

BRITISH BANGLADESHI
**WHO'S
WHO**
2017

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

MOHAMMED ABDUL KARIM

EDITOR

SHAHADOTH KARIM
BARRISTER AT LAW

DESIGN AND PRODUCTION

IMPRESS MEDIA UK

CONTRIBUTORS

ANAWAR BABUL MIAH, BARRISTER AT LAW
SHEIKH TAUHID
KOYES UDDIN
MOHAMMED ALI
SABIA KHATUN
AHAD AHMED
SUHANA AHMED
FARUK MIAH MBE
SAJIA AFRIN CHOWDHURY

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BUCKINGHAM PALACE

19th July, 2017.

Dear Mr. Karim,

The Queen has asked me to thank you for the kind letter you sent on the occasion of the publication of *British Bangladeshi Who's Who 2017*.

Her Majesty was interested to be reminded that the directory is the only publication of its kind.

In return, The Queen has asked me to convey her best wishes to all those featured in, and involved with compiling, this, the Tenth Anniversary Edition of *British Bangladeshi Who's Who*.

Yours sincerely,

David Ryan

David Ryan
Director, Private Secretary's Office



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

I would like to extend my congratulations to the British Bangladeshi Who's Who publication on its 10th anniversary. I am pleased to be able to provide a message of support as you celebrate the achievements of the British Bangladeshi community.

The British Bangladeshi community has provided an important contribution to Britain's diverse and vibrant society. You should be incredibly proud of what you have achieved over the past 10 years. From small beginnings you have grown to having 32,000 entrants for the awards this year, which is a great accomplishment.

Please accept my best wishes for the event. I hope all those involved in the British Bangladeshi Who's Who 2017 enjoy the upcoming celebrations.

September 2017



High Commissioner

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

Message from the High Commissioner

I am happy to know that 2017 edition of the 'British Bangladeshi Who's Who' is going to be published soon. I commend the hard work of the organisers to recognise and encourage the members of the British Bangladesh diaspora for their successes in various fields.

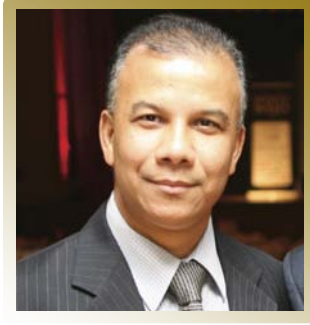
Bangladeshi diaspora in the United Kingdom has been contributing since the days of our independence war in 1971 to the economic and social developments of Bangladesh. They have also done well to integrate themselves into the mainstream British society and excel in many upscale jobs and professions. British-Bangladesh community through their hard work and commitment has become an important and crucial link between Bangladesh and the UK. They play a significant role, and feature most prominently in our bilateral relations with the UK. I strongly believe that the new edition of the Who's Who through reflecting the achievements of our community members in the fields of business, politics, art, culture, education and services will reinforce this process.

Bangladesh community in the UK has been moving into the higher level of the socio-economic fabric of the British society and I believe that the younger generation will get strength, inspiration and confidence in their individual pursuit of excellence from the latest edition of this publication.

I wish the publication will achieve its objectives and help celebrate the achievements of our community in the UK.

N Quainine

Md. Nazmul Quainine



Foreword from the Editor in Chief

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of this important publication. The publication has really gone from strength to strength.

When we started we could have only dreamt of this publication continuing and growing at the rate it has.

It amazes me that ten years on we continue to unearth some real talent in our community. Of course all of this is possible because of the foundations laid down by the first generation to whom we are indebted.

I hope you enjoy this year's publication and appreciate the success of our award winner and I hope you will continue to support us for many years to come.

Mohammed Abdul Karim (Goni)
8th October 2017



Foreword from the Editor

We have reached our first milestone as we celebrate the 10th anniversary of this publication and launch gala dinner.

From humble beginnings the publication has grown at an exponential rate and so has the launch gala dinner. We have unearthed some of the real gems of our community.

As it grows we also find the challenge of limiting the number of profiles to a sensible quantity because the reality is that there are just so many successful British Bangladeshis, all with their own unique stories.

However the public features what we believe to be a good selection of individuals from various walks of life representing the wealth of success to be celebrated amongst this unique and wonderful community.

I hope you enjoy this edition and I hope this is the first of many milestones for this publication.

Shahadoth Karim
Barrister-at-Law
7th October 2017

WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2009

- Anwar Choudhury
- K.M. Abu Taher Choudhury
- Shelim Hussain MBE
 - 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
 - Naufal Zamir
- Muhammed Siraj Ali
 - Monir Ahmed
- Al-Haj M Noor Miah

WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2012

- Iqbal Ahmed OBE
 - Ragib Ali
 - Lisa Aziz
- Amirul Choudhury
- Nur-ur Rahman Khandaker Pasha
 - Zakir Khan
 - Sufi Miah



WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2013

- Capt. Tasbirul Choudhury Ahmed
 - Khondker Aminul Haq
 - Sabirul Islam
- Alhaj Mohammed Rais Miah
- Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman (Nasir)
 - Baroness Manzila Uddin

WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2014

- Mesba Ahmed
- Shamim Choudhury
- Mamun Chowdhury
 - Nazinur Rahim
- Bajloor Rashid MBE
 - Anwar Uddin

WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2015

- Kamru Ali
- Munsur Ali
- Akhlaq Choudhury QC
- Mahmud Hasan MBE
 - Dr Rupa Huq MP
- Mahbub Murshed

WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2016

- Cllr Parvez Ahmed
- Md Shahidul Alam (Ratan)
- Ruqsana Begum
- Taj Brothers
- Atique Islam Choudhury

BRITISH BANGLADESHI
WHO'S
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AWARD WINNERS
2017



Kazi Arif (MBA, DBA)

Sector:

Property Business & Media

Kazi Arif (MARLA, MNAEA) is the managing director & founder of the multi award winning company Prime Estate Agents. Born in Bangladesh, Kazi knew from an early age that he wanted to run his own business. He moved to the UK in 1996 to continue with his studies; completing his DMS, MBA, DBA at university in the UK. He has since gained many esteemed professional property qualifications. Kazi is deeply proud of his identity and where he comes from. Kazi is a successful entrepreneur and TV personality, and being able to provide people with advice and property knowledge is simply his way of giving back to his community that has given him so much. Kazi is extremely grateful to the almighty Allah, and is in debt to his family members, clients and well wishers for all his achievements, and all that he is yet to achieve. Kazi and his wife have been blessed with two wonderful children; a son and a daughter. With over 14 years experience in the property sector, in 2007, Kazi laid the groundwork that would see him become a successful entrepreneur by opening his own business; PRIME ESTATE AGENTS, in Whitechapel E1. Naturally, his business didn't expand rapidly overnight, but Kazi never faltered from his belief that consistently delivering outstanding service would not go unnoticed, and that sacrificing countless evenings & weekends would eventually reap its rewards. His hard work did pay off; so much so that Prime Estate Agents has grown significantly, and had to relocate to a much larger office in Brick Lane, London, E1. With this change in office came even more success, as Prime Estate Agents are now a multi award

winning agency, winning awards such as Best Independent Estate Agent . London, Real Estate Firm of the Year, Leading Real Estate Advisor of the Year, and have recently been shortlisted for The Negotiator Awards .London Agency of the Year.

Kazi began to support his local community by giving free property advice, and this became so popular within his community. Convinced by the success of this, Kazi began hosting his own TV show on Bangla TV, .The Property Show with Kazi Arif., which can also be found on Youtube or Facebook. During the show, Kazi gives free advice and up-to-date news to the public, as well as discussing any property related issues with them. Viewers can also call in to the show and ask Kazi questions. Kazi is now a pioneer in the property talk show industry within his own community. The show has been running for nearly four years, which is an incredible accomplishment by itself, yet Kazi still finds time to continue running his multi award winning estate agency.

Celebrating their 10th anniversary this year, Prime Estate Agents (Member of ARLA, NAEA) are one of the most established independent estate agencies in London. The Property Show with Kazi Arif is also achieving unprecedented success. None of this could have been possible without Kazi Arif's unique vision and unwavering hard work throughout the process.



