newspaper with a readership in excess of 40,000 a week.

Through his newspaper ownership, Amirul was elected Vice President of the London Bangla Press Club in 2008 and has retained this role ever since. The Club is the umbrella organisation for all Bangladeshi print and electronic media in the UK.

Mr Choudhury also has a portfolio of properties that includes both residential and commercial.

In 2010, Mr Choudhury was appointed as a business adviser to the London 2012 Olympic Games by the executive Mayor of London



Borough of Tower Hamlets. In this prestigious role, Mr Choudhury mentored small- and medium-sized businesses in East London helping to show them how they could benefit from the Olympic Games and build sustainable long-term businesses.

This role was extended past the Olympic Games and Mr Choudhury continues to provide advice and guidance to help local businesses grow and flourish.

As a great believer in corporate social responsibility, Mr Choudhury has been a sponsor and a benefactor of many social, cultural and sport activities across East London, particularly in the Borough of Tower Hamlets, during his business career over the past two decades. To give youngsters access to recreational activities and encouraging them to take up sport, he is a major sponsor of badminton and football clubs in Tower Hamlets.

He was educated at Holloway Secondary School, North London and at Hackney College where he gained a National Diploma in Business and Finance.



# Mr Nur-ur Rahman Khandaker Pasha

**Sector:** Catering

Better known as Pasha Khandaker, is the current President of the Bangladesh Caterers Association. Mr Pasha is the chairman of Reliance West Malling Limited and Principal partner of Ghandi Tandoori restaurant, in West Malling, Kent and Gandhi Tandoori at Rye in East Sussex. Both of them have been established businesses for the last 25 years. His third venture in the restaurant sector is Curry Lounge at Romney, Kent, and is being regarded as one of the best Indian restaurants in Kent.

Pasha Khandaker was born in Sylhet in 1958. He received his school, college and University education in Bangladesh and obtained a diploma in leadership management in the UK after which he pursues a career in the restaurant business. Throughout his academic life he was heavily involved in various

extra curricular activities such as student politics, setting voluntary organizations.

Mr Khandaker served continuously on the previous national executive committees of BCA and became the Senior Vice President in 2003. Then he was Secretary General up to June 2012. Mr Pasha has been a featured participant in

various industry forums. He has served on a number of non-profit organizations, including the Kent police as a social trainer and was active as Senior Executive of Kent Muslim forum. He also worked as a coordinator for South East Human Rights. He is a labour party activist and worked as the CLP secretary of his party.

Throughout his career in the curry industry, he has continually established connections with many high profile policy makers through his participation in the Chamber of Commerce, local council and police and several informal business groups. Currently he is working relentlessly to raise the standard of curry industry as well as those who are related with this creative industry.

Mr Pasha is married to Mrs Dipika Pasha and the couple are blessed with two children, a boy and a girl. They reside in Kent and are actively engaged in the various social welfare activities in their neighbourhood.

In personal life Mr Pasha is very cordial and amiable, He is always engaged to serve the distressed people. He has a wide range of interests including reading, gardening, traveling and updating himself with the latest world affairs.

Zakir Khan was born in Bangladesh and came to England aged 5 with his parents. He grew up in Tower Hamlets, east London, where he became a youth worker and community representative. Since 2000 he has worked for Canary Wharf Group, first as Sports and Community officer and now as Head of Public Affairs. He is also Director & Head of Public Affairs a prestigious TV channel NTV UK, Europe.

In 2010 Zakir was the Conservative PPC for Bethnal Green and Bow, securing an increase in the Conservative vote in this highly marginal and politically charged seat.

Zakir has a deep and wide understanding of Bangladesh, and in particular has experience of helping set up new charitable initiatives on the ground. He has a good relationship with all the political parties in Bangladesh and good links in such fields as sport, media, business, education, manufacturing, and universities.

In the UK Zakir has worked for the public, private and voluntary sectors, and has built up a positive programme of bringing these different sectors together to deliver projects. Zakir has been involved in community work since he was a teenager. In 1990, aged 19, he was the co-founder and Chair of Community Action Group, a campaign group for local young people to help represent their interests to statutory and police authorities and to help reduce tension between communities.

He was also elected Vice Chair for Youth Connections another youth campaign group that was collectively formed by all major youth groups in Tower Hamlets.

Zakir was elected by the community to represent them as a Board Member of the Connecting Communities SRB 5, and Cityside Regeneration in Spitalfields, He is the current Vice Chair of the Osmani Centre User's Forum,

He was a Director of The Adab Trust. This is a new initiative established to increase employment prospects for inner city young black and minority ethnic people and specifically those from Asian and Muslim backgrounds.

He was also an ambassador for Touch The Game project. This is a unique project that collects unused sports equipment from residents in the UK and delivers them to the most deprived countries in the world such as Africa and the Indian sub continent.

In the 2010 General Election he was selected as Conservative Party Parliamentary Candidate for Bethnal Green and Bow in Tower Hamlets, securing a 2% increase in the Conservative vote despite only being selected in late March 2010.

Since formally joining the Party in 2006, Zakir has been actively working to promote the Conservative party within the Bangladeshi UK community. In Jan 2010 he organised a delegation to Bangladesh led by Mark Field MP.

Zakir was successful in arranging meetings for the delegates with the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Ex Prime Minister now Opposition Leader Begum Zia, The British High Commissioner and many other Members of The Bangladeshi Parliament. He is the current Chairman, Conservative Friends of Bangladesh (CFOB) London Region. In 1996 he co-founded Sporting Bengal Football Team and was the manager of the team for four years in his spare time.

In 1997 Zakir spear headed the formation of The Bangladesh Football Association UK As the Chair of the organisation he established a summer football league with just eight teams which now has 46



## Zakir Khan

Sector:

Community Relations

Asian Football League Manager of the Year 1996, 1997, 1998. He has received a Tower Hamlets Sports Council Certificate for outstanding achievements in Sports in 1997. He received a Community Achievement Award from the Mayor of Tower Hamlets in 2004. He has been awarded a Voluntary Achievement Award from the Bangladesh Football Association UK in 2008.

In year 2000, 2001 and 2002 Zakir invited football teams from Bangladesh to visit London. He organised games with West Ham and Chelsea. Mohamadan Sporting Club, Abahani Football Club and Chittagong have benefited from these visits.



# Sufi Miah

Sector: Finance & Real Estate

Sufi Miah is one of the UK's young few and possibly one of the quickest British Bangladeshi who has successfully created a significant property and real estate portfolios. Within a space of 10 years, Sufi moved his home from a deprived part of Camden to a luxury villa with a swimming pool in one of UK's most expensive areas of Cuffley, Hertfordshire. He now owns a choice of luxury vehicles ranging from Aston Martin to Range Rover but Sufi still remembers his humble days when he did not have enough money for a bus

Sufi Miah and his family came to the UK in the early 1980's, he is the third son of Haji Abdur Rahman, and was born in Chandshir Kapon village of Bishwanath in the Sylhet district of Bangladesh.

His early childhood life started from a deprived inner city London borough of Camden, living in a small over-crowded flat in a council block, his parents worked hard to support the family. Sufi attended Sir William Collins School but after seeing his parents struggle to support the family he took on the challenge to improve their situation and to give them a better quality of life.

He would get up very early before school started, so that he could go out and distribute local newspapers. After school he worked at a local confectionary shop until late in the evening. During the weekends he used to work outside in the cold on a market stall in Camden Market, where he would start work at the crack of dawn and finished his shift in the evening. The money that he made he gave it towards his parent's kitty so they do not have to work so hard. Sufi's determination came from his father, a hardworking man who gave up everything for his children and always taught them to strive to become better people.

Sufi described those early teenage years of his life as the defining moment of his life. He says with passion: "I was someone that took challenges in life in my stride. I worked hard, knowing that I had to take responsibility, helping my father to support my family. In those years I learnt the values of hard work, family commitment and dedication that has made me the person I am today".

After finishing school and also gaining experience in various jobs, Sufi realised that to progress he needed mainstream retail experience and understand its operational activities. He took on a job as a Sales Assistant at Clarks. His ability to engage with customers and bubbly nature was very quickly spotted by the management, which helped in elevating him quickly to become the Branch Manager at the company's flagship store in Oxford Street.

It was clear that at a young age Sufi had an entrepreneurial spirit and with his early days of working on the market stalls gave him the street-smart edge that enabled him to spot a deal. Sufi's first business venture was in buying and selling cars, he did that on the side of his full-time job at Clarks. The car sales was making him profit but not enough to make a real difference, as someone for whom Sir Richard Branson was the ultimate role model, that was never going to be enough.

He decided to research and explore the opportunities in the property market. With his father's advice and guidance he embarked on the property ladder and made his first house purchase at the tender age of just 20 years old. That was the catalyst for a successful property portfolio that he has grown from the mid 1990's and that is still growing today.

Aside from property development Sufi is also known in the Bangladeshi community for producing, financing and organising high profile events. He was one of the pioneers in the Bangladeshi community for organising live international mega star studied shows. This was working in partnership to deliver the 'Ekti Shahed Ali Upohaar' cultural show as well as the BIMA (Bangladesh International Media Awards), the first ever live telecast show held in London. This enabled him to hold unique events in prestigious locations such as the London and Wembley Arenas, Royal Festival Hall, and most notably, the iconic Tower of London.

Sufi is also active in various charities, the most prominent one is in a poor village in Bangladesh, Zakigonj where he solely funds the running of a Madrasha. In the near future he intends to develop this Madrasha to help students who wish to complete a Hafiz course. Currently Sufi is in the process of expanding his business and has a number of employees managing his portfolio. Sufi is married to Mrs Shumi Islam, who is also his business partner, and they are blessed with 3 children, Sahil, Isha and Niyaz.

Sufi and his son Sahil are passionate supporters of Arsenal football club and they are both season ticket holders. Sahil is a talented footballer and is currently being professionally coached regularly, he is keen to play professional football. However if he has any of his fathers' dedication, skill and commitment, he already possesses the strong foundations to make this a reality.

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# NEW ENTRIES 2012



Cllr Rajib Ahmed Sector:

"Speaker Councillor Rajib Ahmed has lived in Tower Hamlets (UK) for 33 years. He is a long standing community activist who started out fighting against racism for all sections of the community, and has since worked with a number of local organisations.

**Politics** 

He has been serving as an elected Councillor for the last 14 Years. He got elected 4 times in a row. He has served as the Boroughs Deputy Mayor, Deputy Speaker, and also served on a number of important positions

Councillor Ahmed has many talents: he is a lyricist, composer and singer, and has recorded three music albums one of the albums music is composed by Asia's renowned music director Bappi Lahiri. His songs can be seen on you tube under 'bangla song by Rajib

As well as Asia's renowned Ghozol King Mehdi Hassan he has performed on stage with many renowned artists, as well as performances on many radio and TV programmes.

Cllr Ahmed currently works as a Company Director.

Speaker of Council he is the 1st Citizen of the Borough, The Speaker represents the Queen as First Citizen of the Borough, hosting events and welcoming visitors such as other Royals and the captains of all ships visiting the local docks and as such Cllr Ahmed will promote Tower Hamlets during his Civic Year and raise funds for his chosen charities.

The former Civic Mayor of Tower Hamlets is now known as 'Speaker of Council' and the Speaker is responsible for the ceremonial duties of the council. A new Speaker is elected every year from among the serving councillors in the borough.

It is the Speaker's function to chair council meetings and promote and support the borough through a variety of civic engagements. As an ambassador for the borough, one of the Speaker's main duties is to raise the profile of the Council and to forge links with the private, public and voluntary sector.

The Speaker is committed to serving the people of Tower Hamlets with integrity, striving for prosperity for all.

Cllr Ahmed has made personal donations for number of good causes as well as fundraising, His passions are: helping the needy and vulnerable, singing, gardening, reading books, writing lyrics, Travelling and planting trees. Over the last few years he has planted over 3 thousand trees. His tree planting was shown on ATN Bangla TV which was viewed by Audiences in Bangladesh, America, Canada, Latin America and Europe."



Sheikh Faruque Ahmed Sector:

Philanthropist Sheikh was born in 1958 at (Moulovibari) Audath, Shaharpara, Jagannathpur. Father Late Alhaj Sheikh Abdur Rzzaque, mother Alhaj Begum Lal Banu they Arrived in UK 1974. This Samaritan lives in Essex. His wife Shaheda Chowdhury, sons Sheikh Jalal Bsc (PGCE), Sheikh Jahid BSc (first Bangladeshi professional cricketer in UK) Sports Manager, Sheikh Sayeid BA, Sheikh Fuad student. Daughters Shahina Amin, MA Shuma BSc, Nadia student. All his son's awarded by Channel S & Bangladesh High Commission UK.

He is the founder of Polash Sheba Trust, monthly Polash, quarterly Suniket & one of the founders; Jalalabad Disabled Rehabilitation Centre & Hospital, Osmani International Airport & Sylhet Education Board implementation committee, Sylhet Bibhag Gonodabi Porishad, Shaharpara Jubasangha, Housing Estate Somajkalyan Sangha, SZ Unnayan Sangastha, SAR Jame Mosque, JBB Education Trust, Maldon Jame Mosque, ABA gram development Sangastha, Syed Pur Shaharpara union trust. Apart from being the founders he also served as (First & present) Chairperson, President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Patron, Adviser, Life Member, Publisher, Member of many organisations respectfully, Such as Maldon District Islamic Cultural Association, Sylhet Hotel Owners Association, Abhishek Committee, Rotary Club of Jalabad, Inter City Conference Area3, World Tourism Day, Amberkhana Primary & Audath Budrail Atgar Primary School, Amberkhana Bazer Committee, Bangladesh Itihas Samity, Manabadhikar Sangstha, Probin Hitoshi sangha, Fair Election monitoring Alliance Bangladesh, Sylhet Press club, Bangla Academy, Red crescent society, Muslim shahitya sangsad, Mobile Library, Sylot Academy, Jaytio shikkha Kendra, Save the Environmental movement Bangladesh, Cancer Patient Poor Health fund, Rotary club, Syedpur Adorsha & Jagannathpur Degree college implementation committee, National Vaccination & National Youth Day, Moinuddin Adorsha Mohila College, Chamber of commerce, Sunamganj Samity, Kolom Sainik, IL Academy, Bangladesh Ex Cadet Association, Halima Sadia (RA) & BAA Madrasa, IAG, Tawhidi Parikrama, Gulister Golpo, Sylhet bibhag Bhoigolik Oythiasik Rufrekha, Polash, Sunikat, Fuljuri and many more. Ahmed used to felicitation, honours, awarded, highlighted in Books, Magazine, Newspaper published at home & abroad for his outstanding work and support on social issues.

Such as phf, CIP, Moinuddin Adorsha College, Sylhet Pourosava, world health songsta, National Immunization Day, Sylhet District sports. Rotary club of Jalalabad, Sylhet Juba Unnayan directorate, Itihas Outijo, Sylheter Aro Eksho Ek, Sylhet Bibhager Porichiti, Bhabnar Batayan, Sylhet guide, Jaganathpurer Kotha, Bangladeshi in Europe, Expatriates in Britain, Britane Bangladesshi, Juktaraje sylhetbashi, Bilete Bangladeshi, Bilate Aolokito Bangali etc.

Also socially prominent face who has met with personalities of national and International repute.

Mr Ahmed Ali was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh. He arrived in England in 1976. His father was a major Pakistan arm force Bengal regiment, who fought in Pakistan liberation war. Then he took part in the Bangladesh liberation in 1971. His two uncles were also in the army, and fought against the Pakistani army. One of his brother sacrificed his life in the liberation war in 1971.

Mr Ahmed Ali completed his primary education in Sylhet. He studied in Cumberland High School in East London. Then he began his business and management course. He worked as a restaurant manager in 1982. Afterwards he became an assistant manager Gurners restaurant in 1984 in London W1. At the same time, he was studying finance. He finished his course to become a financial consultant of the summit marketing company. Then after a few years, he went to open up his own restaurant, named Sheiks Indian restaurant in Broadway Worcestershire. He changed his restaurant name from 'Indian cuisine' to 'Bangladeshi cuisine'. He has also had restaurant in other places in England.

Mr Ahmed Ali is a marketing director of Excelsior Sylhet (5 star hotel). Mr Ahmed Ali is a proprietor of Select Autos. He is an executive director of West point school and college. In addition, he is also a marketing executive for Shomoy24.com online daily. Apart from his business career, he is also involved in various community Organisations, in the UK.

Mr Ahmed Ali is always helpful for the Community. He has been involved in many Community Activities. He was a co-coordinator for dine Bangladeshi campaign. He is a very well known person in UK



Ahmed Ali Sector: Business

and Bangladesh. He is a chairman progressive community. He has been involved in many community activities and various charities. He has been helping many poor people in Bangladesh. Also he has been supported many poor knowledgeable students in Bangladesh and contributed to developing school, madrasha and mosques. Mr Ahmed Ali is married to Shopna Begum. They have three daughters (Shanaz, Jamima and Depa Ali) and one son (Nahid Ali). Ahmed Ali enjoys traveling, dining out, politics, community work and sports. Mr Ahmed Ali is a very young and successful, British Bangladeshi.

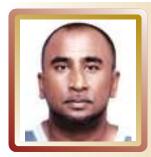
Rakib Ali is the proud founder and Deputy Managing Director of Excelsior five star hotel, which is completion being estimated to be at the end of 2016. Once completed he will be an icon and a beacon to the city of Sylhet. He is also into property investment/development in Bangladesh.

He was born in the district of Sunamgonj in Aktapara village Dargapasa Union, to father Late Md Abdur Rashid and mother Late Chomoktera Bibi, fourth sibling of three brothers and three sisters; he is the youngest of three brothers.

He moved to England in 1975 in the county of Bedfordshire and then in 1979 moved to London. His employment started in the catering industry and ended with General auto services as a senior claims consultant.

He has always been a likeable character of his community and was involved in various voluntary organisations. He had played a key role being a member of the Burdette Estate Board from 2005 to 2009 run by Poplar Harca (Housing and Regeneration Community Association) which is a housing association and soon recognized as an influential individual and was selected to become a member of the Joint Estate Panel (JEP) which comprises of 27 Estates in the poplar area. The task included tackling regeneration, anti social behavior, Youth work/training and many other aspects. He is the founder Chairman of Rupali Youth Forum UK formed in 2007 a charity organisation and patron to many other leading organisations.

He was also the vice chairman of his local mosque namely Burdett Bangladesh Cultural Association (BBCA) and had been part of the



Sector: **Business and Property** 

Rakib Ali

administration for over three years.

He is also the current President of Aktapara Islamia Alim Madrasa (college), which is a renowned institution in his village and has academically excelled beyond expectations this year. Thanks and praise to the handful of people of the village who initially had the vision and started this institute as a Makhtab and also with the tireless efforts of the present Principal Md Moynul Hoque who has been a part of the success of this institute for the past 17 years, which has given the village its due respect and prestige in the P.S, of Dakshin Sunamgonj.

Rakib is married to Shelpy and is a proud father to Nilima (daughter) currently doing her A levels, Mohima (daughter) in secondary education, Iftekhar (son) secondary education and Nadeemah (daughter) in primary education.



Cllr Abdul Asad

Sector: **Politics** 

Councillor Asad has been an elected councillor for 22 consecutive years, which makes him the longest serving councillor of London Borough of Tower Hamlets. He was a European Parliamentary candidate of the Labour List in 2010 Euro election. A GLA Labour list candidate in the first London Mayoral election in 2001and until 2011 he was on the Labour National Parliamentary Panel candidate since 1999.

Between 1976 and 2012 he held positions at Professional level including International Exchange Manager - Prospects Group UK. Emergency Co-ordinator- CAPA (domestic violence & police complaints). Ethnic Minority Research Co-ordinator NHS Community Alcohol Team. Team Leader of LBTH Wapping Neighbourhood Housing Action Team. Housing Investigating Officer, ex-GLC. Youth Worker of ILEA City and East London. As a Youth Worker I was one of the pioneers of bringing three Bangladeshi Racing Boats from Bangladesh in early 80's for the first time in East End of UK. At present he is working as a Database EYS Officer of Bishop Challenor Secondary School.

Between 1990 and 2012 he also held several positions in Public Service including Cabinet Member LBTH Social Services & Health. Cabinet Member (thrice) - TH Education and Youth Services. Mayor of Tower

Hamlets. Chair - LBTH Planning and Development Panel. Chair (twice) -LBTH Wapping neighbourhood Council and at the Trade Union plus charitable level: Member of GMB, Co-op Party and Fabian Society. Chair of TH Socialist Education Association. Director Canary Wharf Further Education Trust. Member of TH College Corporation Board & TH Primary Health Care Trust. Between 1976 and 2012 at the third sector level: Founder Chair of Bengalis Voice for London & Community Job Link East. Member of ex-LDDC Social Accord Board & Shadwell & St. Katharine's Trust, both were funding agencies. Since last three decades he have been an instrumental in developing projects in the field of regeneration, socio-cultural, Health and Education. As a key member of the delegation of Bangladeshis in UK I formally presented evidence to House of Commons - Home Affairs Committee which led to the path breaking three volume document on "Bangladeshis in Britain"(1986).

Cllr Asad was a co-ordinator of Bangladesh Prime Minister Civic Reception which was held in York Hall in late 90's. In 1998 Cllr Asad coordinated a week long Stephen Lawrence Enquiry sessions in York Hall of Tower Hamlets in order to give evidences of Racism. Cllr Abdul Asad worked as part of a collective group of youths representing different geographical segments of Tower Hamlets. This then led to the development of a unified "race body" for Tower Hamlets TH Association for Racial Equality (THARE).

As a senior councillor and a ceremonial Mayor of LBTH he has often acted as an ambassador for the borough and made connections to promote policy for people. In 1996 he took a lead of Bilingual Teachers Recruitment and Retention and as a result a number of colleagues successfully taken up teaching profession in our schools.

He has also demonstrated a commitment to represent all the communities for greater social cohesion that make up the community of the East End of London today. Cllr Asad is currently working with the Bengali Elected Mayor Luthfur Rahman's cabinet.



Suhail Ibne Aziz

Sector: Consultancy/ Public Service.

Mr Suhail Ibne Aziz is Chairman and Managing Director of The Brettonwood Partnership Ltd, an international management consultancy focused on capacity building. The company was established in 1985.

Suhail Aziz is a British trained Bangladeshi with record of achievements in organization, management, economics and community relations whose expertise has been gained in sophisticated multinationals: Unilever, Ford, Mars; he has valuable senior-level experience of British government machinery; also experience of international development agencies such as the World Bank, European Commission, UNDP, DFID, ADB etc involved in development programmes in the third world.

Suhail's commitment to public service is already recognised. He has held numerous public appointments at high level appointed by British Government's Secretaries of State. More recently he was

Chairman of the London Probation Board, National Probation Service for England and Wales; a Board Member of the Probation Boards Association. He has been Chairman of two NHS Trusts in inner city London; a Trustee of the Community Development Foundation (CDF), an NDPB of the Home Office/DCLG; Mr Aziz served as a Director at the Commission for Racial Equality and was a member of the Commission's top management team.

Suhail was trained at the Britannia Royal Naval College Dartmouth and ships of Dartmouth Training Squadron; he was awarded Commission by the British Board of Admiralty, followed by service in Pakistan Navy, where he became 2nd in command of a Minesweeper at the early age of 22.

He has post graduate degrees in Economics from the London University and a Diploma in Management Studies. Professionally he is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute(FCMI); a Fellow of the Institute of Consultancy (FIC), and a Fellow Certified Management Consultant (FCMC).

Suhail Aziz has served on several Ministerial advisory councils led by Cabinet Ministers; set on numerous public bodies and community based organizations including the BBC and Gulbenkian Foundation. He is a Rotarian. He is married with two daughters - the elder Lisa Aziz, a TV personality, and has four grand children.

Mr Suhail Aziz is included in "Who's Who"; "Debrett's Peoples of Today"; "Asian Who's Who".

Cllr Eyusuf Raja Chaudhury is the first British born child of Late Hazi Kasa-ur-Raja Chaudhury who is a descendant of Shah Kalu Phir (360 Awliya).

Eyusuf's family arrived in UK during the 1960's from Chatak and he was born in King Hospital, London in 1971.

Eyusuf's family moved to Corby in 1973 as the first Bengali's to move there. He attended local schools and the local college and gained a good number of GCSE's and a Diploma in Business and Finance.

Cllr Chaudhury married Jumera Begum the youngest sister of the current and well respected Mayor of Sylhet City; Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran and blessed with 4 children.

Eyusuf comes from a politically orientated background and most of his family members are involved in mainstream politics and Eyusuf is no exception following in the same trend with great success. Eyusuf also spent a long vacation living in Sylhet, Bagbhari & became involved in local community activities and politics. Eyusuf was greatly inspired by Late Al-Haj Humaiyun Rashid Choudhury (The Honourable Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament) and the Sylhet City Mayor Badar Uddin Ahmed Kamran. Their kind support has been of great inspiration.

Cllr Chaudhury has undertook a considerable amount of work for the Bagbari Estate which included investment and development of local schools, road works, graveyard and other facilities to benefit the local Community and was able to draw on his western education and knowledge.

Cllr Chaudhury is strongly involved in various community and

Jilani was born in Moulvibazar, Bangladesh and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts. As a student he was proactive in the student movement which was the main driver for political change, removal of the military dictatorship and restoring democracy in Bangladesh. As a Civil Servant in Bangladesh, he was concerned about social inequalities and is proud of his record in challenging the status quo, promoting democracy and free speech. It is this conviction that he brings to the role of Mayor of Islington where he is committed to supporting and promoting a cohesive and fairer Islington for all residents.

Jilani settled in Islington when he arrived in 1992 and quickly set up home. Jilani has always been ambitious for change took on the challenge of learning the language as well as undertaking his second degree, a BSC in Community Sector Management. This was very helpful in building his understanding of communities and led him to the role he now holds in Camden where he runs a well-respected service for older people with an emphasis on the importance of culturally appropriate services.

Jilani quickly became involved in local politics through supporting Jeremy Corbyn MP as a translator and then joined the Labour Party. He became increasingly concerned about the low levels of participation in local elections and with his passion for democracy and representation, he ran a successful campaign to encourage local people to vote and exercise their democratic rights. Jilani first became ward Councillor for Barnsbury in 2006, one of the most diverse wards in Islington and is committed to his constituents and to knowing, understanding and resolving issues.



Cllr Eyusuf Raja Chaudhury Sector: **Politics** 

charity work in the UK and abroad. Cllr Chaudhury enjoys charitable work and feels great satisfaction from assisting others and spends alot of his spare time in worthy causes.

In 2011 Cllr Chaudhury was elected to the local government of Corby Borough Council as the first Labour Councillor winning the seat from the Conservatives and making history in the process (Great Oakley Ward) a predominantly White populated area and he is currently spearheading a multiple-million pounds project in establishing the first Masjid and Madrasa for the Corby Town and he is current Chairman of the Corby Muslim Association.

Cllr Chaudhury wishes to continue with his Political Career and fulfil his political ambitions whilst also working for the community and assisting worthy causes and undertaking charitable work and activities. Cllr Chaudhury is determined that the first Masjid in Corby will be fully up and running this year.



Cllr. Jilani Chowdhury Mayor of Islington

Sector: **Politics** 

Jilani takes up the prestigious position of Mayor of Islington with great pride and feels very privileged to represent Islington as Mayor of this welcoming and creative borough which has a proud tradition of acceptance and tolerance.



**Foysol Hussain Choudhury** Sector: Catering

Foysol Hussain Choudhury MBE from Badardi, Nabigonj, Habigonj Bangladesh. He is the oldest son of Late Al\_Haj Gulam Rabbani Choudhury. He was studding at Edinburgh due to his father illness he took over the family businesses.

Mr Choudhury is one of Edinburgh's youngest established Entrepreneurs. He is heavily involved in the field of race relations and voluntary work. He is always seeking for new goals.

Awarded MBE on New years Honours list 2004 for services to Race Relations. He is one of the Founder Director of Edinburgh Mela Ltd Currently Vice Chair., Chairman of Edinburgh & Lothian Regional Equality Council, Chairman of Bangladesh Samity Edinburgh. President of The Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs in Scotland, Joint General Secretary of Zukta-Razya Nabigonj Education Trust UK, Life Member of Daimuddin Ethemkhana (Orphanage) & Hafizia Madrasha, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Welfare Council Scotland, Youth Secretary of the Commonwealth Society Edinburgh, Organising Secretary of Council of Bangladeshis in Scotland, Organising Secretary of Bangladesh Awami League Scotland.

In 1991 he was the Joint Co-ordinator of the Bangladesh Cyclone Appeal which raised £141,000 in Scotland. In addition he is been responsible for fund raising to help local charity such as St Colombo's hospice, Leukaemia & Cancer appeal, Sick Kids appeal, Heart Foundation, Indian Earthquake Appeal, Tsunami Appeal and many others.

Outside his business and community life Mr Choudhury is a conscientious snooker and badminton player and has won many trophies, one of the greatest fans of Heart of Midlothian FC and Manchester United Football Club.



Md Imran K Chowdhury Sector: Legal (Solicitor)

Md Imran Kabir Chowdhury is the Principal Solicitor of "E1 Solicitors" a practise based in East London.

Mr Chowdhury has worked as civil litigator, Road Traffic Accident and Personal Injury Lawyer at ATM LAW Solicitors, Ilford before starting his own Law Firm.

Mr Chowdhury has obtained his LLB (Hons) & Post Graduation in Law from Staffordshire University, Stoke-on-Trent, England. He also obtained a LLB (Hons) and LLM degree from Rajshahi University Bangladesh,

He has been working for the local community since 2005. From 2006 to 2010 worked in; Skills for life project with Stoke on Trent city Council, Life in the United Kingdom with Staffordshire County Council, Reduce unemployment project with Connexion Stoke. Staffordshire and Active lives project with North Staffordshire Primary Care Trust, Youth fitness project with Community Foundation and a 3 years Supplementary project with Comic Relief UK. He was a lead member of Education in the Strategic Partnership Committee in The Stoke-On-Trent city Council. He was also an elected executive member of the BME (Black, Minority and Ethnic) forum in the Stoke-on-Trent city Council.

Director and Project Co-ordinator CSD LTD (A Charitable Organisation registered in England and Wales) Mr Chowdhury has supported the development of schools, mosques, madrassa's and other charity projects in his parental village in Nilphamari. He is an honourable member of the Solicitor Regulation Authority, England & Wales, UK, Member, Law Society, England & Wales, UK, Member,

The Honourable Society of Middle Temple, London, Member, Bar Council, Bangladesh and Member, District Bar Association. Nilphamari. Bangladesh.

Mr Chowdhury has also worked as a Police Officer for Bangladesh Police under the Ministry of Home Affairs and worked as a Secretary for the Bangladesh High Commission London under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh Government.

An avid cricket fan, Mitu Chowdhury was born on the 6th of October 1964 to mother Anwara Begum Chowdhury and Late father Azizur Rahman Chowdhury.

He originally hails from East subidbazar, Sylhet before coming to UK in the year 1986. He passed his intermediate in 1984 from MC college sylhet. After that he did his degree in Political Science, History and Sociology as subjects from University College Sylhet in 1986.

Thereafter, he came to UK. He graduated from the Canterbury Christ Church University with a degree in Politics. The latent entrepreneur in him surfaced in the year 1992 when he opened a restaurant called the Mughal Dynasty in Kent.

Running a successful business, Mitu Chowdhury is the Joint Chief Treasurer of the BCA and local conservative leader in Maidstone, Kent. Happily married to Shilpa Hussain, he is also the proud father of 2 daughters and a son called Rima, Rafa and Jamil. He is living in Maidstone, Kent with his family. In his leisure time, he enjoys playing any sports, especially cricket.



Mitu Chowdhury Sector: Catering

Sayed Chowdhury Editor of daily SHOMY and Managing Director of Media Mohol Ltd. He is also Managing Director of Excelsior Five Star Hotel & Founder Director of United Airways (BD) Ltd, he is a successful businessman, renowned Journalist, novelist and poet, with literature his passion, and a respected personality in the media world. Sayed Chowdhury is instrumental in publishing some time-demanding and unique directories in the UK. His high-profile products include: UK Bangla Directory (Britain's first one-stop guide to Bangladeshi businesses, published in 2003), UK Asian Restaurant Directory (Britain's first Asian restaurant directory, published in 2007) and Muslim Index (The essential directory for the Muslim World, published in 2010).

: SHOMOY is the mouthpiece of thousands of expatriate Bangladeshis around the world. Edited by Sayed Chowdhury and published by Media Mohol, Established since 2004 (as a magazine) in London, from 2006 SHOMOY is an online daily (www.shomoy24.com). In the past Sayed Chowdhury has been involved with numerous newspapers including Euro Bangla, Sangram, Inqilab and Jalalabad. He also edited several magazines such as Durbar, Sylhet Guide, Shuniket and Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus reception souvenir. Mr Chowdhury has also presented and appeared on Ntv, Bangla TV, Channel S, Atn, Channel I, as well as MCR and Betar Bangla.

Sayed Chowdhury is the Founder Director of United Airways. Along with the Managing Director Capt. Tasbirul Ahmed Chowdhury, he played a key role in motivating expatriate Bangladeshis to get involved with the airline business. United Airways is the first Airlines established by the expatriate Bangladeshis and is successfully operating flights to Jeddah, Dubai, Muscat, Kathmandu, Kuala Lumpur, and Kolkata along with all domestic routes of Bangladesh.

Sayed Chowdhury proud founder and Managing Director of Excelsior Sylhet. Excelsior, a five star international hotel in Sylhet, is a new



Sayed Chowdhury Sector: Media and Entrepreneur

chapter in a fast growing development of Sylhet City. This unique project has been developed to demonstrate individual expressions of modern travel and living. The artistry of our architecture coupled with the comfort and luxury within is designed to become a beacon for the city of Sylhet.

Sayed Chowdhury has received awards from different institutions, organizations and local authorities for his contribution to society and achievement in his career and life. His awards include Mayor Awards of London Borough of Tower Hamlets, NWT Community Award and many more. He is among the few who have been included in the eight edition of the International Directory of Distinguished Leadership by the American Biographical Institute, Inc.

Sayed Chowdhury was born in Noagaon village of Hatkhola Union Parishad under Sylhet Sadar Thana. His father Dr M M Serajul Islam Chowdhury was an eminent social and religious personality in Bangladesh and his mother Begum Kamrunnessa was a social worker. His wife Afia Chowdhury is an accountant. He is a proud father of two sons Imthiaz Chowdhury and Rayyan Chowdhury.



**Enamul Haque (Kiron)** 

Sector: Catering

Enamul Haque was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh. After school at Fort Luton, Kiron attended Mid Kent College, where he studied business and Southampton Business School where he was awarded an honours degree in Business Management. He showed that he had inherited his family's entrepreneurial spirit at the age of 17 when he started to buy and sell cars.

Two years later, he teamed up with his uncle, Chowdrey, to open a curry restaurant in Rainham, Kent, then another in West Sussex but it was when he was 22 that he opened his first solo restaurant, the Shabab Brasserie, in Brighton. His father, Nurul, started Medway's first curry restaurant in 1962.

Kiron is proud to have pioneered a major change in the way restaurants were branded and run. His first business in Chatham led the way so that it soon captured the number one spot in the area with rivals following on behind.

Since then, Kiron has run another fourteen restaurants, culminating in his top ranking Spice Fusion chain in Kent and Dhaka, Bangladesh, where he, and partners, have opened the boutique 5 star British Hotel.

38 year-old Kiron is always looking for ways to popularise and add value to the curry experience. Recently he put on the world's first 'CurryLympics' in which chefs from many other countries who enjoy curry took part in a cook off in which a panel of local prominent people, including the mayor, selected the winners in a blind tasting. Because of this success, Kiron is keen to develop the theme in coming years.

This is not the end of his ambitions: next month (October 2012) Kiron is flying to Sri Lanka where he expects to clinch a deal to open a UK style restaurant in a major luxury hotel in the capital, Colombo. In addition, he is looking at a number of other projects which will help him achieve his ambition of becoming a billionaire.

Kiron is married to Shuma, and they are blessed with two children.



Aliar Hossain

Sector: Academia and business

Aliar Hossain was born in Bangladesh in Narayangani, a district known as the Dandy of the East. He is the youngest son of the late Ali Hossain and comes from a family with a deep commitment to religion, politics and business. His two uncles were Members of Parliament in the 70's and 90's, and his grandfather, the late Al-Haj Muzaffar Ali, is still remembered for his community and religious contributions (i.e. local mosque, charitable dispensary and education institutions). Aliar came to the UK in 2003 and is strongly influenced by a commitment to continuing his family's traditions.

Aliar's mission is to raise public awareness for the importance of doing business ethically and the significance of Sustainable Development in the global village.

To achieve these goals, Aliar has maintained a commitment to furthering his education. With an MA in International Business Administration (Bournemouth University, UK), he has further obtained a Diploma in Sustainable Development (Karlstad University, Sweden), a Certificate in Leadership Development (Institute of Leadership Management, UK) and certificates in PTTLS (University

of Westminster, UK). He is currently undertaking PhD research in Sustainable Development Strategies for developing nations.

This research seeks to underpin professional analysis and authorship already undertaken, with the publications of The Sustainable Development Handbook (AuthorHouse, USA, 2011) and Developing the Ministerial Mindset: A Global View (forthcoming: January 2013). Published papers include Changing Markets: The Future for Higher Education in a Globalised World (LSBM, 2012), Strategic and Pragmatic E-Business (IGI Global, 2012), Impact of Micro Fi

nance (Digibiz, 2009), Information Security and Threats: E-Commerce Banking (both International Conference on Security and Management, USA, 2009).

He is the founder and director of Regents Consulting Services Ltd, which works to enable corporate social responsibility and sustainable development through consultation and improved management strategies, involving corporate and executive training and visits to business schools in the UK and abroad. Aliar also holds the position of Partnership Lecturer at both the University of Newport and the London School of Business and Management, as well as Managing Partner at OPAL Institute of Dhaka. Aliar funds and manages Seed of Possibilities, a social and economic development not-for-profit organisation providing grants and consultation for poor people in Bangladesh, improving their living standards with sustainable business ideas, funding and long-term professional support.

Aliar is a member of the international think tank society Chatham House, the Institute of Business Consulting, the European Association for International Business and Regents Business Forum.

Dr Mozammel Huq is a development economist of international repute. He is a graduate of the University of Rajshahi (BA Hons and MA) and of the University of Glasgow (MLitt and PhD). His career includes extensive teaching and research on Third World development. Currently based at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow, he has taught in a number of academic institutions in Bangladesh, the UK, Ghana and Nigeria. Currently, he is also a Visiting Professor at Uttar Bangla University College (Bangladesh National University). A major focus of his research work is on economic development and industrialisation, and his published works include The Economy of Ghana (Macmillan, 1989), Strategies for Industrialisation: The Case of Bangladesh (UPL, 2000) and Development Economics (Mc-Graw-Hill, 2009).

He has also contributed extensively to community development, having served as the President of Bangladesh Association, Scotland and Chairman of Scottish Asian Action Committee, He is also the founder of The Bangla Centre (Centre for Bengali Culture and Education) established in mid-1980s; and the Bengali Performing Arts (established in 1990), both based in Glasgow. In recent years, he has been heavily involved with charity work in Bangladesh.

He is currently the Chairman of Charity Education International (a registered charity based in Scotland) which has been actively promoting, among others, the educational development in a povertystricken locality of northern Bangladesh (at Kakina, Lalmonirhat). He is the founder of Uttar Bangla University College which is now teaching, among other courses, Honours in seven subjects; it has emerged as the best College in Lalmonirhat district.

Anwar Hussain was born in 1967 in the Sunamgonj District. The current name of his Upazilla is South Sunamgonj (formerly known as Sunamgonj Sadar) He passed his S.S. C examination from Joykolosh Ujanigaon Rashidia High School and the H.S.C from Sylhet M.C. Intermediate College (currently known as Sylhet Government College). He then completed both his B.S.S (Hons) and M.S.S in International Relations at Dhaka University. Just after his completion of the M.S.S qualification he left Bangladesh to take up residence in London. He then completed his DHE in Law at Wolverhampton University and LL.B (Hons) at London Metropolitan University. On completion of the BVC from the City University (formerly ICSL) he was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn and is now a Barrister-at-Law (Non-practising).

During his student life at the Dhaka University he was an active political student leader. He was the president of Dhaka University S.M. Hall branch of a student organisation during the 1990s, while there was a student movement against the then President Ershad. Subsequently, he became the Finance Affairs Secretary of the Central Committee of that student organisation. He was the founder member and leading organiser of the Convening Committee of the Sunamgonj Student Welfare Somitee in Dhaka.

On arrival in the UK, Mr Hussain did not abandon his career aspiration of politics and education. He joined the Liberal Democrats party and became the Vice-Chairperson of the London Borough of Newham. He also stood as the Mayoral candidate for the London Borough of Newham in 2006 as the Liberal Democrats' nominee. He was the founder president of both Bangladesh Nationalist Lawyers Forum, UK Branch and the Bangladesh Nationalist Legal Aid Committee, UK Branch.



Dr Mozammel Huq

Sector: Academia

He has also been closely associated with a number of other charity activities which have helped in the construction, for example, of two Cyclone Shelters-cum-High Schools in Maheshkhali Island (one at Maheshkhali and the other at Dhalghata) - both completed in the mid-1990s; and One Cyclone-shelter-cum-High School in Borguna district (Garjanbunia High School) - expect to be completed soon. For his various contributions, in 2010 he received the Channel-S Best British Bangladeshi Community in Scotland Award.

He also played an important role during the Liberation War of Bangladesh, helping to establish the Bangladesh Action Committee Scotland (formed on 27 March, 1971). He also helped to establish the Glasgow Bangladesh Students Union (established in early 1972) and served as its founder President.



**Anwar Hussain** 

Sector: Education & Law

He is the first person within the Bangladeshi community to have launched an Independent college of Further and Higher Education in the UK and he is now the Chief Executive of Whitechapel College. He is now a member of both the Green Peace and Amnesty International. He once was a Member on the Board of Trustees of the Citizens Advice Bureau of two London Borough Councils, Newham and Tower Hamlets.

Mr Hussain is married with four daughters and lives in Gants Hill, Essex (Greater London). His first daughter is reading for the LL.B (Hons) at Westminster University to qualify as a Barrister and the second daughter is a GCSE A level student who is training at a flying school to become the first and youngest Bangladeshi female pilot. The other daughters are secondary school students.



Dara Islam Sector: Legal (Barrister)

Dara Islam is a Criminal Barrister practicing from 18 Red Lion Court, Chambers of Max Hill QC. He practices all areas of criminal law, with particular experience of dealing with violent, dishonest and serious drug offences; and regularly represents members of the Bangladeshi community. 18 Red Lion Court is one of the largest and most distinguished sets in the country, specialising in crime and regulatory law, representing both prosecution and defence. Chambers members include over 20 Queen's Counsel, Crown Court Recorders and Judges, Revenue and Customs Prosecution Office Standing Counsel, and Treasury Counsel. Dara Islam is a Grade 2 CPS Prosecuting Advocate; he was instructed by the Department of Health (MHRA) as a junior in Europe's largest counterfeit medicines conspiracy. He has completed a 12 month secondment to the UK Border Agency, Organised Crime Division, dealing with the importation of drugs and firearms through the British ports. He is fully trained and qualified to take instructions directly from members of the public under the Bar Council approved Public Access scheme, and accepts criminal and civil law cases.

Dara Islam was born in Bangladesh in village Kunagram, Beani Bazar, Sylhet. He grew up in Stepney Green in Tower Hamlets, completing his secondary education at Stepney Green School and higher education at Tower Hamlets

College. He is a second generation British Bangladeshi and speaks fluent Sylheti. He went on to study Law (LL.B (Hons)) at London South Bank University and then a Masters (LL.M) at University College London in International Law. He completed the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law. He was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple. Dara Islam joined Chambers following successful completion of 12 months' pupillage at 18 Red Lion Court and remains a tenant. He worked as a Consultant for the Justice component of the British Council Security Justice and Growth Programme in Nigeria. He created an online legal research and basic IT course, and during his two visits, trained 80 lecturers at the Nigerian Law School across its four campuses in Abuja, Kano, Enugu and Lagos. The project helped secure US\$500,000 for ongoing training from the World Bank. He spent two months in the Philippines on a capital punishment internship.

Based at the Institute of Human Rights at the University of Philippines, he worked closely with local Attorneys and NGOs on appeals for prisoners on death row. He also worked on various research projects including a comparative study of ways to prove minority in capital cases. He has also previously attended advocacy training with the Jamaican Bar Association and Gray's Inn, in Kingston, Jamaica. He continues to work with the Bar Human Rights Committee for England and Wales.

Dara Islam's published work includes "The Education of a Pupil" in The Circuiteer magazine and "Causing Death by Dangerous Driving" in the Road Traffic Encyclopaedia Updater. Dara Islam has devoted a lot of his time to community based projects working with a socioeconomically and ethnically diverse population. Dara Islam was the Regional Coordinator for the Citizenship Foundation Mock Trial Competition, and a volunteer with the Criminal Justice Board. He was a founding member of the School Link Project, and the Graduate's Forum. Dara Islam ran the Flora London Marathon and raised over £2,000 for Barnardos. He is currently a mentor with Shaati mentoring and works closely with the Osmani Trust. He holds a PADI Open Water license and is a keen diver. He also enjoys cooking and gardening and is a member of the Royal Horticultural Society.



Naz Islam Sector: Catering

Naz Islam is a British Bangladeshi and one of Northampton's most successful young and established restaurateurs. Naz is a well respected businessman and an influential character within the local economy and

Naz hails from the well respected Osmani Nagor area of Sylhet Bangladesh. He is the son of late Haji Aftab Ali and Koytun Bibi and is married to Halima Islam and they are blessed with to sons Mukit and Nahim Islam.

Naz undertook studies in the disciplines of Business Management and Politics and attended the renowned Northampton School for Boys where he gained invaluable knowledge and skills which have assisted his career thus far.

Naz was keen to commence a career and gain transferable skills and gained his first job by making speculative telephone calls to companies listed in the yellow pages and commenced his career by working weekends at a recruitment firm.

Naz found he had an inner passion, love and drive for good quality food and this led to him setting up his first catering business in 1997 at the

very young age of 20.

Naz currently owns and operates a number of high profile, successful and award winning business's. Over the years Naz has won many business and personal awards. He was awarded businessman of the year for the Midlands region in 2009 in recognition of his achievements and continued success.

Naz actively supports and sponsors several charities in the U.K and aboard including providing Finacial and practical assistance to the running of Madinatul Ulum Islamia Madrasha in his home village in Bangladesh which he established in 2003, together with his brother. The Madrasha has over two hundred students and is continually growing.

It doesn't end there he donates very generously to various charities including the new masjid in Corby Town in honour of which he has been granted a life long membership and is also a key funder of the running of the Stimpson Avenue Masjid in Northampton Town.

Most recently Naz was involved with BRAC Vision Bangladesh to help eradicate cataracts blindness in Sylhet by 2013. He strongly believes it can be done if we all work together.

Naz is a political activist and supports the Conservative party. He has stood in the previous local Borough election and gained invaluable experience and confidence and hopes to make further strides in politics. Naz's interest include travelling, reading, world media, motoring and playing and watching football. He is a life long Manchester United fan and he regularly attends their matches both at home and away.

Naz does not know what the future holds, but he certainly does not have any plans to retire or to scale back. He is enjoying life and financial success wishes to continue his charitable work and do his best to help others succeed and to be of assistance to others.

Nurul Islam is an experienced Management Consultant and a Founder and Director of Rock Asset Management in Bangladesh and previously was Head of Consulting at Airwave Solutions. Nurul also advises on Islamic finance for Oxford Said Business School and the Financial Services Authorities (FSA) in the UK.

Previously Nurul was a Partner for the Global Financial Services Practice with Gallup Organization which is a major international consultancy company based in London. Nurul has significant knowledge of senior management and advisory experience and leadership skills developed through managing and leading teams and projects in various international locations and in multi-cultural environments.

Nurul has been a advisor to many of the FTSE 100 senior executives in multinational companies and governments and has in-depth capability in devising strategy, mergers & acquisitions, regulatory compliances, due diligence and business developments. Nurul is a trusted advisor to several of the world's largest companies such as British Petroleum, Standard Chartered Bank, Morgan Stanley, British Telecom & GlaxoSmithKline.

Nurul has a BA (Hons) in Business Administration from University of Westminster, MSc in Business Systems Analysis and Design from City University, and an MBA from Imperial College Management School.



Finance/ Asset Management

BA (Hons), MSc, MBA

**Nurul Islam** 

Nurul Karim was born in Company Gonj in Noakhali, Bangladesh. He is the son of Amin Ullah and Hazarah Khatun. He is married to Ummay Habiba Karim, she is a Regional Bank Manager. He came to England in 1990 for higher education. He passed his SSC examination in 1982 from Bashur Hat High School and HSC examination in 1984 from Feni Government College. He obtained the degree of Bachelor of Commerce with honours in Management from Dhaka University in 1987. He also obtained a Diploma in Journalism from Birmingham TEC in 1996 and completed his MBA in 2005 and DBA in 2006 from Rushmore University.

Alongside his study he also worked in a restaurant as a Manager. After completing his diploma in journalism, he joined a travel agency as a Sales Manager, he worked there for nearly 2 years and then he had an opportunity to work for Birmingham Cable Communications, Telewest and Virgin Media. During his 16 years service with those companies, he worked in various positions. He started as a Sales Advisor and was promoted to the position of Sales Executive, Senior Sales Executive and Sales Territory Management. Currenty he is working at Virgin Media as a Senior Consultant.

During his 16 years employment with those companies, he was rewarded many times. He has won Sales Advisor of the month award in the Birmingham Region over 50 times, Top Sales Executive of the Year Award in the UK, 10 times and Top Territory Management Award in the UK, 12 times.

Nurul Karim is a person who has devoted his entire life for mankind, he is the Founder President of Islam Karim Foundation. The primary objective of the Foundation is to enlighten the rural villagers of the importance of education and reduce poverty by giving financial support to poor and meritorious students for their higher education. Every year 200 students receive a scholarship from the Foundation



**Nurul Karim** Sector: Media/Community Relations

for studying in Bangladesh and 10 students receive a scholarship for studying abroad. Over 2000 students have completed their higher education from different universities in Bangladesh and all over the world including England, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore and the USA. All of the expenses for the Foundation are funded by Nurul Karim. He is also the founder of Ummay Habiba Library, Maulana Muzzafer School and Madrasa, Hazarah Khatun Orphanage, Islam Karim Sporting Club and Amin Ullah Computer Training Institute in Noakhali, Bangladesh.

Nurul Karim's vision and dream to reduce the poverty have become reality by providing shelter for the homeless and helping them to become self reliant, including giving financial assistance to those who wish to work abroad or start their own farming project. He is also the main donor to over 30 institutes in Bangladesh mainly in Greater Noakhali.

His last goals are to build a hospital and university in his birthplace in Company Gonj in Noakhali. He has already allocated some land for this project.



Sheikh Mohammed Abdul Khalique

Sector: Catering

Sheikh Mohammed Abdul Khalique was born in 1951 at Shahrpara Aoudat (MoulobiBari) into the Sheikh family who are highly respected and well known in Bangladesh.

Mr Khalique is the eldest sibling amongst his 5 brothers and 2 sisters. His father; late Alhaj Sheikh Abdur Razzak and his mother, Alhaj Sheikh Lal Banu, raised their children in Jagannathpur, Sunamgonj.

Sheikh Abdul Khalique studied at the village school; he was very clever and always aimed for top grades. His secondary education took place at; Mongal Chandee Nishikanta High School, Tajpur, Balagonj. He had aspirations that he wanted to achieve for his family and wanted to make life better for them.

He has worked extremely hard to turn his dreams in to reality, and with everyone's blessings he is, today content.

At the age of sixteen he came to the UK to join his father in 1967. As mentioned previously sheikh khalique wanted to make life easier for his family, therefore he started working from a very young age to help his father.