Dr Sanawar Choudhury

BA(Hons), FCA, PhD(Exon)

Sector:

Finance and Community Relations

In a complex world where decisions often get bogged down in layers of bureaucracy and good ideas often wither and die, Dr Sanawar Choudhury has always proven to be the exception to the rule. He makes things happen, infusing those around him with infectious energy and passion empowering colleagues to think big, innovate ideas and arrive at transformational solutions. Sanawar stretches goals with such intensity and focus that anything but success is unthinkable. The Journey started in 1975, when at the age of 9, Sanawar, the first son of a headmaster, came to the UK to join his father (late) Al-Hajj Mohammed Shafiqul Islam Choudhury, accompanied by his mother (Late) Al-Hajj Shamsun Nehar and only sibling brother, Soiful. Formal education was in the UK, earning a BA (Hons) Degree in Accounting and Finance in 1989, qualified as a Chartered Accountant with PriceWaterhouseCoopers (1992) and being awarded a PhD in Accounting from the University of Exeter (EXON, 2005) – amongst the many accolades he has received from both the profession and industry throughout his conspicuous career.

In 2001, Sanawar settled his young family in Dhaka and joined Bangladesh Bank as an World Bank Consultant advising on corpo-

rate reporting, foreign exchange management and internal control, working with the then Governors of Bangladesh Bank, Dr Fakhrudin Ahmed and Dr Sallehuddin Ahmed. In 2006 he returned to the UK with his wife Nasima, daughter Nazma and sons Shaheenur, Shajahan and Shafiul.

During his extensive career Sanawar has undertaken strategic consultancy assignments both in the UK, Europe and the Middle East, working mainly in the Financial Markets and Corporate Reporting. Sanawar currently runs a number of successful businesses that extend from Professional Training to Warranty – Car Supermarket – Hospitals – Property, to professionally, as senior partner of the largest Chartered Accountancy firm of Bangladeshi origin in the UK, RCi Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors.

As social activist and notable philanthropist, Sanawar has extensive social projects in both the UK and in Bangladesh, funded through his Choudhury Foundation. Current projects include educational establishments in Sylhet and his village home in Khashila, Jagannathpur. His is member of many British Bangladeshi organisation including as a director of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry,



Oli Khan FRSA

Sector:
Catering

Award Winning Chef, King of British Curry, Curry King Oli Khan FRSA is the Secretary General of BCA

Internationally recognised award winning celebrity chef, entrepreneur Oli Khan has been cooking up a storm in the UK over the last few decades, Oli's versatility is legendary has won countless awards for his cooking and community relationship, his highly creative recipes and for his impeccable hygiene standards for which he has also won many major awards. Despite his enormous commercial success, he cares deeply about what he calls his social obligations to the underprivileged in Bangladesh and the United Kingdom. He has always been very devoted and committed to charitable works and has assisted with many philanthropic works around the world, and for that he has been recognized by some mayor's awards recent years, he is one of the leading personalities of the Asian community.

Having honed his skills through a business management, a diploma in information technology and various cookery courses, being the Keynote speaker at the takeaway and restaurant expo and many collages and ambassador for the Agroeuro food for super pollo & King Chicken. the magic of Oli's cooking lies in spicing things up in distinct and ingenious ways: "I love to cook 'fusion food'. "I am passionate about cooking British curry and love giving any food a fusion twist."

Oli captured many awards and accolades from various kinds of activities in his life. His contribution to the British curry industry and community activities was recognised by the Fellows of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA).

Oli has expressed his concern about the British curry industry staff shortage and the reduction in Non-EU migration can have implications upon the lack of skilled chefs available in the British curry industry. On this note, his work and achievements have appeared in mainstream print and electronic media worldwide such as BBC, SKY, ITV, CBC, TRT World, Canadian TV, CTV News, CNN, TV Tokyo, LBC Radio, Radio five live, The Financial Time, The Guardian, Daily Mail, Evening Standard, Wall Street Journal, The Economist, Washington Post, The Independent, The Telegraph, The Sun, The Global Post, USA Today, EL-Pais, and many more.

Oli expresses an admirable devotion to his community and fellow professionals, adding that his achievements would not have been possible without the influence of his parents and wife.



Mahi Muqit PhD

Sector:
Medicine

Mr Mahi Muqit PhD FRCOphth is a Consultant Vitreoretinal Surgeon at Moorfields Eye Hospital, and an Honorary Clinical Lecturer at the Institute of Ophthalmology at UCL, London. The Moorfields practices are based in central London and South London plus emergency services across London and the surrounding areas. He has subspecialist expertise in Vitreoretinal Surgery, Cataract Surgery, Diabetes, Medical Retina, and Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) screening/treatments in premature babies. His PhD research pioneered new laser treatments for diabetic patients. He is a co-author of the UK "Diabetic Retinopathy Guidelines" for the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, and the international "ICO Guidelines for Diabetic Eye Care" with the International Council of Ophthalmology.

He is the UK Chief Investigator for a clinical trial at Moorfields Eye Hospital that is investigating the use of a new electronic retinal implant "bionic eye" system for blind patients. He was the first UK surgeon to implant the device in 2016.

In the last 3 years, he has developed a renowned and highly successful independent private practice at Moorfields Private and Harley Street. This private enterprise provides high quality eye care and eye surgery for UK and London patients, overseas Bangladeshi and international patients (www.retinasurgeon.uk.com).

He has worked for over 7 years in the international voluntary sector, focused on training and setting up screening programmes in the area

of diabetic eye disease. He works as a voluntary consultant for Helen Keller International (HKI), and is currently involved with several innovative diabetic retinopathy screening projects based in Bangladesh (Dhaka, Chittagong) and Indonesia. He is part of a research team that have been awarded the prestigious "Innovation Grant" from Seeing Is Believing charity and Standard Chartered Bank, and they have been successful on three occasions (2013-2016) for international charitable projects aimed at programmes to reduce the burden of global blindness. He regularly visits Bangladesh to conduct training workshops for local doctors, nurses and health community workers.

As recognition for his international and UK reputation in the sector of retinal surgery, diabetes, and international work, he was invited to be an advisor to the World Health Organisation (WHO) for the Global Diabetic Retinopathy Consultation in 2016.

He is a member of Diabetic Retinopathy Working Group (DRWG) International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB); a member of the Diabetic Eye Care Committee for the ICO; and, Specialist Adviser to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) for the Interventional Procedures Programme in the UK.

Syed Nahas Pasha is one of the most respected and senior British-Bangladeshi journalists working in the UK. His fledgling career began writing for school magazines and then writing for various literary titles. He edited the literary magazine in Bangladesh called Eeshan. Nahas moved to the UK in mid-1970's when he was in his late teens.

He has spent nearly three decades in the industry and held the editorship of several of the country's leading Bengali newspapers including his current role with Janomot, as editor in chief. His passion for writing and leadership contributed to a rise in both the quality of journalism and readership of the titles as well as guiding them into the digital age. Nahas is also an overseas correspondent for a national newspaper in Bangladesh, a bureau chief with bdnews24.com, and regularly appears on TV and radio talking about issues affecting the Asian community at home and abroad.

He is elected Vice President of the Commonwealth Journalists Association, an international organisation which has branches across commonwealth. Syed Nahas Pasha is a founding member of the London Bangla Press Club and in January 2017 was elected as President of the club, a powerful organisation of British Bangladeshi journalists in the UK. He is also advisor to the BB Power & Inspiration100 List which celebrates the achievements of the British-Bangladeshi community.

Syed Nahas Pasha has successfully campaigned on many major issues including the British Bengali representation in the UK Parliament. He has met many world politicians and dignitaries including Her Majesty the Queen and Nelson Mandela.

His expertise on social and economic affairs at home and abroad has seen him advise the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office on various issues including radicalisation, forced marriages, immigration and overseas work permits.

This includes accompanying ministerial visits to the EU and acting in an advisory role for visiting dignitaries to the Indian subcontinent. With an insatiable passion for travel, Nahas has journeyed to many countries to cover international conferences. His love of writing and food reflect two passions of Bengali culture and, along with his brother, he has championed the UK's multi-billion-pound curry industry for more than a decade.

This includes an international food festival, the Taste of Britain Food Festival, which showcases the talents of British curry chefs, and promotes British food throughout the Indian subcontinent, Europe and the Middle East.

Nahas is also founder and editor-in-chief of Curry Life Magazine since 2003, a bi-monthly publication distributed free throughout the UK, which offers a lively mix of industry news, reviews and features. As the only independent magazine in the field, the publication has been described as the "voice of the curry industry." One of Nahas' Pasha's key aims is to connect with restaurateurs and chefs at the grass roots of the curry industry through the magazine, and he works tirelessly to foster and promote their businesses at a national and international level.

His unique insight of the trade comes from having owned a restaurant himself during the 1980s and he is focused on helping and promoting the industry through many events, such as Curry Life Awards, Business Awards and Curry Life Culinary Workshop.

Syed Nahas Pasha was born in 1957, in Sylhet, Bangladesh. He is married to Syeda Murshida Pasha and has two daughters and son.



Syed Nahas Pasha

Sector:
Media



Shahida Rahman (Shahidun)

Sector:

Literature/ Community Relations

Shahida Rahman (Shahidun) was born and raised in Cambridge. Her late father, Abdul Karim moved to Cambridge from Fenchugonj, East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) in 1957 and her mother, Fultera Banoo Karim, arrived in 1963. Her father was a successful restaurateur. She was born 2 days before East Pakistan became the independent state of Bangladesh. She is an author, publisher, freelance writer, public speaker and local campaigner.

Shahida writes historical fiction, non-fiction, short stories and factual articles. She is the Director and Co-founder of Perfect Publishers Ltd, launched in 2005 which is a print-on-demand book publishing company providing a range of services for authors and other publishers.

In 2010, Shahida's short story, Homecoming, was the inspiration behind the screenplay India Ink, which she co-wrote with US screenwriter, Halle Eavelyn. India Ink was shortlisted for the Circalit First Draft Contest (2011) and was a finalist of the Write-Movies International Writing contest (2011).

Shahida wrote The Integration of the Hijab into Police Uniforms, a contribution to the Behind the Hijab anthology, which was published by Monsoon Press in March 2009. In the same year, she was commissioned to write a radio play, The Lascar, for Silsila Production's Lascar Heritage Project.

Shahida's first novel, Lascar (Indigo Dreams Publishing 2012), is a work of historical fiction inspired by a paternal ancestor; a lascar (seaman). The highly acclaimed novel revives the story of these unsung heroes and draws attention to their plight, educating people through the use of fictional characters. Lascar was shortlisted for the Muslim Writers Awards, Unpublished Novel Awards (2008). She is currently completing her second historical novel.

Shahida was awarded a Channel S 'Special Acknowledgment Award' in 2013 for her work. She also won the Arts and Cultural

Awareness at the British Muslim Awards 2015. Since 2014, she has been on the judging panel of the Young Muslim Writers Awards. Shahida has contributed to many publications, including: Best of British, The Great War, Children of the New Earth, Sisters (the UK's first magazine for Muslim women), Asian World newspaper, Weekly Desh (Bengali Newspaper), Cambridge News. She is a blogger for the 'Huffington Post'. Her works include: Racism Reform: Recognise, Respect and Remember, Ongoing Workplace Discrimination of Highly Educated British-Bangladeshi Women, Asian Suffragettes: Women Who Positively Impacted Society, Currying Favour, Backbone of the Fleet; the Life of Lascars Aboard Merchant Ships and others.

Shahida is also a regular contributor to BBC local radio programmes and is regular paper reviewer for a local community radio show.

She is a trustee at a local charity, Cambridge Central Aid Society, offering financial help to individuals and families in need. She is on the steering committee of Cambridge Stand Up to Racism and is a community governor at her children's secondary school.

She has recently been nominated a trustee to the Cambridge Mosque Trust; the first purpose-built mosque in Cambridge and Europe's first eco-mosque, which is set to open in late 2018.

Shahida is an Associate Editor and Co-Founder of Cambridge Rise, a brand-new digital media network, dedicated to providing positive news coverage online for the Cambridge community and beyond through multiple social media platforms.

In 2015 and 2016, Shahida was a Liberal Democrat prospective councillor candidate for East Chesterton Ward in the Cambridge City Council elections.

She is the former presenter of 'Book Reviews' at online TV channel LB24tv.

Shahida is married with four children; Ibrahim, Imran, Aniq and Aminah. More details about her work can be found on her website: www.shahidarahman.co.uk

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NEW ENTRIES
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Mansoor Ahmad

Sector:
Charity

Mansoor Ahmad is a qualified accountant currently working as Manager of Accounts & Finance with Al Shirkatul Islamiyyah, one of the largest Charities in UK. Since arriving from Bangladesh in 2007, Mansoor is voluntarily involved with various primary, high schools and communities work. Actively served as Parent Governor, Chairman, Member of Finance, Premises, Curriculum and Personnel Committee.

He is a Co-opted Member of Merton Council for Children and Young People, Scrutiny Panel and Overview & Scrutiny Commission.

Mansoor Ahmad was nominated for Merton Community Award 2016 for his outstanding contribution and services towards the Community.

Mansoor Ahmad completed his B.Com (Hons) & Master's Degree in Accounting from University of Chittagong, Bangladesh. He is a Chartered Business Administrator and achieved Graduate Diploma in Professional Accounting from Canadian School of Finance & Management. Mansoor Ahmad is ACCA (Pt. Qual) from Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, UK. He is an Associate Member of Chartered Institute of Internal Auditors UK and Fellow Member of Institute of Financial Accountants (IFA) UK, Institute of Public Accountants (IPA) Australia and Federation of Tax Advisors (FTA) UK. He is also a Chartered Financial Consultant from Institute of Financial Consultants, USA.

Mansoor served as Finance Manager with Chittagong Stock Exchange, Bangladesh for more than 11 years. He also served as a visiting lecturer at University of Science & Technology (USTC), Preston University, Premier University, Southern University, Edward University & University of Honolulu (Chittagong Campus, Bangladesh). With these Universities he taught at BBA, MBA and ACCA level and wrote Course Materials.

Mansoor authored numerous articles published in prestigious national, international journals, magazines and daily newspapers.

Mansoor attended a good number of Seminars, Workshops and Conferences where he spoke as presenter and key note speaker on various occasions.

Mansoor Ahmad is a member of Transparency International Bangladesh since 1998. He is a member of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community in UK and dedicated in life under this Community's Services in 2013. He has been voluntarily serving as Secretary of Bangla Department, Ahmadiyya Muslim Association UK for over a decade.

Mansoor Ahmad voluntarily served as President and CEO of the Institute of Accounting Technicians of Bangladesh (IATB) for Chittagong Chapter from March 2003 to January 2006 and for UK Chapter from March 2007 to July 2009. He was the founder President of Chittagong University Readers Association for more than a decade.



Faysal Ahmed

Sector:
Real Estate

Faysal Ahmed was born in London and grew up in the East End. After completing his BA Hons in Accountancy Faysal Ahmed went onto train as an Accountant with the London School of Economics and thereafter qualify as a Financial Adviser. Faysal has an extensive client base in East London where he was based for 15 years in Roman Road, Bethnal Green and now practises from his own Estate Agency in Woodford Green in Essex. Faysal specialises in Residential and Commercial lending and advises clients on building development projects that require complex finance solutions.

Faysal is a founder member of Woodford Muslim Cultural Centre and was instrumental in the planning process to approve the place of worship after a long appeal process with the planning inspectorate. The Centre now plays a pivotal role in the community where daily prayers are held.

Faysal is joint Secretary of the Bangladesh Centre in London and is the eldest son of Hafiz Mazir Uddin who is a key figure in the Bangladeshi Community and one of the founder members of the Bangladesh Centre. Faysal is the eldest of 7 siblings who have diverged into IT, Journalism & Teaching. His youngest brother Imad Ahmed graduated from Oxford University with a BA Hons and an MPhil.

Thufayel Ahmed is the eldest son of Late Dr Md Bashir Ahmed and Mrs Ayesha Ahmed. His parents founded the Surma Bengali Newsweekly in May 1978. Thufayel has three younger brothers, Sarzamin Ahmed, Sarwar Ahmed and Tanvir Ahmed along with one sister Farhana Ahmed.

Born in West Yorkshire, Thufayel moved to London with the family and settled in East London, where he still resides.

Educated in local primary school Cyril Jackson in Limehouse and Langdon Park Secondary School in Poplar, both in London's E14 area.

After Thufayel's father passed away in 1985, he took over the running of Surma Newsweekly. In 1988, along with his brothers Sarzamin and Sarwar, started publishing Eastern Newspaper, an English language newsweekly. He was also Eastern Eye's columnist.

After the sale of Eastern Eye, in 1999, Thufayel and his brothers published Asian Bride Magazine and Asian Women Magazine, both very popular publications in the Asian market.

In 2003 they published Asiana and Asiana Wedding Magazine, which is one of Britain's highest selling publications and has become an international brand. In 2005, Asiana International was launched from their offices in New Delhi, India.

Thufayel and his brother stage wedding exhibitions in various venues across London and the Midlands. In-

deed today the Asiana Bridal Shows are a firm date in the wedding industry's calendar.