Mr Khalique was fortunate to open his first business in 1979 in Shoeburyness, Essex "The Polash" restaurant, which proved to be a huge success, so therefore his family and he decided to open a second restaurant under the same name but in Burnham-On-Crouch and a hotel; "Hotel Polash" in Syhlet Bangladesh.

Mr Khalique has strong beliefs in wanting to help the less fortunate; he understands that it is the duty of any human being, who is able to, give in charity as often as they can. He is part of many different charitable organisations as well as participating in various volun-

To add to all his work, he has also helped to build; Masjids, Schools, Madrasha and supported the poor and elderly in Bangladesh as well

Mr Khalique has; extremely strong family values, from a very young age he has always thought about his family, and fortunately his family have picked up on this very same value. His wife; Syeda Khalique and he have raised their seven children to grow up and also believe, that they are, too capable of achieving all their dreams.



**Ayub Khan** 

Sector: Health & Social Care

Ayub Khan is the Managing Director of Careworld London Ltd as well as Careworld Community Hub. He acquired the Registered Manager Award in 2004 from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to confirm his professional fractioned status in the health and social care sector.

Careworld London is a domiciliary care agency that primarily works with disabled people of Bangladeshi / Asian origin. The agency provides a range of services and caters for all degrees of disability and difficulty, such as adults and children with learning disabilities and physical disabilities, as well as provides help to the elderly, visually impaired and other members of society who are facing difficulties. Careworld Community Hub is a BME / SME Day Opportunities Resource Centre providing high quality daytime opportunities for adults between 18 and 65 with learning and/or physical disability, which offers easy access to local services. The focus of the service is to support

Mr Khan has a significant track record in the health and social care sector. He started work for Mooncare in 2004 as a Finance officer

people to maximise their independence within the local community

and eventually led the company as the Registered Manager. As well as being a member of the board of Trustee of Bangladeshi Parents and Carers Association (BPCA) between 2005 to 2009, he also worked as a volunteer for the organisation too.

He has a strong belief for empowering and supporting people on the margins of society. He says: "to empower the wider community, we need to first help those individuals that need support first. Therefore, we need to first, deal with marginalisation at the individual level so that we can address an individual's exclusion from meaningful participation in society. This is what the brand of Careworld is about. This is what I am about".

Mr Khan completed his MA in Business Management from Dhaka University before he first arrived in the UK in 1992 for higher studies. In the field of accountancy, he is AAT qualified as well being ACCA part qualified. He has also completed Post Graduation in Purchasing and Logistics from (then) University of North London and is also an MBA major in Management from Metropolitan University, London.

Mr Khan is extremely cordial and amiable; supporting those in need. He has a wide range of interests including sports, gardening, travelling, and updating him self with the latest news on world affairs.

Mr Khan is married and blessed with two children Ahnaf Akif-E-Raonaq and Zareen Nawar and lives with his family in Gants hill, Redbridge, Essex.

by using a person centred approach.

Charles was born in London and brought up in Libya. He obtained a scholarship to Dulwich College and then went on to do an economics and international law degree at the London School of Economics.

Back in Bangladesh, Charles' father, a mathematics and physics lecturer comes from Commilla and his mother, a notable poet, comes form Pabna. Both his parents came to London in 1966.

Charles qualified at the Bar in 1993, being the first in his family to become a Barrister. He is now the Head of Chambers at Temple Court Chambers - a young set he set up in order to promote women and young members of the Bar.

Charles specialises in Employment, Immigration and Commercial law. His aim has been throughout however, not to forge a career at the Bar, but to create a dynamic barristers chambers. After only 7 years, Charles can boast having the only barristers chambers in England and Wales with the largest number of international annexes. His aim - to create the largest international barristers chambers in the world.

Aside from the law Charles' main interest is in politics. In 1995 he became the youngest British Bangladeshi Labour Party Parliamentary candidate, with no history in politics (not even as a Councillor) at the age of 27. He stood in the seat of Christchurch in 1997, tasked with saving the party its deposit, which he managed successfully.

In 1997 he was part of only a handful of ethnic minority candidates



Charles Madani Fuad Mannan Sector: Law/Politics

standing at the parliamentary elections. In 2005, Charles stood again as a Parliamentary Candidate for the Labour Party, this time in

Tewkesbury. Currently Charles is looking to get himself selected in a safe Labour seat for the next General Election in 2015. He continues to work and strive hard to fulfil a lifelong ambition and remains confident that next time he will achieve his goal.

Alhaj Kazi Saad Meah was born at the Bethnal Green Hospital, London, and raised also in Bethnal Green by parents Abeda Khatun and the late Kazi Shahnoor Meah. He is one of six siblings and is father to daughters' Maisha and Shahirah Jahan, aged 17 and 15 years respectively. He attended a local comprehensive and left school at age 15 years with a string of CSE's and GSCE's. He gained a wealth of life experience between the ages of 15 and 19 years, whilst working in both the private and public sector in various roles before commencing his legal career and extensive involvement in the field of human rights.

He started his legal career at the Immigration Advisory Service's (IAS) predecessor organisation UKIAS in February 1991, which lead to part-time law studies at London Southbank University and subsequently a Masters in Law, with distinction, from the University of East London specialising in International Human Rights Law. He has also successfully completed numerous qualifications in Senior, Strategic and Charity management and has also lectured undergraduates at university and trained, mentored and line managed many young lawyers in immigration, nationality, asylum and human rights law, many of whom have themselves gone on to establish distinguished careers in the field of immigration and human rights. He also served successfully as an Independent Custody Visitor for the London Borough of Newham between 1996 and 2002, representing the interests of detainees held in police custody under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

He was at the IAS' Central London Office until 2000, successfully fulfilling roles as Counsellor, Team Leader, Supervisor and Senior Manager, during a period which he represented clients at the Immigration & Asylum Tribunal at Thanet House and latterly at the now Immigration & Asylum Chamber (IAC) at Taylor House. He has also represented many detainees at Immigration Detention Centres at Campsfield House, Tinsley House and HMP Haslar, as well running legal surgeries at HMP Rochester, during his years at the IAS. He was also overall responsible for setting up the IAS' Sylhet Offices in Bangladesh involving extensive liaison and partnership working with the British High Commission in Dhaka in 2000.

Saad Meah became part of the IAS' Senior Management Executive Team in 2001 when he moved to IAS' major operations based at the Oakington Detention Centre. Here he took up post as the permanent Area Manager with responsibility for over 100 staff members. He gained universal respect for his knowledge and



Mr Saad Meah Sector: Legal-Judiciary

mastery of a number of complicated strategic pilots introduced by the government, as well as an in depth understanding of the 'Fast-Track' processes operating throughout the government's detention estate. He was comprehensively involved in influencing and shaping government policy on immigration detention, legal practice and policy as a senior stakeholder representing the interests of vulnerable detainees being processed through the government's 'One Stop' and 'Fast-Track' policies whilst held in immigration detention.

He ran IAS' operations at Oakington until 2008 when he took voluntary redundancy to focus on his career as a Judge at the former Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT). He was appointed as an Immigration Judge in 2006, and sat regularly at the AIT in Sheldon and Walsall, Birmingham, whilst continuing to head up operations at Oakington. He moved to the IAC at Taylor House in September 2010, where he currently continues to sit as a Judge deciding appeals from those subject to immigration control.

Saad Meah is an avid supporter and an advocate of the state/comprehensive schooling system as well as an active promoter and believer in work related apprenticeships and life experience based vocations over entrenched reliance on academic qualifications. He is a firm believer in supporting community based initiatives and resources. He also actively supports a variety of charities including Islamic Relief, The Terrence Higgins Trust, Shelter, OXFAM, NSPCC and UNICEF.



Sector: Automotive business

**Miah Brothers** 

It is always difficult to break away from the mould and start something new. The Bangladeshi community has historically been known for excelling in certain areas of business. However, now two brothers Harun Miah and Azad Miah have started making their name in the automotive parts industry. The Miah brothers are of the view that having a business related to car parts is breaking the stereotype from the ventures that most Bangladeshi's traditionally get involved in.

Harun Miah and Azad Miah, are the brains behind Smartcarz Europe LTD and co-owners. They initially took over the business in 2006 and have successfully helped the venture grown massively in the relatively short time they have been involved. Both are young and enthusiastic with good business heads which has been instrumental in the expansion of this business in what is a relatively niche area of business for British Bangladeshis.

Soon after taking over the company brothers made a deal with TMD Friction the world largest O.E. brake friction manufacturer, and followed with various other O.E. supplier and importing from Germany & Japan directly from the main source that gave there company edge in the industry.

Smartcarz deals with distribution of aftermarket OEM car parts and accessories which are generally supplied to some of the dealership franchise like Citroen city, Peugeot, Vauxhall, and kwik fit, AA, and local garages in east London & car part & accessories shop though out south east England. Having found success in their first venture, they have branched out to open Kaif Motors in 2007 with bother in-law Kobir uddin and SC lubricant recently, which sells own brand engine oil and similar products nation wide. The brothers have continued in their endeavors in this area of trade and success has been following them closely.

Tracing their roots back to Osmani Nogor, Sylhet, the brothers were born in Mile End London. Born to Rongful Bibi and Shujon Miah, they are two brothers and one sister.

The Miah brothers completed their GCSE from the local school, Stepney Green, East London and their A levels from Tower Hamlets College. Harun Miah, 34 is the secretary of Ocean business Association (OBA). He along with Azad, 30, have three other shops which are next to each other which they run together in stepney.

The Miah brothers are generally pressed for time with their various businesses and organisations they are involved with, however, when they get time, Harun loves to indulge in adventure & extreme sports like paragliding, bungee jumping & traveling. Azad is also has various pastimes which he indulges in during his spare time.



M A Munim

Catering and community relations

Mohammed Abdul Munim was born in 1958 in Kulaura Upozila in the District of Moulvibazar, the son of Alhaj Abdul Bari, a renowned contractor and businessman.

During his college life he served twice as a President of Chatra League in Sylhet Government College(MC) and twice elected general secretary of Bangladesh Chatra League Sylhet District Branch. In 1977-1981 he played a leading role in the establishment of the Sylhet Division and a university in Sylhet.

Early in 1982, Abdul Munim went to Saudi Arabia where he established successful businesses both in Jeddah and Makkah, before moving to England in 1989. In 1991 he started his own halal takeaway business called "Sonali Tandoori" in Grove Park, South-East London, and in 1995 launched a successful and extensive property business.

In 1999, Mr Munim was elected as President of the Bangladesh Caterers Association's South East Region. From 2004-2006 he served as Senior Vice-President of the BCA central committee, and since 2007 has held the role of Organising Secretary of the BCA. Mr

Munim also has the responsibility as convenor of the Awards Committee and was the convenor of the 2011 Annual Dinner and Awards ceremony. He has been recently elected Secretary General of BCA.

A keen servant to the needy, Mr Munim and his family have sought to contribute towards the development of his homeland, helping to establish Masjids, Madrasas, schools and orphanages in Kulaura, and support social welfare institutions providing various forms of assistance to the poor and needy in the locality.

Mr. Munim is a trustee founder of Kulaura Yakub Tazul Womans College. Since its establishment, his younger brother Mr. M A Rouf has been serving as a principal of the college. To meet the immense demands, Mr Munim and his brother found and established a very successful and highly praised kindergarten school in Kulaura.

Mr Munim is socially active in his local community, playing a leading role in establishing a Masjid in Crayford, and is currently serving as Secretary of the North West Kent Muslim Association. He is also the founder chairman of Bangla Supplementary School in Greenwich and the Greenwich Welfare Association. Since 2000 he has been acting as a Director of the Consortium of Bengali Associations (CBA). He is also the current secretary of Sylhet Bivag Unnayan Parishad. Mr Munim has been an active member of the Labour Party since 1995.

Amongst his friends and colleagues, he is regarded to possess a softly spoken, mild-natured and honourable strong-willed personality with enviable organising capacity.

Mahbub Murshed, a Certified Practising Accountant, was born in 1962 in Tangail, Bangladesh. Having acquired a government scholarship from Bangladesh in 1982, he went to Bulgaria to study Computer Engineering at Technical University of Varna.

It was from here that he would graft his way to create one of the largest accountancy firms in East London. Upon arrival in Britain in 1987 it became evident that a qualification from a former communist country was not going to be easy for him to acquire a job in his field. With this in mind he made the brave decision of starting from the scratch and changing his career path to accountancy. It was late Mr Mir Shamsuz Zoha, a prominent Bengali accountant of East London, who inspired Mr Mahbub to follow his footsteps. Mr Mahbub used to work for one of Mr Zoha's client and the turning point of his life was when he went to Mr Zoha's office to collect his P45 (A Job Leaving Certificate). With the help of this accountant, he alongside his studies first started to work for Ali Brothers of Fashion Street and later on joined M S Zoha & Co as an Accountant. Instead of using conventional method of manual book keeping and accounting, he became the pioneer among British Bangladeshis by using his computer programming skill to write his own accounting software. A lot of accountancy firms, especially in East London are still using his programs.

After being in the shadow of Mr Zoha for nearly 10 years and gaining the invaluable work experience and academic qualification he needed, finally Mr Mahbub decided to set up his own accountancy firm, Mahbub & Co in 2001 in Brady Street, London E1 with his younger brother, Shah Arif. As a newly erected business, the stakes were high. Starting off with just one employee and a handful of small clients, it was a huge risk for anyone to start with such a fragile busi-



Mahbub Murshed Sector:

Accounting

ness in a competitive market. But through hard work, dedication, multi-lingual skills and sincerity, Mr Mahbub was able to expand his business and now his office has been relocated to 112-116 Whitechapel Road since 2006 with a team of 12 competent members. His client base now consists of both local businesses such as Rahim Brothers, AB Bank UK, Unicorn Group, Food Supplies and so on, as well as nationally and internationally based businesses. His honest, professional and friendly approach towards his clients has given him a name, "The Accountant with a smile".

As well as growing his business Mr Mahbub has supported many of the youths with work experience and career development. Currently Mahbub & Co is holding the ACCA gold status as an employer, awarded only to the firms which provide high-quality work experience in accountancy.

He is married to Nilufa Murshed, daughter of a pioneer Sylheti businessman of 1960s, Mr Mosahid Ali. Their son, Nayeem, is currently doing his graduation in Biochemistry at Imperial College of London and daughter, Nimah, is a GCSE student.

Miss Qureshi, known as Ruby, originates from Sunamganj district in Bangladesh. Her late father, Advocate Shah Abdul Malik Qureshi was a renowned lawyer, politician and a freedom fighter in Bangladesh with a successful career span of 30 years until his sudden death in year 2000. Her father played a key role in her decision to pursue a career at the Bar. She completed her primary education in Bangladesh and arrived in the UK at the age of 12. She continued with her further studies in UK and currently holds LLB (Hons) and LLM in Criminal Litigation, Sentencing and Human Rights. She embarked upon on a life at the bar to fulfil her late father's dream.

Dilruba was called to the bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 2002. She started her pupilage with Mitre Court Chambers which specialised in Landlord and tenant and bankruptcy matters. Thereafter commenced tenancy with Mitre Court Chambers dealing with Criminal defence, Immigration and civil litigation.

She joined Temple Court Chambers in 2008 December and continued to practice in the field of Immigration, Employment, Family law and Civil litigation. At present she is the deputy head of Temple Court chambers and also chair of the management committee. She is further responsible for managing and establishing international annexes for Temple Court Chambers.

Miss Qureshi stems from a family of high achievers. Her eldest sister, Israth Qureshi is a clinical scientist and at present resides in Aberdeen with her husband and two children. Two of her siblings have also followed her father's footsteps and at present practising as a qualified solicitor and in-house legal complaints officer and others



Dilruba Qureshi Sector: Legal (Barrister)

are successfully engaged in different sectors. Miss Qureshi along with her family members are deeply proud of their Bangladeshi identity and being able to make a contribution to the society and their community through their services.



**Muhibur Rahman** 

Sector:

Business and Community affairs

Community leader Muhibur Rehman Muhib was born in 1969 in Beani Bazar Upzilla, Mathiura Union, Purushpal village. His father is late Aalhaj Arab Ali and mother late Hashira Begum.

After clearing his Standard 10 in Bangladesh, he came to Britain in the 1972. After coming to this country Mr Rahman enrolled in one of the secondary schools in Tower Hamlets where he furthered his secondary education. After completing his GCSE's, he entered the world of business. At that time many British Bangladeshis were heavily involved in the garments trade.

Mr Rahman continued that trend by establishing his own garment factory. His business very rapidly become successfully owing to his dedication and the quality of the produce of his factory.

Following Muhibur Rahman's success in the garments trade, he ventured into the catering business. He now has many restaurants and take aways which are all highly successful and well known for their quality of service and food.

Outside of business Muhibur Rahman plays an important role in

community activities. He is the president of Beani Bazar Welfare trust. He has always been involved in a lot of community work. Muhibur Rahman's involvement with community initiatives expands further, he is the Vice President of the Bangladesh Centre. He has also served as the Joint treasurer of Bangladesh Association. Apart from this, he is the Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Business Council and also a key member of Bangladesh Caterers Association.

He was previously the Vice President of Beani Bazar Thana Welfare Association and more recently he is one of the founders of the Beani Bazar Cancer hospital Foundation and has served as the Vice President of that organisation in the past.

In respect of other aspects of his humanitarian work he is associated with Lions Club. He was associated with a newspaper called Sylheter Dak, where he was a member of the publishing board. For many years, he has looked after the paper as a director and financer.

Mr Rahman is known to inspire education. He has spent 25 Lakh taka to build a library in Beani Bazar Women's College. In memory of his late father, he constructed a Madrassa Academy Bhavan in the year 1982. He is also a founder of Purushpal Hafizia Madrassa and a lifetime member of the managing committee for 12 secondary schools in Beani Bazar. In the year 2005, Mr Rahman was involve in distributing computers in Beani Bazar in order to enhance the education of locals.

More recently, he has taken the initiative to build houses for the freedom fighters of Beani Bazaar.

Muhibur Rahman lives with his family in South Woodford in London.



Nazinur Rahim

Sector: Community Development,

A young entrepreneur having a Masters in Marketing is the founder and trustee of Painted Children which is an internationally recognized Community Development Organisiation which was established in 2005. Originally it aided street and slum children, woman and those with disabilities with health care issues. Also he is the Managing Director of Fakhruddin Global Limited which is offering one of the most delicious and legendary dishes from Bangladesh in London which is also known as Food of the Nawabs.

Nazinur is currently developing a training center to help NEETs and Long Term Unemployed back into employment in the UK, The aim for the long term unemployed is to again help them develop their skills to allow them back into the work force.

Nazinur Rahim has vast experience in working with a number of Corporate organizations and with UNICEF.

Nazinur Rahim was born in the early Seventies and hails from

Bangladesh. He is the elder son of Late Zoadur Rahim who was a very renowned business person in South East Asia. Nazinur came to the UK in 2005 after completing his corporate career overseas.

Nazinur played a vital role by giving his effort in Aaila and Sidor (one of the worst affected areas of climate change in South East Asia) affected area, to help their population to overcome the problems caused by cyclones. He also played a vital role in flood and other divested crisis in Bangladesh. For his innovative contributions in various sectors he was given the DCFB award in the House of Commons from Development Council for Bangladeshi's in the UK in 2011 Nazinur was also awarded the FOBC Special Award in 2010 in London.

Nazinur Rahim has been a talented cricketer in his youth; he is also involved in various communities like regular Blood Donation and Yoga Foundation. In college he was involved with the Student Union as General Secretary.

Currently he is presenting one talk show in Bater Bangla. He is also involved in a 24 hour online newspaper (Newsbdonline.com). In his spare time Nazinur also enjoys reading and socializing.

Nazinur Rahim enjoys travelling and has a profound love for sustainable development. He is very sympathetic to the people of devastated areas in South Asia and always extends his hands to support them even personally. He has continued being involved with communication and social activities mainly for South East Asia woman and children and also in the UK communities.

Mr Mothiur Rahman is a pro active member of his community. Child of father Abdur Shohid and mother Mohibun Nessa, 41-years-old Rahman has always been fascinated by football. Originally hailing from Chandpur Balaganj, Sylhet, he is now settled here. During his early teenage years he was a member of the local football team Sheffield Bangladeshi Football Club. He was responsible for arranging matches in different towns. It was his duty to arrange players for different games, raise donation and to organise transport during trips to other towns.

He has been involved in the management of local Elahi Mosque & Cultural Centre since 2001. As an executive management committee member, it is his duty to advise the Chairman and Secretary about the various aspects of running of the mosque, and at times informing ordinary members of the Mosque about any important matter both orally and by issuing note.

He has also been member of Staniforth Neighbourhood Centre since 2003. During 2007, a massive cyclone hit Bangladesh. He took a lead in organising charity events to raise money for the victims of the cyclone. They raised £25,000.00 and a team of four went to Bangladesh to distribute the money to various projects which were in place to help the victims in many ways. During 2010-2011 he has also taken a lead role in negotiating and securing the lease from Sheffield City Council for the property in which The Staniforth Neighbourhood Centre is situated and funding for the improvement of the premise.

During 2009 there was racial trouble at the Waltheof (now called Park Academy) secondary school. As member of the SNC, he was given responsibility on behalf of the British Bangladeshi community to liaise with the police and school to calm the situation and to prevent any violence by any member of the British Bangladeshi community. Also in



Sector: Community relations

2011, there was a sexual allegation against a teacher at the Greenland Primary school. As a parent governor and member of the SNC, he pro actively led the members of the British Bangladeshi community in organising protest against the inactivity of the head teacher and forcing Sheffield City Council to suspend and subsequently sack the head teacher as well as taking legal action against the teacher against whom the allegation was made by a child.

Since 2007, every year he has been organising as well as managing The Sheffield Baishaki Mela which is a celebration of the Bengali New Year. This year The Mela took place on 24th June. Ever since its inception, the Mela has become one of the biggest gatherings of the British Bangladeshi community in the north of UK.

He is a parent governor of the Greenland Junior & Primary School, as well as a member of the Darnall & Attercliffe ward of the Labour party.

A second generation British Bangladeshi who was born in the UK at a time when most were migrating to the UK. He hails from Akakhazna Beanibazaar in Sylhet and lives and works in Enfield; Raju developed a keen sense of working for the community at a young age and is invited as mediator for local and Diaspora intra-community conflict.

He currently works in a number of community think tanks along with his professional commitments to Podiatry of which he is one of the first Bangladeshi practitioners to be state registered. Raju Rahman has his own clinic and also works for the NHS.



Raju Rahman Sector: Medicine



Haji Mohammad Shab Uddin Sector: Catering

Mohammed Shab Uddin is one of the most successful businessmen and philanthropists in London's Bangladeshi community. In 1977, the entrepreneur helped set up one of the most established and pioneering Indian restaurants in London and over the years has broadened and excelled in other distinct industries, including retail and product manufacturing. Born in 1961 in Beanibazar, Sylhet, Bangladesh, Mr Uddin was educated there before moving to the UK in 1974.

Mr Uddin completed his primary and high school education in Bangladesh before joining his father inthe UK who had been there since 1942. Mr Uddin began his employment career working in his father's sari enterprise which spread across East London in the late seventies. Mr Uddin and his father soonmoved into the catering industry in 1977, opening 'Dreamland' restaurant in the Tower Bridge areawhich was later renamed 'Tower Tandoori'. The family soon developed a chain of successful Indianrestaurants after opening the 'Farncombe Tandoori', 'Bismillah Tandoori', 'Grange Tandoori', 'Bermondsey Brasserie' and many more.

Whilst focusing on thrusting the family catering business, Mr Uddin has also successfully invested in the property market. In Bangladesh, Mr Uddin has also acquired real estate in the Sylhet and Dhak aregions. Mr Uddin is also involved with many socio-cultural and charitable organisations. Previously he served as the treasurer of the Beanibazar Welfare Trust and as President of the Beanibazar-Jonokolyan Samithy UK (2010-2012). Mr Uddin currently serves as the Managing Director of the Beanibazar Cancer Hospital; the first specialist cancer hospital in Bangladesh.

Throughout the last three decades, Mr Uddin has generously donated towards many worthy projects such as the charity foundation named after his late parents, which provides scholarships for talentedstudents on top of building tube wells and sanitary latrines for the needy. Mr Uddin has also assisted in financing the construction of many roads in his locality as well as building a boundary wall andfront gate for a local school and mosque respectively.

Mr Alhaj Mohammed Shab Uddin was married to Nilufa Begum in 1985 and they are blessed withthree sons and one daughter. The eldest son Suhel Ahmed has completed his Masters and managesthe family businesses, his second son Rubel Ahmed is a Solicitor and works for a reputable firm inLondon. His other son and daughter are still in education.

Mr Uddin's children are all involved in charitable activities and community projects.



Md Fokhoruz Zaman (Imran) Sector:

Md Fokhoruz Zaman (Imran) is the managing Director of Asiana Studio based in the heart of East London.

Media

Mr Zaman was born in Gupshahar, Dakshin Surma , Sylhet, Bangladesh. He is the Son of Md Ala Uddin and Mrs Kamrun Nessa. He completed his Diploma in Commerce in 1998 from Commercial College in South Surma, he then graduated from Modon Mohon College in the year 2000.

From the age of 16 Mr Zaman had the capability and potential to start his own business in the media industry, where he established his own company called 'Video Home' in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

In 2006 Mr Zaman migrated to London, to develop his business and fulfil his dream in a higher spec, with his wealth of experience and business knowledge in Media he was able to quickly set up Asiana Studio which is a leading digital media company. Mr Zaman has enjoyed a rapid rise to the top of his profession and is widely regarded as one of London's most talented wedding videographers. Asiana studio is not only renowned for its excellent wedding films and photography it has created many TV commercials, covered lives shows and concerts and has produced various music video's. This show Mr Zaman, is able to expand his wealth of experience and knowledge in various platforms.

Mr Zaman does not only excel in cinematic film making, photography and editing, he is not just someone who provides a film making service to the community, but passionately helps people to fulfil their biggest dream and helps their dream become reality. He has a creative intake of different cultures and environment that has enabled him to achieve the best for himself and the community. The work that he does caters for not only specific groups but a range of platforms.

Mr Zaman is one of the founding members of British Bangladeshi Media Association (BBMA) where its mission is to provide training, promotion, networking, celebration, support and guidance for their members to the highest standards in the field of media that they specialise in. It is also about uniting the many artists to help improve their photography and videography skills and expand and educate their artistic horizons.

Mr Zaman is also the founding member of Ideal Welfare Trust, which is a charity organising helping the people of Bangladesh to build their lives and fulfil their dreams ensuring that they and their family get a decent standard of living, education and work opportunities.

He is one individual who never stops at the finishing line, and is always eager to broaden his horizon, visiting various parts of the world has enabled Mr Zaman to learn from various cultures and people from different backgrounds.

Abdul Md Fakruzzaman was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh and studied in London Guildhall University in 1996-1999 and London Metropolitan University, Artists in Residence in 2006. He has many awards under his belt. These include the ABC Convention Award for Arts & Culture, New York in 2012, Sha Abdul Karim Award, Channel S in 2012, U.K National Award, The Winsor & Newton World Wide Millennium Paintings Competition in 2000 and Best Medium Award from Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1991.

Abdul having studied both in Bangladesh and UK, has had the unique experience of immersing himself in the fine art traditions of the 'East' and the 'West'. His academic career has landed him with awards in both Dhaka (Best Medium prize) and London. Within a very short time, in more ways then one, he has emerged as a true cosmopolitan.

His works are composition based on forms. He often uses flat forms that are given volume and dimension by texturing around them. He often uses the graffito technique, using nails and palette knives to scratch away at the surface. Gray and black are the most dominant colours in his work, according to Taker Hushin, daily Star, Bangladesh

He has also exhibited his work widely. A few of his solo exhibitions are: Solo Art Exhibition, Gallery Chitrak, Dhanmondi, Dhaka Bangladesh in 2010, and 'A Kaleidoscopic Journey' painting and print exhibition, Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2005. A Celebration An Exhibition of Painting & Prints', Mile End Park Gallery The Ecology Pavilion, London in 2002, Print Exhibition. ILRC London Guildhall University, London in 2000 and last



Abdul Md Fakruzzaman Sector: Arts & Culture

but not least Solo Paintings Exhibition. Oxford House, London in 1995. Some of his group exhibitions have been Art Exhibition in ABC Convention, NY in 2012, Colour of Time' Contemporary Painting Exhibition, The World Habitat Centre in New Delhi, India in 2012, Contemporary Art Exhibition' The Paper Mill Gallery, Toronto, Canada in 2011, 'Whole Festival' Tomkingson Park NY, 'Colour of Time' group paintings exhibition in Academy of Fine Arts, Kolkata, India in 2011 and the Anniversary exhibition 'Rooted Creativity 9' Bengal Gallery of Fine Art, Dhaka Bangladesh in 2011.

Some of his published works: 'A Kaleidoscopic Journey', published by the Bengal of Fine Arts, Dhaka, The Artist Handbook by Ray Smith, published by Dorling Kindersley, 'A Celebration An Exhibition of Paintings & Prints, 'Our World In The Year 2000', published by Sheeran Lock. If you want a visual treat, then head to his studio for an outstanding experience.

BRITISH BANGLADESHI

## BRITISH BANGLADESHI WHO S WHO S WATER 2012

## EXISTING ENTRIES

Mr Abdul Ahad is a British Bangladeshi who has been involved in the catering industry for nearly thirty years, and it is fair to say that he has been more than a success.

His first restaurant was opened in Milton Keynes in 1980 and since then his catering empire has grown stronger and stronger. From the moment Mr Ahad entered the catering trade, he saw a vision to create an ultimate shrine to Indian food. In 1998, his plans began to take shape, and finally in early 2002, the dream became reality. As the owner of the famous Jaipur Restaurant in Milton Keynes, Mr Ahad is the man behind the largest purpose built Indian restaurant in Europe.

The Jaipur Restaurant itself is an architectural landmark building of great beauty, and one that Mr Ahad refers to as his own 'mini Taj Mahal'. The food and the service inside is equally impressive, having won practically every available award to Indian cuisine.

Furthermore, although initially Jaipur was solely an Indian Restaurant, it now houses a Thai restaurant, the Orchid Lounge, on the first floor.

For all his success as a restaurateur, Mr Ahad is equally as successful in other fields -one of which is fundraising for charities. Two of Mr Ahad's favourite causes are 'the Jaipur Limb Project' of the Rotary International and Save the Children charity.

The 'Jaipur Limb Project' set up in Jaipur, India, is engaged in manufacturing prosthetic limbs for children and adults who have lost their limbs due to disease or accidents. The provision of a new limb



**Abdul Ahad** Sector: Catering

gives them a life changing experience enabling them to a full life in many different ways. Mr Ahad is a major supporter and contributor to the project during the last twelve years, raising over £30,000 through the Annual Charity Dinner.

The Ousedale School branch of the Save the Children fund engages in a variety of fundraising activities. For last 19 years, the Annual Gala Dinner at the Jaipur is one of the highlights of the fundraising calendar and gives everyone a chance to participate either by donating for the raffle draw or by attending the dinner. As recognition of his services, Mr Ahad was made the Honorary President of the Ousedale School branch of the Charity.

Mr Ahad is also a high profile and integral member of Britian's Bangladeshi community and has supported the development of schools, mosques, madrassas and other charity projects in his parental village in Sylhet.

Bashir Ahmed is a prominent figure within the Bangladeshi business community in the UK and Europe has actively worked with the UK Government and other private sectors financial organisations to assist the Bangladeshi business community. Mr Ahmed is a Director of British Bangladeshi Chamber of Commerce and is actively involved in trade and commerce related issues in Europe.

Mr Ahmed is the Chairman & Managing Director of Kohinoor of India Holdings, Chairman of Kasturi Catering & food processing. Mr Ahmed has wide range of investments in Europe and in Bangladesh, including aviation, property, food processing and franchise. He is the founder Director of Rock Asset management Limited of Bangladesh and has various investments in many other financial institutions and has eye for innovative ideas and breakthrough projects.



**Bashir Ahmed** Sector: Catering and business



Cllr A M Ohid Ahmed Sector: **Politics** 

Cllr Ohid Ahmed is the Executive Deputy Mayor of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Ohid is a part qualified Certified Chartered Accountant (ACCA). He has a Masters Degree in Accountancy and between 2002 and 2005 he completed his MBA from University of East London.

Cllr Ahmed was the founder and instrumental of setting up Labour Friends of Bangladesh (LFB) and chair until 2010. As Finance & Grants Coordinator for Lea side Regeneration he manages various projects involving employment and finance. He also provides advice and support to project managers in relation to financial management and administrative issues. Cllr Ahmed was the first Bangladeshi Muslim to sit on the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation (Ministerial appointment).

Cllr Ohid Ahmed is very strongly involved in the social and economic regeneration of East London. He has worked with many community and voluntary organisations in East London and has helped them obtain grants. Another issue close to Ohid's heart is the removal of barriers in the labour market for those groups who are at a disadvantage in entering the labour market. He places particular emphasis on combating race, sex and disability discrimination, and he has helped implementing measures, which will eradicate these barriers.

I was also Cabinet member of Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnership from 2006 to 2009 and Education and youth Services for 2005. Councillor Ohid Ahmed was Cabinet Member for resources and performance in 2009 and was short listed for prestigious LGIU award for his outstanding contribution to financial performance in Tower Hamlets.

Cllr Ohid Ahmed also serves in several community organisations. He is the Trustee of the Golapgonj Education Trust, as well as a Trustee for the Mahmud Hussain Education & Welfare Trust. He currently holds the position of Board Member at both the Limehouse Youth Club and the Poplar (Aberfeldy) Islamic Cultural Centre. He was formerly the Cabinet Member of Education and Youth Services for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, and the youth and cultural secretary at the Bangladesh Centre.

Other positions have included being a Trustee for Canary Wharf Further Education Trust, as well as a Director for Poplar Harca. Cllr Ohid Ahmed's favourite pastimes include following national and international Politics, cricket, Chess, gardening as well as computing. He is a well-rounded Councillor striving for the success of East London and the people within.



Cllr RofiqueUddin Ahmed Sector:

Born in Sylhet, Cllr Rofique was amongst three sons of Mr Haris Ali and Mrs K. Nessa. His older brother lives in London and his youngest brother, Kutub Ahmed graduated from UCL and now works for a reputable Accountancy firm.

**Politics** 

Alhaj Rofique Ahmed married Mrs Aysha Begum in 1983; they have been residing in Tower Hamlets since 1985. Their eldest daughter Aklima Begum, graduated from Westminster University with a First (1st) Class Honours Degree in Business Management. She works at Reuters, a worldwide Media/Financial Institute and married Nuruz Z. Ruhel in December 2008. Nelema Begum is studying Medicine at Kings College University. Their only son, Emad Ahmed is awaiting his A Level results from Leyton College. Nasima Begum currently studies at CFGS in Year 10 and youngest child Shamima Begum is in year 4 at BJPS.

Since elected as Councillor for Mile End and Globe Town LBTH in 2002, Cllr Ahmed has been re-elected in 2006 due to growing popularity and holds many important high profile positions, playing a vital role in decision making in the following organisations: Cabinet Lead Member for Culture and Leisure for 2years running. Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) Planning Decisions Team. London 2012. Chair of Strategic Development and Development Committee for 3 years. Chair of Olympic Development Committee for 2years. London Council's Culture, Tourism and 2012 forum. Chair of Licensing Committee, Chair of Standards Panel. Trustee of Ocean Regeneration trust. Lead Member of Asia Urbs - Sylhet Partnership. Director of Ocean New Deal for Communities. Lead Member of the Association of London Government (ALG) Grant Committee.

Trusttee of Stepney Relief in Needs Charity Board. Trustee of East London CAB. Trustees of Rich Mix Centre.

His contributions to the community includes: Chair of Ben Jonson School Governing Body, Senior Vice-Chair of Greater Sylhet Development and Welfare Council East London, Tower Hamlets Governors Forum, Assistant Secretary - Ocean Tenants and Leaseholders Association.

Cllr Ahmed has a vision of an inclusive society where everyone enjoys opportunities regardless of their backgrounds. He is working to create a stronger local economic infrastructure to create better housing, environment and health for all. He wants to see children educated, motivated and determined to pursue successful careers.

Mr Doros Ahmed is a successful restaurateur in the West Hampstead, North West London. Mr Ahmed arrived in the UK in 1971 from Balagonj in Sylhet. Upon arrival, Mr Ahmed completed his Institutional education. He also took a marketing and management diploma course. He then proceeded into employment in West End hotels, which helped build his knowledge and experience substantially. In the early 1980's Mr Ahmed went into partnership with the famous Lal Qila restaurant. Later, Mr Ahmed opened his first ever restaurant called Eastern Brasserie in Holborn and this followed by another restaurant called Chowrangee in Central London.

Mr Ahmed moved to West Hampstead in the 1990's where he opened up Babour Empire and Ruchi restaurant. Mr Ahmed has been successfully running Ruchi with his eldest son Khaled Ahmed. Mr Ahmed has been a long serving member of the Bengali community. He was the founding member of the Bengali Workers Action group from its inauguration in 1976. The association is now known as the Bengali Workers Association (BWA). He has also served as the treasurer of this association.

He completed two terms helping the Bangladeshi community of Queens Park in Westminster, totalling five years as the General Secretary of the Queens Park Bangladeshi Association. Mr Ahmed is the permanent member of Bangladesh Centre. Adding to this, Mr Ahmed is Vice President of the Bangladesh Caterers Association UK. Mr Ahmed is also a Labour party activist of North Kensington closely working with Member of Parliament, Karen Buck. He is also interested in Bangladesh politics. Bango Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, being his idol. He is also the Vice President of West Lon



**Doros Ahmed** Sector: Catering & community relations

don Awami League. Mr Ahmed is currently General Secretary of Queens Park Bangladesh Association, Wesminister. Mr Ahmed is married to Samirun Nehar and they have five children, two sons and three daughters who are attending college and university. He enjoys travelling and has visited many countries.

Gulam Mortuza Ahmed was born in the Biswanath region of Sylhet Bangladesh and came to the UK at an early age. He is one of four sons of Haji Shajidur Rahman.

Gulam achieved a Masters Degree in Commercial Law from the University of Birmingham and called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 1997.

Gulam is a specialist criminal defence barrister practising from 1 Inner Temple Lane Chambers, Temple, London. Gulam undertook his pupillage training at 2 Paper Buildings, Temple, London. Over the last few years Gulam has successfully represented clients charged with fraud (including VAT fraud, Inland Revenue Fraud, Company Fraud, Banking fraud), money laundering, murder and terrorism. Gulam has been led in multi-handed cases and instructed as lead counsel in multi-handed cases. Furthermore, Gulam has also appeared before the GMC and the Coroners Court

Gulam is highly regarded as a very competent barrister in a field of law which lawyers of Bangladeshi origin have rarely excelled. Gulam is a very promising Barrister who has appeared in many notable cases. His ability and achievements make him one to watch out for in the future.

Gulam is married with 3 children, 1 daughter and 2 sons. His hobbies are current affairs, sports and travelling.

Gulam is a member of the Criminal Bar Association. He lives in London and Birmingham.



**Gulam Mortuza Ahmed** Sector: Legal (Barrister)



**Mohammed Belal Ahmed** 

Sector: Media

Mohammed Belal Ahmed is the chief editor of the most circulated newspaper in the UK and Ex-President of the London Bangla Press Club, a prestigious role for a reputable organisation within the Bangla media journalists.

Mohammed Belal Ahmed is from Barlekha Moulvibazar, Bangladesh where he lived with his father Late Abul Khair Mustafa and mother Jahanara Khanam. During the liberation war for the independence of Bangladesh, at the age of 6, Mohammed Belal Ahmed was exiled, separated from his family for 10 months which to date he describes as was one of the toughest moments in his early life.

Upon returning from exile Mohammed Belal Ahmed completed his pre-university education at Sylhet and graduated from the University of Chittagong.

In 1990, he moved to the United Kingdom and a year later 1991 entered Journalism joining Weekly Surma as a news-editor he as been involved with that newspaper for the last 20 years. In 1995, Mohammed Belal Ahmed became the Chief Editor of Weekly Surma and in early 2002 he was involved in publishing another newspaper Bangla Express, also serving as the Chief Editor which generated a good readership.

Mohammed Belal Ahmed has long been involved in various social, cultural, educational organisations in addition to being a member of professional bodies. Mohammed Belal Ahmed is an active member of the Anti-Tobacco Movement and is one of the steering group

members for the Bangladeshi Stop Tobacco Project in Tower Hamlets. Mohammed Belal Ahmed and his wife Sadia Ahmed reside in Dartford, Kent, with their two sons Nafis and Sami.



Mesba Ahmed

Sector: Community Relations

Mesba Ahmed was born in Nidon Pur, Beani Bazaar, in the Sylhet District of Bangladesh.

He is the son of the late Alhaj Hafiz Uddin.

Mesba followed both his grandfather's and father's footsteps by moving to the UK in 1972.

He completed his education in England. He then worked for Allied Dunbar as a Financial Consultant.

Due to the recession in the early 1990's, he was forced to change his career, and consequently started working for the Marylebone Bangladesh Society and Age Concern Westminster.

He is currently The Chief Executive of London Tigers, Director of Prime Financial Services and a Partner of Atithi Restaurant.

Mesba established London Tigers in 1986 and it has grown immensely since its inception. The organisation has won numerous awards, and is widely recognised as a beacon of success by many local authorities, sports governing bodies and politicians. The Patron of London Tigers is Ken Livingstone, the former Mayor of London.

Mr Ahmed is involved with many charitable organisations. He was the founder President of Nidon Pur Welfare Association and a Governor of the Ark Academy School to name but a few. For his endeavors, Mr Ahmed has received a number of high profile awards.

In 2004, he was the winner of the inaugural Westminster Local Leadership Award, and in 2005, he won the GG2 Leadership Diversity Award. He was nominated for an Outstanding Achievement Award at the Sony Asia Television Sports Personality Awards in 2007, and London Tigers were nominated for Best Community Organisation UK in the 2008 Channel S Awards.

Recently Mesba visited Bangladesh as part of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office programme called 'Projecting British Muslims,' which enables prominent British Muslims to visit countries to compare experiences and celebrate the successes of Britain's Muslim population. The delegates were also able to dispel misleading stereotypes and myths and give first-hand accounts of actual life as a Muslim in the UK.

Mr Mesba Ahmed is married to Mrs Lubna Ahmed, and together they have four children.

Mr Monir Ahmed is a renowned young business entrepreneur and a community worker. Born in 1970 in Mohammadpur, Biswanath, Sylhet, He is the son of late Jomshed Ali and Mahmuda Khatun. He passed his SSC from Ramshundor High School Biswnath, HSC from Sylhet Govt College and BA from Modan Mohan College Sylhet. He holds a certificate in Export-Import System Processing and Cargo from British International Freight Association (BIFA).

Mr Ahmed has been associated in the cargo business for a long time. He started his business Cargo Management in 1987 and worked for sixteen years. Mr Ahmed came to Britain in 2000 and initiated a cargo business in the UK named JMG Air Cargo at 8 Fordham Street, London E1 1HS. This organization currently contributes the majority of Biman's cargo in Bangladesh. In the past few years, Biman has earned a huge amount of money from JMG and Govt of Bangladesh. With more than 60 agents all over the UK, the company gives top sales awards and training to the agents and employees every year.

Mr Monir Ahmed's pioneering business model emerged from an understanding that cargo services must remove the problem of inaccessibility to the consumers. Mr Ahmed introduced the air cargo business to the Bangladeshi community. He has not only made cargo services cheaper, but also quicker to consumers and achieved a major share in the market. As well as ensuring that he remained true to his values about the community. This achievement made JMG a leading cargo business that runs worldwide, providing door to door services to EU member states as well as parts of Africa, Asia and Canada. He has now plans in place for cargo services to Bangladesh from both Italy and France.



**Monir Ahmed** Sector: Business & community relations

Mr Ahmed is also known for his charitable work and hardworking nature. Being Treasurer of Sylhet CNF Agent Association for many years. He is also known for his role as a Business Executive Member of Bangladesh Overseas Centre and the Organizing Secretary of Biswanath Youth Association.

Continuously participating in various social and cultural events he is well known for his donations and voluntary work. His organisation supported in carrying relief goods to Bangladesh during different natural calamities in Bangladesh. He is the trustee of Biswanath Education Trust, Chairman of Dar-Ul-Kuran Nazirbazar Charity Organization and Chairman of BBIF-86 in the UK.He is also the Finance Director of AL-Jamee Group of Investment UK. Mr Ahmed is adamant to continue his community work and extend more support towards the community in the future, especially for the development of rural Bangladesh and the UK.

Mosleh Uddin Ahmed was born in Golapgonj in Sylhet, Bangladesh in 1970. He is the son of Mr Haji Ismail Ali and the late Mohiba Bibi.

Mr Ahmed moved to the UK after he had completed an MA at Jagannath College in Dhaka. While living in Bangladesh, Mr Ahmed became involved in the world of journalism. He completed his apprenticeship at Jugovary in Sylhet, before moving to Sylhet Sanglap and then the Daily Ajker Sylhet.

Upon his arrival in the UK, Mr Ahmed continued working as a journalist, and is now the news editor of the most renowned British Bangladeshi newspaper - Janamot. Mr Ahmed was the joint secretary of the Bangladesh Journalist Association, and was also the Literature Secretary of MC College Student Union in Sylhet.

At present, Mosleh Uddin Ahmed is an integral member of the London Bangla Press Club. He was also treasurer of the London Bangla Press Club.

Mr Mosleh Uddin Ahmed is a life member of Bonigram-Bhorgram High School.

Mr Ahmed is married to Hamida Begum, and they have two children Iffat Ahmed Mohathir Ahmed.



Mosleh Uddin Ahmed Sector: Media (Journalist)



Muquim Ahmed Sector: **Business** and Politics

Muquim Ahmed came to England at the age of 19 to study Production Engineering. He started his business career from the age of 21 by helping his father to import goods from Britain to Holland to Bangladesh. He moved into Electrical Wholesaling as well as expanding his property portfolio and becoming the owner of Naz Cinema in Brick Lane and various properties in and around London. At the age of 26 he became the first Bangladeshi millionaire; since then he has always been on the Asian rich list.

Muquim Ahmed, as acclaimed by Estate Gazette, (issue October 2005 and October 2007) 'King of Bricklane' and 'Curry King' by ELA (1st November 2007) diversified his interests and moved towards the catering industry.

In 1996 he opened Café Naz in Brick Lane- the flagship restaurant and is still the most high profile eatery in the area. As well as the famous Café Naz in Bricklane, he opened branches in Cambridge, Cardiff, Horsham, Chelmsford, London and another café style eatery in Brick Lane. Today among many other projects his award wining Café Naz chain is going from strength to strength.

He also owns a distribution and marketing division called Asian Foods Ltd.

He featured in the Times article in 2006 'Focus Immigrant Britain' which was based on highly successful Brits of ethnic background.

Recently he has successfully bought a century old manufacturing plant called Rayner's Bakery at 12 Deer Part Road, Merton SW19 3UQ. The Bakery compromises of 13000sq. ft. of usable space. The company has already set up and dedicated a floor for producing

ready meals.

He was the chairman of Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce for two consecutive Terms and continues to remain involved closely with the Chamber. He is newly elected President of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce.

He has enormous drive and is inspired to improve the quality of life for himself and for his fellow being.

He has also dedicated a substantial quantity of his time to the Conservative Party.



Parvez Ahmed Sector: Business & Community relations

Parvez Ahmed is an entrepreneur who is actively involved with the North West Chamber of Commerce in London. In 2006, Mr Ahmed received a community achievement award from Channel S in recognition for many years of hard work in the community. The businessman completed his education in Bangladesh before moving to the UK. However, since the age of twenty one, Mr Ahmed established a number of businesses throughout Bangladesh. Most notably, Mr Ahmed invested in the textiles and garment industry.

He continued his focus in the textiles and garment industry after arriving in the UK where he also opened a restaurant. He has been closely involved with the Bangladesh Caterers Association where he has served as a Management Committee Member, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General over the past 24 years. Mr Ahmed is also the Managing Director of S.O.I Limited and Chairman of New Generation 2000.

Mr Ahmed also helped organise an education awards ceremony for the Bangladesh High Commission celebrating the achievement of young British Bangladeshi's.

Mr Ahmed is also a loyal member of the Labour party, being an active fundraiser, participating in a number of committees as well as serving as the current chairman of the Dollis Hill Branch in Brent Central.

Over the last twenty three years, Mr Ahmed has been involved with many local organisations holding a range of posts including board member, management committee member, Trustee and Chairman. These groups include the Tricycle Theatre and Cinema, Brent Safer Neighbourhood Team, Brent Minority and Ethnic Forum, Greater Sylhet Council UK, North West London Muslim Forum, Kilburn

Partnership, Single Regeneration Board, Friends of Bangladesh UK, West Hampstead Bengali Association, 403 Harrow Road Limited, Bangladesh Centre (Notting Hill, London), Brent Bengali Community Centre and the Sylhet Sador Education Trust.

Through his businesses, Mr Ahmed has supported numerous mainstream national charities through donations and regular fundraising. In Bangladesh, the businessman named a charity after himself to encourage women to continue studying called the Parvez Ahmed Female Educational Trust in addition to supporting the APEX International and the Red Crescent project.

Married for twenty six years to former London Borough of Brent Councillor Lena Ahmed, the couple have been blessed with two sons. One of which has completed a research Masters in Biomedicine and the other has completed a Law Degree, with both currently working in Local Government.

Shofi Ahmed is a national award wining and and one of the most talented writers of the Bangladeshi community here in the UK. Mr Ahmed was the founder editor of Bangla Mirror, the first weekly English newspaper for the British Bangladeshis. Currently he is freelanciang with English news agencies. While studying for a degree in I.T, Mr Ahmed won a bursary to study at Oxford University. The same year his first article on natural science also won him a national award. In 1995 he won the Daily Telegraph's National Young Science Writers Competition.

This award gave the writer an opportunity to meet the nation's leading science writers, journalists and personalities.

In 1995, Shofi Ahmed's profile rose after the release of his first poetry book, 'Reason and The Origin - the Relativity of Science and Poetry' which was published by New Millennium Publishers.

The book was praised by leading academics and scholars at a distinguished Daily Telegraph event. The Royal Society of Science's SCAN magazine described the book in a review as "A collection of modern poetry combining the arts of literature with the discipline of science, poems compare themes such as the physics involved in the creation of the material world and thought processes".

Mr Ahmed's efforts have been widely recognised by the community as he received an award from Channel S in 2006. The eldest of seven sibling's, he lives in North London and is married to Ayesha Ahmed. They have three children who are Zohura, Ali and Zubeda. Shofi Ahmed is soon to release another book focusing on his motherland called Sylhet: 'The Land of the Centre of the Earth'.



Sector: Media and Literature

**Shofi Ahmed** 

Syed Ahmed hit the headlines by reaching the final five in Series two of BBC TV's 'The Apprentice' - earning himself a National Television Award nomination in the process. Syed has seven GCSE's and a BTEC National Diploma in Business & Finance. Prior to embarking on his successful corporate career, Syed was trained as a junior pilot in the Air Training Corps and also earned his Duke of Edinburgh Gold standard award.

A successful and dynamic entrepreneur with a background in IT recruitment, Syed started his first business venture in 2004, when he founded IT People Ltd.

He played a key role in bringing in the business of numerous big accounts, including world-famous corporations such as Morgan Stanley, Reuters and Centrica. This strong performance, coupled with Syed's careful positioning of the brand within the marketplace, enabled him to agree a deal with his business partner for his shares and leave to pursue his entrepreneurial instincts and set up a new venture in a growth market.

His energy was channeled into SAVortex Ltd, a UK company that has developed revolutionary air-spinning heating technology for hand-dryers. The product has been compared to the game-changing cyclone technology Dyson brought to the vacuum cleaner market. After securing international patents and developing two prototypes, Syed hand-picked a management team and board of directors to assist the international launch of SAVortex.