In 2013, Thufayel opened Ariana Banqueting Hall in North London, In 2015, he opened his second venue, Ariana Gardens in Essex.

Despite all Thufayel's various business interests, he still maintains his true love is his family. Married since 1987, aged 19, he has one son and 3 daughters. Ariana is his youngest child.

His hobbies and interests are in sports, particular football, which he still plays aged 50. A life-long Liverpool FC fan, he follows the Premier League matches every week. His second sport is badminton, which he plays regularly and attributes his health and fitness to his badminton sessions.



Thufayel Ahmed

Sector:
Entrepreneur.

Shalim is a serial entrepreneur based in Weymouth in Dorset.

Shalim started his career in the catering profession shortly after his studies in 1998. In 2000 he took over the family business from his father and under his stewardship the restaurant went from strength to strength winning various national and regional awards including the British Curry Award in consecutive years.

In 2005, Shalim set up his own football Club which started off in Dorset Division 5. After winning the leagues consecutively as champions, the football club have been stuck in the same league for the past two seasons even after winning the league due to FA rules regarding the team now needs to procure proper grounds with flood lights.

Shalim opened up the first ever Peri Peri restaurant in his home town of Weymouth in 2011. In 2014 wanting to tap into the youth market Shalim opened up the first Asian themed bar/club in the South West called Ayya. With Bollywood movies playing on large screens and Bhangra tracks playing every half hour the club is now one of the major players on the circuit.

2015 saw the start up of another business the Hao Cow Japanese Burger Bar. Offering gourmet Burgers home made from premium wagyu Beef.

Always looking to do something different and unique in his restaurant, Shalim came up with the idea of

brewing his own bespoke lager and step away from the traditional mainstream brands of Cobra and Kingfisher. In partnership with a local brewery Shalim has now started the unique brand of Anokha Lager which is only available at his restaurant and plans to distribute this brand across the UK in the near future.

Shalim is also a main team member of the organisation called UK Curry Connect (UKCC). UKCC is currently the only recognised professional recruitment platform for the Indian Restaurant industry. UKCC are working in partnership with Central Bedfordshire College to train students to gain the skills required to work in the kitchens of our Indian restaurants.

With the support of UKCC and Central Bedfordshire College, Shalim has organised a team to enter next year's Culinary World Cup being held in Luxembourg. Shalim is the secretary and treasurer at his local Mosque. Over the years he has been involved in many activities to raise funds for charity either at his restaurants or at the Mosque.



Shalim Abs

Sector:
Businessman



Shale Ahmed

Sector:
Youth and Community

Shale Ahmed is an award-winning Youth and Community Worker with over 18 years of experience & expertise in the Youth and Community sector.

Shale is currently the founder and Managing Director of Aspire and Succeed, an award winning social enterprise based in the midlands which was founded in 2008, the organisation has grown rapidly by campaigning on national issues such as Living Wage, Housing Allocations and Health Inequalities. Aspire and Succeed has worked with over 500 young people just on the education programme since 2008 maintaining a 100% pass rate in GCSE core subjects.

Shale has previously been on the Board of Directors for Newman University which is one of the fastest growing Universities in the country. He played an integral part in building relationships after the 2005 riots in Birmingham and the 2011 disturbances where his work was recognised nationally in the Darra Singh Commission which had cross part support.

With a background in employment, Shale was also one of the leads on the award-winning Employment Connections project which helped thousands of people back into work, training and education.

With a keen interest in history and heritage, Shale is a committee member of Nowka Bais which has been based in Birmingham since 2015 and worked with

local businesses to invest in the idea of celebrating history, heritage and culture and thus far making it one of the most celebrated Bangladeshi events in the country.

Currently serving on the Birmingham Leadership Group and National Council of Citizens UK and chair of numerous local action groups tackling health inequalities within inner city neighbourhoods. Shale is also the founder of much loved West Midlands food outlet Shazanz which is famous for introducing 'Sher-puri Kebabs' to the region.

In recent years Shale has devoted a substantial amount of his time on charitable causes. He is an executive member of "JustSmiles" whose key aim is to make a small difference to the lives of the most vulnerable and needy in society both in UK and overseas.



Rashed Ahmed

Sector:
Finance

Rashed Ahmed was born in Mojumdari, Sylhet. He is the eldest son of his family and arrived in the UK on a student visa then completed his Accountancy and Finance degree.

He later started his own Accountancy firm in Whitechapel.

Rashed is the Managing Director at Citygate Accountants with his many years' experience working as an accountant in the industry and accountancy practice. Rashed is a fully qualified ACPA-Certified Public Accountant, a member of the Association of Accounting Technicians-AAT and he is a qualified ATOL reporting accountant. He has all round expertise in Bookkeeping, Accounting, Payroll, Tax and all accounting practices.

He has amazing leadership skills to manage and motivate his team, hence driving the company forward. He ensures that services provided by his accountants' team are according to the UK GAAP and IFRS reporting standards.

Rashed used to be an elected parent governor at Ravenscroft Primary School in Canning Town and currently elected parent governor and Finance Committee Member at Winsor Primary School in Beckton. Rashed Ahmed is also the presenter of "Let's Talk With Accountants" accountancy and tax related

radio programme on Betar Bangla.

Rashed Ahmed uses his expertise, vast accountancy knowledge and leading his accountancy practice quite successfully. He enjoys the challenge of having clients in a wide range of industries. He also loves challenges of working with start-ups and boosts up their knowledge and motivation level through professional advice and practical help to get their accounting processes up and running. He is also proficient in information technology and effectively handles the diverse workforce and clients as well because of excellent interpersonal and communication skills.



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Maya Ali

Sector:
Law

Maya Ali was married at the age of 16, mother of three children is now a qualified Solicitor and an established businesswoman who owns her own legal practice in Coventry named after her Maya & Co Solicitors.

Daughter of Aftab Ali and Monta Bibi, Maya emigrated to the UK at the age of 10 months with her mother to join her father. Like any regular devoted housewife she was committed to her three children and her husband a catering business owner Mr Syed Akbar Ali. However, at the age of 26 with the support of her husband Maya decided to study further, she embarked on an Access course at Tile Hill College, Coventry and then went on to study Law LLB (Hons) at the renowned University Of Warwick.

To gain some Legal training, Maya first started off by working in a law firm in London for four months, which meant being separated away from her family. Maya trained at J R Jones Solicitors, and qualified in 2005. She soon progressed herself as the head of conveyancing department. In 2007 Maya opened a legal practice in partnership then parted the Partnership in March 2009 and challenged herself by setting up her own practice as a sole practitioner. Maya manages her busy high street practice with her qualified daughter Syeda Reshmi Ali.

Maya continuously encourages and inspires women around her to follow their ambition. Maya is involved with various organisations as a trustee and a director level which help empower women to pursue their am-

bitions. She often finds herself lending hand with charities to raise funds for natural disasters around the world. She is also widely renowned in her community as being patriotic and her aspirations in respect of the Bangladeshi culture.

Maya has a keen interest in singing Bengali folk songs, reciting and creating her own poetry. Her interest in Bangladeshi politics has led to the appointment of becoming a Vice President of Coventry Awami League. Being active in the British Politics lead her to be elected as a local Councillor for Westwood Ward, Coventry in 2012, still active and hopeful to regain a Council seat. Has held post for a number of years such as a Treasurer for the Labour Coventry South Constituent CLP, Vice President of Coventry Labour BAME. Her views are that British Government and Politics today is a complex and fast-changing with mix of the traditional and forward thinking. She believes that the British Government requires more Asian Women representing its community in order for their voice to be acknowledged.



Tariq Ali

Sector:
*Civil Service &
Entrepreneur*

Tariq Ali is a successful civil servant & entrepreneur. Tariq began his career at the age of 18 as an Officer of the Court dealing with Civil Litigation cases. He was subsequently headhunted by the then Director-General of the Ministry of Justice, Sir Paul Jenkins QC and he was promoted to Headquarters in the Legal Advice and Litigation Division. There, he worked closely with Government Lawyers on numerous high profile cases as well as in work involving the development of the Data Protection Act and the Human Rights Act.

Tariq's work earned him recognition as a 'Young Achiever' by the Ministry and he was invited by Buckingham Palace to meet the Queen in recognition of his work. Tariq studied LLB Law part-time at the University of Westminster funded and supported by the Ministry and he was later appointed to join the Secretariat to the Criminal Procedure Rule Committee chaired by the Lord Chief Justice. After serving over 10 years in Central Government, in 2012 Tariq set up a company in London's Harley Street providing Medico-Legal Reports prepared by Medical Experts to Law Firms for the use of Court Evidence. Concurrently, Tariq launched a further company in London's Kensington providing translation services to the Legal Profession primarily for

Court based work.

In 2013 Tariq went on to set up another company, Metropolitan Accident Management in London's Royal Docks where is currently the CEO. His company specialises in sophisticated cases and uses innovative techniques for evidence gathering for the court including the adoption of forensics to successfully prove cases against large insurance companies.

Tariq bought his first investment property in London at the mere age of 19. He now has a healthy property development & investment portfolio across London which includes luxury high end apartments.

Tariq is involved with various charities but primarily works with a charity set up by his father since 2000 that houses and educates over 350 orphan children in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Having been to over 40 countries around the world, Tariq is not only a keen traveler, he is also a keen aviator having flown several light aircraft and is currently working towards obtaining his pilot's license.

Tariq has done some lifestyle modeling work for internationally renowned Photographer Richard Bryant whose clients include Armani, Bulgari and Gucci.

One of the most prominent and inspirational British Bangladeshi women, Dr Zaki Rezwana Anwar is a personality known for multi-faceted attributes such as medical and philanthropic contribution, coupled with her illustrious media career. Leading her team in National Debates on Bangladesh Television, she was crowned 'Best Orator' for five consecutive years. The youngest newsreader to pass multi-stage auditions, she completed the long course on newscasting at the National Institute of Mass Communications, making her the only British Bangladeshi with this level of training and expertise. Her journey began with Dhaka Radio; henceforth would emerge the epitome to watch on Bangladesh Television, BBC World Service, Bangla TV and Channel S. Channels including All India Radio and Voice of America interviewed her. Internationally the longest serving female Bangladeshi newscaster, her unparalleled mark in the newscasting world was recognised with Eastwood Awards' title: 'Best Female Newscaster.'

After her MBBS degree from Dhaka, her Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene was with British Council Scholarship. Following her Maternal and Child Health MSc at UCL with Danish Government Fellowship, she was a selected Commonwealth Scholar for her PhD. Dr Anwar's Tangail project with iodine deficient pregnant mothers and infants (funded by GlaxoSmithKline) featured in the 'Rain Plague' documentary on BBC 2 in collaboration with ICH (UK) and ICDDR,B (Bangladesh). Princess Margaret selected this among leading three medical research projects that year. Dr Anwar improved maternal mortality rates as founding member of 'Action for Safe Motherhood' working with the Brazilian Gov-

ernment, and campaigned against FGM with Gambian NGOs. She was Guest Speaker for international organisations including UNESCO, World Health Organisation and Asian Nutrition Congress. She presented in British Paediatric Association's 65th annual meeting at the University of Warwick, at the Centre for International Child Health and University of Nottingham. Journals including BMJ, Lancet and European Journal of Clinical Nutrition published her work.

Her enterprises however, stem further than medicine and media alone. As GSC's Women and Cultural Secretary, she ventured far and wide, teaching hard-to-reach women first aid. With her Jalalabad 'Widow Project' initiative, 500 destitute widows saw avenues to financial independence. Dr Anwar raised funds for the flood-stricken, and at a school her mother founded, aided orphans with the 'Zaki Rezwana Scholarship'. She established a Rotaract Club's Medicine Bank. She is in the LBPC; she supports Cancer Research UK, the CRP, 'Manush Manusher Jonno,' and anti-rape movements. IQRA International recognised her work with disabled children.

From embryonic stages, she trailblazed for Dual Citizenship Act amendments, negotiating with the Law Minister to protect rights of British Bangladeshis. The Mayor of Brent's Civic Award honoured her for services to the British Bangladeshi community.

With classical vocal training from Ustad Akhtar Sadmani, she won the 'Notun Kuri' singing contest - cultivating her unique blend of music and international media expertise she hopes to pass this on to her children.



**Dr Zaki
Rezwana Anwar**

Sector:
*Media / Medicine /
Philanthropy*

Shamima Akhtar is a prolific community activist and Social Worker supporting many different groups in London. Shamima moved to the UK in 1993. From joining an ESOL class to learn to read, write and speak English, she went on to gain top marks in her class and even had her journal published by Sussex University. She then completed a qualification in Children, Health and Social Care.

Following her studies, she started working with young children under 5 in Tower Hamlets. This involved her working in the local community to give children the opportunity to have a good start in life. It also allowed her to work with other venerable parents whom she was able to support and empower.

Through her work, it inspired her to get involved with community organisation such as Unity Chadwell Heath Community and get involved in charity work to support others who are less fortunate.

She now promotes local businesses, people's talent and the empowerment of women. She holds an annual Cultural event in Essex where up to 500 people attend. She also supports other organisation such as Redbridge Welfare Association, Sur-Sagar UK music studio and neighbouring boroughs.

In 2001, Shamima was elected as a Board Member of

the New Deal for Community in the Ocean Estate in Tower Hamlets. A £56 million central government scheme that successfully transformed the area.

At the same time, she worked as a bilingual tutor teaching young children to learn Bengali as well as providing pastoral support including local and international educational trips.

Shamima is an experienced broadcaster. She currently has both a TV and radio show on Sylhetor TV an online channel and BETAR Bangla radio 1503AM. Shamima is a proud Executive Member of Labour Friends of Bangladesh.



Shamima Akhtar

Sector:
Community Activist



Alphonna Begum

Sector:
Law

Alphonna Begum is the Founder and Principal Solicitor of Aubrey Solicitors.

Alphonna established Aubrey Solicitors in May 2016, with the aim of providing a quality first class service to all her clients.

Alphonna specialises in Criminal Defence, mainly focusing on White Collar crime and Business Immigration. The Firm is also regularly instructed in other areas of law, including Asylum and Deportation cases along with Immigration bail.

Alphonna has successfully secured a bid for the Criminal Legal Aid contract. She has also procured the legal industry Lexcel accreditation, excellence in legal practice management and client care.

Alphonna trained and qualified at McCormacks Law and thereafter worked at HSR Solicitors for 5 years, specialising in Criminal Defence work.

Alphonna is an accredited Duty Solicitor and Police Station Representative. She can often be found at various Courts and Police Stations, robustly representing a broad range of clients. She has many years of experience of handling cases ranging from minor road traffic matters to complex and serious criminal cases. Offences such as fraud, money laundering, murder, rape and drugs.

Alphonna is respected and recognised for being very thorough in the preparation of her cases. She is unyielding to pursue all lines of enquiry in the collation of evidence to support her clients' case.

Alphonna is very well known in the community. Her clients trust her greatly and regularly recommend her to others.

When she is not fighting for her clients, Alphonna enjoys watching football, playing Pool and Table Tennis. She also has a passion for Interior design.



Dr Ferdousi Choudhury

Sector:
Healthcare

Dr Ferdousi Choudhury is a Clinical Psychologist working in the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service of the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, a specialist mental health Trust based in Camden, London. She graduated in Psychology from City University and gained her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from University College London. Ferdousi's doctoral thesis was on Screening for Postnatal Depression in Bengali mothers, which looked at the impact of contextual differences on postnatal women in Bangladesh and Camden. Her research has been published in the Journal of Reproductive and Infant Psychology.

Ferdousi has extensive experience of working with children and families from diverse backgrounds, with a significant proportion of clinical work being with children and families of Bangladeshi origin, and those of mixed origin. Within her role at the Tavistock, she has strived to make mainstream mental health services less stigmatised and more accessible to the Bangladeshi community. This has been achieved by providing community based interventions, delivering therapeutic sessions and psycho-educational workshops in Sylheti, in familiar community settings such as Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre, addressing issues such as mental health stigma, depression, stress and anxiety, family conflict and parenting challenges. She has a special interest in cross cultural and bilin-

gual therapeutic work, and pursued an interest in developing and implementing culturally appropriate parenting programmes for Bangladeshi parents. Ferdousi also has extensive experience of working therapeutically with parents and families who are or have previously been in the social care system, working with issues such as domestic violence, emotional abuse and physical abuse.

In addition to her work in the NHS, Ferdousi is an Independent Clinical Psychologist, providing Expert Witness Court Reports of culturally appropriate psychological, psychometric and parenting assessments and interventions for families in Care proceedings. In addition to this, she also engages in private clinical work with children, adolescents, families, adults and couples, and provides private consultation and supervision for professionals. Her special interest is in aiming to provide culturally and spiritually appropriate therapeutic services for individuals and families. Ferdousi was born in Bedfordshire and raised in Glasgow where she lived with her parents, Mrs Sultana Choudhury and the late Mr Azizur Rahman Choudhury, and her two brothers. Her father ran a successful restaurant business and both parents were leading members of the Bangladeshi community in Scotland. Ferdousi now lives in London with her husband, Kawsar, and their four children.