As a dedicated and energetic entrepreneur, with an infectious enthusiasm for business, Syed also found time to develop a sideline in



**Syed Ahmed** Sector: Entrepreneur

keynote and motivational speaking - including appearing as a guest speaker at The Global Management Challenge competition and presenting awards at The National Final held at CIMA headquarters. Syed also rolled-out 'Pioneering Ambitions' - an initiative sponsored by Oxford University and hosted The Edge Competition final at London Stock Exchange, sponsored by AIGO & SEEDA.

Syed actively supports and sponsors several charities including CRP - Bangladesh, The Queen Mary University London, BFA, QMBC, Islamic Relief, Bangladeshi Female Academy, and The Anthony Nolan Trust.



Shafi Ahmed

Sector: Medicine

Mr Shafi Ahmed MBBS FRCS(Ed), FRCS(Eng), FRCSI, FRCS(Gen.Surg) is a Consultant Surgeon at Barts and The London NHS Trust and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Barts and the London Medical School, Queen Mary University of London. He was born in Sylhet and arrived in the UK as a child and is one of three sons and daughter of the Late Alhaj Mimbor Ali. He qualified in medicine in 1993 from Kings College Hospital Medical School where he was elected president of the medical students union and obtained the Jelf Medal in 1991 for academic excellence.

He underwent surgical training in London and obtained fellowships from three Royal Colleges of Surgeons and obtained his specialist registration in 2006. He spent three years performing research into the genetics of colorectal cancer and looked specifically at how this common disease affected the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets. This remains the only paper of its kind in world literature. The paper is entitled "Microarray profiling of colorectal cancer in Bangladeshi patients" - Colorectal Dis. 2005 Nov; 7(6):571-5. He was appointed as Consultant Surgeon in 2007 and specialises in general and colorectal surgery. His main expertise is in laparoscopic (keyhole surgery) and is the clinical lead for laparoscopic colorectal surgery at Barts and the London NHS trust. He has recently performed one of the country's first combined laparoscopic liver and colon resections. He works in the Centre for Academic Surgery which is one of the most prestigious surgical departments in the country with an international reputation for excellence in the treatment of colorectal disease. He is a member of the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland, Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons and the European Association of Endoscopic Surgeons and has admitting rights at The Princess Grace

Hospital, The London Independent Hospital and the Spire Roding Hospital. He is also an Honorary Senior Lecturer at Barts and the London Medical School and is the surgical lead for education for undergraduates. He is an external examiner for the University of Oxford medical school.

He is also actively involved in postgraduate surgical training and education. He is an Assigned Educational Supervisor for the Royal College of Surgeons of England and runs the training programme for surgical trainees at Barts and the London as well as being involved in the selection process of prospective medical students and surgical trainees. One of his main interests is colorectal cancer and he launched, in the media bowel cancer screening for the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets to encourage participation in this national screening programme. He is married to Dr Farzana Hussain a GP principle in Newham and has two children Usmaan and Zarina.



Syed Ashfaque Ahmed MA (Sociology)

Education & community relations

Syed Ashfaque Ahmed born in Syedpur, Jaganathpur, Sunamgonj, Sylhet, Bangladesh. He is the son of Late Haji Syed Mohiuddinn Ahmed (Dr Kasha Miah) and Late Syeda Bodrun Nessa. He comes from a respectable, well educated and established family. His siblings are in various high level Positions in Bangladesh.

He completed his M.A from Jagannath University College in Dhaka. After graduating he worked as a Lecturer at Syedpur Adorsho College. Whilst in Bangladesh he was the president of Shohid Dilder Siriti Patager and a Member of the Interact Club of Sylhet Surma.

After arriving in the UK he continued his passion for teaching and worked at various Primary Schools in London. He completed his NVQ level 2 in Children Care, learning and Development from Newham College and is presently working at Woodgrange Infant school as a Teaching Assistant.

He is also working for Chestnut After School Club as a Play Worker.

Syed Ahmed was the Educational Secretary for Syedpur Shamsia

Shomity in the UK and Membership Secretary of Barkingside Islamic Cultural Centre & Mosque UK. He is also the Educational Secretary for Jagonnathpur Upozillah Development Association. He is the Executive Member of the Sunamgonj Zila Shomiti in UK. Syed Ahmed is also the Chairman for Syed International School a leading English Medium Institute in Bangladesh.

Syed Ahmed married Shanaz Moushumi Syeda in 1999. She completed her BA Hons in Human Resources and is working as a HR Manager in London. They have two daughters and have a portfolio of properties in Greater London.

Meah Monirul Alam can be described as an individual who works tirelessly and continuously for the community, and much of his efforts are in the best interests of British Bangladeshis, which is the reason why many community members regard him as an outstanding Community leader.

Mr Alam was born in the village of Ekatuna, Moulvibazar and has been residing in the United Kingdom since 1960. Meah Monirul Alam's father is late Alhaj Abdul Qader and his mother late Rabeya Khatun.

Monirul Alam completed his intermediate education in Bangladesh after which he arrived here in the UK where he completed a course in Business catering management.

He established the first Indian restaurant in Southeast Kent. He currently owns the Kashmir Tandoori in Canterbury, Kent as well as the Chertion Balti Takeaway.

He is currently Chairman of North South Property Development Ltd UK.

Mr Alam is the former Chairman of Bangladesh Caterers Association. He is currently the Chairman of Euro Bangla Newsweekly based in London. He is also Senior Vice President of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party. Furthermore he is the Chairman of the British Bangladesh Business forum UK Ltd and President of the South East Kent Islamic Cultural Centre as well as General Secretary of South East Kent Welfare Association. He is also director of British Bangladesh Investment Company.

Mr Meah Monirul Alam is also involved with various charity initiatives. He is the Chairman of Hope for the Needy Foundation, and also a Member of the Bangladesh Flood Prevention International



Meah Monirul Alam Sector: Business & Community Relations

Committee UK.

Moreover, he is a life member of Jalalabad Rotary Orthopaedics Hospital and Rehabilitation Centre.

Mr Alam has contributed generously to charities and has helped to develop educational and religious institutions in Bangladesh.

Mr Alam is married to Rowshan Ara Alam and they are parents of two sons and two daughters who are all married. They have six grandchildren in total.

Cllr Junab Ali resides in Swindon Wiltshire. He completed his higher education from Swindon College and qualified as an electrician.

Cllr Ali joined the Labour party in 2005 and worked tirelessly to ensure a third term for the then Prime Minister Tony Blair and the labour government. He was not only the first British Bangladeshi councillor to be elected to Swindon Borough Council, but also the first Muslim councillor to achieve this feat.

Junab Ali describes himself as a devout politician with the utmost pedigree of determination to bring about positive change. He is an active member of the South Swindon Labour Party Executive and the party's chief whip for Swindon Council.

Cllr Junab Ali is passionate about community affairs and as a result he is extensively involved with numerous charitable organisations and initiatives. He has raised huge sums of money for various causes. Furthermore, he is a founder member of Bangladeshi Female Academy (BFA).

Aside from politics Cllr Ali is also the proprietor of various restaurants. His hobbies and interests include history and travelling.



Cllr Junab Ali Sector: Politics and Business



Cllr Shahed Ali Sector:

Politics, Arts & Promotion

Cllr Shahed Ali was born in the east end of London in 1970. He went to Sir John Cass Foundation school in Stepney in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. After completing his schooling, Cllr Ali studied a BSc in Social Policy and Management at London Guildhall University.

He has one older brother and one younger sister. His father is Late Haji Wahab Ullah, and his mother is Somirtha Khanom. They originated from village: Barkat Pur, P.O: Gohor Pur, P.S: Balagonj, Dist: Sylhet, Bangladesh.

The area of Tower Hamlets is one that Cllr Ali has a great affinity for. He has been a member of Tower Hamlets council for the ward of Whitechapel since 2006.

Away from politics, Cllr Ali is well known throughout the Bangladeshi community for organsing numerous cultural events. His reputation for staging shows with amazing visual and aural effects, otherwise known as 'Ekti Shahed Ali Upohaar', have enabled him to hold unique events at prestigious venues such as the London Arena, Wembley Arena and the Royal Festival Hall. He founded the annual Bangladesh International Media Awards (BIMA), an event to give recognition to the film, television and music industry, which is broadcast live around the world via several television net-

He has also produced several Television Dramas and has become a household name and very much respected by all celebrity artists of Bangladesh.

Cllr Ali also holds the honour of being the first Asian person to organise an event at Historic Royal Palaces - The Tower of London.

That event, held in July 2007, proved to be extremely popular as Cllr Ali, ever the shrewd entrepreneur, brought over the 2006 finalists of NTV Close Up such as Salma, Nishita, Ronti and Muhin.

Previous to being a councillor, Shahed was a youth worker, an ethnic arts adviser and a social worker amongst other things. By having such a varied professional background, it is easy to see why he has been such a success in the field of local politics, although even this does not present the full picture, as he has been a strong vocal point on issues that affect the British Bangladeshi community. He believes he is not an opportunist or career politician, but a challenging voice.

Away from his life as a councillor and events organiser, Cllr Ali has a number of business interests including the popular Brick Lane music and book shop Sangeeta Ltd, a restaurant in Frinton-on-Sea and a property portfolio.



Dr Azmal Ali

Sector: Medicine

Dr Azmal Ali obtained his MBBS Degree from Dhaka University in 1965. He came to the UK with the then Pakistan Government Scholarship and went to Belfast in Northern Ireland for a Post Graduate Training in Anaesthesia in August 1970. He successfully completed his training under Professor Dundee and obtained his post graduation qualification from the Royal College of Surgeon, Dublin, Ireland and also from the Royal College of Anaesthetist, London, England.

After working in various hospitals in Northern Ireland, he moved to London and worked as a Senior Registrar at the Royal College of Surgeons under Professor Payne.

He was appointed Consultant Anaesthetist at the Central Middlesex Hospital, London in November 1977. His main interest is in critical care medicine and he is still working as a Consultant Intensivist. He would have completed his 40th year in the UK on 19th of July 2010, inspite of his long stay in the UK, he never forgot his village "Basail" in Vikrampur, where he received his primary school edu-

During his working life in London, he regularly visited Bangladesh and worked selflessly for his village. He became the proud founder member of the Charity Organisation "The friends of Bangladesh" in 1982. He was involved in community work immediately after he became a doctor. he established a High School in 1966 in the village he grew up in.

The Government approved the school in 1969 and the school named as "Basial High School" is running very well with 500 students. With the help and co-operation of village people in Bangladesh, he established a graveyard in his village in 1988.

He also built a Vocational Training Centre with IT facilities in Bangladesh, with the helping hand of the UK Charity "Friends of Bangladesh". The Vocational Training Centre also has many other facilities including a Medical Centre, Kindergarten School and a Sewing School. There are 300 students successfully studying at the school.

Dr Ali's last venture was a 50 bedded modern hospital built in Mirpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh. The hospital was opened by Mr Anwar Chowdhury, the then British High Commissioner in Bangladesh on the 14th of February 2006. The hospital is running extremely well.

Amin Ali is the founder of Red Fort. As a restaurant the Red Fort has always been a trailblazer and voted best restaurant in London. It has beenwinning rapturous praise for almost 25 years andmany politicians and celebrities have crossed its threshold. Mr Amin Ali was born into a traditional Muslim family from Jalalpur - Nabigonj, which is a part of Habigonj District in Bangladesh. He first arrived to the UK for settlement in 1972. Since his arrival to the UK in 1972, he has been active in the community scene. After completing his studies he got involved with setting up community organisation such as Bengali Workers Action Group in Camden (London), which hewas a founding General Secretary. He was also member of Camden's Community Relations Council (CRC).

In the 80's he was actively involved with the International Charity Organisation'War on Want.'He was the Vice - Chair for number of years, while Glenys Kinnock (now MEP) was the Chair of 'War on-Want.' In the late 70's he founded a pioneering co-operative restaurant project 'The Last Days of the Raj.'Later he set up many successful restaurants such as Jamdani, Red Fort and Soho Spice.When The Red Fort opened 25 years ago on

Dean Street in London's Soho, itwas the first restaurant that contradicted the stereotypical view of Asian eateries. And it was the first to offer the real cooking of India. In 1985 BBC television made a special programme on Amin Ali for his achievements in the Indian restaurant business.

Throughout his life in the UK, Amin Ali has been in the forefront to promote Bengali foods and culture in Britain. In 1987, he organised first ever exhibition of Jamdani, the hand-woven rugs and textile designs at London's Whitechapel Art Gallery. He was also



**Amin Ali** Sector: Catering

instrumental for organising the first 'London Festival of Bangladesh' in 1994. The Bangladesh Food Festival' at the Red Fortwas another successful event he was responsible for.Mr Ali is one of themost respected restaurateurs in Britain. He has taken the British curry business to new heights.. Away from his businesses and family, Amin Ali is a keen traveller and enjoys playing and watching squash and football.

Currently one of the top ten chefs in the UK, Mr. Mohammed Mohed Ali (Mitu) has also been the founder president of UK Awami League Sheffield City Branch since 2004. From January 29, 2011, he has become the National Executive Member of the UK Awami League. A prominent restaurateur, he is also the vice chairman of Probashi Balagonj Osmani Nogor Adesha Upozilla Sommittee and the president of Kuwait-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Mohammed Mohed Ali (Mitu) was born in Sheffield to Mr. Montaz Ali and Mrs Jarina Bibi, but his family originally hails from Osmani Nogor, Sylhet. He opened his first restaurant in 1990. Since then he has invested in catering industry, properties and cash and carry hotels both in the UK and abroad.

He is the owner of British Bangladeshi Ahnam Asset Ltd. and a director of Dhaka Regency Five Star Hotel and Resort.

A member of the British Bangladeshi Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Ali is the president of Development Council for Bangladesh in UK, Sheffield City Branch and joint convenor of Probashi Kallyan Bank Ltd. He has also donated heavily to charity, and helped build an Academic Babbon and Goala Bazar High School. He donated 15 lacs Taka in his local Osmani Nogor Balagonj Upozilla to help the victims of the 2004 Bangladesh flood.

Mr. Ali has also contributed to build a gate for the No.1 Lamakazi Union Office in Biswanath Upozilla.

Mr. Ali is presently the executive director of Aporupa Housing Development and a shareholder of International Metal Industry (IMI),



Mohammed Mohed Ali (Mitu)

Business and community relations

which was originally founded by his father. He is the director of Eastern Foods Yorkshire Ltd. Cash and Carry in Sheffield and currently the owner of Saffron Indian Take Away.

Mr. Mohammed Mohed Ali (Mitu) is married to Mrs Rabiya Begum. They have two sons and two daughters who are Rushna Begum Ali, Mohammed Ibrahim Ali, Fathima Begum Ali and Mohammed Ahnam Ali. The family reside in Sheffield.



Mohammed Monchab Ali JP **RIPHH** 

Sector: Catering and Community Relations

Mohammed Monchab Ali is the formerChairman of Greater Sylhet Development and Welfare Council in UK (GSC). In 2002, Mr Ali was appointed Justice of Peace (Honorary Magistrate) at the Chester & Ellesmere Port Bench. Born in 1953 in Shorisha Para, Chattak, Sunamganj in Bangladesh, Mr Ali was educated and employed in Bangladesh before coming to the UK in 1982.

Mr. Ali studied Commerce at Madan Mohan College before completing his Diploma in Mechanical Engineering from Sylhet Polytechnic Institute in 1980.

After completing his studies Mr Ali joined Karim Pipe Mills in Chittagong as an apprentice engineer in late 1980. During this time he was also associated with journalism in Bangladesh and served as a Sub Editor of the "Purbanchal", a Khulna based daily until 1982. In the UK Monchab Ali established his own restaurant in 1985. He then opened another restaurant called the "Bengal Dynasty" in Llandudno, North Wales which proved to be very popular. In 1991 Mr. Ali opened another Bengal Dynasty in Deeside, North Wales. His restaurant was honoured as the "Best Indian Bangladeshi Restaurant" in the region of Wales by Patak Spices in 1993, and was named as the "Best Restaurant in Wales by Good Curry Guide 1995-97, 1998-1999 & 2000. The British Curry Awards named Bengal Dynasty Restaurant as one of the Top-30 Restaurant in UK and Top-10 Finalist for 2005 & 2006 and it won British Curry Awards for Best Restaurant in Wales 2007.

In addition to Mr Ali's business ventures he is also very active in numerous socio-cultural projects having set up the Alhaj Mazhar Ali Welfare Trust as well as chairing Chester & North Wales

Bangladeshi Youth Association.

He is also a member of Restaurant Association Great Britain, Federation of Small Business in UK and the Ellesmere Port & North Wales Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ali was previously involved with Bangladesh Caterers Association as a Regional coordinator and Senior Vice President, he served as a General Secretary of Chester Bangladesh Welfare Association and the Chester Shahjalal Mosque committee.

Moreover, Mr Ali is also an Executive Member of both the North Wales Racial Equality and the Chester Asian Council. Mr Ali married Sophia Ali in 1982 and is blessed with five children and a granddaughter.



Kamru Ali

Sector:

Property and Finance

Kamru Ali is currently the Managing Director of the District One Estates Group which focuses on property investments. He is an Accountant by profession and after graduating from London University he initially trained in central London Audit Commission for some three years. Kamru knew from a young age that he wanted to run his own business and decided not pursue a career as an accountant and instead become an entrepreneur.

Kamru has amassed his wealth with property & Land business investments. Having a financial education bankground has enabled him to own and co-own a variety of businesses.

Kamru is a family orientated individual and is married with three children. He is occupied with community organisations and is a keen supporter of many charities. He set up developing village roots in 2005 predominantly to help underprivileged children get access to education in Bangladesh. He is presently the treasurer of the Newham Welfare Trust and Business Advisor of Newham Business Forum.

In Recent years since the inception of Channel S, Kamru has appeared regularly on the television as a Property and finance expert for the channel.

Additionally Kamru organises and delivers property investment seminars, which has resulted in his clients and investors making substantial profits to date on their investment. Kamru has also featured in other mainstream Who's who publication, including being highlighted as Young Business Leader in the 'Who's Who of Britain's Business Elite'.

One of the most prominent Asian personalities in the United Kingdom known for his leadership and passionate concern for the interests of the hospitality industry, the recognition behind the revolutionary change in the curry industry goes to none other than Enam Ali MBE, FIH. Enam completed his degree in Hospitality and Management in 1978. In 1980 he also earned International fellowship from Institute of Hospitality and a fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts in 1990. Today he stands as one of the most influential men in the UK who are creating a difference and giving the British Asians something to be proud of. He is frequently to be seen and heard in the UK's print and TV media acting as a spokesman for his business sector and as an unofficial ambassador for the country of his birth, Bangladesh. He won best community leader awards from House of Lords. Enam, a British Bangladeshi who is a pioneer in the British curry industry. He is the founder of award winning restaurant 'Le Raj', the 'British Curry Awards' and 'Spice Business Magazine.' Enam frequently voices his opinions and support to the British curry industry in national and international media.

Enam opened his fine dining restaurant, Le Raj in 1989 at Epsom Downs. A first Michelin rated restaurant which has also won many national and international awards. Confrérie de la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, an international gastronomic society founded in Paris in 1950, made Enam a fellow, the lone Asian restaurateur to have achieved the honour. The Guardian in its November 6, 2009 issue named Le Raj one of the ten best Indian restaurants in UK. Le Raj is the only restaurant in the UK that secured the contract to serve curry and halal food to the Games' VIPs, sponsors, guests, host of famous celebrities, politicians and dignitaries from around the globe.

In 1998 Enam launched Spice Business Magazine with breaking news and views about the restaurant industry. Today it boasts a readership of over 100,000 and is regarded as the Bible of the curry industry.

Enam founded the British Curry Awards in 2005 to reward the unsung heroes and elevate the curry industry to a higher level. The most recent awards

**Enam Ali MBE** Sector: Catering

ceremony (2009) chief guest was the now Prime Minister Rt. Hon David Cameron. He said, "We have the finest curry restaurants, a record 40,000 nominations, the Oscars of the Spice industry, Enam Ali and all of you. You should be incredibly proud of what you have achieved".

Through his tireless work during the last thirty-one years, Enam has raised over £1 million for various charitable organisations. Enam is also Patron and Trustee in various charities in UK and Bangladesh. On the 1st January 2009 Enam's contribution to the hospitality industry was recognized when Her Majesty The Queen appointed him to a Member of the Order of the British Empire. In 2011 Enam has been granted Freedom of the City of London in recognition of his enormous contribution to this sector. He is the first Muslim and the first representative of the British curry industry to be granted the historic honour which dates back to 1237. He has also been honoured in his own local area after he was named Business Personality of the Year 2011 in recognition of the major contribution he has made to the local community hosting numerous charitable events over two decades. Despite the heavy demand on his time Enam manages to balance work, community and family life. He is married with two sons and a daughter.

Rushanara Ali is the Labour Member of Parliament for Bethnal Green and Bow. She was elected in May 2010 with a majority of 11,574 having defeated George Galloway's Respect Party.

In October 2010 Rushanara was appointed to the Labour front bench as Shadow Minister for International Development. As part of this role she is the Labour spokesperson on international development matters for Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, International Finance and Trade Wealth Creation and the Private Sector, Gender, Climate Change, Conflict and stabilisation, and the Middle East Peace Process. Rushanara is also Vice chair of Somali Friends of Labour and Vice Chair of the APPG Bangladesh.

Prior to her election in May 2010, she was Associate Director of the Young Foundation. She previously worked at the Communities Directorate of the Home Office, leading a work programme in response to the 2001 disturbances in the north of England (2002-2005).

She has also worked on human rights issues at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (2000-2001); as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Public Policy Research (1999-2002) and as Parliamentary Assistant for Oona King, former MP for Bethnal Green & Bow (1997-1999).

Rushanara also worked for Michael Young (author of the 1945 Labour manifesto) on a project which paved the way for Tower Hamlets Summer University now called Futureversity, which has helped cut youth crime in Tower Hamlets and which has been replicated around London.



Miss Rushanara Ali MP

Sector: **Politics** 

She helped develop Language Line, a pioneering telephone interpreting company founded by Michael Young to ensure equal access to public services for people facing language difficulties. She is cofounder of the UpRising leadership project which works to develop community and public leadership skills of talented 19-25 year olds from diverse backgrounds to enter politics and public life.

She also founded the Fastlaners project which provides rapid and intensive training to support unemployed graduates in East London. She has previously served as a Commissioner for the London Child Poverty Commission, Chair of Trustees of Futureversity, a Board Member of Tower Hamlets College, a Trustee of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and an advisor to the Spitalfields Festival.



Mubarok Ali Sector: Business

Mr Mubarok Ali was born in Kadipur, Biswanath Sylhet. His father is late Alhaj Mohommed Somed Ali and mother is Rupeja Begum He finished his studies in 1982 from Government M.C College in Sylhet. Mr Ali came to the UK with his family in 1985 and started to work specifically in the restaurant sector. Within two years he established his own business. His restaurant is now in Pinner, Middlesex and he also has residential properties at the Olympic Village in Stratford London.

Mr Mubarok Ali is also involved in Bangladeshi and British politics. He is the member of British Labour party and currently an active leader of Bangladesh Awami League. Mr Ali is now the vice president of U.K Bangobondu Parisod, Trustee of Biswanath Education Trust, Founder Member of Kaliigonj secondary school, Kadipur Jame Masjid and other organisations. He is always supporting the people who live under dreadful poverty in Bangladesh. Mr Ali married Mina Begum in 1983. Mr Ali has some real estate property business in Sylhet and Dhaka. Recently he is building an apartment in Dhaka, named after his wife called Mina Tower.



Cllr Nasim Ali OBE

Sector: **Politics** 

Cllr Nasim Ali OBE is an exceptional person who has had an outstanding career.

In May 2010 Councillor Nasim Ali was historically elected as the first Bangladeshi Leader of the London Borough of Camden. The London Borough of Camden is one of the leading councils in the country and it is a testament to his ability and talent that he has been elected for this high profile position.

Councillor Ali's achievement was recognised by the Queen with him being made an Officer of the British Empire and awarded an OBE in the New Year's Honour's list for 2011.

Councillor Ali's achievements were also recognised in Bangladesh where he had a reception with the Prime Minister and the President to celebrate his achievements.

Councillor Ali was born in Islam Pur, Sylhet, Bangladesh and came to the UK aged 7. He is married to Amanda Ali and has three boys, Rio, Zachariah and Noah.

His early initiatives included the Camden Monitoring Group (1989) to combat racial harassment and the Camden United Poject (1994) to unite young people through their common interest in football diverting them away from racism, crime and conflict. Councillor Ali received one of the first Camden Good Citizen Awards.

He has been a ward councillor for the Regents Park ward since May

Councillor Ali was appointed Mayor of Camden at the age of 34 (2003/4) when he was the youngest Mayor in the country. Councillor Ali achieved a number of historic firsts in Camden: the youngest ever Mayor; the first Bangladeshi Mayor; the first Muslim Mayor; the first Bangladeshi Executive Member and the first Bangladeshi Leader of the Labour Group and the Council. Councillor Ali saw his role as reaching out to all sections of the community to ensure that the political process was understood by all and worked well for

During his Mayoral year Councillor Ali met the Queen and most members of the Royal family. His most memorable moment was meeting Nelson Mandela.

Councillor Ali was an advisor to the Metropolitan Police, Prince's Trust, King's Cross SRB Board and a Governor for Westminster Kingsway College. He was also the Chair of the Healthy Families Partnership at King's Cross, Board member of the West Euston Partnership, Chair of the WEP Planning Working Group and on the Executive Board of the Community Empowerment Network.

Councillor Ali chaired the Camden Bangladesh Mela Committee. In 2009, the Camden Bangladesh Mela was celebrated at both the renowned British Museum and in Regents Park. These were opportunities for all members of the community to value Bangladesh's rich heritage. In 2007, Councillor Ali helped to arrange a reception for Professor Yunus to celebrate his award of the Nobel Peace Prize. He has a degree in Informal and Community Education from the University of Kent. Since 2001 he has been the Executive Director of the King' Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association.

Rois Ali won the Chef of the Year Competition in 1995/1996, a competition promoted by Environmental Heath Departments from all over Great Britain. This was one of the first prestigious competitions held Nationally to find the very best curry Chef in Great Britain.

Rois was born in Bangladesh, but has lived in the UK since he came to Coventry with is family at the age of four. From a very early age Rois developed a keen interest in the catering industry, first preparing meals for his family, and then joining the family restaurant business at the tender age of fourteen. There he continued to develop his skills by introducing his own special blend of spices which he now modestly refers to as his "Home cooked Philosophy."

Having spent all of his working life in restaurants he opened his own restaurant the 'Rupali's in Coventry in 1991. His restaurants as well as himself have recieved many accolades including Patak's Restaurant of the year, Good Food Guide Award and Guild of Master Caterers to name but a few.

Since becoming the first ever "Hot Stuff Chef of the Year" Rois's talents have been in growing demand, with TV appearances on BBC Network East, Central Television and Local Radio. Articles in the Guardian, Financial Times, and other National Newspapers plus many features in the specialised Ethnic Media. He has also been recently involved with Bangla TV, Zee TV, and Channel East in Cook and Chat.

Rois is General Secretary of Shah Jalam Mosque, Coventry. Executive member of Muslim Resource Centre as well as Executive Member of Bangladesh Community Centre, both situated in Coventry.



Rois Ali **Sector:** Catering and Community Relations

He is also Chairman and founder of Bangladesh Catering Professional Association.

Previously Rois was School governor for Fredrick Bird School and Executive member for Racial equality. He also worked closely with the police as Executive Police Committee member.

Rois is also founder of the 'Master Chef Promotion', which promotes businesses and culinary skills in the British Catering industry.

Md Rahmat Ali, a resident of East London, is an outstanding journalist in the UK. He hails from the village of Naogaon in Dashghar union under Bishwanath Upazila and has grown up with love and care of his father late Cherag Ali and Aleckjan Bibi. Rahmat Ali passed the B.A exam in Bangladesh and then left for the UK in 1994.

Md. Rahmat Ali worked for some time as the Bishwanath correspondent of the weekly (presently daily) Jugavery. He was the founding president of Bishwanath press club and was the general secretary of Bangladesh Manabadhikar Bashtobayan Sangstha' Bishwanath branch. During this time he played an active role in the movement against the irregularities of land survey in Bishwanath and cooperated with the sufferers. In the early nineties the monthly "Bishwanath Dorpan" edited by himself was published. Subsequently, when he went to Britain and there he has been serving as the editor of the monthly.

Md. Rahmat Ali was the news editor of the weekly Surma published from London. At present he is the president of Bangladesh journalists association in the UK. He is the president of Bangladesh journalists (GSC) and worked as the London Correspondent of a Bangla weekly 'Potrika' published from New York and has worked as a presenter for Bangla TV on part time basis. Furthermore, he is also serving as a teacher in the Mother Tongue section of Tower Hamlets Council.

Rahmat Ali is married to Afia Khatun and they are the parents of 6 children.



Md. Rahmat Ali Sector:

Media



Shukur Ali Sector: Catering

Entrepreneur and celebrity chef Shakur Ali is one of the leading Bangladeshi businessmen in the UK where he owns the award-winning Jaflong restaurant in Market Square of Bicester Town in Oxfordshire. He is an executive director of Western Tower and shopping complex and has other business interests in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Mr Shakur Ali is a prominent and well respected member of the Bangladeshi community and serves on the management committee of various voluntary and not-for profit organisations inclusing the Bicester and District Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh Caterers Association and Oxfordshire Bangladeshi Association. He is the founder member of the OBA and is very committed to promoting the rich cultural heritage of Bangladesh. Mr Shakur Ali is a founding chairman of Bicester Muslim society. Mr Shakur Ali is a vice president of BCA and a member of Bangladesh-British Chamber of Commerce. He has full heartedly devoted himself for the service of BCA, BBCC and his local organisations. In the last few years, he has

proactively participated in the trade delegation visits to Bangladesh and most recently he took part in a successful trade mission to Bangladesh with the senior members of BBCC. He also played a vital role in co-hosting a seminar in Oxford with the Oxfordshire Bangladeshi Association for the first Bangladesh ICT delegation in 2002. He and his local organisation fully supported the first ever trade exhibition. "Bangladesh Expo 2005" in London, which was organized by the BBCC. Mr Shakur Ali is the founder of Shakur Education Trust which provides financial support to improve education in the Dulabazar area where he grew up. He is regularly reported in the local press for his charity work, in Bangladesh and UK.

Mr Shakur Ali is extremely fortunate and grateful for the continuing support from his family. He is especially thankful to his wife— Rukeya Ali. They have three sons and two daughters. Their first, Dilwar Ali, graduated from the university of Cardiff. He is now involved with the family business. Their second son, Shahin Ali is an optician engineer and their third son is studying Performing Arts at college in Oxford.



Siraj Ali Sector: Catering

Mhammed Siraj Ali is a pioneering force behind the introduction of Indian Cuisine in the Essex region. Vice-Chairman of The Bangladeshi Catering Association (Essex region), Mr. Ali not only introduced the corporate social responsibility element to Indian restaurants in the county, he has also raised close to a million pounds, over more than a decade, for numerous charitable causes including the British Heart Foundation, NSPCC, Comic Relief and Cancer Research.

Siraj's first restaurant the New Curry Centre focused on authentic cuisine and a superior service, as a result, the restaurant quickly established itself as one of the counties most renowned restaurants, thanks to its charismatic and entrepreneurial owner. Due to its success, Mr Ali opened four other Indian restaurants in the region before opening the multi-award winning Maharaja restaurant, which is his most renowned. Back in the mid 90s, Mr Ali took over and transformed the failing business into one of the most successful in the country. With innovative cuisine, a unique atmosphere and dynamic service at it's heart, the restaurant quickly received recognition by Industry experts including Pat Chapman, Chair of the Curry Club and MPs, who voted it as one of the UK's top restaurants. The Maharaja was then chosen by MPs to cater for the launch of the first nationwide Bangladesh Festival of Food and Culture at the House of Commons in 2001. In 2008, the Maharaja was again nominated by MPs to represent the South East in the Tiffin Cup Curry Awards, winning second runner up position. In 2008 and 2009, the Maharaja was shortlisted as one of the finalists in the British Curry Awards for London and the South East.

An honoured friend of the University of Buckingham Bangladesh Scholarship, Siraj

Ali was awarded the 'Crest for Service to the Community' by the Mayor of Tower Hamlets in 2007. Two years later, he won the Channel S Award 2009 for 'Contribution to the Community' London and South East.

In Bangladesh, Mr Ali is one of the Directors of the Metro Centre, a commercial and residential hotel complex comprising of an international standard hotel and restaurant. Siraj is also the Chairman and owner of Al Siraj Plaza, a twelve storey multipurpose building in Goalabazaar, Sylhet, which includes the 3000 square foot 'Siraj-Ul-Uloom,' for Quran & Hadith Research Centre and Library, the 3rd research centre of its kind, in Bangladesh.

Proprietor of the City School and College, Mairabazaar, Sylhet, Mr. Ali is also the Founder and Sponsor of the Hajji Soyed Ali Memorial Trust, which supports and provides grants to education establishments, as well as aid to underprivileged students.

An active philanthropist, Siraj Ali was the Chairman of the Interim Committee, Arbitrator and former Treasurer of The Balagonj Education Trust (1200 trustees), which aims to provide life skills and much needed education to the poorest regions of Bangladesh, and Senior Vice-Chairman of The Probashi Umor Pur Union Development and Welfare Trust.

Mr Ali is also very active within the Bangladeshi Community in the Essex region. Siraj is the Founder Chairman of both The Thurrock Bangladesh Welfare Association and The Thurrock Islamic Educational Cultural Centre. He has also been the General Secretary of the Essex Jamme Masjid in Southend-on-Sea for over four

In Benfleet, Mr Ali is the Founder General Secretary of the Castlepoint Islamic Education and Cultural Centre, as well as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Essex Bangladesh Welfare Association.

Happily married, Siraj Ali has one son and three daughters. An inspiration to his children, his eldest three children have attended Europe's top 5 business schools as part of their university education. Siraj's son is the owner of an International investment and trading company.

His eldest daughter, a former investment banker, runs a successful company and is pursuing a second degree in medicine. Siraj's middle daughter has a doctorate in marketing and a successful marketing career in the city. His youngest daughter is still in education, pursuing a career in medicine.

Shamim Azad is an active bilingual poet, storyteller and a writer. Her repertoire as a storyteller ranges from Bangladeshi to European folktales. Her performance fuses the lines between education and entertainment and her workshops are rooted in oral traditions, and heritage.

Azad's residencies have included Tower Hamlets Summer University, Sunderland City Library & Arts Centre, East Side Arts, Poetry Society, Magic Me, Rich Mix, Kinetika, Bromley By Bow Centre, Half Moon Theatre and Apples & Snakes.

Azad has published 14 books including novels, collections of short stories, essays and poems in both English and Bangla and has been included in various anthologies including British South Asian Poetry, My Birth Was Not In Vain, Velocity, Emlit Project and Mother Tongues. She wrote two pays for Half Moon Theatre.

She has performed at a wide variety of venues including the Museum of London, Cambridge Water Stone, Liberty Radio, Battersea Arts Centre, Lauderdale House, the Commonwealth Institute, British Library, British Council of Bangladesh, Takshila in Pakistan and New York. She has worked with well known composer Richard Blackford, Kerry Andrews, choreographer Rosemary Lee, visual artist Robin Whitemore and playwright Mary Cooper.

She is a trustee of well known charity One World Action, a school Governor and Chairperson of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro (World Literature Centre) London. Azad received the Bichitra Award in 1994



Sector: Arts, Culture & Education

**Shamim Azad** 

from Bangladesh, Year of the Artist 2000 Award from London Arts, Sonjojon- A Rouf Award 2004 & Civic Awad in 2004 in UK.

Shahin Badar is an Award winning and Dynamic leading British Asian Singer/Songwriter, who is well known internationally through some of her breathtaking collabrations. A consummate professional, role model and inspiration to many young and mature people. She is certainly one of the UK based female South Asian front runners of innovative musical collaborations with her blend of powerful Arabic/Indian/Bengali vocal resonance in music in its various genres which blends nicely within the mainstream and Asian music fields.

Shahin scored chart success with the Prodigy's 'Smack My Bitch Up', which featured her unique spine tingling chant on their multi-selling 'Fat Of The Land' album giving them and Shahin Billboard and UK No. 1 chart positions and entry into the Guinness Book of Records as the fastest selling album at the time. For this she received a double platinum disc and a place in music history. Prodigy's 'Fat Of The Land' album also reached number 1 in over 23 countries. Shahin's collabration with Tim Deluxe on the House Stomper 'Mundaya' was chosen as 'Essential tune of the week' by BBC Radio 1 DJ Pete Tong.

Her collaborations include the likes oscar winner AR Rahman(yuva), Indian Ropeman(66 meter's), Jah Wobble(Hayati), Tim Deluxe (Mundaya), Twista and Juliet Lewis (Get up Get Off). Her vocals have already featured in more than 30 Hollywood and Bollywood films including Academy, BAFTA and Golden Globe Award nominated Closer and Academy Award nominated Charlie's Angels; US sitcoms North Shore and Kevin Hill as well as Shyam Bengal's Zubeidaa.



Sector: Arts and Entertainment

**Shahin Badar** 

shahin badar supported US rapper 50 Cent and worked with director Ang Lee on The Hulk (Eric Bana).

Shahin badar headlined many festivals, launched special events, endorsed charitable causes, was described by one mainstream magazine as " one of the most original artistes around".

She was nominted for the UKAMA awards for the best female alternative act this year.

Her fantastic Album -'LAILA' is out now in HMV/i-tunes



**Aminul Haq** Badsha

Sector: Media (Journalism)

Khondker Aminul Haq, better known as Badsha is the Executive Member of Bangladesh Journalist Association as well as the Commonwealth Journalist Association UK. Born in Kushtia, Bangladesh, he completed his education in Bangladesh before he was forced to come to England after the assassination of Bangobhaundhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Mr Aminul Haq Badsha completed his MA in Sociology from Dhaka University and graduated from Prison. He was arrested for his involvement in student politics. In England Mr Haq completed a Masters and a Diploma in Social Work. During his student life, Badsha was actively involved in student politics. Badsha spent time in various prisons due to his involvement in politics. After his release from Jessore Jail, Badsha took admission in Law and Sociology at Dhaka University in 1963. During his prison life Badsha came into contact with prominent political and intellectual personalities.

Aminul Haq Badsha believes in Social Justice. He was organising secretary of the then East Pakistan Student League and General Secretary of Iqbal Hall of Dhaka University. He actively participated in the anti Ayub struggle. Furthermore, he was a freedom fighter in 1971.

Badsha was founder of Bangladesh Liberation Radio Shadin Bangla Beter Kendro in Mujib Nagar. He was also director of External Publicity of Bangladesh Mission, Mujib Nagar. He was appointed as press secretary to the father of the nation in 1969 after he was released from Agartala Mamla.

After arriving in the UK, Badsha continues his involvement in journalism.

He is the correspondent of a number of national daily newspapers in India, Bangladesh and England, Including ATN Bangla, which is an international TV channel.

Mr Haq is married with two children, a son and a daughter. He is committed to honest journalism and stands up for what he believes in. He will be remembered for his role in journalism and politics. He has suffered at the hands of the Pakistan military and was also tried absentia in October 1971 and given 14 years imprisonment.

Badsha has worked for the British Civil Service, Asian Unemployment project, and also as a Social Worker in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. He has written four books and has acted in several Bengali films.



Cllr Lutfa Begum

Sector: **Politics** 

Cllr Lutfa was elected as a Councillor for the Limehouse ward in 2006. She has been working as a nurse for the past 30 years and is currently a Practice nurse at Gill Street Health Centre. Lutfa has a BSc in Nursing and MA in Islamic Studies and Comparative religion. She is married and has two children; Rania Khan (Councillor and Science teacher) and Sonia Khan (studying BSc in Biomedicine).

Lutfa has been a staunch anti-war campaigner and is passionate for empowering women both here in UK and in Bangladesh. More recently she has been campaigning to defend the NHS from being privatised. She loves to travel, enjoys swimming at the Mile End Leisure Centre and socialising. Lutfa is currently undertaking Phd on 'Comparative study of teenage pregnancy in the East End and Bangladesh'.

Cllr Begum alongside being a mother, wife, nurse and a Councillor has supported many vulnerable women and families. She has been a strong advocate of social cohesion and gains great pleasure in helping others.

Mr Abdul Hai Khalique (Junel), Mr Abdul Quayum Khalique (Jamal) and Mr Abdul Muhith (Joynal) are the three brothers behind the internationally renowned grocers Taj Stores at Brick Lane. They took over the business from their late father Alhaj Abdul Khalique who came from Baur Bagh, Moulvibazar, Bangladesh Abdul Hai, Abdul Quayum and Abdul Muhith all grew up in Brick Lane, East London. Abdul Hai Khalique and Abdul Quayum Khalique then progressed to Milestone Preparatory School which is a private school situated in Bond Street, West London, Meanwhile their youngest brother Abdul Muhith went to Daneford School near Bethnal Green.

Abdul Hai Khalique advanced to an Architectural college where he completed his first year before joining the family business. Abdul Quayum Khalique on the other hand attended the private American International College where he completed a Diploma in Business after which he too joined the business. Abdul Muhith also gradually joined the family business after completing his education.

Besides running the very successful and extremely well known Taj Stores, the brothers also have other business interests. The three 'Taj' brothers hold a very healthy portfolio of properties located across the capital as well as several properties abroad, including in Dubai. They also have a vast amount of land and properties in Bangladesh which their family have owned for generations. They also own a restaurant in Brick Lane called 'Le Taj'. The brothers remain closely associated with donating to charity and these include supporting a Cancer Research Charity in honour of their late mother, and also a Charity which specialise in treating problems and illnesses related to kidneys, in honour of their late father.



Taj Brothers

Sector: **Business and Property** 

Additionally the brothers have also supported the victims of the Sidr Cyclone and have donated some 17 tube wells to 17 different villages in Moulvibazar.

Moreover, their charitable activities have consisted of funding the development and construction of many houses for the poor to reside in within the vicinity of their village, as well as financing and building a whole Mosque, and an Islamic School, where over 300 students are educated for free.

The Brothers also have a sister in this country called Rashida Rahman. They are all married with Abdul Hai Khalique having four children; one daughter and three sons. Abdul Quayum Khalique has two sons and Abdul Muhith having two daughters. All their children are in education. The Taj businesses are well acknowledged brands within British Bangladeshi households.

Mizanur Rahman Chaudhury (Mizan) has been a resident of Tower Hamlets since 1978 and went to Canon Barnett Primary School and to Sir John Cass's Foundation School and Aberdeen Grammar School (Scotland) for his secondary education.

Mizan has been an active politician and community activist for over a decade and is well known amongst the political activists, young people and the community. He was a businessman and was studying fashion and design at the London College of Fashion before entering into politics. He made his mark in 2000 when he became one of the youngest active member of the Labour Party in Tower Hamlets and has served in various positions since – he was the Labour Party Secretary in Spitalfields and Banglatown Ward from 2001-2006, Assistant Secretary of the Local Government Committee from 2003-2004 and Youth Officer for Tower Hamlets General Committee 2001-2003. Mizan is known to be the youngest influential figure in Tower Hamlets and Labour Party politics - he has always played an imperative role in mediating and power brokerage and has helped many individuals to get to where they are today in the political arena.

Mizan got elected as a Councillor in Bethnal Green South Ward at the 2010 Local Election - he was elected with the highest votes and surprised everyone as he was not favourite to win - as he lives in the neighbouring ward, Spitalfields and Banglatown and was competing against local heavyweights in Bethnal Green South. His commitment and determination to win and being able to gain local peoples trust and confidence in him led him to his success – a fighter in his own right. By profession Mizan is a Civil Servant working in the Department for Education. Before his election to Council, he was a Ministerial Secretary under the Labour Government from 2003-2010 and during this



Cllr Mizanur Rahman Chaudhury

Sector: **Politics** 

time he has worked with high ranking Government Ministers and Members of Parliament.

Prior to being elected as the Chair of Council (Civic Mayor), Mizan was Olympic Ambassador of Tower Hamlets, Member of the Council's Audit Committee, Appeals Committee, Human Resources Committee and the General Purpose Committee, which he is still a member of. The role of Chair of Council (Civic Mayor) is an important element of the council's governance structure. It is the highest office that residents, through their elected representatives, can grant a Member of the Council. Mizan was formally appointed to the Office at the first meeting of the Council in this Municipal Year - 18th May 2011.

Mizan is known in the community as a principled talented brave young man with conviction and love for his community – he wants to do the best for everyone and inspire young people to get active in politics and the community. He was the youngest Civic Mayor (Chair of Council) to be elected in Tower Hamlets to the Chain of Office - a rising star of the community.



Abdul Gaffar Choudhury

Media, Arts and Literature

Abdul Gaffar Choudhury is a famous Bengali author and columnist. He is perhaps best known for his lyric Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano ekushe February-- which has become the main song commemorating the Language Movement, the music having been composed by Shaheed Altaf Mahmud.

His lyric Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano is recognised as the most influential song of the Language Movement. The song is sung every year in the probhat feri, the march in barefoot towards the Shaheed Minar to pay homage to the martyrs. It is regarded by the listeners of BBC Bengali Service as the third best song in Bengali.

He was born in 1934 in Barishal and came to England on October 5, 1974. He graduated from Dhaka University in 1959. His father Hazi Wahed Reza Choudhury was an influential land lord and freedom fighter of undivided India. He was the president of Barishal District Congress and a member of the All India Congress Working Committee. Mr Reza Choudhury was imprisoned in 1942 August

Movement. He served as secretary of Motilal Neheru.

Zohra Khatun was Gaffar Choudhury's mother. Before coming to this country, Gaffar Choudhury worked as a journalist in different national newspapers in Dhaka. During the 1971 War he was in Kolkata working for the Mujib Nagar government's mouthpiece Joy Bangla and for Kolkata dailies like Jugantar and Anandabazar Patrika. He came to England for the treatment of his wife, and initially led a life of struggle. He could not return to Bangladesh for 22 years after the assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

In the UK, he established the newspaper Natun Din during Ershads reign in Bangladesh, and was the founder editor. He has written thirty five books. including Shesh Rajanir Chand, Chandrodwiper

Upakhyan etcetera. He has visited different countries such as Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Algeria.

Abdul Gaffar Choudhury has been showered with numerous awards like Bangla Academy Award in 1967, Ekushey Padak, UNESCO literary Award, Bangabandhu Award, Sadhinota Padak in 2009. In the same year, the Daily Ittefaq honoured him with Manik Miah Padak. He is producing the film "The Poet of Politics (film)" on Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. He already produced a film on the assassination of Mujibur Rahman called 'Polashi theke Dhanmondi'.

He, at the present, is living with his wife Shelima Choudhury. He has a son, Anupam, working in Rueters, and four daughters Tanima, Chinmoyee, Binita and Indira. He currently lives in London from where he regularly writes columns in national Bangladeshi dailies, in Bengali newspapers of Bangladeshi community and in a daily paper in Kolkata.



Akhlaq Choudhury

Legal (Barrister)

Akhlaq Choudhury is a barrister specialising in employment law and public law. Akhlaq graduated in physics from University of Glasgow before deciding to study Law at the University of London where he obtained a first class honours degree. He was called to the Bar in 1992 and started practising at 11 King's Bench Walk Chambers (now known as "11 KBW"), which is the premier employment law chambers in the country.

Akhlag's practice developed rapidly and he is consistently ranked by his peers as a leader in his areas of expertise making him the leading British Bangladeshi practitioner in employment law.

Akhlaq was a long-standing member of the Attorney General's panel of approved Counsel in which capacity he acted for and advised the Foreign & Commonwealth Office, the MoD, HMRC and various other Government departments in relation to matters ranging from human rights and discrimination in the armed forces to the right to detain persons with mental incapacity.

He is one of the standing counsel for the Information Commissioner and has recently appeared in many of the ground-breaking cases in the developing area of Freedom of Information and Data Protection law. Akhlaq also sits as a recorder.

Akhlaq was born in Hampshire but grew up in Glasgow where his father, the late Mr Azizur Rahman Choudhury, ran a successful restaurant business and was a leading member of the Bangladeshi community in Scotland. Akhlaq now lives in London with his wife, Safina, and their three children

Anwar Choudhury (BSc, MBA) was Her Majesty's High Commissioner to Bangladesh from 2004 to 2008.

Mr Choudhury has had a unique and distinguished career having served in British Industry, The Royal Air Force, The Ministry of Defence and The Cabinet Office. He is the

first senior British Ambassador from a British Asian background and also one of the youngest to achieve this level of posting.

He started his career in Industry as a Design Engineer. This was followed by the Royal Air Force and the Ministry of Defence where he managed a large team of civilian scientists and senior military personnel. As Assistant Director, he was responsible for developing Ministry of Defence's strategies and policies aimed to bring about the integration of Defence systems within the MOD, NATO and Allies.

Mr Choudhury then moved from the MOD to the Cabinet Office where he was Director of Policy in the Office of the e-Envoy. He was responsible for leading the vision and policy for UK Government's ambition to become a leading knowledge economy and the best place for e-government. He left the Cabinet Office to join the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and initially worked on strategy and policy issues before taking up his posting as High Commissioner to Bangladesh in May 2004.

Mr Choudhury completed his assignment as High Commissioner to Bangladesh in May 2008 and has taken up his new role as Director of International Institutions, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Sector: Civil Service (Foreign Office)

**Anwar Choudhury** 

Mr Choudhury's main interests are in policy for radical change in government and the potential of the information revolution for the developing world economies. On a personal note, he is married with three children. His hobbies include Cricket, Bridge, Bengali Folk music and an addiction for Bangladeshi cuisine.

Atique Islam Choudhury is the son of Dabirul Islam Choudhury and Khaleda Choudhury. He is property developer, industrialist and social entrepreneur. Born in St Albans Hertfordshire in 1963.

Owner and Managing Director of the award winning restaurant Yum Yum, Europe's largest Thai restaurant with seating for up to 500 and owner of Mercado Mexican Restaurant. In 2009 Atique's latest venture Oishiii Japanese Eatery, is a new revolution in Japanese dining. With over 26 years experience in the restaurant sector Atique has been at the fore front of innovative practice in the restaurant trade and provides a service second to none. He has won many accolades and awards, featured in the media throughout his career.

Atique is a very strong supporter of Youth Employment, to that end he created the Asian Oriental School of Catering which specialised in training and finding employment for young people and providing a high level quality chefs throughout London and the UK. He is an avid supporter of local and national charities and supporting his Community through sponsorship and awards by creating opportunities for creative and talented people alike. An ex international badminton player also one his favourite pastimes is as an avid supporter of the Arsenal Football Club.

His many personal and business awards include; Caterer & Hotelkeeper Healthy Menu Award 1986, 1999, Winner of the Thai Food Festival, Egon Rhonay Oriental Chef of the Year 1999, Hackney Chamber of Commerce award for the best service in business 1999, Presented with the Thai Select Award for Thai Cuisine, UK Food



**Atique Islam Choudhury** Sector:

Service award winner 2000, received an Arts & Business award in 2001, Thai Trade & Commerce Award for 'Chef of the Year 2003, LBC 2003 Oriental Restaurant of The Year, Archant London Restaurant Award, Best Thai Restaurant 2007, Mayor of Hackney Business Awards, Best Business in Hackney 2009, 2006 presented by the Royal Thai Embassy and Buddhapadipa Temple an Honorary Certificate in recognition of his work for the Thai community in the UK. His restaurant was also Finalist Best Thai Restaurant in London (Carlton TV) in 1997.

Catering



Aziz Choudhury Community Relations and Voluntar

Aziz Choudhury is the Director of Montefiore Centre under which thirteen organisations are based providing training and other important services to the community. He has held this post since 2001.

Prior to his current position, Mr Choudhury was Managing Director of Otherwords Ltd, and from 1995 to 1999 he was Chief Executive of Bengali Workers Association. He was responsible for overseeing the running of several local projects in Camden, including the Surma community centre.

In the mid eighties, Aziz Choudhury was Finance Director for Spitalfields Housing Association, a position he maintained for a decade. In his early career he was an accountant and worked for various accredited accountancy firms.

Mr Choudhury has a host of qualifications. He obtained his BSc in Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics from Dhaka University in 1967.