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Jad Choudhury

Sector:
Business

Jad Choudhury is a successful young entrepreneur from Leeds who has worked tirelessly since the age of 15 to bring customer excellence in a number of high profile industries. He has a proud history of working for international High Street banks, digital marketing and Legal Services.

Jad Choudhury is the founder and the CEO of Innov8 Group. This is an umbrella for Innov8 Apps a mobile app developer, PPCars which brings you luxury and super car sales, UK1 Investments which looks at the London Property Investment market, and Find-thebestrooms.com; a hotel comparison site, Innov8 DJs an audio entertainment company and quite recently Naga King; the Naga pickle.

Whilst the Head Office for all his operations is based in Leeds, he works across the whole of the United Kingdom.

Naga King has been in development since 2013 and after perfecting the product it has been released to general public in June 2017. The response was overwhelming. The product is now available across the UK at your local grocery shop.

With all of his businesses, Jad Choudhury believes that marketing is key. He is a hands on CEO and will work at grassroot marketing levels to ensure all his businesses flourish.

Recently a marketing plan was put into place, where customers got to sample all 3 of the infamous Naga King flavours; Shatkora, Carrot and Original Naga using social media sites Instagram to spread the word.

This fed an influx of new customers and he has received a number of suggestions for recipes via his followers on the Naga King Page, which has bought on a second wave of marketing, all by listening to the customers.

Jad Choudhury has delivered workshops within the community; inspiring, encouraging and educating the younger community members to develop their ideas and dreams and turn them into a reality.

He has been a business advisor for small to medium sized business around the UK. These include those in the property, media & catering industries by mentoring business owners and helping them to succeed. It has been an exciting year for Jad and the Naga King brand has been nominated for a prestigious award in the category 'Entrepreneur of the Year'.

Jad Choudhury strives to expand his many businesses worldwide and to become a household name.

Jad believes that everyone has greatness, but it's courage to think outside the box that sets him apart from the rest.



Mitu Choudhury

Sector:
Catering

Born and brought up in sylhet, Bangladesh in 1964. Mitu went to the local school and then studying science at the MC College and finally read politics, history and sociology at MC College, Sylhet. After graduating he left for England and settle in Maidstone, joining his brother.

He studied BTEC business and finance at Mid Kent college in Maidstone whilst at the same time having a part time job working at the restaurant so that he could learn the business.

After three years Mitu opened his first restaurant in Harrietsham and then in 1993 opened the Mughal Dynasty in Maidstone. A restaurant which is run very successfully to this day. At the same time that he was running the restaurant he also studied for an Honours degree in Politics at Christ Church University in Canterbury, Kent.

His intention in politics led me to join the Conservative party in Maidstone where I actively campaign on behalf of our local MP Helen Grant. He has been a member of BCA since opening his first restaurant and is now proud to say that he is currently the Organising Secretary for the association. He has joined the Rotary Club of Maidstone River Side where he hopes to spend more time helping those less fortunate than him. Mitu is married with three children living in

Maidstone and enjoys watching and playing Cricket in his spare time.

Sarah Ali Choudhury is an accomplished Award Winning chef and events caterer based in Bournemouth, Dorset. She recently appeared on a hit Channel 4 cookery show where she prepared meals for two-time Michelin Star awarded restaurateur Michael Caines MBE and one of Britain's most acclaimed chefs and food writer, Prue Leith CBE.

At the age of 20 Sarah was recognised as the youngest Asian female to manage an Indian restaurant. Following her successful career in hospitality, Sarah's passion for authentic food led her on a new venture and she started creating her own Asian inspired dishes. Appearing at locations around the UK this summer, Sarah took the food festival scene by storm and has just recently launched her own event catering business at Sandpolo Championships in Sandbanks this summer.

Sarah's catering business serves authentic gourmet Indian cuisine for events and functions across the region. Earlier this year Sarah was awarded the title of New Kid on the Block at the Small Awards in London, and was also a finalist for The Rising Star Award at the Bournemouth Tourism Awards.

Her expertise and knowledge is highly sought after. Sarah has her own YouTube channel and regularly appears on That's Solent TV (Freeview Channel 7) and Channel 5 TV (Sky 814). She contributes to Asian World Media group, Daily Echo and Banglar Kanthar

(Bangladeshi newspaper in Singapore and Malaysia) as a columnist. Sarah has worked with many parenting bloggers, spreading the word on how quick and easy preparing a curry can be for your family.

Sarah was recently shortlisted for two leading awards at this year's Venus Awards including Influential Woman of the Year Award sponsored by Mercedes-Benz and Inspirational Woman sponsored by Bournemouth University.

The Venus Awards celebrate and recognise local working women-in-business. Established in Dorset in 2009, the Venus Awards now operate in ten regions across the UK.

Sarah has reached the Finals with Tommy Miah's International Indian Chef of the Year Competition. She was one of eight selected finalists out of 8000 contestants.

As PR Ambassador for the UK Nepal Friendship Society and Child Nepal Sarah is assisting in helping people to overcome the Earthquake disaster and is a keen advocate of women's rights and the empowerment of women and supports Janaki Women's Awareness Society.



Sarah Ali Choudhury

Sector:
Catering

Zia Choudhury was born and raised in Glasgow, Scotland, where his father was a restaurateur. Soon after graduating from the Universities of London and Manchester, Zia spent almost 2 years working with an NGO in remote 'Char' Islands in Bhola District, Bangladesh. Based in village near Charfassion, with no running water or electricity, and 2 hours motor-bike ride from the nearest telephone, this was a very grassroots and exciting start to his career.

Zia worked on disaster preparedness with local communities, and was directly caught up in two major cyclones. On one occasion, he spent the whole night attached by a length of rope to a concrete pillar, as flood waters rose, and cyclone passed directly above ripping up trees from his garden and the roof of his tin-shed home. Since then, Zia has continued working with disadvantaged communities around the world, specializing in coordination and management of humanitarian response in natural disasters and conflicts.

Zia has worked in some of the major crises zones of the past 2 decades, including Kosovo, Aceh, Afghanistan, Somalia and Sudan. Zia has primarily been the leader of large NGO response teams, as country and regional director, but has also worked for two years as a policy development consultant for the United Nations in Rome, Geneva and New York. In August 2017, 20 years after he left Charfassion, he has

returned to Bangladesh as Country Director for CARE Bangladesh, one of the country's leading international NGOs.

He currently leads a team of over 600 staff working to fight poverty and social injustice in diverse sectors, including agriculture, garments industry, health sector, private sector engagement, and women's economic empowerment. Most recently, Zia has been directly leading CARE's major response in Cox's Bazar, supporting newly arrived Refugees from Myanmar.



Zia Choudhury

Sector:
Charity



**Amin Babor
Chowdhury**

Sector:
Media | Education
| Charity

Since moving to the UK from Bangladesh in 2007 Amin Babor Chowdhury has become an established public figure renowned for his passion, dedication and work to develop and enhance community relations within the diverse cultural groups of Greater Manchester and more widely.

He has combined his roles within local journalism, education and charity to promote community cohesion and advance prospects for groups across a range of sectors.

In 2009 he helped to launch Probash Bangla, one of the country's few English-Bengali bilingual publications, which gives a voice to the UK Bangladeshi community and creates a platform to connect young and older generations.

Through sheer determination and an indefatigable and infectious optimism, Mr Chowdhury has created strong links with prominent figures in local and central government and with education and business leaders, engaging with them on important issues and gaining support for his projects.

Mr Chowdhury is married with two young children and lives in Oldham which, as a proud honorary 'Oldhamer', he seeks to advance, celebrate and promote wherever he can. He set up One Community UK (OCUK) in 2012, which is underpinned by charitable aims and through which he organises community

events and was able to establish the Oldham Education Awards in 2012.

OEA unifies the whole town in celebration of the academic achievements of students in the borough. Around 250 young people have now received an OEA! As a result of this work, Mr Chowdhury was invited to become an Ambassador and Board member at Oldham Academy North.

Mr Chowdhury is keenly involved in fundraising and promotional activities for charities including Oldham based - and OEA charity partner - Dr Kershaw's Hospice. 1Care charity, which works to improve health care and education in rural Bangladesh, is another cause close to his heart. He also supports charity partner of the British Education Awards The Princes Trust, to help fund the life-changing work The Trust does with vulnerable young people.

In 2013 he determined to replicate OEA on a national platform, and endeavoured to unite people from all four countries of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland in celebration of education, as 'one community'. He achieved this vision in January 2017 when students and their families, education professionals and politicians travelled from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England to attend the country's inaugural British Education Awards in London. His aim now is to keep raising the profile of BEA and bring the event to every British nation, and continue to inspire people in the pursuit of education.



China Chowdhury

Sector:
Arts and Culture

China Chowdhury is an established dance artist and choreographer for more than 20 years. She has an extensive knowledge in Indian classical, modern and Bengali Folk dance. China has not only worked in Bangladesh but has worked in the UK with her dance expertise and has travelled across the world to many countries such as Japan, Italy, Sweden, Thailand, Egypt, Switzerland and Pakistan to name but a few. She gained her dance expertise in Bangladesh and was a government staff artist with the Bangladesh Shilpo Kala Academy.

China Chowdhury is the Founder and Director of 'Taal Torongo', an organisation whose members give widespread and varied performances all over the UK and Europe and have performed at the Boishakhi Mela for last decade. China has also worked in numerous London schools as a dance instructor and also a dance teacher in primary schools.

Since the formation of Boishakhi Mela Committee she has been involved with them and helped and supported the initiative. She continues to work with children of local communities all over the UK. She has been delivering training facilities on choreography to the young people. Over the last 9 years she has been working with the Bangladesh High Commission in different ways. Adding to this she has been involved in

Edinburgh Festival in Scotland and choreographer to the Bangladesh Movie 'Golapi Akhon Bilete'.

She is a regular on Bangladeshi TV channels and her group is now performing on the UK Bengali language channels, and this has led her to take part in several prestigious national and international events showcasing her dance and performing talents.

She has also worked with Bibi Russell, former International super model, back in 2014 and took part in London Bengali Wedding Fair 2017 at the Radisson Blu Hotel in London as the choreographer for the fashion shows being responsible for 30 models and 8 choreography themes.

G10 print



Monsoor Chowdhury

Sector:

Accountant/Entrepreneur

Monsoor is a qualified Accountant and business entrepreneur. Having successfully completed his training programme within a leading accountancy practice, he was quickly noticed for his outstanding talent and was rewarded with a partnership offer.

He decided to bypass this opportunity and instead take up a more ambitious, lucrative and challenging role, working and reporting directly to Lord Alan Sugar on his various commercial financial interests.

He quickly established himself within a cut-throat environment and very soon became one of Lord Sugar's senior financial representatives. His no nonsense style and approach were ideally suited for the demands of a high profile entrepreneur, working on the finances of a property portfolio in excess of 500m, aviation, media, publishing, electronics, foreign exchange trading and on various other commercial activities.

After eight successful years, Monsoor was head hunted by another high net worth entrepreneur to spearhead the finances of his worldwide real estate interests. After a brief stint, he decided it was the right time to venture into business himself.

He teamed up with his long-time colleague Kamru Ali and decided to take up a partnership position at Apex Accountancy, a small firm based in London. Under his guidance, Apex has fast developed into one of the most forward thinking and innovative small accountancy and taxation firms, providing a wide range of specialist services.

Monsoor also recognises the importance of practical training and uses Apex to serve as a training base for graduates and school leavers to develop their skills, aid-

ing them to seek employment. The majority of his trainees have gone on to secure employment within high profile organisations.

He has over the years and continues to provide consultancy services and sits on the board of a number of organisations, advising on finances within the industries of construction, energy, telecoms, property and healthcare. Monsoor is currently the CFO of ACAP Global, a start-up international company which has recently won the global rights to supply telecommunications traffic to a number of African based countries. In the process, the organisation has agreed to provide affordable housing solutions to the much needed region and Monsoor is spearheading this project.

Over the years, Monsoor has also invested wisely and built up a small property portfolio.

Having worked in the catering industry since the 90's which helped him fund his college and University education; he has kept his association with the industry and over the past 15 years, he has been involved with a number of successful restaurants and fast food ventures. Currently he overlooks the running of a successful restaurant, which has been awarded regional awards and is now aiming to achieve awards at national level.

During his leisure time, Monsoor participates in challenging charity events, this year he completed the London Marathon, in the process raising considerable funds for charity. On his bucket list of events to do is climbing to first base of Mount Everest and 100 mile walking trek on the Wall of China.



Kawsar Chowdhury

Sector:

Community and Politics

Kawsar was born in village Kachua, Zakiganj Upozila in Sylhet. His father, late Mr Mokoddus Ali Chowdhury, a businessman in Sylhet Town before the independence of Bangladesh, was a Greater Sylhet board member for Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind and his mother, late Mrs Majeeda Khanom Chowdhury, was a home maker, and closely supporting his father's business and political involvement. His maternal Grandfather Mr Sarwarul Islam Chowdhury was a Local Board Member in India, which is now known as Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) in Lok Sabha.

Kawsar came to the UK in 1994 after studying at the MC College, Sylhet. He became engaged with community and philanthropic work in London, and started his career as an Advocacy officer in 'age UK', pursuing his profession in the mainstream. Alongside this, he gained qualifications from various institutions including an MA from the University of Westminster, a Diploma in Management, a Diploma in Business and Finance, and studied Social Science at the Open University.

Currently, he is an Independent Consultant working on behalf of social services. Prior to this, for many years he worked in statutory and non-statutory Criminal Justice Systems. During his work in various professional roles, he pioneered and engaged with many project developmental initiatives, including Tower Hamlets Re-settlement and Reintegration Aftercare Services for ex-offenders in order to reduce re-of-

fending in the community; inter-generational work between Black Minority Ethnic (mainly Bangladeshi) Older Adults and the younger generation to promote independence for isolated vulnerable older people in Camden; Housing and Re-settlement Pathways Project in Haringey for young vulnerable people in need of accommodation after their recovery from offending behaviour and substance misuse and needing to reintegrate themselves in the community.

Whilst working full time in the UK, Kawsar has also occupied himself with community and voluntary work in London and back in Bangladesh. He was a member of the Governing Body in 2012 for 'Belmont School' in Harrow. Kawsar was founder of the 'Mukoddus-Majeeda Chowdhury Government Primary School' in Kachua, Zakiganj, Sylhet, founded in 2014. He was also one of the founders of the Zakiganj Welfare Association in the UK.

Kawsar was involved in the democratic movement in Bangladesh against the Martial Law Government in the 1990's, under the Chattro Sangram Parishad. After he arrived in the UK, he revived the Bangladesh Chattro League UK in the 90's and was the only Joint Convenor then Convenor of that organisation, ex-central committee member of Bangladesh Chattro league and European Union Co-ordinator. He is now International Affairs Secretary of UK Awami League. Kawsar is married to Dr Ferdousi Choudhury and blessed with four children.

Firuzul Haque is born in 1964 in Boro Nogdipur, Derai, Sunamgonj. He passed his S.S.C from Rojono-gonj High School. After his successful completion of S.S.C he went on to study in Syhlet Modon Mohon College. He was a proud founder member of Bangladesh Jatiotabadi Chatra Dol, Sylhet Zilla. He was a supporter of our glorious Liberation war in 1971 as his elder brother (Rofiqul Haque) was a commander of freedom fighters in Derai Upozilla.

Firuzul and his other elder brothers used to supply food, water and other necessary things for the freedom fighters at that critical time for our nation and country. He came to the UK in 1992. He is very successful restaurateur, partner of two restaurants named Spice Rouge at Stevenage and Cafe Masala at Eaton Bray, Dunstable. Also he is the Director of Soft Investment Group UK. Mr Haque is actively involved in several community based activities in UK. He is a founder member of British Bangladeshi Business Forum and currently holding the position of organizing secretary of that Forum. He is the assistant treasurer of British Bangladesh Helping Hand, a life member of Syhlet Heart Foundation, a trustee of Bangladesh Female Academy, Derai, Sunamgonj. He is the Vice President of Bangladesh Caterers Association UK (BCA). He is also former president of the Derai Thana Development Organisation UK and an active member of Labour party UK. He is vice presi-

dent of the Sunamgonj Jella Welfare Association and advisor of friends of Jogdol Union Trust. He is deeply passionate about his different charitable activities in the UK and Bangladesh. He runs a charity called Bari & Nessa Memorial Trust based in his own village. Mr Haque is extremely proud of his Bangladeshi root. He firmly believes that our hard-working nature will not only enable us to put the name of our motherland in a respectable position in world map but also will help us contribute to the British society positively and significantly.