He Studied Accountancy at the London School of Accountancy between 1972-73. Moreover, he is an Associate member of Institute of Financial Accountants and has Fellow Membership of Institute of Financial Accountants as well as achieving Common Purpose Community Leadership Graduation in 1992. Mr Choudhury has been involved in several community and voluntary initiatives both in the United Kingdom and in Bangladesh. These include being involved with Spitalfields Small Business Association, East London Small Business Centre, East London Business Alliance and he has been a PMG member of the Tower Hamlets Partnership. Other involvement includes being actively enagaged

with Bangla Housing Association.

In Bangladesh Aziz Choudhury founded the Jalalpur College in Sylhet and he is a trustee and General Secretary of Rosae Trust, which raises funds to support a hospital in Dhaka.

Mr Aziz Choudhury is married to Heima Choudhury. They have two sons, the eldest son Ashike is a Doctor for the NHS and youngest son Siraj is a Solicitor in Local Government, with a Masters Degree in town planning.



Capt. Tasbirul Ahmed Choudhury

Sector: Aviation

United Airways (BD) Ltd, a public limited company by shares, is founded by an expatriate airline pilot, Capt. Tasbirul Ahmed Choudhury along with a group of professionals, business people, entrepreneurs united together for a shared vision to develop a world class airline in Bangladesh. The company formed in early 2005 was issued with Air Transport Operating License (ATOL) No. 35 from Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh to operate passenger and cargo service in the international and domestic sectors.

Capt. Tasbirul Ahmed Choudhury was born in 1966 in Biswanath in Sylhet. His father is Late Kamaruddin Choudhury and mother is Late Begum Jahanara Choudhury. His Childhood passed in a very picturesque, beautiful, natural scenic land. He went to London at the age of 11 with his parents. He finished his secondary school, college and university life there. Subsequently he got admission into the London Southern Aero Club and got the British Flying License (BCPL) by completing his courses. Then he went to USA in 1991 and got his degree from commercial CA academy (Multi Engine)

and started his career from this organisation.

He is a high rated flight instructor and examiner of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh for airline pilot. He joined the aero Bengal Airlines (first Private Airlines in Bangladesh) as captain when he returned to Bangladesh in 1996.

Then he served as chief pilot, flight safety officer of Air Parabat, South Asia Airways and GMG Airlines. He has enriched his professional skills by obtaining training from abroad such as the US, Czech Republic, Sweden and Spain. He is now the Chairman and Managing Director of his own created organization, United Airways (BD) Ltd, the first listed airline company in the capital market in Bangladesh.

In 1975, at the age of 9, Sanawar, the first son of a headmaster, came to the UK under a settlement VISA to join his father (Late) Al-Hajj Mohammed Shafiqul Islam Choudhury, accompanied by his mother Shamsun Nehar and brother Soiful.

Since then Sanawar has earned an upper second BD (Hons) Degree in Accounting and Finance (1989), qualified as a Chartered Accountants with Price Waterhouse Coopers (1992) and has been awarded a PhD in Accounting from University (2005) - after submitting a doctoral thesis entitled 'Cash Flow Reporting in the UK: Perceptions, Practices and Problems', the culmination of six years research on the topic.

In 2001 Sanawar settled his young family in Dhaka and joined Bangladesh Bank as an International Consultant advising on corporate reporting, financial risk management and internal control. Sanawar worked with and for the Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed and Dr Sallehuddin Ahmed until 2006 when he returned to the UK with his wife Nasima, daughter Nazma and sons Shaheenur, Shajahan and Shafiul.

During his career Sanawar has undertaken consultancy assignments both in the UK, Europe and the Middle East, working mainly in financial risk management and corporate reporting.

Sanawar currently runs a number of successful businesses that ex



Dr Sanawar Choudhury BA (Hons), FCA, PhD(Exon)

Finance and Community Relations

tend from Professional Training to Property to the largest Chartered Accountancy firm of Bangladeshi origin in the UK, RCi Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors.

In 2008 Sanawar with other notable members of the NRB community in Europe launched the European Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry (EBF) and became one of its seven founding executive directors. EBF is a multi-lateral trade federation established to promote and encourage trade, investment and business relations between Europe and Bangladesh and between NRB's within the European Union.

Kalam Mahmud Abu Taher Choudhury was born in a traditional Moulana family in Ita Sinkapon, Moulvibazar. He is the youngest son of Hafiz Moulana Abdul Qader Choudhury Sinkaponi (R), who was a renowned spiritual leader and Islamic scholar in Bangladesh.

As a promising student leader, he was the General Secretary of the Chattra League, Kashinat Alauddin High School branch, Moulvibazar, in 1969 and played an active role in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Professionally, Mr Chowdhury is an engineer, tutor and a very wellknown journalist. He was a correspondent and staff reporter for the weekly Jugaberi and Deshbarta, two of the oldest newspapers published from Sylhet. Likewise, he worked with other newspapers and Sylhet radio for a lengthy period.

As an established journalist in the UK, Mr Choudhury was a Special Correspondent of the Weekly Jonomoth and Editor of the monthly Dawat. He was also the Founder Chief Editor and Chairman of the first-ever bilingual weekly newspaper, Euro Bangla. Currently, he is the Chief Editor of the weekly Bangla Post, Editor of the weekly London Bangla, Chairman of the weekly Bangla Mirror's Advisory Board and an Advisory Editor of the Dhaka Post. Additionally, he is the President of the Bangladesh Journalist Association UK. The 'community heartbeat, Mr Choudhury, was an elected ex-Chairperson and General Secretary of the Greater Sylhet Council in UK for two consecutive terms, and is currently a patron. He is the Secretary of Voice for Justice UK and holds presidential posts at Renaissance Sahitya Mojlish UK and New Hope Multi Cultural Trust. Mr Choudhury is also the Chairman of the Cancer Patients Poor Help Fund and Convenor of the Campaign for Press Freedom in Bangladesh. He is similarly serving as a Senior Vice Chairman for the Organisation for the Recognition of Bangla as an Official Lan guage in the UN. Last but no means least, he is an Advisor and Trustee of the Goreeb & Eatheem Trust fund



K M Abu Taher Choudhury

Media and Community Relations

and Advisor of the Aid & Care Trust.

Mr Choudhury has been a Parent Governor for several years. He has been working as an employee of the Tower Hamlets Council for the past 26 years. In May 2003, he was awarded the Civic Award from the Tower Hamlets Council, the Channel 'S' Award, Community Leadership Award from the Black Ethnic Minority in UK, Best Leader Award from the United States of America, British-Bangladeshi Who's Who award, the WBA Award and the NWT Award for his invaluable contribution to the community. He was also awarded the Language Memorial Gold Award from Dhaka and the Dhaka Post Award. In July 1997, Prince Charles invited him to a reception at St James Palace. He has also been invited to the Queen's Royal Garden Party at Bucking-

Mr Choudhury is a tireless campaigner for noble causes of the community and against the injustice in today's society. He is also a loving father of 8 children.



Mohibuddin Choudhury

Sector: Media

Mohibuddin Choudhury came to the United Kingdom with his parents at the age of fourteen in 1973.

Mr Mohibuddin Choudhury opened his first business in 1977, a restaurant named 'Akash' in Maida Vale, West London. He subsequently became involved with the media and is one of the Founding Directors of Notun Din. He is currently the Editor of the weekly Notun Din a Bengali language newspaper based in London.

Moreover, Mr Choudhury is the Founder President of the London Bangla Press Club, which was inaugurated in 1994. This organisation represents most of the Bangladeshi media in the United Kingdom. Mr Choudhury has also been recently elected as Director of Finance of the British Bangla Chamber of Commerce. He is also Director of Palm Tree.

Mohibuddin Choudhury has been involved in several other community and charity organisations. He is one of the Founder Trustees

& present chairman of British Bangla Jaggannathpur Education Trust based in the UK, which is one of the most successful organisations, that financially supports and encourages poor students in relation to advancing their education. Furthermore, he is one of the Founder Trustee of Kolkoli Shahjalal College, Syedpur College and Bibiana College in Bangladesh.

Mr Choudhury is a well-known and respected media personality and businessman and has supported many organisations working for the greater interest of the British Bangladeshi community. He is married with six children all of whom reside in the family home in Redbridge.



Prince Sadik Choudhury

Sector: **Politics** 

Mr Chaudhury was the only British Bangladeshi Councillor in Northamptonshire until the last election. While he was pursuing his Career to become a Barrister in the University of Northampton his interest in Politics prevailed.

Therefore Mr Chaudhury joined the Liberal Democrats and was successful in winning his seat in the Borough Council Election on 5th May 2007.

His family moved to Northamptonshire in the early 1970's and he himself has been a permanent resident of Northampton for over 20 years. He is a former Executive Committee Member of the (NBA) Northampton Bangladeshi Association and has been involved with the organisation for many years. He is currently undergoing training as a prospective Parliamentary Candidate and is actively involved in politics and has assisted many young British Bangladeshi in getting involved with mainstream politics.

He is a young, vibrant and dynamic Community Activist, who is the first point of contact for Bangladeshi people in Northampton. He is also known for his involvement in football and other sporting activities for the last 16 years.

He is the first ethnic minority person appointed by the Secretary of State for Planning as a Committee Member of WNDC (West Northamptonshire Development Corporation). He is involved in the major development and extension of the University of Northampton, Northampton College, Northampton Cricket Club and South Northamptonshire. He has received many prestigious local and national awards and recognition from various organisations for his relentless community and charity work. One of which was raising some £5,000 for Northampton General Hospital, which has resulted in him being highly recognised by the NHS for his work.

Mr Prince Sadik Chaudhury has also written several articles for the local Chronicle & Echo newspaper as well as the Northamptonshire BBC website, presenting his views and attitudes towards some very important issues. His articles for the Northamptonshire BBC still remain in existence on the website.

People in Northampton are very pleased to have a former Councillor in Northampton who is climbing the ladder of success in a very short span of time.

Mr Prince Sadik Chaudhury was honoured by The Her Majesty Queen for his prolong community work and he was first British-Bangladesh person from Northamptonshire was invited to Buckingham Palace. He is always demonstrated his commitment to the local community and has always been involved in various activities and frameworks to build racial and social harmony among the wider community. Surely he is a role model for the Asian community in Northampton.

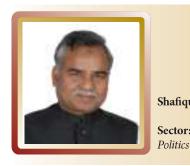
Shafiqur Rahman Choudhury is the MP of Biswanath-Balaganj-Osmaninogor elected in 2008. He is the President of Bangladesh Welfare Association in Britain, a prominent businessman and social worker. He is a member of parliamentary standing committee on Ministry of civil aviation & tourism, Privatization Commission & Syndicate member of Sylhet agriculture University.

Mr Choudhury was born in 1957 in Biswanath, Sylhet to the prominent community leader Al-Haj Abdul Matlib Choudhury and Latifunnesa Choudhury, Shafigur Rahman Choudhury gained his BA from Sylhet Government College. He got involved with student politics from school days, and was an active member of the Liberation War.

Mr Choudhury came to Britain in 1978 and got involved in the UK Awami League activities and played an important role in organising the workers all over the UK. He played pivotal roles in movements against autocracy and demanding the trial of war criminals.

He also played an improvement with the Bangladeshi youth organisations in a common platform to form the UK Youth Federation. As a president of Bangladesh Welfare Association, he took effort to resolve the problems regarding the visa system of the Bangladeshis with British passport, travel tax, problems regarding Biman and Sonali Bank. He formed the Probashi Action Committee as a protest against the harassment of the non-residents in Bangladesh. The Committee arranged a protest in Hyde Park and in front of the Bangladesh Mission.

Mr Choudhury is a trustee of the Bangladesh Centre and a founder-



Shafiqur Rahman Choudhury Sector:

convenor of the Martyrs' Day Observation Committee. This Committee has been observing the Martyrs' Day in different parts of London. Mr Choudhury also played important role in building the Language-Martyrs' Tomb in Altab Ali Park. He is also involved with Najrul Centre and Tower Hamlets Law Centre to name but a few.

Mr Choudhury got married in 1985 to Tahmina Akhtar Choudhury. They have three children, who are studying in London.

Abdul Kadir Choudhury is well known in the Bangladeshi community in the UK as a successful businessman, educationalist and industrialist. Mr Choudhury, eldest of three brothers and two sisters, was born at Dori Khunjonpur of Jaggannathpur Upozila in greater Sylhet in 1926. His father was a well known businessman.

In 1953 Mr. Choudhury came to London. He entered the catering industry in 1956 by establishing a restaurant named New Calcutta . In 1969, he started another restaurant, Himalaya, in Coventry only to sell it later on, and then went back to Bangladesh to start his own business. After an unsuccessful attempt he returned to the UK in 1978.

He later established 'Jhorna Tanduri Resturant' in Opington. As his business was thriving he also opened "Rajdoot", "Mughal", and "Bengal Lancer", "Bombay Butler" in Chiselhurst, and "Bengal Clipper" near Tower Bridge.

From a very young age Mr Kadir has been working towards the betterment of the community and the society; sometimes as an individual and sometimes as a part of a collective. He is a Founding Trustee of Jagannathpur British Bangla Education. He had also set up a school, Abdul Kadir - Meherun Nesa High School, to ensure that the local people have access to education, and has been bearing all the expenses of the school since then. He had also built a bridge in his father's name in Rasulpur - Kunchonpur road, and built a Building for Rasulpur Madrasa.

He built Al Hamra Shopping Complex with a view to encourage the Bangladeshi community in the UK to invest in Bangladesh, and is



**Abdul Kadir Chowdhury** 

Sector: **Business** 

planning to expand his business into the cement industry. He is a part of the Jalalabad, a Sylheti newspaper, and is the director of both Sylhet Trade Centre, and Al Hamra Bangladesh Ltd.

Mr Choudhury is married to Meherun Nesa Choudhury. His two sons Sohail Kadir Choudhury and Pavel Kadir Choudhury are also established businessman in Britain.



Ahmed Us Samad Chowdhury JP, FISMM, FCMI, FIH

Sector: Media, Charity, Business

One of Britain's most respected personalities of Bangladeshi origin is Ahmed Us Samad Chowdhury who came to Britain in 1972 to further his education. He was the first Asian Origin Student Union President in Bristol. In business, community development and media Mr Chowdhury has been a driving force for which he is much loved.

Mr Chowdhury was the Editor and Publisher of "Potrika", Britain's popular Bengali newspaper - published from London. Mr Chowdhury is also the Chairman of Channel S Television; a Bengali language broadcast media and one of the most watched ethnic channels in Europe. A Fellow of the Institute of Sales Marketing Management, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management, and Fellow of the Institute of Hospitality Mr Chowdhury is the owner of the Award winning restaurant Rajpoot in Bath and a number of other restaurants in Bath and Bristol. Mr Chowdhury is also in the property business and trades as "London Property Partnership". In Bangladesh Mr Chowdhury is also a property developer (Paragon Property Ltd.) and currently building 500 apartments for the ex-patriots in Sylhet. Also he is co owner of Kushiara Compsite Knit Industries in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

A 100% export orientated industry earning vital foreign currency for

Bangladesh.

In 1988 as the Head of the Bangladesh Association (Bristol, Bath & West) and Community Integration in mind, Mr Chowdhury founded the Bangladesh Women's Group in Bristol and then in 1990 founded the Bangladesh House.

This building is used as a drop in centre to get advice and information on housing, welfare etc. In 1993 he founded Bangladesh Centre in Bristol; this was aimed to cater for the needs of the Women's Group and Youth activities. In 1998 Mr Chowdhury started the project to establish South West's only purpose built mosque. Today Shahjalal Jame Mosque is complete, costing £1million. Mr Chowdhury serves as the Trustee of Bangladesh Association and Shahjalal Jame Mosque Trust. Locally Mr Chowdhury raised funds for the Royal United Hospital and has helped numerous charities. He has served as a Governor at City of Bath College, National Steering Committee Member for Hospitality Training Foundation to make NVQ/SVQ qualifications more accessible, National Advisor New Deal (Ethnic Minority Group). Mr Chowdhury is one of the Founders and Regional President of Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce. He played a vital part in establishing UK Bangladesh Education Trust, Founder Chairman of Britain- Bangladesh Friendship Society and is also involved with many national and International organisations, with a number of them he acts as an advisor. He is also a life member of The Commonwealth Judges and Magistrates Association.

In year 2000, Mr Chowdhury was the driving force in establishing the Immigration Advisory Service (IAS) office in Sylhet, Bangladesh (the only office outside Britain). Mr Chowdhury serves as the Chairman of the IAS - Sylhet Advisory Committee. He helped to establish a Children's Hospital, Cyclone Shelter, Orphanage and a Hospital for the Disabled and Paralysed and many educational institutions in Bangladesh.



Cllr Ayesha Chowdhury

Sector: **Politics** 

Cllr Ayesha Chowdhury arrived in Britain with her parents at the age of 16. Besides learning English, she helped her father with his community work. In 1991 she found herself taking a course in Construction, at Newham Community College, she completed the Diploma in 1993.

She then enrolled at Goldsmiths College, University of London, to study Youth, Community and Social work, eventually obtaining a Masters Degree in Applied Anthropology, Youth & Community Work. Cllr Chowdhury began to recognise that whatever she did she was limited by the confines of policy. Therefore she felt that the decision-making process had to be influenced if real change was to be attempted. As a result of this she got involved with politics.

Outside her role as a councillor in Newham, Ayesha Chowdhury is a successful businesswoman. She is a property developer and also Director of London Green Management Company Ltd. She has pre-

viously worked as a Centre Manager in Newham, a Social Worker for Tower Hamlets and has co-ordinated projects in different boroughs. Aside from politics and business, she is also committed to various local, national and transnational organisations. She has been heavily involved in fundraising activities in the UK to support various rural areas across the globe.

Her participation in community initiatives consist of being in the consultative committee of London City Airport. She retains membership in the Newham Community Police Forum and School Organisation committee.

Other past and present commitments include being a committee member of Beckton Community Forum, Building Schools for Future and Mayoral Advisor. Amongst her most prestigious voluntary association she is a committee member for two Scrutiny Commission for Community Cohesion and Child Poverty, two integral issues which society faces in the present climate. Her interests include Human Rights, politics as well as environmental and social issues. She is fluent in several languages including Bengali, English, Urdu, Hindi and is currently maintaining her interest in foreign languages by learning a European language.

She is a family woman, married with two children.

Salim Chowdhury resides in Harrow, Middlesex. He hails from the village of Nogrikhapon, Goala Bazar, Sylhet. He is the son of Abdul Motin Chowdhury and Hafsa Chowdhury.

Salim completed his A-Levels in the United Kingdom before achieving a B.A degree in Hospitality and Management. He has an illustrious record of business ownership, which includes being the proprietor or various restaurants and also being Director of General Auto Services.

Mr. Chowdhury also served as a Police Officer for the Metropolitan Police for a period of five years from 1995.

Mr. Chowdhury was elected as a Councillor for Harrow Council in 2006. He is the Founder Executive Member of Conservative Friends of Bangladesh as well as being a Member of both the Conservative Muslim Forum and British Asian Conservative link. He is well connected with the Conservative party and various organisations affiliated to the party.

Moreover, Salim Chowdhury served as Chief Whip of Harrow Council from 2006 to 2008 and was a deputy cabinet member from 2007 to 2009.

Aside from his association with politcs, Mr. Chowdhury remains closely connected with local and community based initiatives. He was Elected Senior Vice Chair of Probashi Balagonj Education Trust until 2007. He is an Executive member of the Bangladesh Caterers Association (BCA) and Co-ordinator of Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs. Furthermore, Mr. Chowdhury serves as President of



Salim Chowdhury Sector: Politics and various businesses

Middlesex Jubo League and is a Trustee of Harrow Bangladeshi Association.

There are numerous other organisations with which Cllr Salim Chowdhury takes an active role in. He has also donated to several charities, which he continues to do so on a regular basis, and has funded a school hall in his village in Bangladesh.

Salim is married to Jasmine Chowdhury who has a BSc Honours degree. The couple have two children.

At the age of 16 Mamun co. founded football team Beaumont Athletic FC. Mamun started his career with Beaumont as the secretary of the club, later he took on the manager's role and became one of the youngest Bangladeshi managers in Tower hamlets. He led the club to many successes as a manager, winning league titles, competitions and various cups, most notably the UK Bangladeshi championship in 2005. He still manages the 1st team and is one of the most experienced managers around in the borough. He has his coaching badge with the FA. Mamun also took on additional roles within the club to steer it towards more success, most notable ones in 2001 when he got the club intermediate status and in 2006 getting the charter standard mark and senior club status allowing the club to play at senior level football and the FA cup.

Mamun's remarkable work as a volunteer continues outside his club as he is the only individual to have carried out years of volunteer services to all the managers to all major volunteer organization in the borough from 2001 to present.

Mamun still works with other organisations to organise events and also organises regular tours abroad for his club.

Mamun, in March 2009, was appointed manager of Kent senior league team Sporting Bengal the senior club in the borough. Mamun also managed his beloved club Beaumont FC in the tournaments and the summer league.

Mamun's work has not gone unnoticed as he has received many awards for his hard work. In 2001 he was awarded the Volunteer Award by Stepney Voice newspaper, in 2005 he won the Jack Petchey



Mamun Rashid **Chowdhury MBE** 

Community Relations & Voluntary

Leaders Award, in 2006 he won the Canary Wharf volunteer award and in 2008 he was awarded the Tower Hamlets Civic Award and more recently a MBE.



Matiur Rahman Chowdhury Sector: Media

Matiur Rahman Chowdhury is an Organisimg Secretary of the London Bangla Press Club. The News Editor for Euro Bangla Newspaper has quickly established himself as a valuable member of the organisation since arriving from Bangladesh. Born in Kulaura, Moulvibazar district of Bangladesh, Mr Chowdhury completed his education in Bangladesh before moving to the UK.

He attended the local high school in Kulaura, Moulvibazar where he completed his S.S.C examinations and progressed on to Moulvibazar's Komolgonj College to complete his H.S.C studies. He completed both his BSS and MSS in Political Science from Dhaka University.

After completing his masters, Mr Chowdhury joined BRAC's research evaluation department and was based at the organisations head office in Mohakali- Dhaka. Later he was employed as a Regional Sales Manager for the Meghna Group and predominately based in Sylhet, Dhaka and Chittagong. Mr Chowdhury was a lecturer of Political Science at Moulvibazar's Bhatera College in Kulaura before moving to the UK.

Once in the UK, Mr Chowdhury worked in the marketing industry and was recruited by the Euro Bangla Newspaper to help improve their sales and soon worked his way up through consistently working hard and learning new skills to the position of News Editor. Presently, he is working in Weekly Potrika as a sub editor. In addition to his full time role in print media, Mr Chowdhury is engaged in various non-profit social welfare organisations.

He was the founder Secretary of Udoyachol Jonokollan Songsta project in Kulaura, Moulzibazar, Bangladesh, as well as a Joint Secretary of Kulaura Chatro Kollyan Songsta in Dhaka. Mr Chowdhury was also a member of Dhaka's Jalalabad Association.

Mr Chowdhury has two brothers and five sisters and is married with one son. For the foreseeable future, the Euro Bangla News Editor wants to continue helping the poor as well as developing more educational projects in Bangladesh.



Mr Enam-Ul Haque Chowdhury

Sector: Business/Philanthropist

Mr Enam-Ul Haque Chowdhury was born and studied in Bangladesh before arriving to the UK in 1986 to study Business Management at Luton University. After completing his studies he moved to Swindon.

Realising his ambitions within the catering industry Mr Chowdhury opened his first restaurant in 1991 the Ganges Indian takeaway which became an instant hit with the locals in the area. This gave him the inspiration and confidence to open his second business the Ganges Indian Restaurant in 1993. The business has won many awards and accolades.

Mr Chowdhury's varied business interest includes catering, Investment and property development in the United Kingdom and Bangladesh. He is the founder of MIJ group .He is the Chairmen and CEO of Greentech Developers (UK) LTD which has been awarded by the ICT Ministry of Bangladesh To Develop Bangladesh's first Software Park at Janata Tower, Dhaka. He is one of the Directors of the five stars hotel Dhaka Regency located in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

He is the founder of Thahiria Mohila Academy (Titel) in Shahbagh,

Zakigonj, Sylhet, Bangladesh. An Executive Director of UK-Bangladesh Business Council (UKBBC), recently he is elected as a VICE PRESIDENT of BCA. The life member of London Bangla Press Club ,Deputy chairman of Royal wootton bassett & District Conservatives, Honorary Vice President of Conservative Friends of Bangladesh, He is a member and actively involved in the international rotary club, he has assisted in various charitable and philanthropy related project in U.K and Bangladesh.

He is a member of William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation millennium network. He is a civilian sponsor for International student of DEFENCE ACADEMY of The United Kingdom since 1999. A committee member of Queen's Diamond jubilee celebration 2012. In 2009 ENAM CHOWDHURY with other high profile members of the Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) community from UK, EUROP, CANADA, USA, AFRICA and MIDDLEEST created the NRB WORLDWIDE FOUNDATION is a non-profit, non-partisan organization, by the development and promotion of the knowledge and skills as a common base for intellectual exchange to support the enrichment of Bangladesh.

Mr Chowdhury has been awarded the Special Citizen Privilege Category" A" (CIP) from the Government of Bangladesh.

He has attended many International seminar and Conference including One in October 2009 IDEAS and INNOVATION for the Development of Bangladesh: THE NEXT DECADE at HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Boston, USA.

He has met various head of states, leaders and academics including USA president Bill Clinton.

He is a member of the WILTSHIRE GOLF CLUB.

Mr Chowdhury is married for 23 years to JASMIN CHOWDHURY the couple have been blessed with three sons.

Shamim is a seasoned television and print journalist, currently working for the renowned international broadcaster, Al Jazeera English, where she performs a number of prominent roles, including news editing, producing and occasional reporting. Her previous television experience includes work at the BBC, ITN and Sky News.

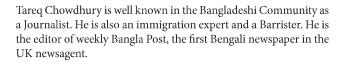
She has also written for many of Britain's national newspapers, including The Daily Express, The Daily Mail, The Daily Telegraph and, most recently, comment and opinion for The Independent. The prestigious political journal, The New Statesman, has also recently expressed interest in her as a contributing writer.

Shamim has a BSc from Queen Mary University, an MSc from Birkbeck College and a post-graduate diploma in newspaper journalism from City University, London.

Aside from her work, Shamim has a number of passions. She has training in shotokan karate for a number of years and enjoys cooking, literature and the arts. But her greatest passion is travelling and she has travelled to many parts of the world, including relatively unexplored parts Cambodia, Syria, the Middle East and Africa.

She has been involved in a number of leading charities, and on one occasion her fund-raising efforts resulted in her helping build a community centre for villagers in a remote part of Cambodia.

She is fiercely proud of her Bangladeshi, and more especially Sylheti, heritage and previously had her own column at the English-medium newspaper for the Bangladeshi community, The Bangla Mirror.



Born in Sylhet and brought up in Habigonj. His ancestral home is in Zakiganj upozilla in Sylhet district. Fifth son of Mr. Muhamed Abdun Nur Chowdhury, the retired Head Master of Shaistagani High School and former central president of Bangladesh Teachers association. His father was also head examiner of physics of Comilla Education Board for around 20 years.

Tareq Chowdhury took his Secondary and higher secondary education at Shaistaganj. He migrated to United Kingdom to study. He completed LLB honours at Wolverhampton University in 2002 followed by the Bar Vocational Course in 2003 from Northumbria University and was called to the Bar by the Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn.

He has been involved with the media since 1991 with Dainik Janata and he worked with Daily Star as University correspondent and contributor. He was the senior reporter of recently defunct Daily Bangladesh in UK and also contributed in various weeklies in UK including Bangla Mirror. He contributed in almost all newspapers in Rajshahi in the 1990s and many dailies and weeklies in Dhaka. He was also a dedicated scout since he was at school and carried on after he went to university. He attended many scouts camps and Jamboree. In order to receive the president scout award, he took part in the 100 mile rambling from Rajshahi to Sirajgonj.



**Shamim Chowdhury** Sector: media



Course

Tareq Chowdhury Sector:

Legal and Media

He has also earned reputation as a TV presenter with Local TV Channels on Legal and political programmes in London. He has leadership abilities as he was the president of Rajshahi University Press club. Secretary of University Rotaract club and he was the elected student representative to the honourable society of Lincoln's Inn from Northumbria University during his Bar Vocational

He is married to Rezia Choudhury who is working as Intelligence Researcher for the British Transport Police in London.



Gulam Mostafa Faruk Sector: Media (Journalist)

Golam Mostafa Faruk MA (MM) is Son of M Taru Boksh a retired police officer, village Pathan Para, Sylhet City Corporation He started his journalism career in 1987 while he was a student at MC College in Sylhet.

While in college he entered a government-arranged competition, which was the national week of teaching and became the first in the Sylhet region and gained a chance to be part of the Chittagong Division. Apart from studying he was also involved with charity work and work involving social economic development in Bangladesh. He was also the Chair of the central body for one of Sylhet's wellknown organisations 'Dhakin Surma Shomaj Kollan Shomity'. He was the editor of the magazine for the student union in his college and has edited ten different magazines for different organizations in the UK and in Bangladesh. Also was the Secretary General for Jalalabad Jubo Forum Sylhet Sodor and was the Press and Publicity Secretary for Sylhet Sodor Association UK. Has worked in several papers in Sylhet and Dhaka. Arrived in London in 1991. Also worked as senior staff reporter at Weekly Janamot for five years. Briefly worked for Weekly Surma newspaper prior to working for weekly Janamot.

He was the presenter for 'Shuprobat Britain' on Bangla TV London, which was a weekly

Bengali newspaper review programme for five years, and was involved with special occasional reporting from London for well known TV channels Ekushey TV, NTV and ATN Bangla in Bangladesh.

He is the London correspondent for the Daily Jugantor newspaper in Bangladesh since 2001, also is the London correspondent of the

Weekly Probashi newspaper of America and Austria's Euroshongbad. He has been the treasurer for Bangladesh Journalist Association UK and was also the Social Welfare and Entertainment Secretary for London Bangla Press Club for the first elected committee and received the majority votes amongst the competitors. He is also the Bengali section's editor of the well-known Spice Business magazine in the UK.

He currently teaching at Kingsford Community Secondary School & Language College in East London as a Bengali and Urdu teacher. He is married with two children.



Shahagir Bakth Faruk MSc. MRIPH Sector:

Politics, Business and Community Relations

Shahagir Bakth Faruk was born in Sunamganj, Bangladesh. His late father Alhaj Shah Bakth, was a retired Bank Officer, his younger brother Humayun is a Brigadier General in the Bangladesh Army, and his eldest sister, Dr Saleha Khatun was the first women medical doctor in her home town of Sunamganj. Faruk was a lecturer of Physics in Sunamganj College before arriving in London in 1973. He established the Shahnan Employment & Training Bureau, which was the first Bangladeshi employment and training centre in the East End of London.

Faruk is also the first Bangladeshi trainer who provides food hygiene training, health and safety training and HACCP training for all sorts of food handlers in a diverse range of premises. He is also an accredited trainer of the internationally recognised Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH), Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) and Welcome Host. He is an author of the book called "Food Hygiene". Apart from entrepreneurship, Faruk has made a considerable political contribution to the mainstream of British politics. He is involved with the Conservative party, having been the local Conservative Association Chairman for five consecutive years.

During his leadership he arranged visits in his local constituency from many leading Conservative figures.

Faruk was the only Bangladeshi who was selected as an official Conservative Parliamentary Candidate in 2001 and achieved an excellent second place against Oona King. He was also a Conservative candidate for the same constituency and fought a hard campaign against Oona King and George Galloway in 2005.

Faruk is the former President of the London region of Bangladesh-British Chamber of Commerce. He is the Deputy Chairman of "Conservative Friends of Bangladesh".

He is the founder member of the London Millennium Bridge Club and his name is engraved on this famous bridge, which was opened by Her Majesty the Queen. Faruk is also a trustee of Bangladesh Female Academy, founder of Sunamganj Association, "SUPROBASH" & a "Freeman of the City of London". He lives in east end of London with wife Sherina and four children Shahnan, Eva, Safwan and Zayn.

Born in 1944, Bangladesh, Mr Saad Ghazi moved to England (1962) where he entered the catering profession in Coventry through studying a Catering Higher Management Course at the Henley College of Further Education, Coventry, U.K. In 1985 he used this training by coordinating a pilot course in Indo Bangla Catering for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, which received national recognition and was copied throughout the country.

Specialising in Authentic Indian Cuisine, he opened his first restaurant 'Taj Mahal' back in 1965, in 1969 he opened his second restaurant 'Naz Curry Centre', Croydon, Surrey. In 1986 he opened his third restaurant 'Sunderban Tandoori' which was one of the largest restaurants in Surrey. Finally in 1989 he opened the Khyber Pass Tandoori Restaurant.

Married with three daughters, Mr Ghazi has always played a keen role in Bangladeshi Welfare and Catering. He has raised funds by hosting charity events as well as promoting Bangladeshi Cuisine to a National and International level. During his time as Secretary General of Bangladesh Caterers Association, he worked to provide welfare & cultural activities to the local community.

As a director and ex Senior Vice Chairman of the BBCC he helps to provide investment trading, research and development between traders in Bangladesh & U.K. Mr Ghazi has been in this post since 2000 and has relentlessly attended all the trade delegations and is forever present during their International Seminars.



Catering & Community Rela-

A.T.M.W. SAAD GHAZI

Mr Ghazi has provided a selfless service to his community for well over 35 years.

Abdul Haque was born in Moulvibazar, Bangladesh in 1976, and currently resides in Maida Vale, West London.

Mr Haque studied a BSc in Maths and Computing at Brunel University, and due to complete an MSc in Advance Software Engineering at the University of Westminster in 2009. As a civil servant, he used to work as a specialist software engineer on flight data processes for National Air Traffic Services [NATS].

However, he has now set up his own company and is the Founder & Managing Director of Purple I Technologies, which specializes in IT software and has played an integral part in promoting the EPOS system to the Bangaldeshi/Indian Restaurant industry. He is also the Vice- Chairman of Channel S, the television station for Bangladeshis in Britain and Europe, which was founded by his brother Mahee Ferdhous Jalil - where his technological expertise means that he oversees the busy IT department there.

Away from his successful career, Mr Haque enjoys nothing more than travelling the globe. This seems only natural considering his previous career in aviation technology. He has been to many different countries around the world, but feels that Malaysia is his favourite. He cites the friendly nature of the Malaysian people, the cuisine, the value and the fact that it is a strong Islamic nation as reasons why he finds it so favourable. However, he has also come away from places such as the Maldives and Canada with glowing

Aside from travelling, Mr Haque indulges his hobbies of badminton,



**Abdul Haque** Sector: Information Technology & Media

going to the gym and watching films, although with such a schedule it must be hard for him to fit these in. Mr Haque is married to Mary Rahman who runs her own successful London based PR company, which specialises in promoting clients hailing from the arts, theatre, film and fashion industries.



Cllr Ahmadul Haque

Sector: **Politics** 

Ahmadul Haque served as Deputy Mayor of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. He was the first Bangladeshi Councillor elected in the Midland region in 1995 and has been reelected ever since. In 2006 Cllr Haque received an award from Channel S for his services to the community. Cllr Haque arrived in the UK in July 1963 and initially became a member of the Pakistan Welfare Association in Birmingham.

Whilst working in various different companies, Cllr Haque was always keen to get into politics and in 1965 became a member of the old Labour party. With friction simmering in East Pakistan and West Pakistan, Cllr Haque set up the first Bangladesh Action Committee outside of Birmingham in 1971. In the same year Cllr Haque helped raise close to £1500 from contributions made by the residents of North Birmingham for the Bangladesh Action Committee movement as well as setting Midlands Awami League.

Cllr Haque is a very active member of the Bangladeshi community always campaigned for equality and as a result in 1976 received an award from the Bangladeshi High Commission. Through effort and having to overcome numerous obstacles, Cllr Haque also helped set up the Tipton Muslim Trust Association which is now referred to as Al-Islah Trust and a community centre for local Muslims in Tipton. Clearly evident from his involvement with the Bangladesh

Women's Association and his executive position with the Tipton Action Group, Cllr Haque tries to serve all members of the community. In the mid eighties, Cllr Haque purchased a terraced house via the trust and later set up the Sandwell Confederation of Bangladeshi Muslim Organisation (SCOBMO).

Cllr Haque is also a founder member of the City Challenge Project as well as Bangladesh Youth Movement. Through over twenty years of persistence and hard work campaigning for level crossings in Tipton a 2.2 million pound project finally commenced last year. Cllr Haque also played a pivotal role during Ms Syeda Khatun's election campaign who later became the first Bangladeshi female councillor in the Midlands area in 1999.



Cllr Shafiqul Haque

Sector: Legal and Politics

Cllr Shafiqul Haque was born in 1960 in Bahubal. His education began at the Bahubal Upazilla Primary School before passing his SSC at Dinanath High School in 1976. When he left high school, he completed his HSC at the Sylhet Government College. This was followed by both a BA and an LLB to become a lawyer in the Habigoni Judge Court.

Cllr Haque moved to the UK in 1991, and quickly became involved in the catering industry. He owned a restaurant from 1991 to 2003. He also enrolled at Guildhall University to complete an LLB.

However, in 1992 Shafiqul Haque, as he was then known, joined the Labour party. This move would prove to have a great impact on his life only a decade later. This was also his first participation with politics in the UK.

In May 2002, Shafiqul Haque became Cllr Shafiqul Haque as he was elected the Councillor for the ward of St. Katharine's and Wapping in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. Since this initial election, Cllr Haque has proven to be an integral member of Tower Hamlet's Borough Council. He was chosen to be the Vice-Chairman for the Council's Development Panel and also the Vice-Chairman of the Excellence of Public Service Committee among other important positions.

However, it was in 2004 that Shafiqul Haque's prominence in Tower Hamlets' Council really came to the fore as he was chosen to be the Borough's Deputy Mayor. Only two years later, in June 2006, the man from Bahubal's ascension into politics would reach its highest point as he was elected the Mayor of Tower Hamlets.

Cllr Shafiqul Haque served as a successful Mayor whilst he held that position and represented the community very well.

Currently Mr Haque is still a Labour party councillor for St. Katharine's and Wapping.

He qualified as solicitor in 2009 and is based at a firm in East London.

Additionally Cllr Haque is involved with various community ini-

Cllr Haque is married and has three children - two sons and a daughter.

Any attempt to write history or present state of Bangla print or electronic media in the UK will not be complete without mentioning one name, Syed Samadul Haque. Born in Kishorehonj and brought up in the tea valley of Sylhet, Samadul Haque was educated in Dhanmondi Govt. Boys High School, Dhaka College and Dhaka University.

Adventure and carrying out new ideas is part of Samadul Haque's character. In 1973 while he was a Secretary of Dhaka College Student Union, traveled to India with a State Student delegation. After a brief break of study to attend Military Academy, Samadul Haque came back to Dhaka University to study Politics. While in the University he was also Director of a family business, Sputnik International Limited. From 1981 to 1983 he traveled to London several times on business. But journey to London in late 1983 was not a very pleasant one. This time he came to London to sue a British Company, Wells Bridge Motors Limited of Cambridge for breach of Contract. This litigation in the High Court of London changed the destiny of Samadul Haque. He decided to live for some time in London and took up a career in media. Soon he was appointed as London Correspondent of Dainik Bangla, the then national newspaper of Bangladesh and began writing for different newspapers in Dhaka & London.

In 1984 Samadul Haque joined the Weekly Janomot of London. Soon became the News Editor and Executive Editor, and editor in 1989. In the year 1987 his story on personal life of the then President of Bangladesh H M Ershad was also picked up by Sunday Observer of London as lead story and in response the government of Bangladesh retaliated by banning 'Janomot' in Bangladesh. He spent good ten years of his youthful time to revitalize and give a

solid foundation for Janomot. In 1993-94 he served as part-time Media Consultant of Bethnal Green City Challenge, a project of the Department of Environment of British Government. In 1995 while he was editor of BNS, introduced International news agency service in Bangladesh in Bangla. He also represented CNN in Bangladesh from 1995 - 1998.



**Syed Samadul Haque** 

Sector: Media

Samadul Haque is a pioneer of ethnic television broadcasting in the UK. In May 1998 he with two friends formed Bangla Television Limited and became Managing Director of the company. This Company launched first satellite Bangla TV Channel outside Indian sub-continent on 16 September 1999. During his long career in broadcasting industry he also served as Director of News of Reminiscent Television, Managing Director of Channel S Bangladesh and CEO of Takbeer TV in the UK.

His innovative contribution in British Bangla Media includes launching of 'Daily Janomot', first Bangla internet daily in 1995 and Bangla tele-news service in the UK in 1994. He is also a pioneer of Call Centre industry in Bangladesh. In the year 2009 he opened Orbit Communications Call Centre, first international Call Centre in Bangladesh.

Outside his professional world Samadul Haque is a Community activist. In 80's and 90's he was in the forefront of anti-racist and ethnic minority rights movement in the UK. He was a founder EC member of Tower Hamlets Law Centre, founder General Secretary of Bangla Shahitya Porishod in the UK and also one of the Founder of London Bangla Press Club.

Mr Rafiqul Hoque was born in Bangladesh in the district of Sylhet, and came to England with his family at a young age. He grew up in Tower Hamlets, a Borough that has an acute shortage of housing, severe overcrowding and social deprivation.

Mr Hoque obtained his professional qualification in Housing from Westminster University in 1996. He has worked tirelessly using his in-depth housing knowledge, determination, professionalism, innovative thinking, operational and strategic management, and leadership skills to shape and improve the Housing and Allocations service over the last 20 years in the East End. He is currently the only senior Bangladeshi Manager within Housing in Tower Hamlets, leading and managing a large workforce; reviewing and implementing new policies.

As a member of the Allocations Action Learning Group set up by the Communities and Local Government (CLG), and Chartered Institute of Housing looking at best practices, he plays a critical and an advisory role within this Group, shaping future policy and guidance on Housing Allocation at a national level.

Mr Hoque is a skilful, industrious, conscientious, caring, diligent and determined individual who is passionate about what he does. He is unwavering in his desire to build a better future for his family and make a positive difference to people within his community in the UK and Bangladesh.

Shipbuilding is an emerging market in Bangladesh with huge potential. Mr Hoque is a Director of Maritimus Ltd, which is one of the leading international shipbuilding companies in Bangladesh. Over the next few years the Company will play a major role in improving the local infrastructure and creating hundreds of jobs in Bangladesh.



Rafiqul Hoque

Mr Hoque is eager to ensure the Company fulfils its corporate responsibility by setting up a Marine Academy, which will be the first of its kind in Bangladesh, offering formal qualification to students in this field. He passionately believes that Maritimus provides him the platform as a Non-resident Bangladeshi to give something back to his motherland, contribute to the national economy and change the lives of people in Bangladesh.

Amongst his peers, friends, relatives and local community he is well respected and admired due to his kind nature and willingness to help those in need.

He is happily married to his devoted wife Parvinara Hoque Chowdhury and has three adorable children named Mohammed, Samira and Amanah. He likes spending quality time with his family.



Cllr M A Harid Sector: Politics and Catering

Councillor M A Harid was born in Kamal Bazar Sylhet. Born to Late Alhaj Yakub Ali and Mrs Khyrun Nessa, Cllr Harid came to the UK in 1972. M A Harid resided in Oldham, where he attended the local Oldham College.

In 1993 Cllr Harid moved to Carlisle where he established his own business. He now has three restaurants in that area. Moreover, in 2000 he worked very closely with the City Council and arranged the first curry competition in Cumbria.

Cllr Harid's restaurants have won numerous awards including the first Curry Chef of the year competition to be held. Furthermore, his restaurant has appeared in the Good Curry Guide.

After joining the Labour party, in 2003 Cllr Harid was nominated to stand in the City elections and he became the first Asian Council candidate to stand for election. In 2007 Cllr Harid was elected as a Councillor defeating a BNP candidate in the process and becoming Cumbria's first and only Asian Councillor.

In 2008 a thirty minute documentary was made by Border TV highlighting Cllr Harid's first year as Councillor.

Cllr Harid was nominated in 2009 for the Channel S Award. He has worked relentlessly with numerous community initiatives and charities. He helped build the first and only Mosque in Cumbria and serves on the management committee for the local Community centre and is also a Trustee.

As councillor M A Harid serves on the Development Control Committee and Community Overview Scrutiny Committee. He is also a governor of Bishop Harvey Goodwin School.

Cllr Harid is married to Nasima Akther who has a BA degree. The couple have three children.



Husain Shahida Hasanat MA, FRSA

Sector: Academia

Mrs. Shahida Hasanat Husain, Fellow of Royal Society of Arts; is an Academician, a Teacher, an Artist, and a Social worker. An MA from University of Dhaka in Social Welfare, Mrs. Husain was appointed as a Lecturer at the Commonwealth Institute of Lusaka in Zambia in 1981-83. She then accompanied her husband to the University of Sebha in the Sebha Province of Libya where she opened up Sebha's first International School and served it as its founder Principal from 1985

She returned to London to join Blue Gate Field Infants School as a Class teacher and a Humanities and RE Co-ordinator from 1990 til 2000. She was appointed as the Key Stage 1 leader and the Science Coordinator in Nightingale Primary School of London Borough of Redbridge in 2000 and is serving the school community since then. While at the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, she was also a teacher governor for long ten years and contributed nationally by taking part in the production of the DFES audio cassette on 'Improving School Attendance' and the booklet 'It's Good to be School Governor'.

Mrs. Husain was known for her dancing and singing aptitude from childhood and has performed in various state functions. An ace debater, she was the Cultural Secretary of Comilla Womens College before the start of the Liberation war of Bangladesh. She was a well known TV drama artist and a presenter in post independence Bangladesh Radio and TV.

In Zambia, she produced the Bangladesh Independence night which created front page headlines in Times of Zambia. In Libya, she organized International Cultural events for the Sebha International Congress. Back in London, she was the founder Cultural Secretary of the Greater Sylhet Council, UK and organized memorable cultural nights in Britannia and Hilton Hotels (London), in Empress Hotel (Isle of Mann) in Aston University (Birmingham), in Riverside (Cardiff) and in Edinburgh.

As a social worker she was associated with the Birdem Diabetes Hospital of Bangladesh and did projects with its founder late Dr. Ibrahim during 1977-81. In London, while working at the Borough of Tower Hamlets in the early years of the Nineties when there was little social service support available, Mrs. Husain provided the much needed one to one home support for many households in Shadwell area. When Blue Gate Field School was burnt down by racists Mrs. Husain as a teacher Governor of that school provided the much needed moral support for parents and children and helped the rebuilding of the school. Mrs. Shahida Hasanat Husain is known for her relentless social, educational and cultural work in raising achievement of British Bangladeshi women, men and children.

She is the Founder Secretary of Womens Affairs of the World Forum of Voice For Justice. She is well respected and revered as an icon for the British Asian women in the UK.

Rafique Hayder is the Director of Bangla Town Cash and Carry and Bangla City located in Brick Lane, which are the Bangladeshi community's most popular businesses based in London. Bangla Town was established in 1994 along with other partners. He comes from the village Hayder Pur, Chattak, Sunamganj and comes from a prominent family; his father being Haji Altab Ali. Mr Rafique Hayder graduated in Bangladesh having completed his degree from MC College. His degree was in Social Welfare. He then arrived here in the United Kingdom where he initially entered into the family business 'Greenline'. He worked at Greenline for one year before embarking on his own business venture. Besides being a director of Bangla Town Cash and Carry, Mr Hayder also has numerous other investments and business interests. He is a Director of Bangla Town Housing, Bangla Property Limited, as well as a Director of another well known large cash and carry. In addition, Mr Hayder has several properties to his name here in the UK as well as land in Bangladesh and is the Chairman of an export/import business based in the UK. He is closely connected to the Al-Madani girls' school, and is a wellwisher of the Ibrahim College near East London Mosque. Furthermore, he is also connected with various development activities in Tower Hamlets.

He has donated hugely to the victims and sufferers of the Sidr Cyclone. He has also donated in Sylhet and has helped establish Schools, colleges and Madrasas in Sylhet. Rafique Hayder is also Director of the Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce. He is also a director of NRB Bank Ltd and a member of the Greater Sylhet Welfare and Development Council. He is a member of the Bangladesh Welfare Association as well as a former Secretary of the



Rafique Hayder Sector: **Business** 

Tower Hamlets Parent's Association. More importantly he is the Chairman of the Bangladeshi export/import organisation in the UK and also one of the eleven strong committee members for a taskforce for business set ups here in the UK by the Bangladeshi government.

Mr Hayder is married to Asma Hayder and they have three children, among them Adnan is eldest son studying in university. Other two children Abidah and Akifah are studying in school. His interests and pastimes include travelling, and he has been fortunate to travel a bit of the world. Mr Rafique Hayder is a distinguished businessman and philanthropist, who can be credited for some very successful businesses and a very strong and positive link with the community.

Mozammel Hossain is a Criminal Barrister practicing from 187 Fleet Street. The Chambers are a leading specialist criminal set with a large number of Queen's Counsel and Judges.

Mr Hossain was described in one legal publication as 'a fearless and passionate court room advocate with magical charm'. He is the only non- British, Bangladeshi practicing in the UK.

Mr. Hossain was born in Bangladesh in the village of Mollarhowla in Barisal. He completed his school education at Motijheel Model High School in Dhaka, before embarking on Higher Secondary education at Dhaka College.

Mr. Hossain then began the LLB (Hons) course at the University of Dhaka, after one year of this degree he came to UK, where at the University of Liverpool he enrolled for the LLB (Hons). He then continued to pursue his legal career by obtaining the Bar Vocational Qualification from the Inns of Court School of Law.

He was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Inner Temple. Subsequently he obtained a pupillage with the chambers he is currently with, and went onto obtain his tenancy. He has been involved in numerous high profile cases.

Mr. Hossain has held a number of key positions whilst at the Inns of Court School of Law. He was a member of the Governing Body of the Inns of Court School of Law as well as President of the student's union, being the first ever student from abroad to hold these prestigious positions.

His father, Ali Akbar Howlader and his mother, Ayesha Howlader are farmers. They live in their village in Barisal.

Mr. Hossain's siblings like himself are all highly successful. His



**Mozammel Hossain** Sector: Legal (Barrister)

brother Dr Mohammad Hossain Howlader is a surgeon in England and a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. His eldest brother Mokbul Hossain is also a graduate and is currently Chairman of the 'Aksha Food Industry Ltd'. A third brother, Mr Altaf Hossain Masud is a FCA Chartered Accountant in Bangladesh; he is also the Managing Director of the 'Aksha'.

His only surviving sister, a university graduate, is married to an eye surgeon. Mr. Hossain has dedicated a lot of his time to charitable initiatives and community organisations. Mozammel Hossain is fond of poetry, Russian literature, theatre, rain and most of all Bengali food.



Ajmalul Hossain QC Sector:

Legal (Barrister)

Ajmalul Hossain QC practices law since he was enrolled at the Bar of England and Wales back in 1978. He is the very first and only Queen's Counsel in England of Bangladeshi origin and a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He regularly practices in both England and Bangladeshi jurisdiction.

Ajmalul specialises in trans-national banking, trading supply and financial contracts at Selborne Chambers in the UK. He is the senior partner of A Hossain & Associates, Law Offices, a leading commercial law firm of Bangladesh based in Dhaka. Ajmalul and A Hossain & Associates have also been registered with the Attorney-General's Chambers in Singapore as International Arbitration Practitioners. Ajmalul has acted for several hundred ex-employees of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International in the multi-million pound liquidation of the bank in England, Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands, which has now been settled in their favour.

He has represented Bangladesh and several clients as Leading Counsel in several ICC, ICSID and ad-hoc arbitrations. He was the Chairman of Employment Tribunals, dealing with complex cases of sex, race and disability discrimination, unfair and wrongful dismissal. He also acts as an arbitrator in commercial matters and is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators of England and regularly chairs arbitrations held under the auspices of ICC and other bodies. He is a Fellow of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies and a member of the Standards Panel of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. Since January 2006, Ajmalul has been a member of the ICC International Court of Arbitration in Paris and a member of the International Cricket Council, Code of Conduct Commission.



**Syed Moazzam Hossain** 

Sector: Media

Syed Moazzam Hossain is a prominent Bangladeshi businessman and a conducive member of the community. He was born in Patuakhali, Bangladesh to Mr. Syed Delowar Hossain and Mrs. Rani Begum. He arrived in the UK in 1989.

Before arriving in the UK, he did a three years Diploma in Printing Technology from Bangladesh. In the UK he furthered his knowledge by doing an HND in Print Packaging from LCP (London College of Printing). Mr. Moazzam believes that learning has no age, therefore he did not allow the gap to hinder his thirst for knowledge. With that drive for education, he is currently doing a BA (Hons) in Print Media Management, final year at University of The Arts.

Mr. Moazzam started a business in the UK in 2001 called Today's Printers Ltd. He serves as the Managing Director of the organization. In addition to that, he opened another business in Dhaka in 2008 called Today's Printing and Fashions Bangladesh Ltd. He is

currently the chairman of the company.

Mr. Moazzam is also known for his charitable works. He is the founder chairman of Bangladesh Support Foundation, a voluntary organization based in the UK that works for the less fortunate in Bangladesh.

Mr. Moazzam is married to Mrs. Shireen Akter. They are blessed with three children. Syeda Fahmida Sultana, Mehdi Syed Hassan and Fiona Syeda Juma. The family live in London. Mr. Moazzam has a passion for landscape photography, he also enjoys spending quality time with the family.

Dr. Hasanat Husain was born in Sunumgonj, Sylhet in 1949; his father was a Veterinary Civil Surgeon in the Assam Civil Service of British India. Dr. Husain has a prolific academic background; he obtained a First Class Honours degree in Physics with Mathematics in 1969 as well as a First Class M.Sc. degree in 1970 from the prestigious University of Dhaka. Dr. Husain then went on to complete a Ph.D. from the University of Exeter and was appointed as a Royal Society Post Doctoral Fellow at the University of Sussex. He has further completed the PGCE at the University of Greenwich obtaining a Grade A.

Dr. Hasanat due to his elongated academic credentials and experience has held many esteemed positions at home and abroad. He was Associate Professor at the University of Dhaka, as well as at the University of Zambia and an Associate at the International Centre for Theoretical Physics at Trieste, Italy. He was also the Head of Solar Energy at the University of Sebha in Libya.

Dr. Hasanat Husain then moved back to the UK, where during the early 1990s he was a lecturer at Tower Hamlets College for some five years. From 1995 to 2002 he was the Head of Bilingualism and Bilingual Support Services for the Tower Hamlets Local Education Authority. Currently Dr. Husain holds numerous coveted positions; he is a Consultant to the DfES Standards Unit in the UK, as well as an Observer and Inspector for Colleges in the UK and an Associate Advisor to the Birmingham and Bradford LEAs. Dr. Husain's family has reflected the highly qualified and academic brackground of himself. His wife Mrs. Shahida Husain, a Fellow of Royal Society of Arts, has a BA in Economics and an MA in Social Welfare also from the University of Dhaka. She currently works as a Key Stage 1 Leader



Dr. Hasanat M. Husain MBE

Sector: Academia

and a Coordinator of Science at a Primary School in London. Dr. Hasanat's eldest daughter is a Dentist, whilst his son has graduated in Neuroscience from the University of Sussex and is presently completing a MD at the Medicine Faculty of Charles University in the Czech Republic.

His youngest daughter is also a student of Medicine at the University of Sussex.

Dr. Hasanat Husain has made a significant contribution to Ethnic Minority Education in Great Britain and as a recognition, was awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire by Her Majesty the Queen in 2003. He was also awarded an Asian Film Academy Award in 1995 for 'community services in the UK'.

His work outside of his vocation has included involvement with the 'Working Group: Inclusive Policy and Practices in the UK'.

Mahbub Hussain was born in a well respected family in the city of Sylhet, Bangladesh. In Sylhet, he studied at Sylhet Govt. Pilot High School and whilst studying there, he got involved with a radio station known as "Bangladesh Betar Sylhet". He became a regular host of the daily magazine programme "Daily Bichitra" and continued to work there and gain valuable experience until he came to Britain.

As well as this, he also had a passion for journalism and this led to having several of his cover story articles published in the most popular Bangladeshi magazine "Weekly Bichitra" and "weekly Robbar". From an early age, Mahbub had a passion for photography. He became one of the photographers for "The Daily Ittefaq". As well as this, he was one of the three founding members of the Sylhet Photography Society (SPS). He was also awarded for his photography skills in the Soviet Union International Photography Competition as well as in various other competitions within Bangladesh.

He became an active member of the Bangladeshi Photograph society, based in Dhaka In January 1994, Mahbub came to England, Birmingham and went on to complete many job related courses, most of which were in the field of media. In 1995, he started as a broadcast assistant at BBC WM, where he became a newsreader as well as reporting various events and issues. He soon got promoted as a broadcast Journalist at BBC Asian Network for the Bengali shows. Mahbub has interviewed many inspirational and influential people such as the Bangladeshi Prime Minister and many Bangladeshi and Bollywood superstars as well as mainstream leading figures of Britain. Apart from this, he has done many international reports on topical issues including a live one from Bangladesh about the corporation elections.



Mahbub Hussain

Sector: Media

The BBC Asian network gave him the opportunity to co-host the world's largest Bangladeshi festival outside Bangladesh, "Boishakhi Mela" in London which attracts over 120,000 people. In 2000, Mahbub launched a bilingual magazine titled "The Millennium". It has since become available worldwide and is the most popular magazine outside Bangladesh.

As well as working as a broadcast journalist, Mahbub also works for the Birmingham City Council Social Services.



Shelim Hussain MBE

Sector: Entrepreneur

Shelim Hussain MBE was born in 1973. He is best described as an entrepreneur having started his first business in 1991 at the age of 18 while working part-time as a waiter and studying at college for his A Levels.

Mr Hussain saw an opportunity in the market for prawn supply and started off by selling a few boxes of frozen prawns with his friend, delivering them at night while continuing with his education during the day. His business had an initial capital of only £20. Currently, the annual turnover of his business is around £40 million.

He formed Eurofoods UK in 1993 and the company has grown rapidly since. He employs over 200 staff and has food processing units in Newport, South Wales and in Barking. He also has a new plant and four factories in Bangladesh, and has started a subsidiary in New York.

Aside from Eurofoods he has also invested in the property development business in Wales. He is founder, chairman and managing director of several well reputed companies, these include Euro

Foods (UK) Ltd, S & B Developments Ltd, SRS Poultry Ltd which commenced in 2003, Eurasia Food Processing (BD) Ltd situated in Bangladesh, Euro Linen Service (UK) Ltd, Horizon Seafood Ltd, Saidowla Enterprise and Euro Foods (BD) Ltd.

He has won the Eastern Eye Young Achiever Award that was presented by Prince Charles, The Prince of Wales, and was nominated for Young Achiever at the Asian Jewel Awards 2003.



MD. Moftil Hussain

Sector: Catering

Md. Moftil Hussain is the owner of Mumtaz Mahal and Suhag Restaurant in Essex. Before coming to the United Kingdom in 1967, Mr. Hussain had completed his high school education in Kuskipur and upon arrival obtained a Diploma.

Born in 1956 in the Village of Sikondorpur Osmaninogor, Sylhet, Mr. Moftil Hussain is the son of late Abul Hussain.

Mr. Hussain has made his name in the restaurant business, having set up is first restaurant in 1970. However, these days he is occupied in the property market, having several properties to his name, as well as various other businesses.

Based in south Benfleet, Mr. Hussain's restaurant, the Mumtaz Mahal, is a well-established Tandoori restaurant which was first opened in 1977 making it the longest established Tandoori Restaurant in the Castle Point District.

Moftil Hussain is married to Sufia Begum they have two sons; Iqbal and Nazrul who have been educated to a high level in the UK and are leading successful careers.

Besides his business interests, he is involved in politics as well as various social activities. He is the Treasurer of the Bangladesh Caterers Association, Essex Branch, as well as being a member of the central committee. Additionally, he is also the Treasurer for the Great Sylhet Gonodabi Porishod and life member Sylhet Academy UK and Europe. He is also trustee of Balagonj Education Trust and the Balagonj Shomity. He is a founder trustee of Essex Mosque.

Md. Moftil Hussain was one of the orgainsers of the 1971 Liberation movement in the UK. He has also participated in other such social and community initiatives and is an altruistic individual having donated to mosques, schools and other organistaions both here in the UK and in Bangladesh.

Mr. Moftil Hussain is a member of the conservative party, and believes that politics and community work can make a huge positive impact on society and therefore has dedicated an immense proportion of his time to these causes.

Mr. Kamal Hussain is an Event Coordinator of Film Asia, the prominent film making company based in East London. He competently coordinates any Event's that Film Asia is contracted for.

Mr. Kamal Hussain, son of Mr. Idris Ali and Mrs Lali Begum, was born in the village of Amratoil, Jagonathpur Upazilla, (Sunamganj District) Bangladesh.

Mr. Kamal Hussain arrived in the United Kingdom in 1988 with his parents. He did his schooling from Stepney Green School in London. After finishing his education, he become involved in the catering industry, before joining Film Asia.

Film Asia excels in filmmaking, editing and camera operating. It is more than just a film company. They are a media production agency setting the standard of film making across the United Kingdom.

Film Asia mainly produces wedding films for Asian Brides and Grooms. They also had known for TV Commercials Music Video, Concerts, Tele-films and Full Event Management.

Film Asia produced a ghazal night with Alaur Rahman and the British Bangladeshi Who's who programme in 2009 and 2010.

With brilliant editors, graphic designers, cinematographers and event coordinators, the group has been a raving success in the film business of East London.

The motto of Film Asia is simple; it is all about perfection, innovation and imagination. Specialising in video production and photography, the artistic approach operated by Film Asia has met with critical acclaim from the professional world.



**Muhammad Kamal Hussain** Sector:

In Mr. Kamal Hussain's words, 'the overall message we wish to con

vey is simple, we are responsible for the smooth running of the Event both timely and resourcefully by leasing with the respected client and the venue manager.

He lives in Poplar, London with his family. His wife is Nazma Akter. They have two sons and one daughter. The names of the sons are Thufayel Ahmed and Alamin Ahmed. The daughter is Nadira Akter.

Ifty Islam is the founder and Managing Partner of AT Capital. The commitment to develop the Asian Tiger platform reflects his optimism on Bangladesh's potential as an investment destination having been a regular participant in capital markets events there for a number of years.

His objective is to leverage his long-term relationships with many of the world's largest investors developed over an 18 year Wall Street career to attract substantial overseas funds to the country.

Prior to moving to Dhaka, Ifty was a Managing Director at Citigroup, London from 2004-2007 where he was Head of Macro Strategy and Hedge Fund Research. From 1997-2004 Ifty spent 8 years at Deutsche Bank Securities in London and New York, latterly as Managing Director and Chief US Strategist. Ifty has also worked as a European Strategist at Merrill Lynch and began his career in 1989 in the corporate finance group at BZW Securities focusing on privatisations in Eastern Europe.

He graduated from the Queen's College, Oxford with a BA/MA (First Class) in Politics, Philosophy and Economics.



**Ifty Islam** Sector: Finance



Mr Mujibul Islam

Sector:

TV, media & advertising

Mujibul Islam is a talented and successful business and media entrepreneurs, whose main current activity is running one of the UK's leading ethnic media agencies, Medialink.

Mr Islam is the Managing Director of Medialink, a leading ethnic media and communication agency. His company's clients range from the BBC to Tilda as well as central government and local authorities. Working within the media industry for over 15 years, his last position was the editor of the Eastern Eye newspaper, UK's largest national Asian paper, owned by the Trinity Mirror Group. Mr. Islam is a BA Honours graduate who has won numerous prestigious awards in the field of design, media and communications.

Mr Islam is a Director of NTV Europe; NTV is the world's leading Bangla channel. He is keen to develop NTV Europe into a pioneering and leading satellite TV channel that provides high quality programming for the Bangladeshi community across the UK and

Europe. In doing so, he wants to develop a strong brand identity which arises from its understanding of Bangladeshi culture and beliefs and its ability to analyse changes in trends and shifts of choice and opportunity that an ever changing viewership.

Mr Islam is currently finalising the development of a proposed 4star boutique hotel in Canary Wharf which will be developed in a magnificent building in an ever expanding business district.

Mr Islam is involved in commercial and residential property development here in the UK and abroad. One of his projects include the development of a popular five star hotel in Bangladesh, 'Dhaka Regency', which was founded by Mr Islam and three other directors. Mr. Islam is a high flying, multi-skilled British Bangladeshi and one of the few real experts in the field of ethnic media communication. His distinctive strength is his multimedia skills in innovative concept development and meeting specific marketing and promotional objectives in all media.

A generous patron to many good causes, Mr. Islam is a well-known and respected figure within the British Bangladeshi community. He is passionate about community prosperity; he has actively worked, trained and helped to develop the skill base of local young people in the field of design, web and TV production, on a voluntary basis. One of his ambitions is to create opportunities for innovative and creative projects that empower young people, supporting them at key transition points and during extracurricular periods of the year, through media related, arts education, training and personal development activities.



Syed Nurul Islam (Dulu)

Politics & Community Relations

Syed Nurul Islam Dulu was the First Bangladeshi Parliamentary Candidate (MP) and Councillor candidate in London.

Born in Syedpur, Sylhet, Bangladesh and bough up in England. He is a recognised and distinguished community leader. He began his political and community career in the 70s, in the East End, developing a number of leading edge and well regarded services and organisations.

Syed Nurul has been a community development specialist in Inner London for the past 35 Years. He has opened up many pathways in the field of community relations and has set up numerous community and cultural centres and premises. He was the Founder & Chair of Sylhet Community Centre, BYA, Kobi Nuzrul Centre, Stepney Shahajalal Mosque, Federation of Bangladeshi Youth Organisation in UK (FBYO), Spitafields Housing Co-operative and a Bengali Newspaper - Shomoy. His support for the community and hard work did not stop there he lead various other organistaions such as, Bangladesh Disaster Appeal, Bangladeshi Welfare Association Bengali Education Need in Tower Hamlets (BENTH), Community Action Group, Asian Unemployment Outreach Project, Federation of Tenants Association, and was the Founder of Bangladeshi Activists Forum (BAF).

He has established a reputable career in the Liberal Democtrats party he has had various roles such as being the Chair and president for the Tower Hamlets Local Party, Executive Member of London Regional Committee, Vice Chair for the Ethnic Minority Liberal Democrats and various other positions within the party.

In Addition to his positions in the UK he has also played an influential role in Bangladeshi politics. He was a Former Upozilla Chairman Candidate. Former Mayor Candidate for Sylhet, Bangladesh. Nomitated MP Candidate, Chair for UK Sramik League, UK Jatio Party Advisor and many other positions.

Syed Nurul was one of the first Bangladeshi officers for GLC and one of the first housing officers in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. He has had roles such as Welfare Officer, Estate Officer, Team Leader, and Head of the Housing Advisory section.

He has worked in the community sector as a Field Worker, Asian Unemployment Outreach Worker, Youth Worker, Mother Tongue Teacher.

In the need of advancing his skills and knowledge base he studied MA-: Local Government & Politics in London Guildhall University. Syed Nurul was also an entrepreneur, he began his business in the early 70's in the East End with Syed Suede and Leather Company, A Syed & Co (Garments Manufacturer) Sonar Goan Indian Restaurant, Moni-Mukta Project Property Development and now Syed Internal School in Bangladesh.

Syed Nurul is married with five children and now blessed with four grandchildren.

Mr Mohammed Shah Jahan is behind one of the Bangladeshi community's most successful companies: Star Group. He was born in the village of Shaldiga in Jagannathpur. Mr Shah Jahan's father is Haji Md Afiz Ullah and his mother Mrs Maira Khatun.

Shah Jahan has been involved in the business arena for 15 years, having moved to the United Kingdom in 1982.

Mohammed Shah Jahan in the Chairman of Star Group, who have under their control Star Furnishing a leading supplier of domestic furniture. Moreover, the Star Group also own Star Catering Equipments who offer a commercial catering supply service nationally to the catering industry. The group also own Star Construction who design and build and also Carpet Bazaar which is a flooring specialist. Star Group is also occupied with the catering industry being the owners of Lime Restaurant in Docklands.

Star Group are based in London and have numerous showrooms and offices across the breadth of the capital. They have become a well recognised group of companies and their service is second to none. The success of Star Group has inevitably led to the success of Mohammed Shah Jahan.

Star Group continuously support numerous community initiatives and organisations and often sponsor different events.

Mohammed Shah Jahan has personally contributed to several charitable causes both in Bangladesh and here in this country. He has



Mohammed Shah Jahan Sector:

helped those who are poverty stricken, and also towards various institutions such as mosques, schools and other like establishments.

Mohammed Shah Jahan is married to Mrs Ayesha Jahan, and they have two sons and two daughters. Their sons are Mohammed Nasim Jahan and Mohammed Nazmul Jahan, whilst their daughters are Habiba Jahan and Nazifa Jahan. They are all in education and reside in the family home in Docklands, London.

Mohammad Abdul Munim Jahedi (Karol) was born in the village of Hilal Pur, in the Sylhet district of Bangladesh.

He is the son of the late Mr Moulana Abdur Rahim Jahedi, who moved to England in 1959. The late Mr Jahedi owned many businesses in England, and was an active member of Islamic organisations such as UK Islamic Mission, Dawatul Islam UK & Ireland and Islamic Forum Europe. Before he passed away, he was Chair of Stepney Green Boys School and chairman of the East London Mosque. Mohammed Abdul Munim Jahedi's mother is the late Mrs Razia

Mr Jahedi is one of four children. His eldest sister is Rehana Begum, second sister is Ruhana Begum;. Mr Jahedi's brother, Abdul Mukabbir Jehadi, is a Constable and a driving instructor.

Mr Jahedi completed his secondary school certificate in Athriya at Lateral High School in 1983. He moved to the UK with his family in 1984, and then studied a BTEC National Diploma in Business and Finance at Tower Hamlets College in East London. He also completed at (HND) Higher National Diploma in Business and Fi-

He is the chairman of London Igra Institute, Trustee of London Education Trust and a life member of Sylhet Muslim Sahitto Shongshod, Sylhet Mobile Patagar and Hillful Fujul Somaj Kallang Songsta. He is the chairman of Real Estate and Housing Group of Sylhet UK, as well as the chief editor of the Eurobangla newspaper and director of Daily Jalabad. He is the founder member of Songhoti Sahitto Porisohd and executive member of Bangla Sahitto Porisohd



**Mohammed Abdul Munim Jahedi** 

Sector: Media

and Renesha Sahitto Majlish. He was the president of the London branches of the Young Muslim Organisation and Islamic Forum Europe, and is currently a trustee of London Muslim Centre & East London Mosque and South Sylhet Development Project. He was the founder chairman of Gulapgonj Islamic Society. He is also the president of the Greater Sylhet Islamic Society.

Mr Jahedi has done a lot of work for charities in the UK and Bangladesh, and has established an Islamic school in his homeland for girls who cannot afford a basic education.

Mr Jahedi is married to Abeda Sultana Lucky, and they have three children - two daughters and a son. Their eldest child is Muneema Sultana Rafaa, and she is currently a student at Kingston University. His other daughter, who is the youngest, is called Maymunah Munim Riyah, and she is a pupil at Mulberry School for Girls in London's east end. Their son, M.A. Muhaimen Rafe is studying at London Sir John Cass' Sixth Form.



Rajonuddin Jalal Sector: Politics & Community Relations

Rajonuddin Jalal is prominent in the Bangladeshi Community for his Community work. Mr Jalal has been a community development specialist in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for the past 30 years. He has opened up many pathways in the field of community relations, empowerment and neighbourhood renewal and has set up numerous large community and cultural centres and premises including; Berner Youth and Tenants Centre, Kobi Nazrul centre, the Bangladesh Centre in Notting Hill Gate and more recently the Whitechapel Centre. Mr Jalal has been a pioneering Youth and Community leader and established many

organisations to benefit multi-cultural communities the Bengali Community and to fulfil some needs and aspirations of the community. He is the founder of the Bangladeshi Youth Movement (BYM) and founder of the Federation of Bangladeshi Youth Organisation (FYBO).

His support and hard work for the community did not stop there, Mr Jalal was vital in helping to establish Ford Square Mosque, Shadwell Mosque, Brick Lane Jamme Mosque which are all still operating successfully in East London.

In the public domain Rajonuddin Jalal was a member of the Board of the London Docklands Development Corporation and Councillor and deputy leader of Tower Hamlets Municipality as well as chairperson for the Regeneration Committee.

Jalal was a key youth leader in "the Battle for Brick Lane 1978", following the murder of Bengali garment worker Altab Ali.

He has been the driving force behind the

establishment of Banglatown in Tower Hamlets, and also the Soheed Minar, and the structuring of the Social and Economic accord between Tower Hamlets and Sylhet.

Throughout his professional life Mr Jalal has served in many positions, in the past he has been a director in the Housing and Welfare Organisation which was part of St Mary's Welfare Project. Jalal used to be Employed as an Assistant Principal of Tower Hamlets College. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Politics, Sociology and Economics from London Guildhall University and a post graduate Diploma in Management Studies from the same institution.

Jalal is currently secretary of the Altab Ali Memorial Foundation In UK and CEO of the NRB Foundation in Bangladesh.

Mr Jalal is married with three children.



Misbahul Jamal Sector:

Misbahul Jamal was born in Subhanighat in Sylhet in 1962. He was born to Mr Nasir Uddin Ahmed and Mrs Husney Ara Begum. His career began with him being a Drama Artist both on the stage and on radio. He then progressed onto becoming a programme announcer and conductor for Radio Bangladesh from 1980 until 1986, whilst completing a B.Com (Hons) in Management from the prestigious University of Dhaka in 1984.

At the present time Mr Jamal is a presenter and producer for the coveted Sunrise Radio as well as Kismat Radio Bangla. Misbahul is the director of his own production companies called Misbah Jamal Productions and Misbah Nahida Productions, running Kismat Radio Bangla from the Sunrise Radio station in Southall, Middlessex.

Mr Misbah Jamal is married to Nahida Misbah and they have five daughters and a son. His daughters are Farhana, Rezwana, Nabihah, Shaeka and Labiba, and his son is Nahmad. Mr Jamal has contributed enormously to the British Bangladeshi community; he is involved with several community organisations working for the development and progression of community members. He is a Director of Weekly Notun Din, a Bengali newspaper. He also holds the position of Press and Publicity secretary for the London Bangla Press Club, and Cultural Secretary for the Bangladesh Centre in London.

Mr Misbah Jamal is also a journalist and freelance radio and television presenter. Moreover he is a Bengali cultural programme promoter, having organised many cultural programmes bringing over the best musicians and artists from Bangladesh.

He is closely connected with the Bangladeshi entertainment industry here in Britain, and as a result he is very a popular British Bangladeshi amongst radio listeners.

Sheikh Nurul Islam Jeetu Tarun is a real estate businessman. He was born in 1974 in Boaljur Union in the Balaganj Thana of Sylhet. Sheikh Jeetu arrived in London in 1986. At first he got involved in the restaurant business, but then become involved in the real estate business. He has been serving as a founding director of his development company Royal City.

He established SN Property in the late nineties which has been serving since then with repute and honour. In 2007 he started a business development organisation Prabasi Palli. He is a chairman of the organisation. Presently the organisation is going on with three projects for the non residents Bangladeshis near Dhaka, the ownership Prabasi, Prabasi Palli and Purbachal Prabasi Palli. Also the Prabasi Palli owned hotel Black Rose and Hotel Fahim International set up in Sector 9 of Dhaka are going well. Prabasi Palli has investment plan of around three billion rupees in different sectors of Bangladesh. It has also planned to establish a TV channel in Dhaka, mainly for the non residents.

Sheikh Jeetu has also been serving as the founding director of Water Lilly Property and Shopping Mall in Mile End Road, East London.

Sheikh Jeetu got married in 2006 to Shah Rumana Islam, the sister of the Euro Food owner Selim Hossain MBE. He is the father of a girl, Sheikh Najifa Islam.

Apart from business, he also served as the Treasurer of Balaganj Education Trust. He is now the treasurer of Boaljur UP Development Trust. He is also the president of Sheikh Batir Miah Welfare Trust which has been providing monthly old age benefit to around two



Sheikh Nurul Islam Jeetu Sector: Real estate

hundred persons in Sylhet.

Sheikh Jeetu has also planned to set up the Sheikh Nurul Islam Jeetu Model School in Banigram. The process of building this school has been completed.

Muhammad Abul Kalam was born in Bangladesh in 1966. His village is in Sadipur, Osmani Nagar Upazilla, District-Sylhet. His father is businessman Alhaj Mr Mohammed Mokbul Hussain. His mother is Alhajja Mrs Syeda Khanom.

Mr Kalam obtained his Higher Secondary School Certificate (HSC) at Madan Mohan College in Sylhet, where he studied for two years. His first major accomplishment came in 1988 when he completed his Bachelor of Laws (LL.B. Hons) course at the University of Dhaka. This led to the completion of the Master of Laws (LL.M.) course the following year.

He then continued to pursue his legal career As an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh from November 1992 by obtaining the Bar Vocational Qualification from the Bangladesh Bar Council. Having completed the academic and vocational stages of his training, in the year 2000, Mr Kalam was awarded with a certificate of eligibility to become a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England and Wales in September 2001.

Mr Kalam came to the UK as a student in 1995 to study Law at the University of London. He then gained experience as a clerk, adviser, consultant and assistant solicitor at Barrister' Common Law Chambers', Stratford Advice Arcade, J Coopers Solicitors and SJ Solicitors respectively. These were all situated in East London.

Since November 2004, Mr Kalam has been part of the very successful solicitor's firm; AK Solicitors in East London. There he held the position of Principal/Senior Partner. He has now set up his own firm called Kalam Solicitors.



**Muhammad Abul Kalam** 

Sector: Legal (Solicitor)

He is the Secretary General of the Society of Bangladeshi Solicitors in UK, which is a practicing solicitors organisation in UK. He also the Secretary General of the Dhaka University Jalalabad Ex Student Society UK .He is a member of the Probashi Balagonj Education Trust in UK. He is also members of the Balagoni Samitte UK and Greater Sylhet Council in UK.

Mr Kalam lives in Redbridge, Ilford with his wife Mrs Shahanara Kalam and three children; Sabiha, Yeasin and Tayyibah two of them students. Mrs Kalam achieved BA (Hons) in Sociology, from the University of East London.



**Azom Khan** Sector: Catering

Azom Khan is an internationally recognised chef who has devoted much of his life to help develop the Bangladeshi Curry Industry to what it is today. Born in 1962 in Jaganathpur, Sunamgonj in Bangladesh, Mr Khan arrived in the UK in 1980.

The East London based chef is looked upon as a pioneer in the Bangladeshi culinary industry and throughout his life Mr Khan's work has been widely appreciated by several food critics. Over the last twenty years Mr Khan has been awarded with major honours in the Industry such as the International Curry Chef of the Year, National Curry Chef of the Year, Tesco Spinach Master Chef, Southwark Curry Chef of the Year as well as the Tower Hamlets Curry Chef of the Year in 1999.

At present, Mr Azom Khan is Director of two of London's most famous restaurants called the Bengal Clippers and Bengal Traders whose reputation has enhanced dramatically over the last decade for their combination of style and modernity.

In addition to his work, Mr Khan is very closely associated with charities and organisations in Bangladesh having helped set up the British Bangla Education Trust where he is currently serving as Vice Chairman as well as a member of the Sylhet Academy. Mr Khan has also set up his own Educational Trust fund, known as "Azom Khan Education Trust" and is also a member of the Shahjalal College In-

One of six siblings, Mr Khan is married to Sultana Aktar Chowdhury and has been blessed with one son and two daughters whom are studying in schools and university.



Cllr Rania Khan

Sector: **Politics** 

Cllr Rania Khan was first elected as a Councillor in 2006 for the Bromley-by-Bow area at the age of 23 years, making her one of the youngest female councillors in the country. She is currently a Cabinet Member for Culture and a secondary school Science teacher. Rania is known for her passion for social justice and equality. She has campaigned and spoken on various platforms, locally, nationally and internationally. At one occasion she addressed 60,000 people at the climate change conference. Rania regularly challenges misconceptions in the media; her most famous debate was live on Radio 4 with Nick Griffin.

She was born in Libya and came to the UK as a child where she completed her BSc and PGCE in Biology and secondary school science. She hopes to continue her further education especially in the areas of science and philosophy. Rania is married, has one sibling and loves spending time with 'dadu' (grandmother).

Rania is a treasurer for Kingsley Hall, a community centre where

Ghandi stayed and is a board member for various statutory and non-statutory bodies. Rania has also held Cabinet positions for Regeneration & Partnership and Employment & Skills. She is a member of NUT, CAPE (Campaign Against People's Exploitation), Liberty and NOS (National Osteoporosis Society).

Rania Khan enjoys travelling and has a profound love for wildlife both flora and fauna. In particular she has a passion for saving extinct animals such as the Royal Bengal Tiger (because she loves tigers), orchids (loves the way they tricks bees into cross pollinating) and bees (for obvious reasons that, without honey bees the human race will die within four years). Rania also enjoys reading, socialising and debating however, on most occasions she finds herself reading cabinet and council papers.

Dr Shafi Khan, a Croydon Councillor for 15 years was selected to stand for parliament at the General Election by the Carshalton and Wallington Constituency Labour Party at its Annual General Meeting on 26th February 2008. The meeting included delegates from all wards in the constituency who voted unanimously for Dr Khan. Dr Khan was the GLA candidate (London Assembly election - 1st of May 2008) for the seat of Croydon and Sutton constituency, got about 35thousand votes and became second, overtaking the Liberal Democrats.

Dr Shafi Khan has lived in Croydon since 1989. He was elected to Croydon Council by Norbury ward in 1994, where he has been influential in education and community relations. He has been lead member on Education, Shadow Cabinet member for Community Cohesion. He became the first Asian Mayor of Croydon in 1999-2000. During his Mayoral year he carried out more than 1000 public engagements including the ceremonial opening of Tram Link, leading the borough to the New Millennium and visiting various business, faith, voluntary and community groups in Croydon.

He used his Mayoral year to strengthen community spirit, to reach out to all communities and to bring faiths, cultures and business together with a common purpose to empower people. In 1998, he started the "Norbury Mela" in Norbury Park, which because of its success later moved to Lloyds Park and evolved as "Croydon Mela", which is an envy of South London. He has also secured "Muslim Burial Ground" in Green Lawn Memorial Park for Croydon's Muslim residents.



Sector: Academia and Politics

Dr Shafi Khan

He is actively involved in Croydon's wider community life, well known and respected. For his support and contribution to the business community, he was elected Hon. Vice President of the Croydon Chamber of Commerce in 2001 and was also awarded the "World Peace Ambassador" by the faith community.

Shafi was born in Comilla, passed his SSC from Comilla Zila School and HSC from Comilla Victoria College both with some distinctions. He studied economics at Dhaka University. In 1969 he got involved in students politics and was involved in the freedom movement of Bangladesh as a student leader.

He acquired a Masters degree and a PhD in mathematical physics at Moscow Civil Engineering University. He gained a teaching certificate at the Institute of Education, University of London and now works as a mathematics lecturer at Tower Hamlets College in East London. He lives in Norbury with his wife Irina and their daughter Masha.

Helal Uddin Khan came to The UK in 1986. In 1990 Mr. Khan started his first business an Estate Agency business named 'Class Property Services' in Katherine Road, London.

Just after two years he developed a very good relationship and reputation among the Bangladeshi community. He started his Travel Agency business in the same location in 1992. Due to his sincerity, honesty, intelligence, strong determination and dedication he became a very good Travel agency businessman within the shortest possible time. Now he is maintaining two independent established offices, one is in Green Street and another in Whitechapel. Mr. Helal Khan is a very popular person among the Asian community due to his amiable personality.

Mr. Khan did his H.S.C in Bangladesh in 1985. He also participates in different training (Reservation and Ticketing) courses in connection with the Travel Agency business. He also visited many countries around the world under the education tour programme sponsored by different Airlines.

Presently twelve skilled and unskilled employees are working at his two establishments.

Mr. Helal Uddin Khan is married. He has two daughters and two sons. His eldest daughter is reading law at Queen Mary University. His second daughter is also studying, eldest son is at school as well and the youngest child.

Mr. Kahn is an associate member of Greater Sylhet Association since 1995 as well as an active member of Bangladesh Welfare Association



Helal Uddin Khan

Sector: Travel

since 1990. He has been an executive member of Nurul Haq Education Trust Fenchugong since 1993. He is the executive member of Fenchugong Shamite (oldest Association in UK) since 1986 and an executive member and former Treasurer/Joint Secretary of UK Travel Agents Association. Mr. Helal Uddin Khan is very much interested about Bangladeshi Culture. He has participated in andsponsored various different Bangladeshi cultural activities.

He is very sympathetic to the poor Bangladeshi people. He always extends his hands to support them. He has continued being involved with fund raising initiatives.



**Hussain Ahmed Khan** Sector: Catering

Hussain Ahmed Khan was born in 1956 in Daripaton Upozilla, Golapgonj, in Sylhet, were he lived throughout his childhood years. He is the third child of late Mr Noor Uddin Ahmed Khan and Mrs Nurun Nessa Khanom. By 1976 Mr. Khan successfully obtained his degree in Sylhet. Soon after this achievement, he left his homeland to move to the Middle East, where Mr. Hussain Ahmed Khan was employed by different companies.

Mr. Hussain Ahmed Khan left the Middle East for the UK in the year 1986. He spent the first few years, educating himself on the skill and techniques needed in order to survive in the tough Indian Restaurant business. Little did he know that these new skills that he had been taught, combined with his entrepreneurial expertise, he was going to have a great visible impact on the Indian Restaurant in-

Mr Hussain Ahmed Khan's first success was when he took over the

Indian restaurant Festival Balti, which was located in the heart of Birmingham. He and his partner had a great impact on the change of business of this restaurant. They had turned the restaurant over from a regular restaurant, to an extremely popular place to dine in, with a newly prepared menu admired by all. He then moved on to opening his second South Indian Restaurant in Walsall, West midlands. Passage to India was the third restaurant Mr. Khan opened which was also situated in the heart of Birmingham. Hussain Ahmed Khan has played a constant and active role in charity events not only in the UK but also in Bangladesh.

Today, Mr. Ahmed Khan is an admired businessman and looked up to by many others due to his hard work and determination to succeed in life. His outstanding achievements have resulted in him receiving the prestigious BBL award for best continuous successful restaurant 2008, earlier this year. Currently he is playing an important role as a Secretary of the Guild of Bangladeshi Restauranters. He resides with wife Salma Khan and two children; Zilhan and Subhan.



Islam Khan Sector: Legal (Barrister) Third sector and Charity

Mr Islam Uddin Khan comes from the renowned At-ghar village of Jagganathpur District, Sylhet. He is the only son of Md. Alhaj Asab Uddin Khan and they come from the Sheikh Kiyam branch direct descendants of Alhaj Syed Sheikh Shams Uddin, one of the saints linked with Shahjalal.

He has a keen interest in Public Law and Criminal Defence. Islam was called to the Bar in 2008 by the Honorable Society of Inner Temple and completed his LL.B (Hons) as a mature student subsequently specialising in an LL.M in Public Law and Human Rights at Kings College, University of London. He was the last batch at the Inns Of Court School of Law Bar Vocational Course in 2007. He deferred his Ph.d in Islamic Law at SOAS, during completing his pupillage with Marion Smullen, at chambers of Marion Smullen and Kerim Fuad Q.C. specialising in criminal defence and public law and has been actively involved in the Bibi case, challenging the UK's immigration age bar to overseas marriages.

Prior to a career at the Bar, Islam was a junior civil servant in vari-

ous departments at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. This included the Human Rights Policy Department, the Foreign Office branch of UK-visas (now substantially UKBA), Consular and headed the Benefits, pay and policy section of HR. He also served overseas as a diplomatic officer.

He sits on a number of panels in Tower Hamlets and advises many charitable organisations across the country. Notably, he was involved in engaging various stakeholders to diffuse the Shajalal mosque fiasco to ensure that public money was kept safe and avoud a dangerous precedent being set. Most recently he has been engaged in drafting grounds in challenging the policy on "maintenance undertakings". There has been significant interest in the case from leading organisations in Tower Hamlets and the BBC.

His published articles to date are: 1. International Law and The legality of the Flotilla raid by Israel; 2. Indirect discrimination by raising the marriage age rule to 21; 3. Religious implications for Hindu pyres in the UK (Ghai and Others); 4. FGM: "an Islamic practice or modern fashion; and 5.Mediation in practice. He has submitted a plan to publish a legal dictionary for the lay person in crime and hopes this will materialise shortly.

He is the proud father of Sadia, Yusuf and his lovely twins: Aaliyah and Amirah. In his past times he enjoys reading, sea fishing and travelling.

Mashuk Ahmed Khan is the eldest son of Mohammed Matiur Rahman Khan and Begum Jamila Khan of an academically enriched respectable Muslim family of landed gentry and successful entrepreneurship, of village Gangajal, Zakigonj, of district Sylhet.

Ahmed Khan is married to Shamim Ara Begum (Rose). Mr & Mrs Khan have three children; a son and two daughters, namely: Mustafa, Nabila, and Farzana. From the day one of their schooling lives, all three children had the privilege of going to independent schools up to the sixth forms. The son is now married and both the daughters are at university pursuing degree programmes in Accounting and Finance.

By profession Ahmed Khan is a Chartered Human Resource Consultant and an academician with membership of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD), and The University of Oxford Philosophical Society. He is also a political critique, columnist, a Rotarian, and an author gifted with literary skills. His debut publication of the poetry book "A Phantom of Romance" comprised of poems of love and passion. His patriotic poems "In the love of my nation" and "My heart cries for the fallen" composed in retrospect to Bangladesh liberation war and its post independence political crises were published in the Bangla Mirror Newsweekly, London - issues:237&316, and Sylhet Madan Mohan University College Literary Council's publication "Katha Lata"- issues: 4&5, as well as in Sylhet Mobile Pataghar's narrative publication "Chayalap"- issues: 283&284 correspondingly.

Ahmed Khan - an unassuming, family-centric, spatio-temporally Spartan vivacious individual, avid to his continued self development. Following successful completion of his M.Phil research on



MASHUK AHMED KHAN M.Phil., M.A., B.A.(Hons), PG Dip.(HRM), Ad. Dip. (Mgt.), MCIPD

Sector: Academia

HRM he had re-assigned his academic interest into Law with sustained enthusiasm to develop a comprehensive knowledge of the legal concepts. Resultantly he has achieved a Master of Laws degree (LL.M) with merit from the World-class Birkbeck College of the University of London.

He has five younger brothers. The immediate younger one had his further education from Sylhet Polytechnic College. Each of the other four brothers has multiple Master's Degrees in various disciplines from reputable Universities at home (Dhaka & Chittagong) and abroad (Sydney, London & Cornell (NY)). They now reside in the UK and USA - occupied in different professions.

Ahmed Khan asserts himself a devout "British Muslim" - proudly upholding his religious values and traditions - while profoundly deferential to synonymous interests of all other social groups in British society. His pastimes are: reading books, watching factual movies, travelling and listening Tagore Songs, Urdu Ghazals, Mozart and Pavarotti.

M A Mannan Khan was born in 1953 in Khan Bari, Kismoth Maizbhag in Golapginj, Sylhet. Whilst being a student at Modhon Mohan College in Sylhet Mr Khan became a freedom fighter, and also a cabinet member of the Chatroleague in Bangladesh.

At Jogonnath College under University of Dhaka in 1977 Mannan Khan completed his BA degree. After graduating he worked as an assistant teacher and later went on to complete his B Ed teachertraining course in 1978. Mr Khan became the chairman of 'Provatee Shahitto Porishod', commanding officer of 'Shurjo Shena Shishu Shongo' and later a journalist for 'Sylhet Shomachar' a local newspaper in Sylhet.

In 1982 Mr Khan moved to UAE where he set up a business. He then migrated to England in 1986 where he worked at Burleigh College in Loughborough as a modern languages teacher. Mr Khan also was appointed as a modern languages teacher in Moat College in Leicester. Subsequently he was a GCSE Bengali language teacher at Bengali Community Education and an examiner under the University of London (EdExcel).

Mr Khan has been working for the community since 1986, and was the committee member of the Bengali Community Education Project and secretary of language Teacher Association in Leicester. For three years Mr Khan was a radio presenter for Sunrise Radio.

Mr Khan has established the Awami League in Leicester and served as the founder Secretary. Mr Khan has received an invitation to HRM Queens Garden Party for achieving the title of one of the high achieving modern languages teacher in the City of Leicester which



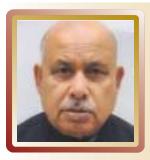
M.A Mannan Khan

Sector: **Education and Community** Relations

was recognised by the University of London in 2000. Mr Khan received a Channel S Community award in 2006.

Mr Khan is the founder president of Surma Welfare Porishod UK, Vice Chairman of First Solution Money Transfer Ltd (UK), Senior Vice president of Leicester Awami League, Founder Chairman of Bangladesh Poor Fund, Foreign Advisor of Motijeel Theatre in Dhaka, Committee Member of the local Mosque Masjid-e-Bitul Mukarram Trust, and he is currently working for Channel S as there news reporter for Leicestershire.

In his spare time Mr Khan likes to write poems for magazines and newspapers.



Md. Shamsuddin Khan Sector: catering and Politics

Md. Shamsuddin khan was born in 1935 in Matiura, under the Bianibazaar Upazilla in Sylhet. He is the second son of late Haji Taj Khan and Tayamunnessa Khanom. Mr. Khan primarily worked at an English restaurant when he arrived in the UK in 1955, aged 20. It was in 1958 when he started his first business when he opened a restaurant, which he called Moharani. This restaurant is situated in Clapham Common, is one of the most famous and old restaurants in the UK. Two other branches of the Moharani restaurant have been opened ever since, one located in Clapham North and one in Camden Town. Mr. Khan is one of the owners of a large grocery store named Kushiara Cash and Carry in the East End of London. On top of that, he has an enormous investment in the tea estates in Sylhet and also owns several houses in London.

Founding member of the Bianibazaar Janakallyan Samity UK, of which he is now the advisor, and also a trustee of the Historic Bangladesh Centre in London, Mr. Khan is involved in various political and socio-cultural organisations, both in Bangladesh and the UK. In addition he has played a key role in the establishment of Bianibazaar College, by donating money towards it. Mathiura High School and Mathiura Girls' High School are two of many educational institutions of which Md. Shamsuddin Khan is a patron. Furthermore, he was the chairman of the College Development Committee for a long period of time.

Before all this, Mr. Khan's political career began with Pakistan Welfare Association which later become Bangladesh Welfare Association. Inspired by Sheikh Mujib, he also decided to join the Awami League once it had been set up in the UK. Throughout his role in the Awami league changed from the treasurer, to the vice president. He played a significant role throughout the Liberation War in 1971 by fundraising. During the 1970 elections, he was the Awami League candidate in the Bianibazaar-Golapgonj constituency.

Here, in the UK, Shamsuddin Khan is a member of the Labour

At present, Md. Shamsuddin Khan Resides with his wife Mrs. Safarun Nesa Khanom and their three children.



Oli Khan Sector: Business and community relations

Oli Khan, Internationally recognised award winning celebrity chef and successful entrepreneur. Oli Khan has bagged many high honors and will doubtless bag many more for his adventurous, exciting and ingenious approach. Oli won the National Curry Chef of the year for 2002/03 CIEH and FSA. The British Bangladeshi & India Fusion Food Festival for 2005-06. Oli also captured BFFF2008 and served the president of Bangladesh. He was Crowned Curry Chef of the year twice in Stevenage, where he runs the Surma Takeaway and Spice Rouge. The local newspapers described Oli as the 'Curry King of Hertfordshire'. Scores on the Doors Surma in Luton & Stevenage achieve five Stars in 2007/08 which was first Indian Takeaway in UK to get five stars in food hygiene & still holding.

Oli started his first business in 1989 at the age of 17 in Hatfield Road; St Albans called Tandoori Knight at the same time he studies in business management at Barnfield College in Luton. In 1996 Oli completed a computer literacy course, following which he obtained Diploma in IT (Information Technology). In 2002 he got an advanced certificate in Food Hygiene and other advance catering related certificates. In 2008 he got passed the diploma in multi-skilled food processing, cooking, management and first aid. In 2011 he completed Conflict Management and PL; Oli has been editor for some of the famous magazine and one of them is for BCA called "Bangladesh Cuisine" in 2011.

Oli's all achievement gained him 'Best Caterer of the Year 2010' at the golden jubilee celebration of Bangladesh Caterers Association UK. Some of his popular recipes are regularly published by Curry Life, Spice Times, Channel S magazine and other Asian magazine and Website across the Country. Oli also featured in TV show like ITV, BBC Look East, Channel S, Bangla TV, NTV, Channel I, ATN, Zee Café, Sony TV and BTV in Bangladesh.

He is always been very devoted and committed to charitable works. He is founder chairman of Oli's Foundation established in 2002, General Secretary of the Moulvibazar District Council UK, Senior Vice President of Bangladeshi Caterers Association UK, founder & chairman of Soft Investment LTD, founder and treasurer of the British Bangladeshi Business Forum, MD of Oli's Properties, foundation member of L & D NHS Hospital Trust, member of the British Legion Club and Community Governors Woolenwick School in Stevenage.

Tasmin Lucia Khan is a BBC News Presenter and Journalist with over 8 years of on-screen experience. She is currently the face of BBC Three News bulletins and presents 'E24' on the rolling BBC News Channel, formerly known as BBC News 24

Tasmin graduated from Oxford University with an Honours degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. It was then Tasmin became a keen debater, nurtured her passion for current affairs, and specialised in International Relations.

Tasmin joined the BBC News team in London after three years at Channel Five, producing and presenting Sports programmes. She was also the London News Correspondent for PTV News, covering the UK's biggest news stories to a worldwide Asian audience.

Tasmin's presenting career began in 2000 at the Zee TV Network. She fronted and produced a variety of entertainment shows. Later she hosted her own talk show interviewing film and music celebrities, politicians, businessmen and sports personalities.

Away from the camera, Tasmin is actively involved in charities that are close to her heart. She has worked in educational projects which help children in developing countries to better their lives.

Tasmin really enjoys delivering the nightly 'World News' bulletins on BBC Three in 60 Seconds. She says "It's an instant hit of information updating you with what's happening around the world. You get to see global events, seen through the eyes of news stations around the world including CNN, Fox News, Al Jazeera, China's CCTV, and Al Arabiya."



**Tasmin Lucia Khan** Sector: Media

On the BBC News Channel, she particularly likes the interviews, where she gets to grill her guests in the studio.

Taryn Khanam is the Chief Executive of BritBangla, the prestigious organisation set up specifically to highlight the British Bengali talents and achievements. Taryn's bold venture proved to be a phenomenal success, and today BritBangla boasts more than 1000 ambitious members from all sections of British life including business, media, teaching, finance and the public sector. It provides a platform to reflect the views and aspirations of second and third generation Bengalis growing up within a dual culture. BritBangla acts as a source of inspiration, empowerment and enriches the Bengali community through mutual support and positive promotion.

Taryn's relentless efforts over the years, has now successfully achieved in raising the Bengali profile to the mainstream British so-

Not surprisingly, some of the nation's most influential media organisations, including the BBC and Channel 4, have picked up on BritBangla's unique success.

Taryn actively promotes BritBangla by establishing links with businesses, Non-Governmental Organisations, government, education and arts. She developed partnerships for organisations highlighting significant issues and trends that are important to the community. Her work entails engaging the community to highlight the environmental challenges faced by Bangladesh and to encourage deeper involvement of British-Bangladeshis in campaigns on climate change in the UK. Taryn is a dynamic and well-recognised personality within the Bengali media and business community, known for her dedication for helping the community and an active fundraiser for a number of leading charities. She regularly visits Bangladesh to offer support to an all girls' orphanage and community projects. As part of her role, she has established strong links with the Bengali media and her frequent media relations has advanced the prolifer-

ation of BritBangla here in UK and abroad.



Taryn Khanam Sector: Community & Media Relations

She was invited by the US Department of State to participate in their prestigious International Visitors Leadership Programme; aimed at fostering greater understanding between foreign nations and the people of the United States. She is a committee member of the John Adams Society and the Full Picture Club.

In addition, an active supporter of volunteering in the community, she volunteers at the Migrant Resource Centre, Westminster delivering Employability Workshops for asylum seekers, migrants and refugees.

Taryn has a Masters' degree in environmental science from Brunel University, and a Diploma in Public Relations from London School of Public Relations. Her interests include travel, yoga, ancient history and current affairs.



Dr Nazia Khanum, OBE

Sector:

Research & Academia

Dr Nazia Khanum has a BA (Hons) and MA in Political Science from Dhaka University and a PhD in History from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. She runs Equality in Diversity, an international management and research consultancy. Her jobs include: lecturer at University of Dhaka; Commonwealth Speaker and Teaching Fellow at Commonwealth Institute, London; Education Officer at Luton Community Relations Council; Head of Equalities in Greater London Council (Housing), Tower Hamlets Borough Council (Housing), Inner London Education Authority (Employment), Ealing Borough Council (Education) and Bedfordshire County Council (Education, Resources, Research and Community Development); Senior Health Promotion Officer in Bedfordshire Health Promotion Agency.

Working closely with national and local government and community groups, she has given evidence to Parliamentary Select Committee Inquiries into Bangladeshi community's needs, Terrorism/Violent Extremism and Domestic Violence, Forced Marriage & Honour-based Violence. Her publications include poems, short stories, articles, research papers and good practice guides on: equality in employment, bullying and harassment, forced marriage, discrimination on grounds of race, gender, disability, faith, class etc, engagement with black and minority ethnic communities, needs and aspirations of Bangladeshi young women, smoking, fostering, climate change and so on. She has spoken extensively on wide-ranging socio-economic issues at national and international conferences, seminars and workshops and participated on TV and radio programmes. Her passion and achievements in promoting peace, equality, justice and human rights, especially for traditionally disadvantaged groups like ethnic minorities and women, have been recognised by numerous awards including: OBE from the Queen, honorary PhD from the University of Bedfordshire, Kabi Mozammel Haque Foundation, Rotary Club - Dhaka West, Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, the Mayor of Luton, Luton Committee for Racial Harmony (predominantly African Caribbean), Luton Forum (Local Strategic Partnership), Pakistan Kashmir Youth Forum, House of Lords Honours Dinner, Gujarati Mitra Mandal, Bangladesh Youth League, Purbachal - the eastern sky, Luton Bangladeshi Community, Grassroots (Christian), Luton Council of Faiths, Community Development Foundation, Luton in Harmony, Luton Training and Mentoring (Indian-led).

Her activities include: Government Equalities Office's National Ambassador for Equality and Diversity in Public Appointments; Governor, Luton Sixth Form College; Non-Executive Director, Luton Primary Care Trust; Trustee, Luton All Women's Centre; Equalities Adviser to Bedfordshire Probation Service; Member of National Muslim Women's Network UK; founder Chair of United Nations Association – Luton, Luton Bangladesh Helping Hand (LBHH), Luton Multicultural Women's Coalition, Purbachal - the eastern sky and Luton Multiagency Steering Group on Forced Marriage & Violence Against Women; Member of Luton Equality, Inclusion and Cohesion Group (until 2011), Preventing Violent Extremism Community Reference Group, Luton (until 2010), Luton Commission on Community Cohesion (2010-2011), the government's National Muslim Women's Advisory Group (until 2010). Thinking Partner of the Department of Health's national programme - Race for Health (until 2007), board member of Bedfordshire Learning & Skills Council (until 2007), governor of two schools (until 2003).

As founder chair, she is an integral part of LBHH's charitable work for the victims of natural disasters across the world including Bangladesh (10 educational and health projects in Sylhet and rebuilding of 115 houses and a high school/cyclone shelter in Sri Ghat, Bagerhat), Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Haiti & Sudan. She is married to Dr David Cheesman (PhD in History from SOAS). Their son -Tareen has an M Sc in Economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science - LSE, University of London. Dr Khanum is proud to have a family which is not only fully supportive of her work but also shares the same ideals of democratic and humanitarian principles.



Cllr Shiria Khatun

Sector: **Politics** 

Shiria Khatun, was one of the short listed mayoral candidate of Labour in Tower Hamlets, is an interesting example of the empowerment of Bangladeshi women in UK. As a working mother of four children attending local state schools she is utterly rooted in the UK-Bangladeshi community.

Shiria was born in Birmingham raised and educated in Tower Hamlets. Her parents, Late Haji Mohammed Mokis and Late Joytera Khatun came to UK in late 50's. Both her father and mother passed away when she was just a teenager. She is married with a young family her 9 year old son is a School Councillor, her husband Mr Lutfur rahman is an Outreach Worker in Poplar.

She started her community service when she was just 11 years old by writing official letters for neighbours who needed help in wring English letters. Eventually, she deeply involved in politics by protesting against racism and inequality.

She was elected as a Councillor for East India & Lansbury ward in May 2006. Soon after getting elected, Shiria was appointed by the former Mayor of London Ken Livingstone as his Adviser for Transport for London.

She is a member of Regional Party selection panel for LG Candidates (Ealing, Newham, Haringey), Shiria constantly works to increase the engagement and participation of women and all Tower Hamlets' many BME communities in the Labour Party. She is a highly regarded IDeA Peer Mentor and has presented workshops to large audiences at Warwick University's Leadership Centre.

She has been a Board Member of London Pension Fund Authority which has given her extensive financial oversight experience.

Shiria qualified as a Peer Assessor from the Leadership Centre last year and has facilitated sessions as a Lecturer at Warwick University on empowering women in to public roles. Shiria represents the council on many committees as well as external boards she is also the Media & Communication's Officer for Tower Hamlets Labour Group.

She has extensive experiences outside of politics in the public, private and voluntary sectors. She is a Youth Employment Specialist for The Working Well Trust, a Work Placement Scheme Coordinator in St. Hilda's East Community Centre, has been a TV Presenter/Researcher/Script Writer, Bangla TV in 2005, a Youth Enterprise Coordinator in Leaside Regeneration Ltd, a Lansbury Estate Board member from 2003, a Project Manager in The Children's Society (Children's Voice project), a Centre Coordinator in Peabody Trust - The Sundial Centre and a Senior Mental Health Care Assistant in St Clements Hospital.

Shiria is an experienced public speaker. She successfully engages audience right across the community - but she also has the clout necessary to get results locally and nationally as a Lead Member.

As a presenter for weekly television programme she invited young people and Labour politicians for in depth interviews which helped to promote the party in the Bengali community both locally and nationally.

Khatun Sapnara is a barrister and part time Judge. In 1988 she graduated with an LL.B (Hons) from the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science (University of London) and was called to the Bar in 1990.

She practises from Coram Barristers Chambers in London and specialises in family law. In 2006 she was appointed as a Recorder of the Crown which makes her the only Bangladeshi in a senior judicial position.

In 2004 Khatun Sapnara was appointed by the Lord Chancellor to the Family Justice Council which is a body of experts to advise Government on all aspects of the family justice system and assisted in formulating and drafting the Forced Marriage Act 2007.

She was also the first ethnic person to be elected to the Family Law Bar Association Committee in 2003.

Khatun Sapnara was born in Sylhet and came to the UK as a child. She is the daughter of late Mimbor Ali, a highly respected member of the Bangladeshi community, honoured by the Bangladeshi Government for his significant contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh.

Khatun Sapnara has served as Director /Chair of a number of charities and voluntary sector organisations and lectures widely on issues relating to family law. She is married with two children.



Sector: Legal (Barrister and Judge)

Sapnara Khatun

Mr. S.H. Khurshed is the chief editor of Film Asia, the film making company based in East London. He was born in Kamalganj, Moulvi Bazar of Bangladesh and completed his B.A. from Moulvi Bazar Degree College. His Father is Al haj Md. Ishaqe Miah and mother is Johura Khatun.

Mr. Khurshed came to the UK in 1998. He excelled as the editor of Film Asia which thrives to be one of the most prominent film making company of Asian weddings and other events. The company does not use the term 'Bespoke cinematography' lightly. They create something to cherish, a project that is unique to any client.

In Mr. Khurshed's words, 'at Film Asia, we recognise the importance of our creations for each client, we recognise the individual requirements for each client differs from others, and in turn we recognize that the approach undertaken in our editing can only stand out from anything else available. The Film Asia perfection process is no gimmick; the unique concepts crated by our experts are only possible through a desire to deliver to you...perfection.

Film Asia mainly produces wedding videos for Asian grooms and brides. They also produced a ghazal night with Alaur Rahman and the British Bangladeshi Who's Who programme in 2009 and 2010. With brilliant editors, graphic designers, cinematographers and event coordinators, the group has been a raving success in the film business of East London.

Mr. Khurshed lives with his family in Fallowfield, London. His wife's name is Jubeda Khatun Haque. They have three sons, Jala Haquel, Jahan Haque and Jahia Haque, and two daughters, Jynat Haque and Jannat Haque.



S.H Khurshed Sector: Media and Entertainment



Mohammad Abul Lais Sector:

Mohammed Abul Lais is a successful businessman, outstanding community organiser and well-known philanthropist in Berkshire. He left for the UK when he was only 16 and entered professional life. Alongside working he continued to study. For his sincere and hard labour on the one hand he attained success in his business and on the other being the elder son of the family he educated all his younger brothers and sisters and thus he set an example to be followed by others.

Catering

Born on February 23rd 1960 Mohammed Abul Lais hails from the village Amria of Durgapasha Union of Sadar Thana under Sunamganj district. His father late Alhaj Abul Bashor Md. Mashuk Miah was a restaurant trader in the UK. He was a philanthropist who came over to the UK in 1963. He was killed in a tragic road accident in the UK in 1994. His mother is Mrs Badrunnesa. The family consist of three brothers and four sisters and he is the eldest.

After appearing at the SSC Exam in 1975 in this School he left for the UK along with other family members. On arrival in the UK he started serving in restaurants and at the same time continued his studies. And in this way he did O' Level and A' level in Accountancy and also completed B-tech national diploma. Mohammed Abul Lais began his first business in 1978 in Newbury, Berkshire. This restaurant named Curry Garden and run on partnership still remains operative. He established this Curry Garden at Tadely in Hampshire in 1982 on partnership basis and again in 1985 he established 'Rajdoot Restaurant' in Cirencester Town in Gloucestershire on partnership. In 1991 he established a company named Eurasia Frozen Product. He established a first Thai and Bangladeshi restaurant named 'Café Blue Cobra' in the small town Theale in greater Reading area in 1996.

Mohammed Abul Lais is also a philanthropist. He is one of the founders of Basingstoke Islamic Society. Initially he was the founding secretary of this organization and later on he served as president for 3 years. He is also the founding member of Redding Central Jame Masjid established and run by the Bangladeshis. Besides, he is the member of Basingstoke Chambers & Commerce, Thames valley Chambers of Commerce, Bangladesh British Chambers of Commerce and the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs in UK.

He has made special contributions towards the establishment and development of Amria Madrassa based in his own village. During the devastating flood in 1988 and in 1991 he raised funds 1400 pound and 11 thousand pound respectively and sent it to Bangladesh through British Red Cross Society for the flood affected people. Mohammed Abul Lais and his brother Absar Md. Waess have established a family trust after their father's name. From this trust named "Alhaj AB Masuk Miah Foundation" quarterly education stipend is regularly being provided to the poor and meritorious students of the Amria Madrassa since 1994. Primary scholarship has been introduced under the auspices of this Foundation in 1998. Mohammad Abul Lais is the trustee of this Foundation while his all brothers and sisters are the members.

Mohammad Abul Lais got married in 1984 with Nazma Khatun Qureshi, and they are blessed with two daughters and one son. First daughter Shumana Lais obtained Honours degree in investment Banking and finance, from Reading University, currently working for KPMG as an auditor and also studing ACA, 2nd daughter Saeera Lais is in secondary school. Son Shumel Lais, is studying Business and marketing in Bournmouth University.



Mohammad Liton

Catering and community relations

Mohammed Liton was born in 1964 in Gourkaran, Kulaura Upzailla, in Moulvibazar district. He is the son of Dr M A Sahid (Rtd Post Master) and Mrs Saleha Sahid. Mr Liton's early education was begun in Juri primary School. He completed Secondary Education in N C High School Kulaura and higher secondary education in Kulaura Degree College. During studying commerce degree course in Kulaura Degree College he went to USA to study BBA at Wisconsin University in 1987.

Mr Liton settled to London in 1990, lived in Camden started his career in catering. After five years he decided to move Scottish capital Edinburgh. By the 1987, Mr Liton opened a first Bangladeshi restaurant in Penicuik of Midlothian council which was named Clippers.. In the meantime, he gained useful experience working in different places. He also volunteered with Citizen Advice Bureau and helped many Bangladesh people from his voluntary capacity.

Recently, Mohammed Liton won the most prestigious 'Best Community Contribution Award 2010' given by Edinburgh Evening News newspaper. The winners were announced in a ceremony was

held at the Holyrood Road, head office of the newspaper on 10th August 2010. The Best Community Contribution award received more than 3000 nominations.

Mohammed Liton, Member of Edinburgh Bangladesh Association, has raised for a number of causes, including the Edinburgh Sick Kids hospital and children's cancer charity, Clic Sargent in collaboration with local girl Chirsty Harrison who was diagnosed with cancer several years ago.

Mr Liton, 45, is a devoted sponsor of many of local civic events, including Penicuik's annual gala day, amateur football club and even the local rugby club. He has also recently sponsored the Beeslack Thistle Football Club, Air Training Corps, Eskmill Boys Club, Beeslack All Stars Disabled Sports Club, March Burn Playgroup, Penicuik Hearts Supporters Club, Penicuik Athletic FC and Penicuik Rugby Club.

Philanthropist Mr Liton is always keen to lend a hand with fundraising efforts for deserving causes and even invites primary school kids to his restaurant, The Clippers, to learn the Bangladeshi culture through cuisine and skills of cooking.

Mr Liton is married with Kadira Begum. He has two sons and one daughter. His eldest son Nazrul is now studying law at Dundee University, second son Habibul is studying in Sterwart Melville College and younger daughter is in Craigmount high school.

Mr Liton believes through hard work and perseverance anything can be achieved and is a firm believer in giving back to the community for which the restaurateur is widely recognised for his generosity and hospitality.

Taysir Mahmud is very well known in the Britain Bangladeshi community as a committed professional journalist. He is serving as the Executive Editor of the 21 year old Bengali Newspaper, weekly Notun Din.

Mr. Mahmud was born in 1974 at Vobani Pur village of the Moulvi Bazar district, Barlekha Upozella, under Shahbaz Pur Union. His father Alhaz Muhammad Abdul Motlib is a respected person in the area. Mr. Mahmud passed SSC in 1993 and HSC in 1995 both in first divisions. He passed the Kamil (The highest degree of Madrasha education) in 1999. At the same time he took a BA degree from the Sylhet MC University College.

As a student he became involved in journalistic activities as a staff reporter on the Daily Sylhet Bani newspaper at Sylhet, He went on to become the sub-editor for the newspaper. He later established a powerful news agency in Sylhet named Media line. At one stage Mr. Taysir was at daily Jalalabad newspaper as Senior staff reporter. At the same time he worked as a Programme Compiler in the Radio Bangladesh, Sylhet Centre. He was a permanent member of the Sylhet Press Club.

In the past, Mr. Mahmud had also set up a company called Al Saiyyan Private Limited with thirty directors. He was chair of the company.

Mr. Mahmud arrived in UK in 2003. He started his career as a News Editor in Notun Din. In 2007 he was appointed as the Executive Editor of the paper.



**Taysir Mahmud** Sector: Media

Mr. Mahmud got married in 2006 to Farhana Mahmud, the daughter of the respected community leader Atik Miah of Hazipur Golapgonj, Farhana Mahmud is a Science teacher at a secondary school in East London. They are the parent of two children, Jibreel Mahmud and Sarah Mahmud. The family resides in Bethnal Green.

Dr. Abdul Malik has achieved many qualifications throughout the years, all of which have been well earned and very deserving. He studied in the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh were he gained a BSc. Honours in Chemistry in 1967, and then a MSc. in the same subject a year later. He then arrived in the UK where he continued studying, in a University in London. Here, he also got a PhD and an MSc.

He was an Associate Professor and a Professor of Chemistry in the University of Dhaka for 13 years from 1980 to 1993. Earlier, in 1975, he was a lecturer in Science for Hackney Technical College and then in 1975-1980, he became the Research Associate in Queen Mary College. Afterwards, Dr. Malik was a Lecturer in Chemistry and Service Manager of National Crystallography Research Centre, in University of Wales Cardiff from 1991-2003.

Dr. Abdul Malik has also been writing for various Bangla and English newspapers published in both England and in Bangladesh. He has written 380 research papers on the subject of Chemistry as well as published 3 books on contemporary political and social issues. He is Founder and Management Committee Chair of Sahera-Nasir Vocational, Technical and Agricultural College, Chair of Bangladesh Educational and Cultural Society in Cardiff, the Adviser of International Expatriates Welfare Society, Trustee of Dr. Tayeeb Hossain Foundation, and Joint Convenor of 'Save the Bangladesh Rivers' campaign based in the UK. He was the General Secretary of Bangladesh Chemical Society and a campaigner for the Bangladesh Liberation Struggle.

Moreover, Dr. Malik is a professional Member of Royal Society of



Dr. Khalifa Mohammad **Abdul Malik** PhD, CChem, MRSC

Sector: Academia

Chemistry and Chartered Chemist, a life member of Bangladesh Chemical Society and Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science.

The award for Bangladesh Academy of Sciences Gold Medal was given to him in 1988. He won the Third World Academy of Science prize, the Justice Ibrahim memorial Gold Medal, Hari Prasanna Roy Gold Medal and the Mithapur High School Gold Medal to name a

At present, he lives with his wife and three daughters and is the Chair of Bangladesh Swadhinata Gobeshana Kendro and Bangladesh Educational and Cultural Society.



Md Abdul Malik (Parvez)

Sector:

Business & community relations

Md. Abdul Malik (Parvez) was born in Sylhet town. The eldest son of Alhaj Dr Abdul Motin and Mrs Afrujun Nessa Khatun. Paternal roots from village of Monirgathi, P.O. Kurma, Chattok, however permanently residing in Shibong Sylhet since 1975.

Md Abdul Malik was educated at MC College Sylhet, Sylhet Polytechnic College and T.T.T.C. Dhaka. Started his career as a Sub-Assist. Engineer at Telephone and Telegraph (T&T) Department, Sylhet. Alongside this he completed the obligatory pharmacist training from Sylhet Medical College and looked after Miltali pharmacy established by his father in Shibgonj Bazaar.

Arrived in the UK in 1985, briefly settling in Lichfield Staffordshire and later moving to Northampton. Between late 1985 and 1997, he was actively involved with the Northampton Bangladeshi Community working part-time in the capacity of Bangladeshi Community Development Officer and as a Teacher and organiser/examiner for Bangla Language, with full responsibility for GCSE and A'Level courses and examination. For a period he served as the Secretary of local Bangladeshi Masjid in St Georges Street, and Chairman of the

Sports Sub-committee and assistant secretary of main committee of Al-Jamat Ul Muslimin (the main organisation representing the Bangladeshi community in Northampton at that time).

Seeking a route away from becoming involved in the licensed restaurant trade, (prevailing at the time), he completed HND in Engineering at Nene College, Northampton. Shortly afterwards in partnership with extended family purchased an ongoing printing company. Crystal Print Services was established in 1994 and became the first Bangladeshi owned printing business in the Midlands. Through involvement with the local masjid and networking through business links, once again he continues to be an active member of the community. Currently he is one of the founder/trustee of Al-Ameen Foundation which has operated an Islamic Primary School in Birmingham for the last six years. Other community involvement includes one of the founder-trustee of Mukti Judda Welfare Trust UK, Chairman of Birmingham Bangladeshi Business Association (BBBA), Bangladeshi Community Awareness Association and Furqan Cultural Society. One of the Directors of Daily Sylhet Shonglap newspaper, published in Sylhet. His other interests are writing articles of topical interest for Bengali newspapers.

Md Abdul Malik is married to Shefa Malik who has worked for various local authority run initiatives as Project manager for Bangladeshi women primary health and social care projects. Her last position being school head of Al-Ameen Nursery & Primary School from opening in September 2004 to 2009, at present involved with the Bangla Roots weekend supplementary school. They have two sons and one daughter. Eldest son completing final year of dentistry at Birmingham University, daughter third year in pharmacology at Aston University, youngest son in year six.

**Mohammad Maruf** 

Sector: Media

A prominent media person in the UK, Mohammad Maruf is the Birmingham correspondent of the Weekly Potrika and the editor of the Weekly Bangla Voice. Born in May 1971, Mohammad Maruf is the fist son of the late Shaykh Moulana Fazlur Rahman and Syeda Meherun Nessa. He hails from Nobigong from the district of Hobigonj, Bangladesh and settled in Sylhet.

After studying at the Dorga Madrasha, Sylhet, Bangladesh, he started his own printing business and was the editor of a literature magazine. He was also the author of "Shamrajobader Bissayon Abong Ummah Chetona" (Ummah consciousness and the globalization of imperialism) which is a collection of essays, joint poetry books "Chuye Dile Badle Jabo" and "Diganto Aj Bristi Bora". Along with these, he was also involved with literature activities in Sylhet.

After a successful career as a journalist and author in Bangladesh, he came to the UK in December 2004 and continued working in the printing industry. Soon he established himself as a prominent name

in the printing business among the British Bangladeshi community.

In 2009 he became the joint publisher and editor of Weekly Bangla Voice, the only Bengali weekly newspaper published in the Midlands. This proved to be his greatest success, and has been running well for two years. The newspaper is reputed for its truthful, dedicated and honest unbiased news, and has gained a huge popularity among the British Bangladeshis of Midlands. He continues to work hard not only to carry his own success, but also to do some good for the betterment of the community.

Mohammad Maruf is married and has a daughter. The family live in Birmingham. Mr Maruf is very well known and respected in the Bangladeshi community in the Midlands.

Ajmal Masroor was the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for Bethnal Green and Bow constituency in London Borough of Tower Hamlets, during the last general election.

He is a broadcast journalist specialising on Islam and Muslim issues. He presents regular programmes on the Islam Channel and Channel S. He has been a production consultant TV programmes such as Shari'ah TV, Make Me a Muslim and the Quran for Channel 4 and Celebrity Lives Shariah style for the BBC. He has written for the Guardian's comment is free and BBC websites, the New Statesman and the Evening Standard and has regular page in the EMEL magazine. He in regularly invited to contribute and comment on news stories by BBC, CNN and other mainstream media.

He is a trainer providing training on peace and reconciliation, citizenship, governance, democracy and contextualised Islam to young people across Europe and has taken part in peace building initiatives in various countries including Lebanon and Jordan.

He is regularly invited to speak on issues on integration, Islam in the modern world, Muslim community, and topics that relate to social and political changes within various communities.

He is currently the director of Communities in Action Enterprises that provides advice and support to statutory and non-governmental organisations including the British Council, Department of Health, NHS, Police and local authorities. He has published a number of guides including "Ramadan Health Guide", "Mark of Faith" and "Islamphobia and Anti-Semitism training manual" and "Organisational Capacity building handbook".



**Ajmal Masroor** Sector: Politics and Media

He has worked in the voluntary and statutory sector for over twenty years in various positions and capacities such as a youth worker, community organiser, community development advisor and cultural relations consultant. He was the vice-chair for the London Civic Forum and he lead the campaign "standing together against intolerance" post the 9/11 attacks in the USA.

He has studied Politics, Arabic language, counselling and completed an MA in Islamic Studies. He leads Friday prayers in several Mosques across London.

Mr Delwar Matin is involved in property development & multi cuisine restaurant business and providing consultancy in catering trade. He was born in London to Mr Abdul Matin & Mrs Shahena Khanom Matin but originally hails from Angura Mahmud Pur, Beani Bazar, Syhlet. He studied in Chestnut Grove School, Clapham, London and Southwark College, Waterloo.

Mr Matin was involved with the Enron Europe Ltd from 1998 to 2001 as a 24hr Operations Manager. He initially set up and then managed a 24hr shift team of 15 people that primarily provided support to Enron's Energy Traders. He also analysed critical energy trading systems such as NETA, and set up and maintained an offsite Disaster Recovery Facility so trading could take place in the event of any type of disaster occurring at the head office.

For two brief periods Mr Matin served as the Digital Vax Analyst in Paine Webber and Analyst Progammer in Allders. He was also the Senior Digital Vax Tech Support in Cantor Fitzgerald where he provided system support for 700 users in a leading City of London brokerage firm.

He managed the Digital Vax systems that ran the companies trading systems and implemented the company's first PC based trading systems which ran OS2 Warp.

Mr started his company Hamilton and Palmer Limited in 2006. Then in 2008 another business, Kitchin N1 started in 2008 and then finally VOC bar in 2011.

Mr Matin is married to Mrs Rajul Matin, and they have one child, Sahra Matin. Mr Matin is an avid follower of sports.



**Delwar Matin** Sector:

Business



Ali Mazhar Sector: Catering

Mazhar Ali is a popular name in the catering business in East London being a partner of the Eastern Pride. Catering has dominated his life ever since he moved to the United Kingdom, and his success continued. He was born in 1958 in Chatak, Bangladesh. Mr Ali is one of 6 brothers and sister in his family and from a young age, he wanted to make sure his family and neighbours are living well.

Ali came to the United Kingdom in 1980 and settled in Oldham and it did not take a long before he could become successful in business. With very little educational qualification, Ali went straight into a kitchen and worked his way up to become a chef to develop his culinary and management skills. From the experience gained in this job, Ali became a head chef and this was a sign for his future success.

His first business venture was a take away in Somerset named Indiana, opened in 1990. This venture took off successfully and became a stepping stone in his business life. Indiana influenced Ali's next venture - Al-Amin, Dorchester, which led to his next challenge. Ali then established a take away restaurant - The Raj - in Shoeburyness. Ali had created a recipe for success and his businesses continued to thrive. The Raj had risen from the ashes and became popular in the locality and to this day it is still providing in the local people of Shoeburyness with quality Bengali cuisine.

Following the success of The Raj, Ali chose to move closer to London. Ali's London based ventures included, The Spice Tandoori in Plaistow. He has also entered in to property business and acquired a few properties in and around London trading under Ali Raja Properties Limited.

Ali is engaged in many charitable works and help his community in many ways. In 1988, Ali helped fund the Jahidpur Madrasa and a whole new bazaar for this village. He is married to Husnara Begum, and they have four children. His eldest son, Farbez Uddin has recently graduated with a BSc degree in Business Economics, while his eldest daughter, Lothifa Aktar is still studying BA in International Relations. The two youngest children Foysal Uddin and Humaira Aktar are still in their early years of education, in whom Ali vested his high aspirations.



Arju Miah MBE Sector:

Arju Miah was born in Bangladesh but decided to move to the UK where he started start to work in the restaurant business.

Catering

He went into this with the intention to provide the finest for all his customers and to have the most outstanding restaurant.

Such devotion and hard work to satisfy customers and achieve to the best of his ability, has not gone unrecognized, as Mr. Arju Miah has received many awards throughout the years. A few to name are; the British Curry Award 2006 and 2007, Master Chef role of Honour 1999-2000, Silver Award from the Gourmet Wining and Dining Guide 1992 and the British Bangladesh Business Link Award 2007 for the Best 50 Restaurant within the UK.

Mr. Arju Miah further involves himself with many voluntary jobs; which had led him to receive the MBE from the Queen in 2003. He was the first Asian President in 80 years for Chippenham and District Chambers of Commerce and Industry, vice president for 2 years and the treasurer for 8 years for the Bangladesh Association Swindon, he is also the Founder Trustee and treasurer of the Hazrat

Shajal Mosque in Swindon, he is the Founder member and Vice Chairman of the Jagonnathpur British-Bangla Education Trust, and furthermore the Board of directors and former UK Chairman for the BFA, also member of the British Bangla Chamber of Commerce BBCC as well as Chairman of the greater Dawrai Community Association UK and so the list goes on. In addition to that he is the managing director of the Taj Mahal and the member of Federation of small business (FSB) in North Wiltshire since 1984. He is the founder member and the Board of directors and former Chairman for the BFA.

He has fundraised for Cancer Research for Wessex Children Hospice and many orphanages in Bangladesh. He was the Coordinator for the SIDR Cyclone Bangladesh Appeal and has recently been raising funds for the Bangladesh Female Academy; a free school for the girls from the underprivileged areas of Bangladesh, the academy was opened at 2006.

Mr. Arju Miah is married with five children, and due to their support he is in this position today.

Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari MBE is an educationalist, community activist, author and parenting consultant in the British Muslim community.

He has served East London's diverse communities in various capacities for three decades. Since 2002, he has been the Chairman of the board of trustees at the East London Mosque (London's first mosque which now includes the impressive London Muslim Centre) leading the institution to win the national 'Super Model Mosque Competition' in 2009. He is also a founding member of The East London Communities Organisation (TELCO), a coalition of churches, mosques, and other civil society organisations working together to promote understanding and a safer, fairer and better governed city.

He was Secretary General of the Muslim Council of Britain from June 2006 until June 2010 having completed two terms. Prior to that, he served as the Council's Deputy-Secretary General for four years. As Secretary General, Dr Bari worked tirelessly to have more young people take part in the work of Britain's largest Muslim umbrella

In addition, Dr Bari is a patron of Anchor House, a homeless charity in Newham, the National Youth Agency and the Ramphal Centre. He is a board member of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG), served on the Good Childhood Inquiry Panel which was set up by the Children's Society in 2006, and is a trustee of Muslim Aid, a leading international charity.



Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari MBE FRSA

Sector: Islamic Affairs and Community Relations

He is also an advisor to the Centre for Public Policy Seminars. Dr Bari has written for various newspapers, journals and community publications, and is the author of 'Marriage and Family Building in Islam, 'A Guide to Parenting', and 'Race, Religion and Muslim Identity in Britain'.

Ahfaz Miah is the managing director of the UKAY Group limited. Having been established in 1978, UKAY Group has grown to be one of the most successful business groups within the Asian commu-

Son of Late Mr Alhaj Abul Motin, born in the village of Doli Para (Shek Para), Amtoli Bazar Biswanath, Sylhet in Bangladesh, Mr Ahfaz Miah came to the UK in 1970 where he was educated.

Mr Miah qualified as a professional motor mechanic and was employed at a garage whilst finishing off his education. However, in 1978, Mr Miah decided to open a leather garment manufacturing factory, which immediately received a great response from the British motorcycle industry.

Subsequently, Mr Ahfaz Miah's partner and family decided to expand and open East London's first Asian food supermarket to cater for the Asian communities needs. The Bangladeshi entrepreneur group then turned their attention to the clothing industry, which led to the formation of the UKAY International Saree centre. He has also set up an online retail business: www.ukayshop.com. The pioneering group later opened the first Bengali owned 22 carat gold jewellery shop 'UKAY International Jewellery.

This was the first in the UK as well as Europe and America. The jewellery shop caters for all types of Indian designs as well as diamond and wedding sets. The group have three branches of the jewellery store: Whitechapel, Green Street and Poplar. He also has a very impressive property portfolio.

Mr Ahfaz Miah is also one of the directors of United Airways, a new airline set up Bangladesh by the British Bangladeshi community. It is the biggest Bengali owned shopping complex in Europe.



Ahfaz Miah

Sector: Business

He is also trustees of Islamic projects such as the Morkazul Ulum Madrasah in Dalston, London.



Al-Haj M. Noor Miah Sector: Catering and Community Relations

Alhaj Md, Noor Miah, son of Alhaj Shahid Ullah and Aftera Bibi, was born on October 7th 1953 at the village Suratpur under Usmaninagar Upazilla in Sylhet. He arrived in the UK in may 1969.

He studied in the local pathshala during his stay in Bangladesh. His father came to the UK in 1957. He is one four brothers and two sisters. He came to Walsall and has been living in the same area since his arrival in this country along with his mother and other two brothers.

After coming here he took an english language course in Walsall and Birmingham. At first he started to work with 'Royal Bengal restaurant' in Walsall where he worked from late 1969 to late 1970. Then he started his own business by opening a restaurant 'Golden Curry House' at Sparkbrook, Birmingham which he ran from mid 1971 to mid 1974. He subsequently started 'Surma Tandoori Restaurant' in Walsall with two partners early 1975. He opened another business 'Rose of India Restaurant' in Stourbridge, west midlands from early 1978-1982. In the mean time his family and himself ran as many as fifteen restaurants in different areas such as 'Tandoori Mohol Restaurant' in Stafford and others in Aldridge.

At present he runs 'Dilshad Restaurant' at Oldswinford in Stourbridge since (Est 1982) and 'Balti Bazaar Restaurant' in Lye Stourbridge opened 1996, also 'Stone cross Balti' in West Bromwich since 2002 and 'Mirchi Restaurant' at Quarry Bank since 2001. He also owns 'H&J Sarees' at Walsall since 1993 till now. He opened a new business enterprise name 'Alpha Drive Merry Hill Ltd' in May 2008 in Stourbridge.

He is the Chairman of Walsall Bangadeshi Progressive Society and has been since 1989.

He is married to Monwara Khanom on January 1, 1978 and they are blessed with three daughters and two sons. They are Hajera khanom, graduated from Wolverhampton University, Johura Khanom graduated from Walsall college, Fatima Khanom complete Alevel, Md, Malik Miah graduated from Derby University and Md Ruman Miah studying hifz at Kidderminster Madrassa.

He was the chairman of Bangladesh Youth League in 1983-84 and vice chairman of Bangladesh Islamic Association and mosques for two years. He was awarded BBL Award in 2008 as a businessman.



Alhaj Mohammed Rais Miah Sector: Catering and Property

Alhaj Mohammed Rais Miah is successful businessman and is the current Assistant Secretary of the Birmingham Press Club. In 2008, Mr Miah was recognised for his involvement in Business & Community at the British Bangladeshi League awards ceremony. Born in Bangladesh, Mr Miah arrived in the UK in 1969 aged fourteen.

Mr Miah completed his high school education in the UK and continued on to further education and gained a Diploma in Business and Accounting. Whilst completing his studies, Mr Miah worked part time as a waiter and gained valuable skills and knowledge of the industry.

This helped Mr Miah to open his first establishment in 1978 in Brierley Hill called the Rose of Bengal which was an instant success and consequently opened the Tandoori Mahal in Stafford. Mr Miah recognised the demand in the market for Indian Food at the time which later led to twenty two more restaurants in the UK.

During the eighties there was an influx of young unskilled

Bangladeshis arriving in the UK who only had the option to work a in a factory or restaurant. Mr Miah recognised their potential and had the privilege of training many of these young men, some later went on to became business partners or buyers. Mr Miah is still involved in the restaurant industry; however, the property industry is also high on his agenda. In recent years, Mr Miah has also been an active member of the Bangladeshi community in the midlands area helping with the Bangladesh youth organisation where he served as Secretary.

Through his successful restaurant chain Mr Miah is regularly raising money for victims of natural disasters like the Pakistan earthquake, Tsunami and the Bangladesh cyclone. He also raises money for other causes such as Chernobyl's Children, International Eye Saver and Children in Need.

Mr Miah is also an advisor for the Bangladeshi Progressive Society and is also serving as Treasurer for the Staffordshire and Black Country Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs. In addition, Mr Miah is also serving as the current Chairman of Masjid-E-Usman and in Bangladesh he is the Vice Chairman of KGDS High School in Balagonj, Sylhet.

Mr Alhaj Mohammed Rais Miah is married and has been blessed with six sons and three daughters who are all in employment or full time education.

Mr Anawar Babul Miah was born in 1972 and hails from Holiarpara, Jagganathpur Thana in the Sylhet region of Bangladesh. He is the son of Alhaj Barik Miah, the Chairman of Barik Miah Investments UK.

Anawar was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 1998, and has since established a reputation both in Britain and Bangladesh as one of the top practising Barristers of Bangladeshi heritage in the United Kingdom. He practices law from Great James Street Chambers in London, listed in the Legal 500 directory of 'Who's Who in the Law,' and this has surely come about because of his involvement in many high profile legal cases. His chambers have been involved in notable cases including acting in cases associated with the September 11th attacks in New York and cases involving the Enron Corporation of America scandal. His chambers have also been involved in publications such as the leading authority on Extradition and Mutual Assistance published by Sweet and Maxwell and 'Blackstone's Guide to the Terrorism Act 2006' published by Oxford University Press.

Anawar also has a direct access licence from The General Council of the Bar through which he advises high net worth individuals and companies directly. Anawar has written numerous articles on law and current affairs which have been published. Aside from his life in law, Anawar is involved in his family business which owns and operates an extensive network of different companies.

Dr M G Moula – a highly respected and well known member of the Bangladeshi community. Best known for his entrepreneurship, philanthropic skills and ability to have grown a successful business in the UK and Bangladesh. Born in Bahadurganj, Rajnagar Moulvibazar in Bangladesh; Dr. Moula came to the UK after completing his secondary education. He then obtained a national diploma in Business management and joined his family's clothing business. In 1987, he launched his first multi-award winning restaurant, Rajnagar International. Which followed by a successful restaurant chain, hotel, land and property development in the UK and Bangladesh.

Alongside many prestigious awards and recommendations, in 2005 he received obtained a doctorate in Business Management. In March 2011 he was one of 12 elected CIP NRB (Commercially Important Person) out of Bangladeshi expatriates around the world, given by order of the President on behalf of the people's republic of Bangladesh, for his remittance and contribution to the economic development of the country.

Dr Moula has shown great commitment with his business acumen and philanthropic activities. He launched MBM Builders Mart Bangladesh UK Ltd in December 2010; Inaugurated by Industry Minister and other influential figures. It's a joint venture company and first ever one stop building materials superstore in Bangladesh, trying to establish something innovative to boost up the economy, create jobs and a hassle free one stop service for the customers. This was followed by his export based packaging industry, MBM Agro Foods BD-UK. In Britain the curry restaurant industry is being dominated by Bangladeshi people, therefore he has taken this new initiative to develop, package and supply spices and other food products from Bangladesh to the UK in order to help the curry restaurant industry. He is soon launching his exclusive one stop shopping mall which has been completed. By doing so he is looking to create a small but very diverse industrial aspect; to help the Bangladeshi economy and its community as a British Investor.

Dr. Moula has helped many charities across the UK and Bangladesh. He has funded several institutions and infrastructure buildings on top of of



**Anawar Babul Miah** Sector:

Legal (Barrister)

Anawar is married to Sony Sadaf Haroon, who is also a Barrister of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, and the daughter of Ha

roon Rashid, the Chairman of Haroon Group in Dhaka. Anawar and Sony have two sons (Mikhaail and Daniyaal) and two daughters (Saarah and Saasha).

Anwar's wife recently set up her own firm.

Anawar's pastimes include travelling, reading English literature and studying traditional English architecture. He divides his time between his homes in Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire and Dhaka.



Dr M G Moula Miah CIP, FRSA, MIH

Sector: Business / Community / Media

fering scholarships to talented students. In order to increase awareness of literacy in Bangladesh he has published a book named "A Complete English Grammar".

Dr Moula - chairman of Dr Moula Foundation, director of the weekly Jonoprottasha newspaper (for the past decade). MBM Media launched 'Surmar Dhau' a diverse newspaper published on a weekly basis which he is editor and publisher of. He is Chairman of MBM Builders Mart BD-UK Ltd, MBM Media - Weekly Surmar Dhau, MBM Agro Industries, MBM Properties & Development and MBM Shopping Mall. Rajnagar Group UK: Rajnagar Tandoori Restaurant Ltd, Landing Stage Ltd, Restaurant Barajee and Shades of Raj.

President of the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs (Midlands) Dr.Moula has been involved with many charities across the UK and Bangladesh; he has founded schools, masjids and madrasas and is sponsor life member of London Bangla & Moulvibazar press club and Red Crescent Society. Also engaged with the welfare of the Bangladeshi community he is president/vice president of many organisations throughout the UK.

Eldest son of Late Alhaj Mohammed Mastafa and Mussamat Moymona Khatun, Dr Moula is married to Farhana Choudhury and blessed with two daughters Saleha and Fabiha Sultana and two sons Md. Taushifur and Mustafizur Rahman, whose involvement and support are always essential...



Jusna Begum Miah Sector:

Jusna Begum Miah is a barrister and practice manager at M R So-

Legal

She was called to the Bar of England and Wales by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 1998.

Jusna comes from the village of Patkura, Mondoli Bhug, Jagannathpur. Her father is Mr Anis Rahman and her mother Mrs Fulesa Khatun.

Mrs Miah completed her primary education in Bangladesh, before coming to the UK where she obtained seven GCSE's and also three A Levels. She then read law at the University of Westminster, and after completing her LLB (Hons) she embarked on the Bar Vocation Course at BPP Law School. After being called she has worked as a barrister from M R Solicitors.

Prior to her legal career, Jusna Begum Miah was a bilingual health care assistant at the Royal London Hospital for some eight years from 1990.

She was then elected as a Councillor in May 1998, for St Peters Ward, Bethnal Green.

This made her the first elected Sylheti female Councillor in Tower Hamlets.

Whist a Councillor Jusna served on numerous panels, including the education and housing scrutiny panels. She was also a member of the board of directors for Spitalfields community Trust and a member of Toynbee housing, to name a few. Mrs Miah is also a patron for Tower Hamlets Parent Centre.

Jusna is also deeply connected with both British as well as Bangladeshi Politics.

Here she is a member of the Labour Party, and has been a delegate on EC, GMC and LGC and also a student and Youth officer for the Bethnal Green and Bow Constituency, she was also chair of the Whitechapel ward from 2002 to 2004. In relation to Bangladeshi politics, Jusna is President of the UK BNP Mohila Dal and has represented them in the Houses of Parliament.

Furthermore, she is the Chairperson for Bangladesh Female Academy UK Committee, a post she has held since April 2007.

Jusna Begum Miah makes regular appearances on the various British Bangladeshi television channels such as Channel S and Bangla TV, including the talk shows and legal advice programmes. She has also received numerous accolades, including the Channel S award in 2006 and the Lekkhok Somithy UK award in 2002. Jusna Begum Miah is married to Mohammed Farid Uddin and they

reside in London.



Faruk Miah MBE

Sector: Further Education

Faruk Miah MBE was born in Jagonnathpur, Sunamgonj. He is the eldest child of late Hazi Abdul Wahid.

Faruk is currently the Head of Programmes for Business, ICT, Languages, Health & Fitness curriculum for Tower Hamlets Lifelong Learning Service (London Borough of Tower Hamlets). He is passionate about learners & learning and the opportunity to make a positive difference to people's lives.

Prior to joining THLLS in June 2010, Faruk worked in the Further Education sector in Leeds for 20 years. Firstly with the local authority in research & community development and then following the incorporation of Colleges in 1993, he joined Park Lane College (now Leeds City College) as an ICT lecturer. From 2001 to 2010 he was Head of Centre at various Adult Education Centres across Leeds. He also played a key role in the development of the College's International Strategy in South Asia and Middle East to promote the College and recruit international students.

Faruk gained his Certificate in Education from the University of Leeds whilst studying for his B.A. (Hons) in Management at Leeds Metropolitan University.

Over the years Faruk has made significant contribution on the Boards of various business, community, faith and cultural organisations in Leeds and is now currently a Governor at Caterham High School in the London Borough of Redbridge as well as supporting a number of community organisations in London.

He is a keen traveller having been to many parts of Europe, Middle East, South Asia, Africa and USA.

In recent years Faruk has received a number of national and international awards in recognition of his contribution to the Further Education sector including the 2006 Channel S Community Award for Outstanding Contribution to the British-Bangladeshi Community, the 2009 Star Award (finalist) for Teaching & Learning. In January 2010 he received an MBE from the Queen for services to Further Education and the Community in Leeds.

In July 2010 he received an Outstanding Contribution award at the British Community Honours Awards held at the House of Lords. He has been in the "British-Bangladeshi Who's Who" the annual publication comprising of the most successful and influential members of the Bangladeshi community in Britain since 2010.

Md Harun Miah comes from the village of Lamachandanpur under Budhbari Bazar Union in Golapgong Upazilla of the Sylhet District. His father is Alhaj Moboshir Ali and his mother Surojan Bibi. Mr Miah came to the UK in 1972 where he completed his O'Levels. Md. Harun Miah is married to Minara Begum and they have four children, two sons and two daughters. An eminent business personality and established Social Worker, Harun Miah has played a vital role in the field of Social Services. He is associated closely with many Socio - Cultural and Social Welfare Organisations both inside and outside of the country. Harun Miah is one of the Trustees of the London Based Bangladesh Centre, a Member of the Bangladesh Welfare Association UK, Trustee of the Golapgoni Education Trust and a member of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce (BBCC).

He was also the treasurer of the Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee, as well as being a member of the British Cheque Cashers Association and UKMTA and is also Chairman of Al-Emdad School and College. Mr Miah owns a number of business under the Kushiara name which include 'Kushiara Cash & Carry', Kushiara Financial Services worldwide money transfer and bureau de change and Kushiara Travels Ltd in Commercial Road East London. In addition he is also the owner of Bangla Frozen Food Ltd and a newsagent situated in Burslem Street, London.

Md Harun Miah has not only worked hard in the UK to distinguish himself but also has worked relentlessly in his Home country of Bangladesh where he was one of the individuals who helped establish and build Glolapgonj Lamachandanpur Jame Masjid and he made a valuable contribution towards the construction of a village



Md Harun Miah Sector:

road in Chandanpur and a bridge in Kotlipara - Bashantapur Road in 1984. He is Director of Shahjalal Islami Bank in

Bangladesh and has been appointed as Vice Chairman of the bank from 2010 to 2013, and has invested in Dhaka Stock Exchange. He is also a director of Pritom Hotel and Holiday Planet in Dhaka.Mr Miah has been a long serving pillar of the community not only as a distinguished Social

Worker but as a successful Business Man setting up beneficial organisations in the UK and in Bangladesh and has been dividing his time between both countrie

Rohema Miah is an experienced political advisor having worked over the past ten years with a number of senior politicians. She has served as a political assistant to Ms Oona and the Rt. Hon. Harriet Harmen QC. MP as well as other recognised politicians.

Throughout her career, Ms. Miah has campaigned for the need for equal opportunities and better community relations and continues in her role as BAME Advisor. She has demonstrated a commitment to end social exclusion and child poverty in addition to her campaign for sustainable development. She has visited Bangladesh on numerous occasions with senior politicians and celebrities and has campaigned strongly on the issue of global warming.

Among many of her achievements, Ms. Miah has helped launch the English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) Consultation for DUIS Minister John Denham MP as well as delivering numerous Executive Public Affairs roles for high profile government initiatives.

Earlier this year Ms Miah organised and co-ordinated the Ethnic Catering Alliance Rally held in Trafalgar Square She is also an advisor to various Asian and non-Asian organisations including the International Commission of Peace (ICOP) and the Muslim Women's Network; part of an initiative set up by the former Minister for Trade and Investment, the Rt. Hon. Patricia Hewitt MP.

She was a Director for the Commission on British Muslims and Islamophobia and Jermaine Jackson's NGO, Earthcare International as well as serving as the Policy and Development Officer for the Centre of Muslim Affairs (2006-2007).



Rohema Miah Sector:

Civil Service

Within the last few years, she has also coordinated interfaith projects to create a better understanding such as Alif Aleph, an organisation promoting dialogue between Muslims and Jews. As an Ambassador for peace for a UN affiliated organisation Ms Miah visited Palestine and the Gaza and has lobbied continuously on the plight of the Palestinians and for the removal of the Apartheid Wall Ms Miah was an Executive Founding member and Press Officer for the Muslims for Labour Group (2003-2005) as well as a Political Consultant Advisor for the launching of the of UMCOR/Muslim Aid Partnership in Parliament.

Her present activities include being a Trustee at the Henna Foundation and a Political Affairs Advisor for MUSIAD UK.



Sajjad Miah Sector: Community relations

Sajjad Miah was born in Rasulpur, Jagannathpur Upzila. His father was late Haji Estak Ullah. Sajjad Miah came to the UK with his father in 1967. He completed his secondary education in Birmingham and then moved to Surrey in 1970 to work as a waiter.

During the struggle of independence of Bangladesh, Sajjad Miah participated in almost all public meetings and demonstrations, and played active role as a youth activist. In 1974, he moved to Brick Lane, where racist attacks were a regular occurrence that time. To fight against this discrimination, Mr. Miah, with the help of the then general secretary of the Bangladesh Welfare Association Ataur Rahman Choudhury, formed a youth group called Bangladesh Youth Association in 1976. He was the founder and treasurer of the organization, and later served as the general secretary.

In 1980, Sajjad Miah became a member of London Jamme Masjid Trust which is now known as Brick Lane Jamme Masjid Trust. Later in that year, he was elected senior joint secretary of Bangladesh Welfare Association. He was also elected parent governor at Thomas Buxton Infant and Junior School. He later became the chair of Tower Hamlets Law Centre.

Mr. Sajjad Miah was elected as councilor for Weaver's Ward in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets in 1990. In 1992, he became the chair of the Bethnal Green Neighborhood. He was also a director of the Bethnal Green City Challenge, and was one of the founders of Tower Hamlets Parents Centre along with Gulam Mortuza.

Mr. Sajjad Miah is currently serving as the vice-president of Brick Lane Jamme Masjid Trust (London) Ltd, chairperson of Collective of Bangladeshi School Governors, treasurer of Tower Hamlets Parents Centre, EC member of Jagannathpur British Bangla Education Trust, and organizing secretary of the UK Awami League.



**Shanur Miah** Sector:

Shanur Miah was born on the in February 1964, in the village of Araihal in Moulavibazar Sador. His father is Haji Md Askir Miah (Akhonji) and mother Faizun Nessa.

Retail

He started his primary education in Monurmukh Govt Primary School in Moulavibazar, he passed his SSC examination in 1984 from Monurmukh High School. Also as part of his early student life he attended in Sylhet Cadet College, to gain admission there he had to complete class four and five in a year, he did not study there for long, he studied there for one and a half years and then returned back to Monurmukh High School and finished his high school education there. After high school study, he was admitted to Habibullah Bahar College in Dhaka in 1984, he could not finish his studies there because his father had been living in the UK since the second world war till now and wanted him and the rest of his family to join him.

He then came to the UK in 1988, he took a two year course in BTEC Electronics in Brixton College in London. Later on he started work

in an off licence shop and worked there for two years. He did not feel happy working there, he felt as though he wanted to do something more with his life. So one day he came to Brick Lane to visit a friend's shop, which was Sangeeta Music shop, he liked everything about the shop because it provided books, magazines, newspapers and music from Bangladesh. After visiting the shop he felt that this was his future to provide for the Bangladeshi Community in the UK.

He dedicated himself in Sangeeta for seven years from 1991 to 1998, the owner invited him to be a partner of Sangeeta which he happily

Now Shanur Miah is a successful and proud owner of Sangeeta. He resides with his wife Shahanara Akther and three children.

Sheikh Sujat Miah is internationally renowned for his politics, social service and hard work to alleviate poverty. He is the elected MP in the last election held in 2011 in Hobigunj.

Mr. Miah was born in 1957 in Hobigunj to the veteran social worker Al-Haj Abdul Jabbar and Sheikh Amina Bibi Choudhury. He came to the UK in 1969 and passed his BSc from Loughborough College, England. He also underwent a training of hotel and catering management, and health and security matters.

At present Mr. Miah has a business in the UK worth £2.5 millions. He owns the renowned restaurant 'Mughal-E-Ajam' which is the winner of many awards for excellent service. The other businesses are Himalayas Tandoori Restaurant, Kohinoor Tandoori, Star of India, export-import organisation Sheikh Enterprise and property business Rothvale Properties Limited. He has different businesses in Nobigunj, including Sharif Timber Merchant, Ashab Medical Stores Golden Plaza Shopping Centre.

Mr Miah is also known for his charitable activities in Bangladesh. He contributed to the building of Chargaon Primary School, Balla-Dhaipur Kalasha Academy, mosque in the Mirpur Girls High School, Narpur Madrasah. He was the convenor of Nottingham Youth Cultural Society of Bangladesh and member of the executive committee of Nottingham Islamic Centre. He is also the chairman of Nottinghamshire Bangladesh Cultural and Welfare Society, chair of the East Midland region of Bangladesh Caterers Association, chair of the East Midland region of Greater Sylhet Council and executive member of the Dine Bangladeshi Campaign in UK. Mr. Miah has been active in politics for a long time. He has been



Sheikh Sujat Miah Sector: **Politics** 

serving as the BNP East Midland President since 1981. He was elected as the MP from Nobigunj-Bahubol constituency in 1996. He was reelected in 2011. During his last tenure while the Khaleda Zia government was ruling the country, he was instrumental in managing two ambulances in the Nobigunj-Bahubol Health Complex. Mr Miah is married to Abeda Sultana. They have three daughters and two sons.

Celebrity Chef Tommy Miah is one of the leading Bangladeshi businessmen in the United Kingdom where he owns the award-winning Raj Restaurant in Edinburgh, and has substantial property interests. Edinburgh is also the home of his uniquely inspired Original Raj Hotel Group of individually styled Indian-themed boutique hotels. Without any formal training, qualifications, or background knowledge Tommy was attracted to catering trade in the UK. When he was 17 he had started his own small takeaway.

He then moved to Edinburgh where after being involved with a couple of well-regarded restaurants, he raised enough cash to buy a near derelict cinema, which was transformed to the Raj Restaurant. It attracts a discerning clientele --writers, businessmen, sportsmen, politicians and public servants -- and provided a firm foundation for business development.

Tommy is the founder and promoter of the International Indian Chef of the Year Competition: the most prestigious event in the Indian culinary calendar.

He has diverse business interests in Bangladesh and commitments including his signature restaurant The Heritage. He has regular cookery programmes on Bangladeshi TV and an increasing interest in projects, ranging from clothing and textiles to food manufac-

His reputation as a media celebrity and TV chef, coupled with wide experience of international dining and catering, led to the foundation of the City & Guilds approved Tommy Miah Institute of Hospitality Management in Dhaka to train young Bangladeshis and equip them to succeed in the international hospitality industry. Zee TV screened a full-length documentary on Tommy's career, which was also featured by BBC2's Working Lunch business pro



**Tommy Miah** Sector: Catering and Hospitality

gramme in the UK. Tommy made it to the Guinness Book of Record by cooking, single-handed, the world's largest curry -- which was then sold portion by portion to visitors at a large exhibition. He is now working to expand his Original Raj Hotel Group chain of boutique hotels and launched a London hotel in 2009.

His work for charities, both in Bangladesh and the UK, includes Cancer Research UK, Shishu Polli (Sreepur Village), Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed (CRP), and ORBIS Flying Eye Hospital. He has also been auctioned for several thousand pounds a time at big Charity Balls, with an offer to cook for up to 100 diners anywhere in the world. He has written five recipe books for UK charities.



Jamal Uddin Mokkodus Sector: Catering

Mr. Jamal Uddin Mokkodus is well known in the Britain Bangladeshi community for his business reputation and social service. Born in Mondolpur village of greater Sylhet, Mr. Jamal Uddin came to UK in 1973 after completing his school. He started his career in the catering industry, and after some days began his own restaurant business.

He started a number of restaurants. His reputation spread all over Britain. Significant among his restaurants are Bilas Tanduri, Palash, Titas Raj, Garden of India, Bhojon Restaurant. The Bhojon restaurant achieved a very good reputation.

Mr. Jamal Uddin has other businesses, too, including like property business. He is a director of the Homeland Insurance Company, a chief insurance sector of Bangladesh. He is also the UK based finance director of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce, the director of the Garden of India (Harlow), senior patron of Raj (Epping), the chairman of the Essex Bangladeshi Caterers Association, and the founder of Executive Bhojon and the Jamal Uddin High School.

Mr. Jamal Uddin has been tirelessly serving for the development of his community. As a memer of the Conservative Party, he has close ties with Bangladeshi politics. Zia ur Rahman being his idol, he is also a member of the UK branch of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Mr. Jamal Uddin has immense contribution in establishing the non resident Bangladeshi cell in Sylhet. In 1979 he married Rokeya Uddin, the daughter of the celebrated peer Tahir Ali of Hazari gaon. He fathered three children, all of them holding University degrees. At present Mr. Jamal Uddin lives with his family in Hounslow.



Hasina Momtaz

Sector: Communications/media

Hasina Momtaz is a resilient, adaptable and credible communications and media relations expert with over 10 year's experience at both strategic and operational level within politically complex and fast-moving national, regional and local government environments. She is a former communications brain behind the present Mayor of London, Boris Johnson. Hasina advised at the heart of London governance for almost nine years, having provided counsel to the previous Mayoral encumbent, Ken Livingstone, from 2003 until the 2008 London Mayoral elections, which saw Boris take over the helm at City Hall. During this time, Hasina advised on some of the biggest national and international breaking news stories of recent times such as the London bombings.

In 2011, Hasina left the Mayor's Press Office to take on a new challenge as Deputy Head of News and Media Relations for the Local Government Association (LGA), a membership body for over 400 local authorities across England and Wales. In this senior management position, Hasina helped lead a large team of communications professionals as well as providing strategic media relations advice at Board and Executive level.

In June 2012, Hasina started her current role as Communications Busi-

ness Partner with Tube Lines, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Mayor of London's Transport for London (TfL) body. In this senior role, Hasina is responsible for briefing the Chief Executive and Senior Management Board, handling external media relations issues as well as managing the organisation's relationships with key external stakeholders. In this new role, Hasina has added an additional feather in her cap and expanded her wide-ranging portfolio of communications experience to include internal communications.

Hasina has a thorough understanding of politics, the demands of highly pressured news and deadline driven media organisations, public policy issues and experience of handling high profile and sensitive media stories/issues. She has an excellent understanding of, and solid contacts lists, within the national, regional, local, BME and trade media. She has extensive experience of aligning media activity with policy and public affairs imperatives as well as organisational objectives. In addition, she has substantial experience of identifying and advising on marketing and sponsorship opportunities. She possesses considerable crisis communications experience.

As well as professionally, Hasina also excelled academically and left college with three A Levels to study at the prestigious London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), noted for its illustrious alumni which includes Heads of State, Nobel Laureates, historians, philosophers, economists, politicians and academics. She graduated from the LSE with a BSc. Honours degree in International Relations, Law and Sociology.

In 2008, Hasina gained a coveted industry qualification, the Chartered Institute of Public Relations (CIPR) Diploma.

Hasina is the daughter of noted businessman, Haji Mohammed Amiruz Zaman, who sadly passed away in 2004. Her family hails from Beanibazaar and she is one of six siblings.

Rowshanara Moni was born in the Moulvibazar district town in Bangladesh. She is the sixth child of Late Mohammed Samroo who was a very well known business man in the UK, and Syeda Sufia Kanum, her mother who was actively involved in politics in Bangladesh.

Rowshanara Moni has completed her primary education in Bangladesh and came to the UK in 1984 when she was only 10 years old. She completed her education in the UK.

She has been singing since the age of six. Music is her passion and she can live for it. After coming to UK she joined Dishari Shilpi Gushti and performed in many stage programmes. When she was only 11 she performed in the Royal Albert Hall for the "Save the Children Foundation" and she was singing in front of the honourable guest Princess Anne.

In 1985 she took part in the Bengali Song Contest which was organised by Tower Hamlets Borough, and won 1st prize in Folk song. In 1986 she won 2nd prize in folk song and modern song and 1987 and 1988 she won 2nd prize in modern song and folk song. She has received many other awards and certificates from different organisations. Apart from singing she took great interest in acting. The first stage drama she took part in is "Khotto Bikkhoto" in Camden and she also took part in many other stage dramas. She acted in the first Bangla TV (UK) drama, which was called "Laal Golap" written by Abdul Gaffer Chowdhury. Rowshanara Moni regularly took part in radio dramas in the "Sunrise Radio" Bengali department with Azizul Hakim. She became well known to the Bangladeshi community as a result. She was a presenter for "Sunrise Radio" in the Bengali department.

At the age of 18 she got married in Bangladesh to Mr Mohammed



Rowshanara Moni Sector: Arts

Iqbal who was a Civil Engineer at the Water Development Board in Bangladesh. She has one child who is called Aynan Shabab Iqbal. Rowshanara Moni sang in all leading channels in the UK and from time to time she goes to Europe to perform.

In July 2009 she organised a fund raising event for the late baul shamraat Shah Abdul Karim and raised £10000 for his rehabilitation. In 2010 she has again organised a thanks giving award to those who helped raise £10000 for baul shamraat Shah Abdul Karim in

She is involved in charity work too. In addition, she has great interest in politics both in the UK and Bangladesh. She is the current Women Affairs Secretary for the Bangladesh Nationalist Party in UK. At present she is working full time in NHS as a medical administrator.

Former Councillor and former Mayor Ghulam Mortuza is more commonly known for being the first Bangladeshi Mayor of Tower Hamlets. He was born in the village of Narikeltola of Jaggannathpur Thana under Sunamgonj district and attended the Mangalchandi Nishikanta High School and then went to Jaggannathpur High School. Mr Mortuza passed his SSC exams and came over to the UK in 1965. He initially completed an English language course; and then studied for B.Ed at Averyhill College and also obtained an MA in Politics and Government studies from Guildhall University.

In 1975 he started up his own business named AM Fashion in East London. He later helped establish East Community School and got himself involved in actively promoting education to the Bangladeshi community. Mr Mortuza formed the Parents-Teachers Association at Canon Burnet which consisted of parents and teachers.

He supported the establishment of Jalabad Bangladeshi Parents Association in Tower Hamlets of which he became the founding secretary.

Actively involved in addressing housing issues he established Tenant Association in the area of Spitalfields in East London; furthermore he played a vital role in the anti-racism movement through Tower Hamlets Law Centre and Tower Hamlets Association for Racial Equality. Moreover Ghulam Mortuza launched a movement demanding the recruitment of Bilingual Teachers in Tower Hamlets schools and colleges, and as a result more and more bilingual teachers are being recruited into the teaching workforces. He also became the chairman of Bangladeshi Education and Career Services (BECS).



**Ghulam Mortuza** 

He has been involved in mainstream politics for a very long time, and first started off being a member of the Labour party in the Spitalsfield ward, he was also chairman of the Labour party in the Spitalfields ward.

Ghulam Mortuza has been involved in many socio-welfare activities. In Bangladesh he founded the Gulbahar Girls School in his own area and named it after his mother. He assisted in the completion and development of roads including Jaggannathpur College road and Jagannathpur - Shibgonj-Fechirbazar road. In 1996 he founded Tower Hamlets Parents Centre. In the following year he was nominated director and trustee of Spitalfields Market Trust. He was an executive member of Tower Hamlets Law Centre, member of St Hilda's Community Centre and Oxford House, Kobi Nazrul School and Bangladesh Welfare Association.

Ghulam Mortuza is married to Aleya Mortuza and they are blessed with five daughters and one son.



Shuyeb Muquit Sector: Legal (Barrister)

Shuyeb Muquit is the son of the late Mohammed Abdul Muquit, who's family originate from the Sunamgonj District of Bangladesh. Shuyeb's father was headmaster of the Digalbakh High School prior to arriving in the UK in the mid Sixties, where he qualified as an accountant, working initially for Habib Bank and then the Inland Revenue before embarking upon private practice in Birmingham, where Shuyeb was born and raised. Shuyeb's mother, Ayesha Muquit, originates from Kulaora, and is the sister of Badrul Alam, the former General Manager of Biman Airlines.

Shuyeb completed his secondary education at King Edward Grammar School before moving to London as an undergraduate of the London School of Economics, where he studied social and economic history (and where he was President of the Bengali Society). He then completed his Diploma in Law at the University of Birmingham, returning to London to complete his Bar Vocational Course, after which he was called to the Bar of England and Wales in 1998. Shuyeb completed his pupillage under the guidance of James Gillespie [lately known as the co-author of the Immigration Law Handbook] before joining 12 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, as a Tenant in 2000.

Shuyeb is now a barrister specialising in Public and Administrative Law and has over twenty reported cases to his credit in this field, representing clients up to the Court of Appeal. Asked to comment upon Shuyeb's proposed entry in this year's Who's Who, Manjit Gill QC wrote: 'I found Shuyeb to be a brave, imaginative and intelligent advocate whose extreme enthusiasm for the law is matched by his unrelenting concern for the interests of his client. Certainly a practitioner to watch out for...'. To the same enquiry Ian Macdonald QC wrote "I have recently led Shuyeb in a test case immigration appeal. I was impressed by his knowledge of immigration law and by his industry and hard work. I have no doubt he will go far".

Shuyeb recently moved to 1 Mile Court Building, The Chambers of Lord Gifford, QC.

Shuyeb is married to Pahmida who is a pharmacist by profession; and daughter of Abu Bashir, a leading social campaigner and commentator and former head of policy at Bradford Council.

Outside his professional practice, Shuyeb is involved in various charitable ventures, not least those concerned with protecting the rights of vulnerable individuals and groups.



**Syed Nahas Pasha** 

Syed Nahas Pasha is one of the most respected senior British-Bangladeshi journalists in the UK and the editor in chief of the Weekly Janomot, a Bangla newspaper established in 1969. Syed is also editor in chief of restaurant magazine Curry Life and UK bureau chief of the largest Bangladeshi online news agency, bdnews24.com. He is one of the founding members and former general secretary of the London Bangla Press Club, which acts as a voice for British Bangladeshi journalists. Syed also sits in the executive committee of Commonwealth Journalists Association.

Sector: Media

Syed Nahas Pasha was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh in 1957. He was the second son of a family of three boys and a girl. He came to Britain in 1976. He joined the famous Sonali Bank, the only one to cater specifically for the needs of Britain's expanding Bangladeshi community. After several years in the Bank, he moved to start his own catering business. From a very early age Pasha, a born idealist, was attracted to journalism. At school he was one of the top performers in the Bengali language and literature. His longstanding love affair with the profession of journalism began at school. He edited school magazines and during the eighties he edited a literary magazine 'EESHAN'.

In the 1970s there were hardly any Bangladeshi foreign correspondents in London, especially with the journalistic skills of Pasha. To this day he remains a regular contributor to some prominent Bangladeshi daily Newspapers. He was involved in full time employment with the newspaper Notun Din for about 10 years and also assisted in the establishment of Asian Post, a English Language newspaper. He later joined Potrika. After improving the status of this newspaper his friends at Janomot, Nobab Uddin and Amirul Choudhury invited him to join them as partner and Editor in Chief.

In 2003 Mr Pasha and his brother Syed Belal Ahmed published the first edition of Curry Life Magazine, a very popular magazine representing the 10,000 Bangladeshi and Indian restaurants in Britain. Mr Pasha respected for his intimate knowledge of Indian cuisine and the social and economic conditions of the industry and is frequently invited by the TV, radio and press media to comment on the latest developments.

Syed Pasha is a member of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ). In 2012, he was elected as EC member for the Commonwealth Journalists Association at their conference in Malta. Syed Pasha has attended conferences of this body in Asia and the Caribbean.

He has worked closely with the Home Office and the Foreign Office, an influential voice at seminars and conferences organised by the two government departments. He has also travelled with Government ministers and officials to France, Germany and Bangladesh.

Journalist Syed Pasha is a keen traveler and visited many countries, attended many conferences and met some of the famous world politicians. Among those are Nelson Mandela, Tony Blair and Mahathir Mohamed. Syed Nahas Pasha has two daughters and a son despite his demanding and overcrowded schedule always finds time to spend with the family.

Mr. Robin Paul is a well established and respected figure in the Bengali community. Robin is a man of honesty, self belief, integrity and a man of great vision. Robin hails from Tajpur of Sylhet. His father the late Ranadhir Paul was the reputed headmaster of Sharpur Azad Bokht High School. His mother Shikha Rani Paul was a teacher by profession.

Robin came to London in 1994 while he was studying B.Sc at the Sylhet MC College. He got involved in business in 2002 and since then has enjoyed continuous success as the owner of General Auto, one the most successful and recognised accident management companies in the community.

Robin was a footballer and a member of the Tajpur Taj Club and Balagonj Abahani Football Club. He is also member of the Balagonj Saimati and trustee he is also a secretary of Balagonj Education Trust uk. Robin is at present the vice chairman of the Bangladesh Hindu Association, General Secretary of Sanatan Association and a member of the advisory committee of the organization Amra Tajpur Bashie.

He is a donor member of the Kashipara Shiva Temple, Biswanath Seva Ashram, Luknath Temple, Shrimongol, Kadipur Shiv Bari (Khullara) amongst others. He is also a donor member of Mangalchandi Nishikanta High School, founder member of Balagonj College and life member of Goulabazar Public Library. He is also a life member of Balaganj Press Club. A secular man, Robin is also one of the donor members of Mogbelpur Osmania Madrasah, Mullapara Dakhil Madrasah and other Islamic learning institutions.



**Robin Paul** Sector: **Business** 

Robin was the General Secretary of the election commission of the Balagani Usmani Nagar Education Trust.

Robin is married to Shilpi and they are blessed with three children.

Abdul Quadir, an accountant by profession, was born in Bangladesh, the youngest of 6 children. His father was a school teacher. After graduating from Dhaka University he taught in a secondary school in Bangladesh. In 1971 while studying for his Accountancy qualification in the UK, he was heavily involved in the liberation movement of Bangladesh.

He has lived in Camden since 1966. His first residence was in Bloomsbury. He now lives in Primrose Hill.

Abdul is married with three children and they all went to local state schools and graduated from renowned Universities. His wife Sophie is a lecturer at a local college.

Abdul worked for a number of accountancy firms in London including Camden. Alongside his professional career Abdul has been actively involved in the challenging areas of education and community affairs. He was instrumental in setting up numerous national and local voluntary organisations and served as chairs and management committee members on many of them. He has extensive experience of being involved in various forums raising achievement of Bangladeshi children and young people and was founder Chair of The Bengali Education Centre, established in 1985

Abdul first served as a Camden Councillor from 2002-2006 when he served for two years as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission and was Deputy Mayor in 2005/6. He also served on many Scrutiny Panels. Abdul was Vice-Chair of Pension Sub-Committee, Vice-Chair Licensing Committee and a member of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE).



Cllr Abdul Quadir

Sector: **Politics** 

He was re-elected to Bloomsbury Ward in the 2010 local elections. During the last year he served on the Audit and Corporate Governance Committee and the Audit and Corporate Governance Performance Review and Staff Appeals Sub Committees; CSF Scrutiny Committee, Holborn District Management Committee, and was Vice-Chair of Licensing Committee. He is a Director/Trustee of the Working Men's College, Director of Castlehaven Community Association, Director of Camden Central Mosque and Community Centre (CCMCC) and Vice Chair of SACRE.

He was Mayor of camden from 2011-2012.

He is a Member of the Halal Food Group and has been working for years introducing Halal food in Camden schools and formalised this position with the Council in 2006.

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Murad Qureshi Sector: **Politics** 

Murad Qureshi is a member of the London Assembly for the Labour Party, as an Assembly Member (AM) representing the whole of London. He was first elected in 2004, and then re-elected in both 2008 & 2012. He is currently the chair of both the Health & Environment Committee and London Waterways Commission. He is also a member of the Transport, Audit Panel Standards and Police & Crime Committee.

Murad is the eldest son of the late Cllr Mushtaq Qureshi and Khalida Qureshi. Murad's family originally hail from Shiekhpara, Sylhet Town though he grew up in West Central London where he attended his local comprehensive school Quintin Kynaston before receiving a BA (Hons) degree from the University of East Anglia (UEA) and a MSc in Environmental & Resource Economics from University College London (UCL).

Murad worked in Housing and regeneration for 15 years establish-

ing Housing Associations & Co-ops in response to the chronic housing needs of the East End. He ended his housing career in the sector at the Housing Corporation, covering a whole spectrum of positions.

He was also an Executive Committee member of SERA (1994-2000) campaigning on green issues within the labour movement and BRAC (UK) between (2007-2012) an international NGO seeking to alleviate poverty and empower the poor in the UK and abroad. He was also a former Councillor in the City of Westminster Council (1998-2006) for Church Street Ward thus representing neighbourhoods in Paddington & Marylebone where he grew up in and now lives in.

As a member of the Assembly, Murad's key issues and concerns feature health and environmental concerns like improvements in Londoners quality of life; improving the health of Londoners with particular emphasis on preventive measures; reviving London's rivers and canals; giving Londoners a variety of affordable travel options which incorporates sustainability and value for money; giving all Londoners a decent standard of residential accommodation and maximising the contributions of sports to the culture and civic life of London. As an avid sportsman, Murad enjoys playing cricket and football and continues to play for local teams in his neighbourhood. He has campaigned for more open playing spaces and playing fields in London and heralds the success of London 2012 Olympics to make sure its sporting legacy promotes playing fields and sporting facilities in London.



A. N. M. Serajur Rahman Sector: Media (Journalist & Broadcaster)

Born in Noakhali, Bangladesh, in 1934. Serajur Rahman had his schooling in Calcutta, matriculating with distinction in 1947 from Mitra Institution. He was actively involved in the Mukuler Mahfil juvenile organisation and published articles and short stories in the juvenile sections of the Daily Azad, Daily Nabajug and weekly Millat of Calcutta. His initiation in broadcasting was also in Calcutta where he regularly participated in school broadcast programmes of All India Radio.

After the partition of India in 1947 he moved to Dhaka, East Pakistan, and got admitted in the Dhaka College. When the Language Movement started in 1948 Serajur Rahman joined it whole-heartedly and was elected by his college to liaise with the Dhaka University Students' Action Committee.

Serajur Rahman joined journalism in parralell with his education. After serving in the news departments of the Bi-weekly Pakistan, Daily Zindegi, Daily Insaf and the Daily Millat, he was appointed

editor of the British Information Service in Dhaka in January 1953. Under his leadership the press section was expanded eventually to 12 journalists. With their help Serajur Rahman edited a daily bilingual news bulletin, the fortnightly British Darpan (mirror) and the magazine Ajker Commonwealth.

In addition to the BIS job Serajur Rahman was also a parti time leader writer (Assistant Editor) in the Daily Ittefaq from 1954 to end of 1959.

In January 1960 he joined the then East Pakistan section of the BBC World Service. By the time of his retirement in February 1994 he rose from Programme Asstt. to Producer, Senior Producer, Asstt. Programme Organiser and Deputy Head of the much enlarged Bengali Service of the BBC.

The BBC's Bengali broadcasts under Serajur Rahman's leadership during the liberation war of Bangladesh brought hope to the people of the then East Pakistan who almost universally thronged to the BBC Bengali Service for true news of what was happening in their neighbourhoods. Though somewhat clandestinely, he also coordinated the movement's international publicity. Through years of contact he became close to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of Bangladesh's independence. He also personally knew most of the top leaders of the country.

Alaur Rahman came to the UK from Bangladesh in 1977 with his parents at the age of fourteen.

When arriving in the UK Mr Rahman entered into the music industry as he was already a keen musician in his native country of Bangladesh he followed what he was most passionate about in Britain. His musical inspiration is Mr Nurul Ghani, who has guided him to where he is today.

In Bangladesh Mr Alaur Rahman attended Madrasa and primary school and he used to sing music and songs there. In 1985 in Britain Mr Rahman appeared on BBC television singing folk songs. Already in a music group Mr Rahman and his group recorded there first cassette in 1985 and carried on recording on to CD. Mr Rahman was a student at Pandit Horidas Ganguly School where he was taught music by Golam Ali another great singer and musician. In 1985 Mr Rahman got asked by numerous people to appear on BBC1 to sing music live.

He has performed on Bangladesh TV (BTV) and has won numerous awards globally. These have included awards from Z TV, Channel I, ATN, Bangla TV and Channel S where he has won awards for being the best singer.

Mr Rahman became one of the leading singers in Britain's Bengali community and in the 1990's went on to sell numerous songs and travel around the world to promote his music. Mr Rahman has been selected by Ekushe TV to be the voice of the Azan (Call to prayer). Mr Rahman moved onto making music, which was of a spiritual



Alaur Rahman Sector: Arts (Singer)

and religious nature. Currently Alaur Rahman is one of the most talented music directors and performers of British Bangladeshi ori-

He has released thirty six albums which included recording Hindi and Bangla songs and at present he has four albums in the pipeline awaiting release.

Mr Alaur Rahman married Mrs Rozi Rahman in 1986. They have two sons and a daughter, who are: Aniqa, Rabi and Raid.

Mr Ataur Rahman has been Managing Director of Jalalabad Law Associates since 2001, dealing with legal protection of Immigration and Asylum seekers, Human Rights Cases and Family Unity cases and has been appearing before the Asylum & Immigration Tribunal regularly since 2000. Prior to this he was an employed Barrister at Mathews Solicitors, Elephant & Castle.

Mr Rahman achieved his LLB (Hons) Degree in 1998 from London Guildhall University. He has been a member of The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn since 1998 and was called s to the Bar in 2000. He obtained his BSS (Hons) MSS in Political Science under the Dhaka University (Jagonnath College). Moreover, he studied law at Dhaka Law College (LLB) and before coming to the UK in 1990, he was a practising lawyer at the Dhaka Bar since Oct 1987 and has been enrolled with the Bangladesh Supreme Court since 1991.

Ataur Rahman makes regular media appearances on Community Channels such as Bangla TV, Channel S and previously on Vectone Bangla. He has also been a member of the Greater Sylhet Welfare & Development Council in the UK for 15 years and was the General Secretary from 2002 to 2008. He was also a Founding Assistant General Secretary to the Nottinghamshire Bangladesh Cultural & Welfare Society between 1991 and 1996 and Project Co-ordinator of Jalalabad Skills Audit for Bangladeshi Community funded by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham Task Force.

Ataur Rahman is an experienced campaigner, taking local issues, which have broader relevance on to the national stage. He has ef



**Ataur Rahman** Sector:

fectively campaigned on managed migration, education, housing and racism. As a lawyer and community activist, he is a key member of the Bangladeshi and Muslim Community and has had extensive experience representing individual cases and group issues.

Legal

Mr Rahman resides with his family in Redbridge, Essex.



Aziz-ur Rahman Sector: Catering

Born in Mirpur, Syhlet, Bangladesh in 1958, Aziz-ur Rahman moved with parents to Oxford in 1969. Since 1978 he has opened several restaurants and take-away establishments in Oxfordshire. He opened his first restaurant at the age of twenty, called the 'Star of Asia' and this venture was an instant success. He has gained a reputation for excellence in all his restaurants. The Aziz restaurants have gained national and international recognition as one of the best in the country and have won awards, on a regular basis, for excellence over the years.

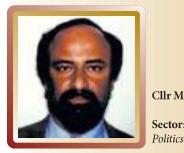
His portfolio of restaurants past and present include the 'Bilash Restaurant' opened in 1984 in Botley, Oxford, as well as the 'Polash' opened in 1988. He then opened the 'Aziz' Restaurant in 1990 and Aziz Burford as well as the Aziz waterside then 'Aziz Witney, 'Aziz Pandesia' followed in quick succession in 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2006 respectively. In 1997 he established the 'Khajana'. Mr Rahman is the Director of Oxfordshire Business Enterprise, Founder Trustee of the Jagannath Pur Education Trust, Member of the Jagannath Pur Probashi (UK) Kollayan Trust; Trustee of Learn Foundation, and a Trustee of the Bangladesh Female Academy (UK), a Trustee and Chairman of the management committee Iqra School, Oxford. He is also Member and advisor to the Oxfordshire Bangladeshi Association, Executive Member of the Bangladeshi Mosque and Education Centre, Cowley, Oxford, as well as Director of the English Language Learning Institute (ELLI), Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Mr Aziz-ur Rahman is a founding member of European Bangladesh Federation.

He was the first Chairman of the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs. He was the Chairman of Greater Sylhet Association UK for South East region.

Furthermore Mr Rahman remains involved in charitable causes and is associated with Oxfam over seventeen years and is particularly interested in relief projects to Bangladesh.

Mr Rahman's interests include, traveling, sports, especially football and cricket. He is a family man, married with four sons, one daughter and a grandson. He was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Oxford Brookes University.



Cllr Md Mohibur Rahman Sector:

Md Mohibur Rahman is a highly successful entrepreneur and active member of the Labour Party in the UK. His ancestral home is in the village of Baushi, Sylhet, Bangladesh. His father, Late Habibur Rahman served in the Pakistan Army before immigrating to the U.K. During the liberation war of Bangladesh, he played an instrumental role in forming the action committee in Birmingham, that worked for the cause Bangladesh's independence. Md Mohibur Rahman came to the UK in 1970 with his Mother (Late) Korpura Khatun to join his Father.

As a student in the UK, Mr Rahman studied Accounting and Government & Politics. He owns hotels and restaurants both in the UK and abroad. He is the Managing Director of Oasis Ltd, Ahar Ltd and Modumita Ltd.

Apart from being in business, he excelled in politics as well .Mr Rahman is the ex-Chairman of the Nailsworth Labour Party. In 2000, he was elected as the first Bangladeshi Councillor in Gloucestershire and was re-elected in 2011.

He is also known for his charitable work. Mr Rahman is the Chairman of Habibur Rahman Charitable Trust which builds homes for the needy people in Bangladesh. He is also the founder chair and trustee of the Gloucestershire Bangladeshi Association, and ex-supervisor of Stroud Credit Union.

Mr Rahman's favourite pastime is writing and reading poems. He produced a cassette containing Bengali and English verses and Mustofa Kamal of Radio Bangladesh recited them. Many of his English poems were published in the Gloucestershire Citizen.

Mr Rahman married in 1983 to Syeda Luhfun Nessa Khatun. Together they have four sons Shahedur, Sadequr, Saifur and Mustafijur. Shahedur Rohman (LLB) is a Legal Advisor for the RAC, second son Sadequr Rohman (B.A.Hons) working in Lloyds TSB, third son Saifur Rohman is studying BSc Computer Science at King's College London, and the youngest Mustafijur Rohman is studying A Levels at Cirencester College.

Dr Moijur A. Rahman was born in village Abdullapur, Beanibazar, Sylhet and arrived in the UK at the age of 8. He is the eldest son of Late Alhaj Malik Uddin who was a teacher in his village.

Dr Rahman obtained his Medical Degree from University of Birmingham, and his PhD from Birmingham and Oxford universities in Clinical Immunology. He currently holds the post of Consultant of Diabetes and Endocrinology at a top UK teaching hospital. Notably, Dr Rahman is the first Bangladeshi Doctor to specialise in pancreas transplantation.

Dr Rahman is the Founder Chairman of two UK based private charities started in 2000. Firstly an educational charity, The Malikuddin Foundation that awards scholarships to some of the brightest and talented students who attend Comprehensive and Grammar Schools of Walsall. Many of whom have gone to study Medicine, Law, PPE and other disciplines at Oxford, Cambridge and other top UK universities. The programme is now widely recognised by local education authority, the schools and leading UK universities. The charity's ambition is now being extended to greater Sylhet and Dhaka.

The second charity set up by Dr Rahman is The Village Doctor International working with Medecins Sans Frontieres. His charity provides free medical services to some of the poorest regions of Bangladesh. The service is provided by a team of UK doctors including himself and includes setting up a field hospital where the team diagnose, treat and provide care of the people.

Dr Moijur Rahman has three siblings, his two younger brothers



Dr. Moijur A. Rahman BSc(Hons), MB, ChB, MRCP, ASiT, PhD.

Sector: Medicine and Education

Atabur and Abadur, both are in the medical profession and his sister Kulsuma is a teacher. He is married to Raheena (a GP) the eldest daughter of Alhaj Abdur Rahman of Manchester.

Dr Rahman is a Member of Royal College of Physicians, Member of Association of Surgeons in Training (Royal College of Surgeons London) and Fellow of Royal Society of Medicine. He was awarded a prize by Channel S for his relentless contribution to the community.

Habib Rahman is the Chief Executive of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI), a high profile national independent organisation, which exists to campaign for justice in immigration, nationality, asylum and human rights law and policy. JCWI was established in 1967 and Habib has held his position since 1999.

Before joining JCWI, Habib Rahman worked for over 15 years as a Senior Caseworker with management and campaigning responsibilities at Tower Hamlets Law Centre. He embraced this opportunity to serve the deserving people of Tower Hamlets and got actively involved in many influential community organisations including Tower Hamlets Association for Racial Justice (THARJ) for which he was a founding member and acting Chairman. For a period Habib Rahman also served as a member of the Human Rights committee of the Labour Party's National Executive.

Before commencing on his professional career in the community sector Habib Rahman completed his studies at Dhaka University in Bangladesh as well as University College London.

After completion of his education, Mr Rahman joined the private sector as a manager. Whilst working in the private sector, he became aware of the poor working conditions of migrant workers in the catering industry in the United Kingdom and actively organised them to join a trade union, which led to a high profile campaign at the time.



Habib Rahman

Sector: Community (NGO)

Habib Rahman is a dedicated human rights activist and he considers himself as fortunate in the he has been able to pursue this calling in his professional life.



Mahbub Rahman Sector:

Mahbub Rahman was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh in 1968. His father is the late Mohammed Fazlur Rahman. Mr Rahman's early education was in Dhaka, and subsequently he completed his secondary and higher secondary education in Sylhet before obtaining his degree.

Media

Mahbub Rahman took his first step into the world of journalism by writing articles for various national publications whilst at college in 1986. He became a staff reporter for the daily Sylheter Dak in 1987.

Mr Rahman continued to work for a number of publications as well as a television station until 2006. Between 1997 and 2000 he worked as the UK correspondent for one of the daily newspapers in Bangladesh called Daily Sangbad. He was also the news editor for the weekly Notun Din during this time. Mr Rahman settled with his family in the UK in 1997. In 1999 Mr Rahman moved into television and started working for Bangla TV as the Programme Planner and Programme Manager. He became the Head of News for the station after three years. He held this role for one year before leaving to join Curry Life magazine, where he was the Executive Editor for the bi-monthly magazine that is aimed at the curry industry. He left this role in 2006 and has since been employed as a Communication Officer for Tower Hamlets Council in London's east end.

Mr Rahman has represented, and is a member of, many organisations that exist within the trade such as the National Union of Journalists and the Commonwealth Journalist Association. He is an ex Assistant General Secretary of the London Bangla Press Club and is a permanent member of the Sylhet Press Club. He was the Organising Secretary of the Sylhet Union of Journalists and is the ex President of the Sylhet Photographic Society.

Mahbub Rahman is married to Hasna Rahman who is a senior officer for the Department of Constitutional Affairs. They have two daughters called Mehjaben Rahman and Atiya Rahman.



Mahidur Rahman Sector:

Community Relations

Mr. Mahidur Rahman came to the UK in 1975 and completed his studies and also within a few years he emerged as a successful businessman, politician and volunteer of social service. He is at present the president of Asian Council for Human Rights UK, Kent Branch (BCA) and Ashford Muslim Association. He is also the vice-president of Bangladesh Caterers Association UK and founding treasurer of Greater Sylhet Development and Welfare Council UK. He is the Founding Coordinator of its south-east region. Mr. Rahman is at present the treasurer and general secretary, London Boroughs of Bangladeshi Association, UK and joint secretary of Moulovi Bazar Jonosheba Somity.

At present, Mr. Rahman is actively involved in many distinguished organisations. He is a life member of the Mouluvi Bazar Zela Red Crescent Society and Jalalabad Hospital for Disable and Rehabilitation Centre Sylhet and also a member of the support group UK. He has deliverered his service to the community as a member of the Home Secretary's Standing Advisory Council on Race Relation for

two years. At present, Mr. Rahman is the president of UK-Association for Human Rights (UK-AHR), Euro-Bangladesh Business Consortium, Bangladesh Centre for Social development UK and British Bangladeshi Business Club.

In addition, Mr. Rahman has played important role in establishing and fundraising for many Mosques and Madrashas', support running schools for the destitute children in Bangladesh, Free Friday Clinics, and personally continuing to help build houses for the needy, medical treatment, etc.

Mr. Mahidur Rahman has made his name as a prominent politician of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). He played an important role in shaping its establishment in the UK and another European Country. In 1992 he was made a co-convenor of the UK-BNP and in 1994, the president. Through his tireless work he formed 12 BNP branches throughout the UK. Currently he is the international affairs secretary of BNP central committee and is looking after the political aspect of European BNP as co-coordinator.

Mr. Rahman is married and has two children. His son graduated in Business Management and is currently a banker and his daughter is a University, student.

Lutfur Rahman is the first Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets, directly elected to represent the London Borough Council in October 2010. Having previously been a solicitor and partner in a leading London Law firm, Lutfur used his experience in both law and politics in pursuit of a passion for social justice and the betterment of people's lives. His deep knowledge and understanding of the East End of London has been developed over many years in close contact with people from all walks of life.

Lutfur has worked relentlessly with residents of the borough and has implemented very successful and highly popular initiatives, culminating in 2 successful terms as Leader of the Council in 2008 and 2009 before becoming directly elected Mayor in 2010.

Deeply committed to the values and aims of the Labour Party, he has been an activist for many years, including campaigning for and participating in the GMC and LGC. He was the ward secretary, Spitalfields and Bangla Town from 2006 to February 2007, elected three times as councillor for Spitafields and Bangla Town in May 2002, 2006 and 2010, appointed as Chair of Development Panel, May 2002 and was the Lead Member for Education and Youth Services, 2003-2005. He has also been the Lead Member for Culture.

He was a member and general secretary (1987-89) of the Progressive Youth Organisation, founding member and first treasurer (1990) of Keen Students School (KSS) and trustee of Tower Hamlets and Canary Wharf Education Trust (2003-05). He was a member and General Secretary of Community Alliance for Police Accountability (CAPA) in 1988, member and Chairman of Tower Hamlets



Mayor Lutfur Rahman Sector: Politics and Legal

Law Centre from 1996 - 2001. Lutfur Rahman was the board memeber of the Poplar and Leaside Regeneration Project (SRB6) (2001-2002) and from 2001 to 2008 was the Non - Executive Director for the Board of Barts & The Royal London NHS Trust. He was also a member of the Law Society and Law Society Advanced Children Law Panel.

At the Muslim Council of Britain's Legal Affairs Committee he has provided expert policy advice and proposals while at the Tower Hamlets Law Centre he harnessed the collective expertise of fellow lawyers to help make the Law Centre a dynamic professional body, which attracts good lawyers ready to undertake pro bono work. He is married with one son and one daughter.

Mizanur Rahman is a media activist and community worker, based in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Mizanur Rahman was born & grew up in the village of Tikria, Srimongal, Moulvibazar. He is oldest son of Md Faizur Rahman, Retd. Health Inspector and mother Mrs Monwara Begum. He has completed secondary education from BTRI High School and Higher Secondary from Sreemongal Govt College.

Mr Rahman has a double Masters degree in Zoology from MC College Sylhet under National University of Bangladesh with distinction as well as MSC in Sustainable Development from the University of Stirling, Scotland in 2006.

He began his career as a lecturer of Zoology in Modonmohon University College, Sylhet. Later in 2000, nature lover Mizanur Rahman joined the Dhaka based environmental research organisation CNRS (Centre for Natural Research Studies) as a Biologist in UNDP funded Natural Resource Management and Conservation program across the wetland area of Bangladesh.

On completion of his study Mizanur began to live and work in Edinburgh. He has been working for Edinburgh & Lothians Racial Equality Council as a Community Development Officer. The position provided him opportunity to serve the community. He provides freelance consultancy service in ethnic media and third sector. He also decided to do some community work in his spare time. It wasn't always his plan to become a journalist but always keen to tell a good story, as he began his journalistic career as a sideline at local weekly in the early 1990s. He contributed many articles and features in the Bengali newspapers.



Mizanur Rahman

Sector: Media & & Community Development

Being a dynamic and talented person Mr Rahman started journalism as a Scotland Correspondent for Channel S Television in 2006.

For his outstanding professional excellence in reporting to promote Bangladeshi Community in Scotland he won the "Channel S Chairman Award" in 2008.

He is a member of London Bangla Press Club and National Union of Journalists (NUJ). Mr Rahman was at British Red Cross first-aid volunteer in Scotland from the Bangladeshi background.

Key to his success is his commitment to working for the community. He is planning to work towards the development of TV journalism with those involved in covering news of Bangladeshi community in the UK and abroad.



Mohammad Hafizur Rahman

Sector: Catering and Media

Mohammad Hafizur Rahman was born in 1958, in Katia, Jagannatpur, Sylhet. He was educated in Katia Madresha and completed his primary education from Purbo Katia Primary School. His secondary education commenced at Khadimpur High School, where he successfully completed SSC. Mr Rahman's education was completed at Sylhet Varsity College.

After his education, Mr Rahman arrived to the UK in 1983, where he was employed by his brother at his business. Mr Rahman gained much valuable experience whilst working at his brother's restaurant which allowed him to open his own business, in partnership.

The business prospered and after some time, he started another venture, in partnership with late Nurul Islam Hussain, a well known figure in the community.

During this time, Mr Rahman was involved in various other businesses, at present he is a managing director of Hafiz group of restaurants.

He is the publisher and chairman of Editorial Board of Abhimot monthly magazine. He is involved with many cultural oganisations, here in the UK and abroad.

Mr Rahman is a founding trustee and general secretary of Cheltenham Al Madina Mosque and Cheltenham Bangladeshi Association; he is also a chairman of Cheltenham Ethnic Minority Forum and Greater Katia Welfare Trust. Mr Rahman is very passionate about his country and his people. He is active in many projects, helping the less fortunate students of Bangladesh, prosper and build better lives for themselves.

He is the founder trustee of Jagannathpur British Bangla Education Trust. Recently he has been made an advisor of Sylhet Academy, of UK and Europe sections.

Mr Rahman lives with his wife and four children in Cheltenham (heart of the Cotswold) Gloucestershire.



Mohammed Ahbabur Rahman (Miron)

Sector:

Business and community relations

M A Rahman (Miron) was born in a conspicuously respected family. His father the late Shafiqur Rahman Khan and mother Saleha khatun were (and are) considered an integral part of Balagonj in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Having competently completed his SCC from Bangladesh, Miron migrated to England in the early 80's. On his arrival he brought with him a drive and determination to become a successful member of the British Business and Professional Community.

It wasn't long before Miron began to show the characteristic's of a hard working young man. As if completion of his A Levels wasn't enough Miron started working in an Indian Restaurant in Buckingham. Around the same time Miron started to volunteer his spare time to charity work and went out of his way to collect funds and further facilitate relief efforts for flood victims of Bangladesh. As a result of the latter the local media and press congratulated him during a conspicuous ceremony hosted in the Luton Town Hall.

His honesty, hard work and success with charity and civic work resulted in a shower of other charities asking Miron to join them. Miron moved to Milton Keynes in 1989 and started his first business venture called Mysoor Indian Cuisine.

With a view of increasing his business portfolio Miron left Milton Keynes and left his business to his business partner.

In Sheffield Miron ran two successful takeaways and resumed his charity work by engaging in benevolent activities. It was from this point that Miron's business venture grew from strength to strength as he opened two more businesses in Milton Keynes.

Having a soft spot for Bangladesh it was not surprising that on a family visit to Bangladesh Miron found the love of his life and got married in 1995.

Mirons much prominent charity work allowed him to secure various high-flying positions. In 1995 he became the chairman of the Bangladesh Welfare Association. Following the merger of Bangladesh Welfare Association and the Bangladesh Citizen Neighbourhood Miron was appointed the general secretary and thrived in that position for an additional three years.

In 2009 Miron made history as he stood as the first Bangladeshi candidate for the Respect Party. In a predominately labour ward Miron rocked the status quo by coming second in the contest.

Mirons true affection was his passion for the spice world and being recognised and regarded as the pioneer of hospitality. This affection and passion saw Miron open his most successful business venture: The Original Dilraj Restaurant.

So successful was the venture that national t.v channels, including ITV regularly fought over each other to use the backdrop of the restaurant for their respective productions.

Today Miron remains as active as he was when he first arrived into this country. He is the chairman of the Alyah Masjid, he is the president and sole owner of a international charity organisation entitled Help One Help All. Presently Miron is the Chairman of the Balagoni and Usmani I Nugar Shomati Charity Organisation. He is also the co founder and Chair of The Bangladeshi Nationalist Party (BNP). And he is also a permanent member of the British Labour Party.

Mohammed Mohidur Rahman was born in the village of Dhorogaw in Sylhet to Late Al-haj Abdul Goni who was a retired member of the Bangladesh Army and Mrs. Monowara Khanom.

Mr Rahman completed his HSC from Modon Mohan College in Sylhet before arriving in the United Kingdom.

Although Mr Rahman was involved in various businesses in London, he was not content and was craving for offering himself to the Real estate sector in Bangladesh -a result of which

is Probashi Palli, a large Housing Project based in Dhaka.

Being innovative in his plans and honest in his intention to contribute single-handedly to the benefit of NRB's living all over the world, Mr Mohidur Rahman stepped forward to realise his dream Project called "Probashi Palli" in Bangladesh which specialises in offering plots, flats and investments at comparatively affordable prices.

At present he is the Managing Director of Inspired Development Ltd. who are the developers of Probashi Palli. After receiving a positive response for Probashi Palli, Mr Mohidur Rahman has launched his latest venture "Purbachal Probashi Palli" which is situated in Dhaka.

Alongside real estate he is also the Managing Director of Hotel Black Rose International. Mr Rahman is involved with other housing and hospitality businesses. He is the Project Director of Purbachal Shah Paran City in Sylhet as well as Proprietor of Hotel Fahim International and a Project Director of the proposed five star hotel Six Seasons.



**Mohammed Mohidur Rahman** Sector: Real Estate

Mohammed Mohidur Rahman resides with his wife Rasheda Begum and three other children in their family home in Ilford,

Mohammed Mujibur Rahman is the current General Secretary of Bangladesh Centre, London, and the joint Secretary of voice for Justice UK.

He was born in village Kalijuri, Golapgonj, Sylhet in Bangladesh.

Mr Rahman studied at the Madan Mohon College in Sylhet where he achieved his first degree in 1979 and later in 1983 he completed his LLB (Hons) from Dhaka Law College. Mr Rahman continued his studies in Bangladesh as he completed the Master of commerce degree in 1984 at the Jagonnath University College in Dhaka. Once in the UK, Mr Rahman completed his Post Graduation Certificate in Education in 1993 from East London University.

He was the General Secretary of the Student council at Al Emdad High School and during his time at the Madan Mohon College, Mr Rahman was elected magazine secretary of the student council. Mr Rahman was also the joint founding convenor of the Jalalabad Chhatra Kallyan Samity based in Jogonnath University College Dhaka from 1980 to 1981.

He was as elected President of the student organisation from 1981

In addition to Mr Mohammed Mujibur Rahman's full time role as a primary school teacher in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, he is also a very active member of the community. Since April 2005, Mr Rahman has been the General Secretary of Jatiya party as well as the Vice chairman of the Central Shaheed Minar Committee UK. Likewise he is also an Executive Committee Member of the Bangladesh Welfare Association. He is also the President of Budhbari Bazar Welfare Association UK.



Mohammed Mujibur Rahman

Sector: Community Relations and Academia

Moreover, he is founding trustee of Gulapgonj Welfare Association and Education Trust, Mother & Child Trust and currently a senior joint Secretary of Gulapgonj-beani Bazar Oikya Sangstha. He was Treasurer of Tower Hamlet Law Centre. Mujibur Rahman is married to Helen Begum Rahman. They have one son and four daughters who are all students. In 2005, the family won Bangla TV's Best Family Award.

Mr Rahman's interest includes reading books, community welfare and travelling.



Anis Rahman OBE JP Legal (Barrister)

Anis Rahman is a practising barrister and a magistrate who was a Whitehall Civil Servant for twenty years. Mr Rahman has a double Masters degree in International history and politics and government from the University of London as well as a Law degree from the University of Westminster. Moreover, he has a postgraduate qualification in shipping law and international trade from the City University. Anis Rahman was called to the English Bar from the Honourable Society of Inner Temple and is now an accredited Pupil Master. He is a member of 12 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn.

Mr Rahman has a civil litigation background and specialises in Aviation, Employment, Housing, Family, Landlord and Tenant, Defamation, Immigration and Asylum, International Law as well as Human Rights and Judicial Review. He has been given the direct public access status by the Bar Council, which means that the public can go to him directly for advice and representation.

Outside of his profession, Mr Rahman has devoted much of his adult life in improving the quality of life of other people both here in the UK and also overseas. His achievements include the creation of United Nations Student Society combined Universities in London in 1969 as well as assisting disadvantaged British Bangladeshis. He was also the President of the United Nations Society at International Students House, London. Anis Rahman is a trustee of Toynbee Hall in East London, where he was one of the pioneers who established the free legal advice clinic. He is also a trustee of the Council of Anti-Slavery International. Additionally, he was a trustee and Advisor of the World Peace Forum, which is a charity that promotes world peace and is run under the Nelson Mandela Children's fund.

Mr Rahman also played an important role during the liberation movement, when he joined the Bangladesh Liberation movement in the UK and became a founder member of the famous Bangladeshi Student's Action Committee. Anis Rahman has served as a Justice of the Peace since 1990. Furthermore, he has been serving as an honorary legal advisor to the Muslim Council of Britain, Toynbee Hall, The Muslim News, British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh Caterers Association, Bangladesh Centre, Bangla TV and the Euro Bangla. Mr Anis Rahman is a private and family man, he is married to Nadia Rahman, a French national. His wife has a French degree, as well as a BA (Hons) degree in Business Administration and an MBA with Distinction from the University of London.

Anis Rahman has worked relentlessly as a barrister which has led to much of his success, and in addition has provided the British Bangladeshi community with an extensive amount of support and assistance, making him one of the recognisable personalities in the legal arena. In recognition of his endeavors, Mr Rahman was awarded an OBE by Her Majesty the Queen for his services to Bangladeshis and the legal arena in 2009.



Nijam M Rahman

Sector: Business

Nijam M Rahman is a renowned Bangladeshi born Businessman and Community Leader. He is the Chief Executive and founder of Neer Telecom, the only telephone and internet service provider in the UK owned by a Bangladeshi.

Mr Rahman was born on September 14, 1974 in Bahar Mordan, Moulvi Bazar, Bangladesh. His father is Late Atikur Rahman (Akah Miah) and mother is Rahimun Nessa Begum. He did his HND in engineering.

Mr Rahman holds many important positions as a dignitary. He is the president and founder of Bangladesh Overseas Social Society (BOSS) and Executive committee member of Hounslow Chamber of Commerce. He is also the Vice-President of Jatiyabadi Sanskritik Sanghstha (JASAS) [A National Cultural Organization in Bangladesh], UK Central Chapter, and President of JASAS in the Middlesex region. He is the founding member of Queens Park Bangladesh Association, UK and producer of Spice of Life, Venus TV, SKY 805. Mr Rahman is also a former school governor. Mr Rahman once owned the reputed Heathrow Tandoori Restaurant.

Mr Rahman recently visited Bangladesh with Rt. Jim Fitzpatrick, MP and former minister for food and farming, England, with celebrity chef Mr. Tommy Miah, and met the Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Ex-Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in December 2009.

He joined the 60th anniversary of NHS, UK with Prince Charles at West Minster Abbey, invited by Rt. Allen Johnson, MP and former secretary of state for health, UK.

Mr Rahman is married to Mrs. Fahmin Choudhury. They are blessed with three daughters, Najyah Rahman Isha, Mahdiyah Rahman Rida and Amatul Rahman Amilah. The family lives in Hounslow, Middlesex.

Syedur Rahman Ranu JP was born in the village of Taharlamu, Rajnagar in Moulvibazar. His father is Al Haj Habibur Rahman. Mr Rahman completed his high school education in Rajnagar Portious High School in Rajnagar and obtained his degree from Moulvibazar Govt. College.

Mr. Rahman arrived in this country in 1978 with his parents. He also enrolled in a Business and Management course in England. He then began his successful career in 1985. He now owns a chain of restaurant businesses and numerous properties in the United Kingdom.

Mr. Rahman's business interests do not end there, as he is also a Managing Director of MRK Developments Ltd, which is the company behind his assets in the property market in Bangladesh. He also is the Managing Director of a hotel business called 'Hotel White Pearl' in Gulshan, Dhaka.

Apart from his business activities he is also involved in various community organizations in the UK; he is a very well known person in the British Bangladeshi Community in the UK. He is holding the prestigious position of Vice Chairman for the Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce. He is Vice Chairman of weekly Notun Din, a well received Bengali newsweekly based in London and General Secretary of Greater Sylhet Welfare and Development Council South East region in UK and he is also the Vice Chairman of Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateur in the UK.



Syedur Rahman Ranu JP Sector: Catering

Mr. Rahman's other passions is to be involved in various charities. He has helped many from his homeland, especially poor but intelligent students who were unable to fund their education. He has also helped develop schools, colleges and mosques and continues to donate very generously to various charities.

Syedur Rahman Ranu is married to Rahela Rahman and they have two sons and one daughter. They reside in Winkfield, Berkshire. Mr. Rahman's interests and hobbies include traveling as a result of which he has been fortunate in visiting several different countries. He also enjoys politics.

Bajloor Rashid MBE is a renowned business man amongst the Bangladeshi community living in the UK. He was born in the village of Balikandi in Moulvi Bazaar, Bangladesh. He married in 1988 and has four children, two sons and two daughters.

His business life began the same year he came to the UK in 1978, partnering his brother in a restaurant in Dover. The success of this venture spawned the opening of restaurants around London and the South East. These included three restaurants in Kent, Shapla Tandoori, Whitstable, a partnership with Curry Villa, Wingham, as well as Zarin formerly known as Curry Garden, Ashford.

In 1993 his business portfolio was extended to include the wholesale business of rice and spice whilst simultaneously buying commercial properties forming his property company, Atlantic Properties.

In 1997 he started additional work with fellow Bangladeshis on different projects in areas such as travel. His involvement in joint business ventures since then has brought about his positions as Chairman of Sarina CNG Ltd, Bangladesh; a previous Chairman of Sylhet Parjatan Motel; Director (and former Vice Chairman) of Progressive Life Insurance Co Ltd, Bangladesh and also involvements with Syhlet Shishu Park, International Medicare Ltd and Director of Tiger Tours Ltd in Bangladesh.

Mr Rashid is a director in the BBCC (British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce), having previously held the position of Finance Director, helping improve the trade links between the UK and Bangladesh which has culminated in many awareness events in



**Bajloor Rashid MBE** 

Catering and Community Relations

cluding the Bangladesh Expo 2005.

His work in the BCA (Bangladesh Caterers Association) stands out as the most noticeable in his list of achievements, having held positions of Chief Treasurer and Assistant Secretary General in previous committees, Mr Rashid was then elected President of the BCA in 2006. As President, Mr Rashid held a number of memorable events to raise awareness of the issues, including 5 annual BCA Awards functions and most memorably a mass demonstration in Trafalgar Square in London, which was attended by tens of thousands of people. This sparked a debate in the House of Commons just days later, about the current set of immigration rules. His inspirational leadership transformed the organisation.

At the end of June 2012 he stepped down from the Presidency of the Bangladesh Caterers Association, after serving two terms. Mr Rashid was awarded an MBE in the 2012 New Years Honours, the first ever recognition for a BCA President.



Mahmoud A Rauf Sector:

Accounting

Mahmoud A Rauf is a qualified accountant. Born in 1946 in Nabiganj, Sylhet in Bangladesh, Mr Rauf was educated in Bangladesh before coming to the UK in 1968. He studied at the Madan Mohan College completing his B.Com in 1966 and in 1968 left for UK to further his education in accountancy. As a student, Mr Rauf took part in the political events such as the anti-Ayub Movement and when the Liberation War began in 1971 Mr Rauf was an executive member of the Bangladesh Student Action Committee in the UK.

Before his arrival to the UK, Mr Rauf was the Acting President of East Pakistan Chhatra Union in Sylhet as well as volunteering at an eye camp organized by Jalalabad Blind Welfare Association. In addition to being an accountant, Mr Rauf is an executive member of the Asian Drama Group. Mr Rauf is also serving as the Chairman of a group called Bengali National Cultural Society UK.

One of the pioneers behind East London's Boishakhi Mela, Mr Rauf

was also behind the construction of the Shaheed Minar monument in Whitechapel's Altab Ali Park.

Throughout the last twenty years Mr Rauf has also been voluntarily involved with East London based organisations such as the Tower Hamlets Community Empowerment Network, Brick Lane Business Association, Tower Hamlets Training/Business forum, Community Organisation Forum, City-side Regeneration Ltd and the Banglatown Consultative Forum.

Currently in Bangladesh Mr Rauf is a life member of Mukitijuddha Smriti Trust as well as the chairman of the board of directors of the Bangla language newspaper 'Notun Desh'. On the media front Mr Rauf was a director of the weekly publication 'Sylheter Dak' as well as being a founding member of Bangladeshi Journalists Association

He is married to Ju-E-Shams and they have a daughter and a son. Their daughter Sohani completed her degree in Psychology and is a post graduate in Education (PGCE) from the University of London and their son Raziq completed his Honours and Masters in Geography on Space Management from the University of Manchester. Raziq is a qualified journalist currently working with Virgin Radio.



Mukul Chandra Ray

Sector: Academia

Mukul Chandra Ray resides in East London and is a Teacher and EMA coordinator for Halley Primary School in Tower Hamlets. Mr Ray is also an ex- Lecturer at the Sylhet Government Women's College in Bangladesh.

He completed his primary education in Harogram, Sylhet and then went onto finish his secondary education from BN High School. He did his Higher Secondary education at Sunamganj College in

Having concluded his secondary education, Mr Ray progressed to Victoria Government College in Comilla where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree. Mukul Chandra Ray then obtained a Masters of Science postgraduate degree in Pure Mathematics from the world-renowned Dhaka University.

Once in England Mr Ray followed suit and also attained a Masters Degree from the University of London in Pure Mathematics.

Finally successfully completing the PGCE from Goldsmiths College, University of London, giving him the qualification that allows him to teach.

Mr Ray is married with a son and a daughter who have advanced in their father's footsteps in completing higher education, obtaining degrees and working as professionals. In addition Mukul Chandra Ray has retained membership of many community and social initiatives.

He is the teacher governor at Halley Primary School; he is a former executive committee member of the Bangladesh Teachers Association UK, and also a past member of the executive committee of the Collective of Bangladeshi School governors.

Furthermore he is the joint secretary of the Hindu Progoti Sangha,

Mr Mukul Chandra Ray is a well educated and extremely respected member of the British Bangladeshi Community, and his achievements in education and now as a Teacher has made him a recognised individual within the academic sphere.

Dr Bijan Kumar Saha completed his MBBS at the University of Dhaka in 1968 before coming to the UK where in 1974 he obtained his Diploma in Medical Radiotherapy after which he was in clinical practice in a hospital. Dr Saha subsequently achieved the LMSSA from the Conjoint Board in London in 1981 before changing career and becoming a GP in the late 1980's.

Dr Saha hails from the village of Utholi in Manikgonj and currently resides in Kent. He has established his own medical practice at the Lakeside Medical Centre, situated in Sittingbourne Kent. The practice was set up in 1990.

Dr Bijan Saha is married to Dr Chhaya Rani Saha who too is a General Practitioner based at their surgery in Kent. The couple have two sons, who both read medicine in the United Kingdom and are working as specialist registrars in Rheumatology and Nephrology at the Kings College Hospital in London.

Aside from his medical practice, Dr Saha engages in voluntary initiatives and other business ventures. He was until very recently the Chairman of Dartford, Gravesend and Medway division of the British Medical Association. Moreover, he is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, Member of the Royal College of Radiologist. Dr Saha is a Director of United Airways PVE, Bangladesh.

On the altruistic front, Dr Saha runs a free health promotion clinic once a week. The clinic focuses on hypertension and diabetes and is specifically catered for the Bangladeshi community in London, particularly those who suffer from an inability to communicate in English.



Dr Bijan Kumar Saha Sector: Medicine

Dr Saha is a very well respected doctor within the British Bangladeshi community.

Dr. Mohammed Salam was born in Dhaka and is married with three children. Dr. Salam graduated from Dhaka University and obtained his Master Degree from the University of Rajshahi. He studied at the University of Bradford and was conferred with a Doctorate Degree. He also gained Membership of British Institute of Management in UK. and Associate Membership of Institute of Training & Development in UK. Dr. Salam has had a distinguished career having served in British Local Government for 28 years. He was the first Bangladeshi appointed as a Principal Race Relations Adviser in UK.

During the 1971 Liberation Movement of Bangladesh, Dr. Salam led the movement of Bangladeshi Students within the universities in UK. Dr. Salam has worked closely with Late Justice Abu Syed Chowdhury (ambassador-in-exile for Bangladesh and latter first President of independent Bangladesh). Dr. Salam produced & published a weekly Mukthi Joddhu newspaper called "Proloy" to propagate the cause of Bangladesh Liberation Movement in UK & Europe. Dr. Salam established Bangladesh Mission in Bradford. Following the independence of Bangladesh, Dr. Salam formed a national organisation for the Bangladeshi Community called "Federation of Bangladeshi Associations in United Kingdom and Europe" in 1972 (FOBA). He remained as Secretary General of the Federation for about 12 years.

Dr. Salam was the Vice-chair of United Kingdom Immigrants Advisory Service (UKIAS) 1975 to 1988. He helped to set up UKIAS offices in Sylhet. Dr. Salam was the lead mediator to resolve the conflict of British Government & the Bangladesh Government at



Dr. Mohammed Salam JP, M.Sc, MBIM, AMITD

Sector: Local Government and Community Relations

the time of the introduction of DNA testing for entry clearance for dependents.

Dr. Salam formed a charitable trust to help and support the Sidr cyclone victims of Bangladesh. He is a Trustee & Director of many institutions at a local, national and international level. Moreover, he is a Justice of the Peace for Bradford Bench and Chair of the Adult Court has been performing civic duties on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen for the last 19 years.



Muhammed A. Sattar Sector: Media (Journalist

Muhammed A. Sattar gained a degree with honours from University of Chittagong in Bengali language and literature.

Mr Sattar has worked within the field of journalism for over 23 years. He began his career as a staff reporter for a local daily newspaper in Sylhet, Bangladesh. Through hard work and determination, he eventually became the executive editor of this newspaper. From 1995 to 2000, Mr Sattar was the BBC's Bengali radio service reporter (stringer) in Sylhet and also worked as the Sylhet correspondent for the news agency Reuters. In 1996, Mr Sattar took part in a regional training programme in Kolkata, India that was run by the BBC.

In recognition of his journalistic skills and experience, Mr Sattar was elected vice-president and general secretary of the Sylhet Press Club.

In 2000, Mr Sattar moved to the UK, and started to work for Bangla TV in London as the station's news editor. He stayed in this role until 2003, and then moved to the Vectone Bangla Television channel where he was again the station's news editor.

Currently, Mr Sattar works as a special correspondent for the Janomot Bengali newsweekly, the oldest Bengali newspaper in the UK. He also works part-time for the

Consortium of Bengali Associations, a voluntary based service in Camden, North London. He is ex-general secretary of the London Bangla Press Club.

Away from his professional life, Mr Sattar enjoys travelling, and has visited countries such as India, Pakistan, Turkey, Thailand, Japan, France and Germany. He also has a keen interest in community affairs, and enjoys assisting people in any way he can.



Abdul Shahid is an accountant by profession, practicing in his own firm M M S Associates.

He started as a Practice Manager in an Accountant & Auditors firm in East London, his responsibilities involved running the office, supervising staff members, dealing and maintaining overall client's concerns. Shahid stands out in his field as a strict and honest professional.

His creative intake of Bangladeshi food has led him to open Gram Bangla which is now a household name in the Bangladeshi community. There are very few caterers like Abdul Shahid whose food in fact conjures up appetite for the flavour of our own mouth-watering dishes within the community. In this sense he is a pioneering restaurateur nourishing pure Bangladeshi taste.

Shahid is a well-healed person who always endeavours for the positive perspective in life.

A proud father of four daughters Shahnaz, Khaleda, Fareedah and Yasmin, Abdul Shahid picked up his MBA degree in 2007. He shares most of his spare time with the family-going out together, reading, watching telivision (in particular, current and business affairs) tuning to music are a common routine. Living in East London for Shahid when all is well done and comes the time to give credit, as it is said there is a woman behind every successful man. And in Shahid's case too is his beloved and devoted wife Raihana.

Mr. H. M. Shahjahan is an entrepreneur and director of Film Asia, the prominent film making company based in East London. He rose to prominence at a relatively young age of 39, and is a leading face of Bangladeshi businessmen based in the UK.

Mr. Shahjahan, son of Late Alhaj Sazzad Ali and Mrs Rasheda Khanom, was born in the village of Mohammadpur Shera, Jagonathpur Upazilla, (Sunamgani District) Bangladesh. He is the eldest child of six children.

Mr Shahjahan arrived in the United Kingdom in 1984 with his parents. He did his schooling from Mohammadpur Shera Primary School, Mirpur public high School in Bangladesh and GCSE from Holloway School in London. After finishing his education, first he was involved in the catering business. But he was passionate about filmmaking. His hobby was making home videos. From his school age he was very good at arts.

Because of his dream and desire, he began a new career from home as a Videographer, then he built a team to form Film Asia.

Film Asia the excels in film making, editing and camera operating. It is more than just a film company. They are a media production agency setting the standard of film making across the United Kingdom.

Film Asia mainly produces wedding films for Asian Brides and Grooms. They are known for TV Commercials, Music Videos, Concerts, and Tele-film. Films Asia produced a ghazal night with Alaur Rahman and the British Bangladeshi Who's who programme in 2009

With brilliant editors, graphic designers, cinematographers and event coordinators, the group has been a raving success in the film business of East London.



H M Shahajahan Sector:

The motto of Film Asia is simple; it is all about perfection, innovation and imagination. Specialising in video production and photography, the artistic approach operated by Film Asia has met with critical acclaim from the professional world.

Media

In Mr. Shahjahan's words, 'the overall message we wish to convey is simple, we are working for you, with our expert skill and ability, our creation will cater to whatever you desire, and we will deliver'.

Apart from his business, Mr. Shahjahan also gives a significant time in charity work. He is the Treasurer of Probashi Gram Bangla Unnayan Shongstha, a community organisation.

He lives in London Docklands with his family. His wife is Ruhena Begum. They have two sons and two daughters. The names of the daughters are Mariyum Hussain and Nazia Hussain. The sons are Farhath Hussain and Raahath Hussain.

Mr.Shahjahan's Creativity and dynamic vision has earned him a respected position within the media industry.

Sultan Shari is well known in the British Bangladeshi community as an important contributor in the Liberation War of Bangladesh. He was born in village; Sharukali, Police Station; Katwali, in Barisal. He completed his ISC examination from BM College and BSc from Khulna, Daulatpur College. He studied Law in Dhaka University, but immigrated to the UK in 1963, before the final examination.

He participated in the student movement in the 1960's. After coming to the UK, he was closely involved in the movement for the realisation of the rights of the people of East Pakistan in United Pakistan. He was active in the warfields during the 9 months of fighting in Bangladesh.

Mr Shariff was president of the Pakistan Student Federation. He was a founder member of the Awami League in the UK and held the position of the first General Secretary of the London branch. He was a founder member of the Bangladesh Awami Jubo League and a member of its first presidium.

He was an active member of the Awami League Advisory Committee in London. He is also the current president of the Awami League UK. He is a founder and permanent member of the Bangladesh centre, established in the early 80's.

As recognition of his pivotal role in the freedom struggle, the Bangladesh Government awarded him with the freedom fighters medal. The Russell Smriti Parisad presented him with a gold

award for his contribution to the ongoing movement for



Sultan Mahmud Shariff

Sector: Community Relations

democracy in the 70's, 80's, 90's and 2000's. Channel S honoured him for his services to the community. He lives with his wife, Nora Shariff, in London.



Wazid Hasan Shelim

Sector: Catering

Born in the village of Kadi Pur, South Surma in Sylhet, Wazid Hasan Shelim is one of seven children. The son of Abdur Rahman and Shomsun Nessa, he was brought up in a well known and highly respected family.

Shelim arrived in the United Kingdom in 1986 and started his further education where he successfully obtained a diploma in Business Studies. After finishing his education, he began working at the family restaurant. It was later in 1991 when he established his first business, 'Apex Curry'.

Four years later he established his second and most successful business, to date. 'Pride of Asia', began life as a restaurant and quickly grew to specialise in catering for large events and ceremonies, including weddings, corporate events and parties.

The uniqueness of Pride of Asia, which sets it apart from competitors is the mastery of seasoning and the ability to extract different flavours from the extensive amount of seasoning and spices they use.

Customers have always provided good feedback after using the services of Pride of Asia. Pride of Asia's has catered for many large organisations including services to the House of Commons, Tower Hamlets Council and BBCC, to name a few. Aside from his dedication to his business, Shelim is a passionate philanthropist and has always donated to schools, madrasas and health clinics both in Bangladesh as well as here in the UK. He also continues to help the poor and victims of disasters.

Furthermore, Shelim is involved with numerous community organisations. He is the Secretary of Jalal Pur Welfare Association and a life member of London Bangla Press Club. Additionally, he is Corporate Member of BBCC.

Shelim married in 1996 to Hamida Shepin. They have four children; one daughter and three sons. His children are Shahida Akter, Rafe Ahmed, Shafi Ahmed and Yamin Ahmed.

Wazid Hasan Shelim is a well-established and familiar businessperson and member of the British Bangladeshi community, who already boasts an extremely successful career in the catering industry.



Reza Ahmed Faisal Choudhury Shoaib

Sector: Media

Reza Ahmed Faisal Choudhury Shoaib is the son of late Alhaj Eklimur Reza Chowdhury and Mrs. Ambia Begum Choudhury was born in Patli village, Jagonathpur Upazilla (Sunamgonj District), he came to the UK in 1990 along with his parents and siblings. He is the 2nd eldest child of five children.

Faisol's brothers and sister Reza Ahmed Kobir Choudhury, Reza Ahmed Shafi Choudhury, Reza Ahmed Bakor Choudhury, Rezia Choudhury Nazmin also reside in the UK.

Mr. Faisol Choudhury graduated with a B.A. honors from Bangladesh and completed his postgraduate studies in the UK.

As a free thinking, ambitious young man with a passion for progressive journalism he realized his dreams by producing his own weekly Newspaper 'Sylhet Katha' at the tender age of 22. Mr Faisol Choudhury has been a columnist for a number of different newspapers including Surma, Jonomot, Notun Din (published from London, UK) and national daily Amader Shomoy (published from Dhaka, Bangladesh). He continues to write for Notun Din and Amader Shomoy.

Mr. Faisol Choudhury was the Founder Secretary of Desh Bikash in 1991, a voluntary cultural organization, which allowed young children from the London borough of Tower Hamlets to become involved in various cultural activities. He dedicates his time voluntarily to assisting those in need of help and, supports the British Bangladeshi youth today in various ways.

Mr. Choudhury has had several occupations throughout the years. He was the Director of Media and Communication for the most popular TV channel, Channel S in 2007 (established and broadcast from UK).

He is currently Managing Director of Channel I Europe. He is Convenor of UK Banagla Press Club. In 2000 he married Dr Anwara Ali and they live with their only son Obaid Reza Jaami Al- Choudhury.

Cllr Tulip Siddiq spent her childhood in Bangladesh, Brunei, India, Singapore and Spain. She moved to North London ten years ago and completed her undergraduate and Master's degree in the U.K. She recently became the Councillor from Camden Council. She is doing a second Master's in Politics, Policy and Government.

Tulip is the Labour Party council candidate in Regent's Park ward. If she is elected, she will be the first Bengali woman in Camden council.

Tulip is BAME (Black Asian Minority Ethnic) Officer for Young Labour and Women's Officer for London Young Labour. She is on the executive board of her union (T&G: Unite) and a school governor at Beckford Primary School.

She has worked for a variety of Labour politicians including Oona King and Sadiq Khan. She has also worked for Philip Gould Associates, Amnesty International and Save the Children in the past.

She has campaigned for political parties internationally and in 2008, she campaigned for Barack Obama in the United States. Tulip writes for her local newspaper - the Ham and High- and is also a member of the Commonwealth Journalists Association (UK).

Tulip has her own blog where she writes about both British and Bengali politics.



**Tulip Siddiq** Sector: **Politics** 

Abul Kalam Azad Suton was born in 1959 in Dighal Bak, Nabigonj Bangladesh. His father is Al Hajj Mohammed Badsha Miah and mother is late Morthuza Khanam. He completed his higher secondary education from Modhon Mohan College in Sylhet after which he graduated with a Degree from Sylhet Government Degree College. Mr Abul Kalam Azad then moved to the UK in 1983.

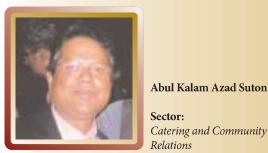
After his arrival here in the UK Mr Azad started by writing in different Bangladeshi newspapers, such as Janomot, Surma and Notun

He then became founder editor of 'Sylheter Dak', later resigning and setting up a news agency in the UK, called the British Bangladesh News Agency and served as the Chairman of this organisation.

In 1984 he established his own business, a restaurant named Shapla Tandoori and later opened the Badsha Indian Cuisine in Kent. His restaurant empire grew rapidly and he opened Azad Bangladesh Cuisine in East Grinstead. Moreover in 1999 he established the now renowned Britannia Spice in Edinburgh. In the year 2007, Velvety Ginger was established by him in Crawley.

Mr Azad's other business interests include being a Director of Dreamland Amusement Park in Sylhet, he is also a Director of Valley City in Sylhet, as well as ABC Land and also Abashon Shopping complex, both located in Sylhet.

He is the founder and chairman of the Badsha Miah Education Kalayan Trust, a trust in place at Dighal Bak High School after his fathers name. He also funded the building of the Chandpur Alia Madrasa in Habiganj after his mothers name in 1999. In addition he



Sector: Catering and Community Relations

is the founder and General Secretary of the UK Nabigonj Development Association in 1988. Furthermore he is the Press and Publication Secretary of Bangladesh Caterers Association and President of the Kent region.

Mr Azad is married to Zaheda Akter (Lipi) they have two daughters and one son; Fouzia, Faizah and Abul Esfar. Abul Kalam Azad Suton has also managed to write a number of books in his spare time. His most recent publication, launched in 2006 was titled "Ekjon Kibria".



M Altab Syed

Sector: Business

M Altab (Syed), The eldest son of Late Haji Md. Rajab Ali, born in Jalal Pur, Sunam Gonj, Bangladesh. Mr Altab came over to the UK in 1977 where he continued with his education.

After completing a Diploma in Business studies, Mr Altab quickly established himself as a successful entrepreneur, taking on various ventures in the form of catering outlets and corner stores in North Wales. Currently, Mr. Altab is primarily focusing on his property development venture to diversify his portfolio of investments.

Over the years, Mr Altab has contributed greatly towards charitable work and has been involved with numerous community organisations. He is one of the co founders and Vice Chairman of Bangor Bangladesh Welfare Associations.

Through his personal and business contacts, the Bangor based businessman has helped generate large donations for victims of natural

disasters and has contributed towards numerous developments and educational projects in Bangladesh. He is an active member of the Federation of Small Businesses in addition to his long term membership with the Bangor Business forum. He was also elected as a Trustee for Bangor Islamic Centre. Mr M Altab (Syed) is one of the successful and recognised members of the British Bangladeshi community in Wales, he has invested an extensive amount of his time and efforts to the Bangladeshi community here in the UK, especially in the area he resides.

Mr Altab is married with six children who are in full time education. His ambitions in life to help others help themselves, as he firmly believes that if you give a man a fish you feed him for a day and if you teach a man to fish you feed for a lifetime.



Mohammed Abu Taher MBE

Community Relations

Abu Taher MBE, son of Late Md Jamshed Miah, settled in Birmingham in 1978. Md Abu Taher MBE left Birmingham in 1993. His vision was to introduce 'Balti' to the people of Leicester.

He wanted to provide good quality food in pleasant surroundings at a reasonable price.

Ever since his childhood, Mr Taher had deep empathy for the people around him, his parents always encouraged and inspired him to do charitable work and to help others.

As a testament to his upbringing, he has been involved with many voluntary organisations. His motivation has always been around improving the quality of life for people in his community and helping those who are less fortunate.

In 1993, with the combination of a successful first year of trading and a commitment to help others, Taher held his first charity dinner in aid of the Lord Mayor's Appeal. It was such a success that charity meals have happened at his T & K Balti House every year

There have been fifteen charity dinners in aid of the Lord Mayor's appeal. But that's not all, Mr Taher has also held many other charity dinners to raise funds for Bangladesh Orphans, Bangladesh flood Appeal, the Tsunami for south Asia and other emergencies and natural disasters abroad.

His active participation in the British politics has built a strong bridge between the Bangladeshi community and the Conservative Party in Leicester. He has dedicated time to serve the community including assisting the less able with Benefits and Immigration issues. He is still instrumental in establishing a number of Bangladeshi organisations in the UK and abroad. His commitments to the community both geographically and ethnically are without question.

In recognition of the services and contribution he made towards the local community, he was made a Member of the British Empire (MBE) in 2003.

He is currently serving as the president of the Bangladesh Development Trust UK, president G L R Traders association, as well as serving concurrently with other positions of responsibility in other organisations.

Sheik Tuahid was the first son of Sheik Abdul Bari and Sheik Amina Khatun. He hails from the village of Baushi, PO Doshgar, Bishawnath Village in the district of Sylhet. He first came to the UK in 1985.

His enthusiasm for education was obvious, as he decided to attend the Mathew Bolton College. There he studied electronic engineering for a year. His positive and encouraging approach towards the Bangladeshi community was without a doubt noticeable and consequently it resulted in him becoming the General Secretary of Bangladeshi Society in Stoke-On-Trent, Staffordshire from 1987-1990. In 1995, Mr Tuahid was given the role of vice chairman and later, the role of General Secretary of "Onuprash" Jatio Kobi Shangaton, an organization created with the aim to help the Bangladeshi community.

Mr Tuahid founded and became the Chairman of the Midland Press Club in 2005. He decided to take up the role of Editor of Bazaar Voice as he had a good background in journalism. In addition, he was the editor of a Bengali magazine aimed at young Bangladeshis, named Paira. 'Jodi Pere Ashe Kobu', a poetry book written by Mr Tuahid, was published in Bangladesh in 2006 and proved to thrive greatly.

At this moment in time, he is the managing editor of the weekly Bangla Voice, the only Bengali newspaper published in the Midlands. Also, he is a representative of the weekly Potrika and the weekly Bangla Mirror, two newspapers involved with the British Bangladeshi community.



Sheik Tuahid Sector: Media

Married to Lilma Choudhury, he and his wife have three children named Sheik Hussain, Sheik Salman and Sheik Ferdus. Mr Tuahid lives with his wife and children in Solihull in the West Midlands.

Baroness Uddin was born in Bangladesh and brought up in England. She is well recognised as an advocate for social reform and equal rights.

A formidable champion for women, Lady Uddin was invited to the House of Lords in 1998, for her contribution to the advancement of women and disability rights, bestowing the title of the Rt. Hon.

Baroness Uddin of Bethnal Green. She began her professional and political career in the 70's, in the East End, developing a number of leading edge and well regarded services and organisations, many of which have come to be accepted as benchmark for sustainable development and community engagement.

Baroness Uddin serves on the Select Committee on European Affairs and has chaired a number of Government Task Forces, under the auspices of the Prime Minister's office, Home Office and the

She continues to work with a number of international charitable and educational causes, and currently leading the national pilot Breaking the Cycle Project which works with families affected by substance misuse. She is a board member of Autism Speak UK, Honorary member of the Board of Channel S Television and is a patron of Orbis International, Student Partnership Worldwide, Bethnal Green and Victoria Park Housing Association, Women's Housing Forum, Women's Aid, Brit-Bangla and The Dame Vera Lynn Trust.

Baroness Uddin has an honorary doctorate from Exeter University.



Baroness Pola Manzila Uddin

Sector: **Politics** 



Dr Ruab Uddin BSc (Hons), PhD, FETC, PGCE

Sector: Education and Community Relations

Dr Ruab Uddin, is a modest educationalist and community activist. He is the eldest son of Mr Afiz Ali and Mrs. Joymal Khatun of Mamod pur (Jandor tupi, Pagla Bazar), Sunamganj, Bangladesh. After completing his secondary education at Sunamganj Government Jubilee High School in 1980 and Higher Secondary education at the prestigious Sylhet MC College, he arrived in England in 1982, graduated from University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology (UMIST) and pursued the post graduate degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Composite & High Performance Polymer Chemistry at Manchester University in 1992. Following on his success in the PhD project originally funded by Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), he was appointed as a research associate at ICI at Wilton Centre, Middlesbrough, Cleveland. He has a number of publications in science journals. Ruab visited many European states & capital cities to attend science seminars and symposiums to represent his research team. His passion and strong desire to work with the Bangladeshi community had made him change his career from science research into the field of education. Later he joined Tower Hamlets College as a lecturer and then completed his PGCE at Huddersfield University. At present Dr Ruab is teaching science with the responsibility as the Key Stage 3 Science Co-ordinator.

During his college & university years he developed many community organisations projects through LEA & Urban grants to assist the Bangladeshi community. Ruab was one of the founders of Mossley (Manchester) Bangladesh Welfare Centre which promoted the linguistic and socio-cultural activities in 1980s and early 90s. His long commitments and affiliated work involves with many organisations such as: Greater Sylhet Development & Welfare Council in UK (GSC); Bangladeshi Teachers Association (BTA); Greater Sunamganj Welfare Association; Dokshin Sunamganj Upozilla Association; Friends of Purbo Pagla High School in UK; Dagenham Bangladesh Cultural Association to name but a few.

Dr Ruab also works as a capacity building consultant where he facilitates seminars and training sessions in education, youth & social issues, community development and other related topics. He is a school governor of a primary school and a tertiary college in Dagenham. He is an irregular writer of Bangladeshi news papers and a guest of talk shows of Bengali TV channels. He is a silent supporter of Bongobondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman & his political philosophy. He was the general secretary of Bangladesh Chatro League MC College Hostel branch; the founder general secretary of Greater Manchester Jubo League and currently the joint secretary of All Europian Bongobondhu Porishod. Dr Ruab is the eldest of four siblings (second brother Mohim Uddin, a caterer; third brother Sharif Uddin, a medical doctor and the youngest brother Thaher Uddin, an accountant) who is married to Sofina Uddin and has two sons, Masum & Nasim and a daughter Shabnom. He with his family resides in Becontree in the Borough of Barking and Dagen-



Dr. Wali Tasar Uddin MBE JP DBA FRSA

ham.

Catering and Community relations

One of the most successful Bangladeshi businessmen living in Scotland, Edinburgh-based entrepreneur, Dr Wali Uddin MBE, was born in Moulvibazzar in 1952. Having moved to Edinburgh in 1975, Dr Uddin opened such award-winning restaurants as Britannia Spice, Verandah and Lancers. Britannia Spice won Les Routiers Best Newcomer in 2001 and was recognised as the best curry restaurant in Scotland by both BIBA and the Scottish Curry Awards (which it won for three consecutive years). It is currently the Irn Bru Restaurant of the Year.

A respected philanthropist who has raised over half a million pounds for charities in Bangladesh and Britain, Dr Uddin was appointed JP in 1984 and Young Scot of the Year in 1992. In 1993 Wali was appointed the first Honorary Consul-General of Bangladesh in Scotland and, in 1995, a Member of the British Empire for his services to race relations.

Dr Uddin was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the

Lloyds TSB Asian Jewel Awards. Founding Director of the acclaimed Edinburgh Mela, Dr Uddin is Joint President of the EBF, Chairman of the Council of Bangladeshis in Scotland, a Director of the Edinburgh and Leith Chambers of Commerce and a key player in establishing the BanglaScot Foundation. He is the former Chairman and Director General of the Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce and has been awarded three honorary degrees from Heriot-Watt, Queen Margaret and Napier Universities. Dr Uddin is a Director of the Council of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce in the UK and a founder member and Director of Britain in Europe. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and was included in Debretts' People of Today and the Asian Power 100.

Wali Uddin is married to Syeda Akther and has been blessed with five children. He believes in determination, dedication, honesty and integrity.

Zafar was born in 1956 in Mirsarai, Chittagong, his father late Alhajj Nurul Ahmed Chowdhury and Mother late Samona Afroz Begum. Zafar comes from a high respectable family he was a freedom fighter in 1971 Liberation Movement, his father was Chairman of East Pakistan Welfare Association and became President of Bangladesh Action Committee in Teesside during 1971 Liberation Movement and worked tirelessly along with the then President Abu Sayeed Chowdhury.

Zafar has two brothers Iqbal and Ashraf and a sister Zesmin. Zafar is married to Polly who is a Nursery Nurse, they have two children, Sheully graduated in Permaculogy and Raihan completed Masters in Human Resources.

Zafar graduated with BA (Hons) along with Diploma in Higher Education in Social Work at the University of Sunderland. He also has Post Qualification, Diploma in Practice Teaching, Diploma of Forensic Joint Investigation in Child Protection at the University of Teesside and has a Diploma of Acting in Drama and Film Technique.

Zafar has made significant contributions in Society and held a number of important positions, including being a Chair of Bangladesh Welfare Association, Vice-Chair of Islamic Association, Chair of Multi-Cultural Association, Vice-Chair of Racial Equality Council and Law Society, Chair of Mela Association, Director of Community Venture, Chair of Park Community Council, School Governor, Member of Radio Cleveland Advisory Council and many more. Currently, Zafar is serving as Justice of the Peace (JP), Chair of Park Labour Party, Ethnic Minority Officer of Constituency Labour



Zafar Uddin-JP Sector: Community Relations & Social Care

Party, Vice-Chair of Partnership Forum Cluster Group, Director of Middlesbrough CAB and General Secretary of Tees Valley Bangladeshi Association. Zafar is employed as Senior Practitioner within the Children's Services, for 20 years.

In recognition of Zafar's outstanding Contribution in Society he was invited to a Reception held by his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales at St James's Place in June 1997 to mark the 50th anniversary of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Zafar was also invited along with wife Polly to a Reception held by The Lord Chancellor and the Speaker in the House of Lords in 1997.

Zafar was a finalist in the category of the Community Champion Award in Teesside 2006. Zafar is considerate, honest, determined to help, besides his full time employment, he works tirelessly in voluntary sectors for the benefit of the community and general welfare of the people.

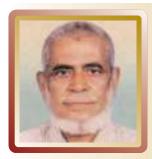
Khondaker Forid Uddin is the current Chairman of United Traders Limited. Born in 1941 in Golapgonj, Sylhet in Bangladesh and completed his primary education at the local school before coming to the UK in 1963.

Mr Uddin is a very successful businessman establishing a glass factory and a hotel in Bangladesh as well as playing a key role in the liberation movement. Mr Uddin carried out numerous activities in Britain as well as the Europe in support of the struggle for independence and to this day still aids freedom fighters in the Golapgoni region.

The work of charity is a fundamental element of Mr Uddin's character.

He annually donates thousands of pounds to educational institutes in Bangladesh in addition to helping the poor and homeless in his area by constructing 50 houses with corrugated iron sheet every year. Mr Uddin has also financially supported the construction of Noor Masjid & Madrasha named after his late father Khondaker Abdul Noor and is also a joint convenor of Bangladesh Flood Prevention International Committee UK.

Besides Mr Uddin's interest in the philanthropy department, he is actively involved in many sociocultural and welfare organisations. Currently he is the chief treasurer of Bangladesh Central London as well as the President of the Golapgonj Upazilla welfare association UK. Mr Uddin is also a committee member of both the London and Manor Park Jame Masjid and the Greater Sylhet Development and Welfare Council UK.



Khondaker Forid Uddin Sector:

Community Relations

Furthermore, Mr Uddin is the Chairman of the Greater London Caterer's Association as well as serving as the Senior Vice Chairman of Jatiya Party UK.

Mr Khondaker Forid Uddin is married to Khondaker Sufiya Khanam and have been blessed with three sons, Khondaker Mohi Uddin, Khandaker Thaj Uddin and Zamal

Uddin. Investing in the Industrial sector in Bangladesh is currently high on Mr Uddins agenda as well as providing access to educational facilities for the disadvantaged



Sector: Hospitality and Catering

Moin Uddin

Moin Uddin is a renowned businessman and a loving and caring family man. Son of Alhaj Ahad Uddin, Mr Uddin was born in 1966 in the village of Mathurapur of the number 4 Dhigalbak Union of Nabiganj, a sub district of Greater Sylhet. Though he is originally from Nabiganj, he resides permanently in Sadipur, Sylhet with his family.

Moin Uddin started his education in Dhigalbak Government Primary School. He went on to further his education in Dhigalbak High School, however, came to the UK with his family before completing his due. On arriving in the UK, he joined Leeds Roundhy High School from where he obtained his GCSE's (then known as GCE O- Levels). Mr Uddin then joined Kingston College to study A-levels, from where he went on to run his own business.

At present he has several businesses predominantly in the Surrey area. He is also the founder and owner of the Rose View Hotel. Rose

View is the first five star rated hotel in Sylhet and also has the accolade of being the first five star rated hotel outside of the capital Dhaka.

Mr Uddin married Salema Uddin in 1988. Mrs Uddin is the daughter of Mokadas Ali of Ganganagar. The couple live in Surrey and are blessed with four children; two sons (Nasir and Naveed) and two daughters (Nasreen and Nafeesa). All of his children are currently in education.

Moin Uddin is also a dedicated community worker. He is the trustee of Surrey Muslim Centre and is also involved with the Bangladesh Caterers' Association and Nabiganj Education Trust among other associations.



**Syed Monsur Uddin** 

Sector: Media

Syed Monsur Uddin was a student at Dhaka College back in 1989. In his school days, he had flairs toward journalism as one of his uncles was a journalist who inspired him a lot.

Having finished his college studies, he got enrolled at the Department of Political Science, University of Dhaka and started contributing to weekly Ekota and Daily Bangla Bazar. He was the university reporter to both the newspapers and was elected Executive Member to Journalist's Association of the University. During this period, he regularly contributed to other national dailies on issues related to politics, education and culture. For a considerable period of time, he was attached with the first phone-in programme of BTV- 'Ovimot'- anchored by Md. Jahangir. The programme gave Monsur greater exposure to social and natural realities of Bangladesh.

After his Honours and Master degree in Political Science from the University of Dhaka - he joined Bangla Bazar as Senior Reporter in

1996. His readers thoroughly enjoyed his informative pieces while his critics were always apprehensive.

Syed Monsur came down to England in 1997 and joined Bangla TV in 1999, he was with the News Room of Bangla TV and contributed greatly to its growth and development. After a year with the Bangla TV, he joined weekly Surma in 2000 as News Editor where he has been serving as the Editor since 2006. He contributed greatly to the newer look of the Surma that is widely recognised by his readers and colleagues. For a brief period, he was the founder News Editor of 'Bangla Express' - a short-lived weekly publication of Surma News Group.

He is an Executive Committee member of London Bangla Press Club, was in the Executive Committee of the club and founder member of Bishwa Shahitto Kendro- London.

Throughout his academic life he was also involved in progressive student politics.

Appreciated as 'funny and lovely' by his son Sadaf, Syed Monsur is from Charabhanga Village of Madhabpur upazilla, Hobigonj. His father is Syed Muhammed Idris and mother is Rafia Khatun Chowdhury. Along with his wife Hadi Jannah and daughter Shompritee, they live in Chigwell, Essex. His hobbies include reading, gardening, travelling and cooking.

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman, was the Mayor of Tower Hamlets in 2010 and he has been an elected Labour Party Councillor since 1998. Motin Uz-Zaman was elected as a Councillor in Tower Hamlets for St. Mary's Ward in 1998 and then subsequently has been an elected Councillor in Mile End East Ward since 2002. He is a wellknown Councillor and a veteran politician in Tower Hamlets Council, London.

He has served as a Cabinet Member overseeing many portfolios, which includes leading on Adult Health and Wellbeing, Environment and Crime Reduction, Equalities and Social Inclusion. He has been involved in improving and instigating some of the housing regeneration currently taking place in the Borough. He has served as a Board Director on East End Homes, Poplar HARCA, Tower Hamlets Community Housing, Cityside Regeneration and Tower Hamlets Primary Care Trust. His dedication, hard work and zeal has made him a very prominent politician in Tower Hamlets. He was born in 1969 in Amria (Barobari) of Sunamgonj, and came to the UK with his late father, Md. Isaq Chowdhury, and late mother, Sundor Bibi, in 1973.

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman got involved in politics very young in his pre-university days. He was the President of the Bangla Society at Queen Mary College, London University. Later, whilst doing post graduation in St. Hugh's College, Oxford University, he became the General Secretary of the Graduate Society (MCR).

Councillor Uz-Zaman became a member of the Labour Party in 1987. His primary attention has always been to improve the quality of life for people living and working in Tower Hamlets. Prior to be



Cllr Motin-Uz-zaman

Sector: **Politics** 

coming an elected member he has been instrumental in developing the study support programme in the borough and campaigned to ensure the borough had appropriate representation on school governing bodies, reflecting the school population. He began working for school developments, and became the local governor of Stepney Green School in 1990.

He currently works for Barts and the London NHS Trust as Head of Patient and Public Engagement. As a dynamic leader, he is very proud to have represented the people of Tower Hamlets and is indebted to them for this opportunity. He knows that there are many challenges ahead and we need to pull together to overcome these

Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman is married to Nargis Bahar and father of a daughter (Proma) and three sons (Faiyaz, Abiyaz and Rayyan).

Abssar Mohammed Waess was born in Boro-bari, Amria, Sunamgonj, Bangladesh in 1967.

His father is late Alhaj Abdul Boshor Mashuk Miah, and his mother is Mrs Badrun Nessa.

Mr Waess moved to the UK with his family in 1975. He completed his education in Berkshire, before completing a HND in Aerospace Engineering at North East Wales Institute of Technology. He obtained a degree in Aeromechanical Engineering from City University, London in 1991.

Mr Waess' career began when he joined his family's restaurant business in 1991. He quickly made progress, and started his own wholesale frozen food company - Eurasia Foods - while studying for his degree. He also set up a catering supplies company called Lais Brothers Ltd.

In 1996, he opened The Blue Cobra restaurant in Reading.

Eleven years later, Mr Waess took another pioneering step and opened Xen, also in Reading. Currently, Mr. Waess is investing and developing an industrial scale, aqua culture project, known as 'Hail Hawor Project, in Mowlovi Bazar, Bangladesh, with the view to cultivate fish, pack, and export to the overseas market. He was one of the original founders of the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs.

At present, Mr Waess is the Secretary of that organisation and also the President of the Thames Valley Region branch.

Recently, he helped to form the Ethnic Catering Alliance, an organisation that links restaurateurs who offer Asian cuisine.

Mr Waess was a founder director of the Bangladesh British Chamber



**Abssar Mohammed Waess** 

Sector: Catering

of Commerce, and currently holds the position of Deputy Director General. This organisation has helped to promote strong business links between Bangladesh and EU countries.

He also helped to form the Bangladesh Association Greater Reading (BAGR) in 1993 of which he is the Vice President. This organisation helped to raise funds to convert a church into a mosque and community centre.

Having shown to be dedicated to helping his community, Mr Waess was appointed as the first ethnic trustee to the Berkshire Community Foundation.

Mr Waess is married to Jafrin Khan Waess, and is a father to four children; Imran, Samian, Labiba and Safwan.



Ms Rekha Waheed Sector:

Ms Rekha Waheed is currently one of the most talented British Asian writers. Born in West London, Ms Waheed became an instant success after releasing her debut novel, 'The A-Z Guide to Arranged Marriage'. Her distinct style has been described as bridging the gap between old world traditions with new world savvy. Ms Rekha Waheed secured a two book publishing deal with Headline Publishing

Arts

Her second novel 'Deshi Girl' is set to hit British bookshelves in the autumn 2009.

The publisher has also secured the sequel to Ms Waheed's debut novel 'The A-Z Guide to Arranged Marriage', which is scheduled to be launched in the spring of 2010. Rekha Waheed is currently represented by MBA Literary Agency. Ms Waheed completed her MSc in Economic Development at SOAS, University of London and during her time there held the position of treasurer of the Islamic Society.

Whilst pursuing her passion for writing Ms Waheed travelled the world as a Corporate Consultant. However, she soon caught the attention of a literary agent delivering public readings at the Harrow Writers club. She has since released her debut novel and co-founded Monsoon Press Publisher. Through Monsoon Press, she is also working with the Arts Council and Penguin to raise the profile of British Ethnic and Muslim literature. Ms Rekha Waheed has previously sat on the board of Women in Publishing and is an active promoter of improved literacy programs in the British Bengali Community. In addition, Ms Waheed has worked voluntarily as a treasurer for a Bengali community organisation.

Ms Rekha Waheed is continuously generating interest after reading at the London 2006 and Spitalfield's 2007 Literacy Event. Her unveiling of the intricacies of Brit-Asian experiences for the mainstream in an adept manner has resulted in her being cited as one of Asiana's Faces to Watch in 2006. A regular guest for the BBC Asian network, Ms Waheed consistently stresses the need for literature that caters for diverse urban ethnic communities that exposes the challenges of British- Asian culture. Ms Rekha Waheed is set to become a familiar face



M K Zaman (Jewel)

Sector: Business

M K Zaman (Jewel) was born in 1970 in Srimongol, Bangladesh. His father was late Jalal Uddin Ahmed and mother was Momtaj Jalal who is famous writer in Bangladesh. Mr. Zaman graduated from Sylhet M C College and Mechanical Engineering from Sylhet Polytechnic Institute. He came to UK in May 1991.

His first job was the post of sales executive for R B Promotion Ltd, owned by Mrs Romola Bachan. He spent eleven successful years with Shaw Wallace, Cobra Beer Ltd and Desh Wholesale Ltd delivering major marketing assignments in the UK and Europe. Through this years he gained vast knowledge of developing innovations and international marketing communication plans. He has been the architect behind developing products and strategy departments in the marketing division.

Mr. Zaman joined Waterlily Property Ltd as a director in May 2009. He is also the founder of Bangladesh catering Expo UK on which he is working for an exhibition in 2011, and a director of Raj Pavilion Ltd.

Mr. Zaman is happily married to Mrs Sujla Zaman. They have five children, Miss Nabilla Zaman, Miss Anika Zaman, Mr Akif Zaman, Miss Nayla Zaman and Master Zidane Zaman. The family live in Orpington, Kent. A versatile character with a broad region of interests, Mr. Zaman loves to listen to Tagore's songs in his pastime. He also likes badminton and swimming.

Naufal Zamir is a successful entrepreneur, a dedicated businessman and a committed leader. He currently heads London-based Zamir Telecom, an enterprise he founded in 2004 with just a laptop and a fax machine. From those humble beginnings, the company boasted a turnover of £11.2M in 2010 - a figure that Mr. Zamir is on track to nearly double in 2011.

Before Mr Zamir was managing a global leader in telecommunications, he was a graduate of law from Dhaka University. He arrived in the UK in 1999, where he came to complete his LLB at London University. In 2003, he qualified as a Barrister-at-Law and was called to the bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. At the time, he was following in the traditions of his family: his father, brother and sister are all legal professionals. And although he secured a role as a criminal defence lawyer at a top city firm, his passion for entrepreneurship drove him to seek out a successful career outside of the family tradition.

Mr Zamir attributes the success of Zamir Telecom to the fact that his company has remained steadfast to the principles that it started with: to provide a simple, reliable, affordable and, above all, honest service to customers. As Mr Zamir puts it, "The customer is king and my business is about bringing people closer." Placing such a high value on the customer is what differentiates Zamir Telecom from its rivals - and the fact that more than 50% of the company's customers are referrals from existing customers is testimony to that.

Mr Zamir has reinforced the organisational structure to ensure that the 50-strong workforce is diverse and has a blend of experience and expertise in the field. This strategy has helped Zamir Telecom to expand its UK market share whilst extending its expertise to foreign markets across Europe, the Middle East, USA and most recently into the African territories of Kenya and Sudan.

In the constantly evolving world of telecommunications, Zamir Telecom has remained innovative and creative, enabling it to expand and develop its position in the market place. Successful services such as SimpleCall allowed the company to secure a substantial stake in the UK's ethnic market, and now Mr Zamir is keen to establish Zamir Telecom to the wider consumer market.

Mr Zamir seeks the support of his peers and the community to achieve these outcomes for his business. The flagship SimpleCall Lounge in East Ham is a brandnew, vibrant and exciting retail environment that houses personal and corporate communication solutions under one roof, and lays the foundation for other businesses under its umbrella, including Fast Track Money Transfer Service.



**M Naufal Zamir** 

Sector: Telecommunications

Outside of Zamir Telecom, Mr Zamir has an eye for success in many areas. His passion for sports means he is Chairperson and sponsor of Scintilla Cricket Club, who have won year-on-year promotion for the last three seasons. The club's success means they will be playing in the Essex Premier League in 2012. As well, he plays badminton on a regular basis, and is only too pleased to support those who are able to leave all their worldly concerns aside when they are in any sports arena. A love of travel has lead to a goal of driving from the UK to Bangladesh.

A firm believer in continued personal development, he regularly attends seminars and courses to enrich his business expertise. He then turns around and uses this acumen to coach and nurture fellow entrepreneurs. His advice to aspiring entrepreneurs is to never give up - especially in the trying start-up years of a business. He urges entrepreneurs to develop skills through a background that stems from a quality education, wide work experience and showing flair and leadership potential.

Mr Zamir is married with two sons and lives with his family in Britannia Village, West Silvertown in the Docklands.

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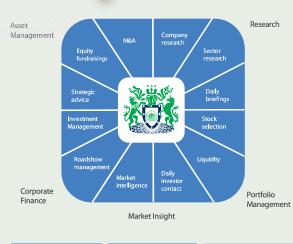


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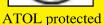


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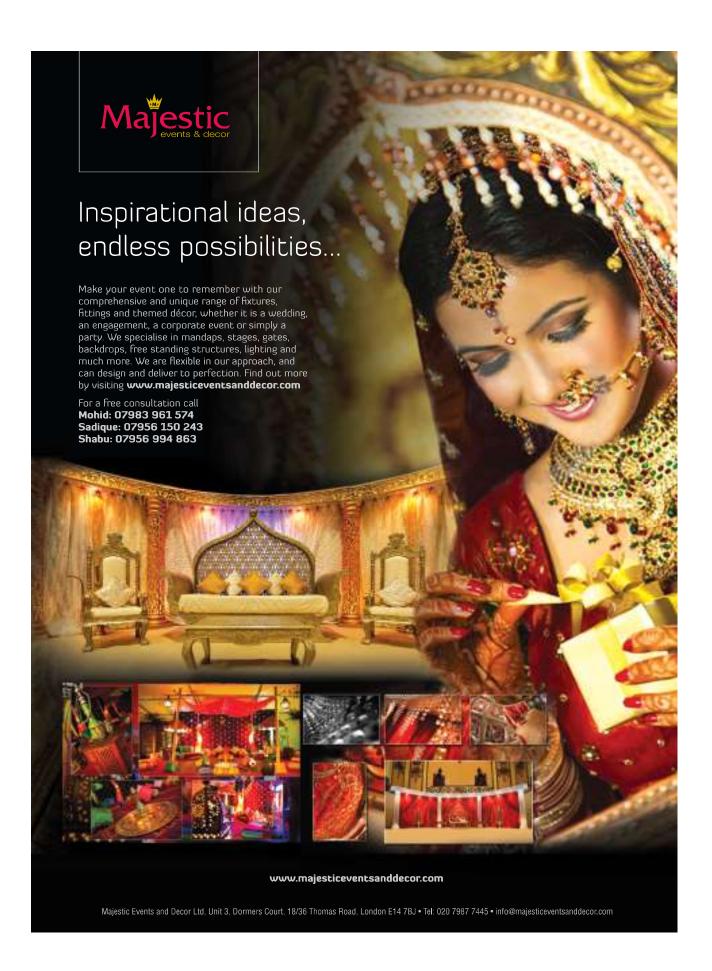


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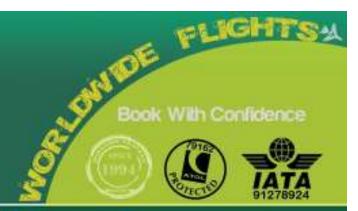


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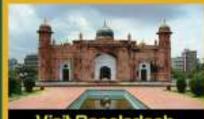
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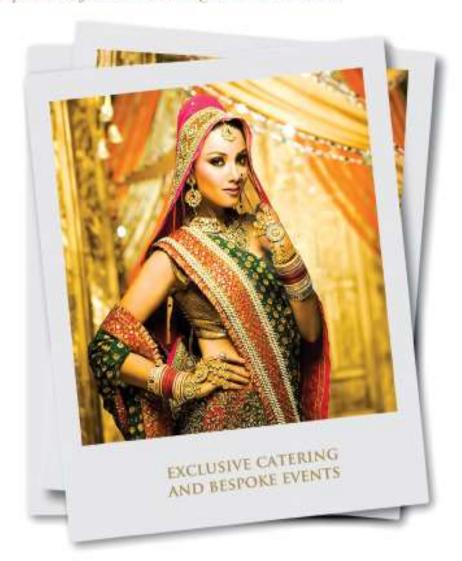


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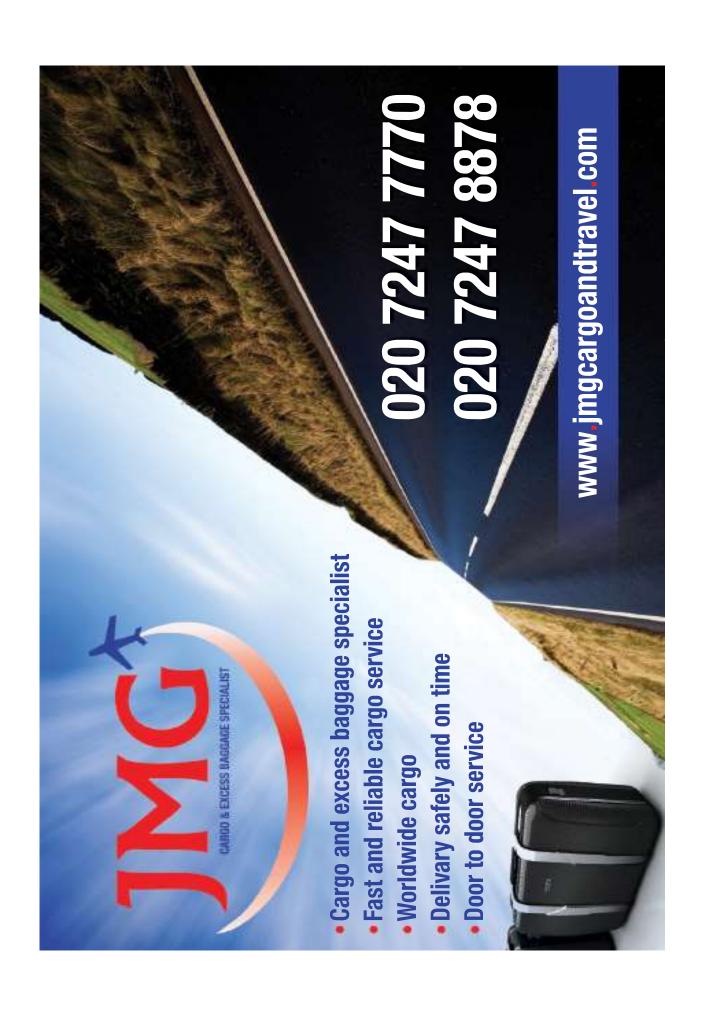


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