Firuzul Haque

Sector:
Catering

Syed Arif Hussain Kazi is the founder of "Syed Arif & Co" an independent and established accountancy practice that has been serving a broad range of personal, business and corporate clients in Ilford, Greater London and the South East of England.

He formed the company after, many years of working as an accountant in a prestigious Chartered Accountants firm in Kent, being qualified and obtained his license to engage in the public practice, in 2002.

For more than a decade "Syed Arif & Co" has been providing friendly, proactive and quality professional services – everything from basic bookkeeping, PAYE, and VAT and self-assessment returns, to helping clients through the trauma of an HM Revenue & Customs investigation.

The Firm has a varied client base: doctors, civil engineers, IT professionals, food manufacturers, retail stores, cash and carry, estate agents, building contractors and property investors, restaurants, and take-aways Etc.

Besides his busy profession as an accountant, Syed has a good deal of passion for charitable work and serving the humanity. For the last ten years, he has been supporting and working with "The Friends of Bangladesh," a charity organization established by the British Bangladeshi Professionals in 1982. Currently, Syed is serving as the General Secretary of the Organisation. Through this platform, Syed has set up many humanitarian projects in Bangladesh like free

medical service, medicine distribution and helping the people living with breast cancer, in collaboration with Bangladesh Cancer Society Hospital in Mirpur Dhaka.

Syed was the founder Chair of "Newbery Park Mosque" also helped many mosques and other charities with their registration process and starts-up with the Charity Commission.

Mr. Hussain Kazi has a wide range of interest in Financial & Economic World. Sports, Traveling, and gardening.

Mr. Syed is married and blessed with three children, Alvi, Abed and Alisha and live with his family in Gants Hill, Redbridge, Essex.



Syed Arif Hussain-Kazi

Sector:
Finance



Fokrul Islam

Sector:
Sports

Mr Fokrul Islam was born in Nayagram, Beanibazaar, in the Sylhet district of Bangladesh. He arrived in the UK in 1989 at a young age, before commencing his education at Stoke Newington Secondary School. He is the son of the late Al-Hajj Abdus Salaam, who emigrated to London in 1952, all the while managing his transportation business in Bangladesh.

After completing his education at Hackney College, Mr Islam opted to follow in his father's footsteps and set up a family business in catering. At the same time, he engaged in his passion for badminton, however, an on the court injury ended his dreams of a career in this field. The silver lining of this unfortunate incident, is that it paved the way for Mr Islam to become one of the most widely-recognised and respectable organisers and promoters of badminton tournaments in the UK and Bangladesh.

Mr Islam started his journey as a tournament organiser through introducing Fokrul Bhai's Badminton Tournament (FBBT). His success in this field expanded into organising broadcasted tournaments, including the Channel S - Sporium Badminton Tournament and Janomot Badminton Tournament. In 2010, Mr Islam founded Bangladesh Badminton Federation UK (BBFUK), which has now become a popular badminton foundation amongst the Bangladeshi community. In 2016, in recognition and appreciation of his 10-

year Voluntary Service to Sport, Mr Islam became the winner of the Bronze Volunteer Award, presented by the London Federation of Sports and Recreation. This was later followed by a Community Service award in 2017, presented by Brent Council.

Mr Islam didn't just stop there. He went on to establish the M A Salaam Trust, in loving memory of his father. Through this, he and his team of fundraisers raised money for various causes, including: water pump tube wells in Bangladesh, winter clothing for the less fortunate, Ramadan packages for the needy and funding education of poor children in rural villages. In addition to this, Mr Islam is heavily involved in a wide range of community activities, securing a permanent presence amongst the Bangladeshi community.

Mr Islam is married to Gane Begum and is the proud father of three children: Fatimatuz Johura, Amidul Islam and Halimatuz Sadia.



Tajrul Islam Taz

Sector:
Business

Tajrul Islam Taz is from Inathgonj, Nabiganj, Bagbari, Sylhet and is a successful and very popular media personality, the founder of TIB group, a networking business platform with good opportunity for new investors. TIB group already have 46 investors buying and selling houses, pubs and restaurant in auctions. Any kind of business need a good management and marketing concept only TIB group can provide this for you.

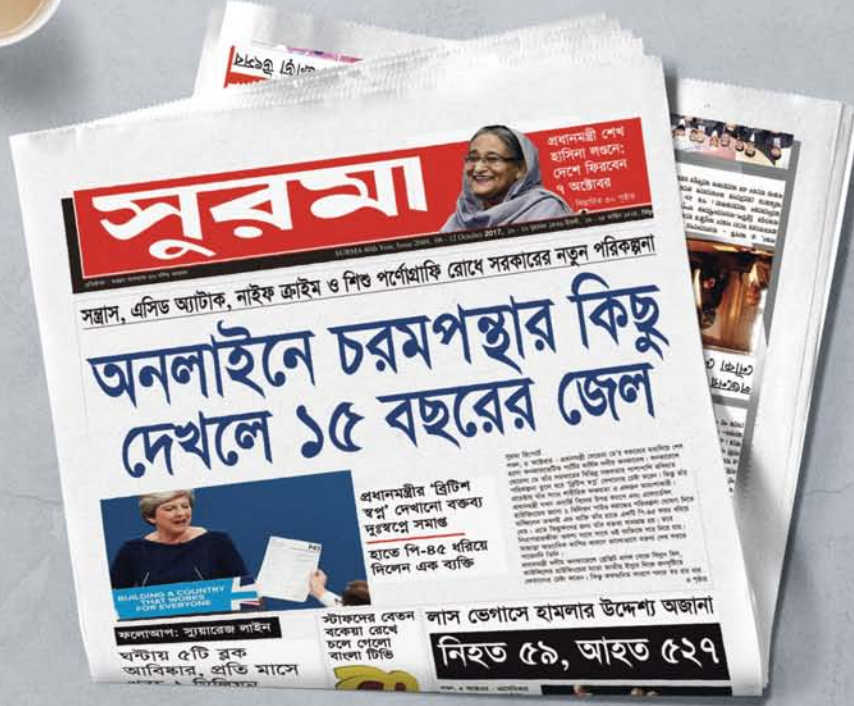
Tajrul Islam Taz also owner of Ariyan basmati rice, Ariyan film production london. Ariyan films is a media company which helps to develop business and products. Making lots of TV adverts for Bengali TV channels. His hard work and brilliant concept brings it to life. His clients constantly recommend them to others.

Taz started modelling in 2004 as a catalogues model for one of the top Indian suit and jacket company Raymond. His first TV advert was made by one of the popular makers Amitab Reza Chowdhury in 2007. He became a producer in 2008 and produced so many drama and music videos.

His style and glamour attract people to follow his life style. Currently Taz is working with Bollywood and Iranian media houses. Taz is also a well known politician, involved with one of the largest political party

in Bangladesh he is also a active member of labour party UK and his intention is to help people and make them happy, Taz contributes alot of his time to charitable causes and his organisation is called Ishaq and Taz Foundation, which help 1000 kids in Bangladesh.

He is the only son of Sirajul Islam and Monuwara Begum and is married with two sons Mohamed Ishaq Islam and Mohamed Ariyan islam.



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Sabia Kamali

Sector:

Journalist / Philanthropist

Sabia's media career started off, after graduating from Goldsmith university with a first, at an international NGO- Islamic Relief as Media Executive . She handled the busy press office during tsunami and many more other disasters around the world , Organised press conferences on a international level ,worked with journalist and producers from BBC, channel 4 and Sky.

She is a well known journalist and a community activist, has a wealth of experience in charity and voluntary sector, has raised awareness and funds for many charities and successfully organised fashion shows, charity dinners, and fundraising events. She is currently presenting and producing two shows on Iqra Bangla Genius lounge- highlighting contributions women make in society and also host a live Weekly Discussion on current affairs.

She has been a freelance journalist for Stratford guardian, Newham recorder and many other Bengali publications . She was the first Bangladeshi female Editor for Muslim weekly.

She is one of the founder and CEO of sisters forum, with the organisation she has been involved with setting up many projects in the community to empower women and educate communities. Sabia has shared a

platform with Dr Tariq Ramadan and has delivered many inspirational speeches on women's rights. Other activities involves campaigning about human rights issues. She has also been the vice chair for Respect party Nationally and a local chair and moved onto many successful projects.



Mahbub Iزدani Khan

Sector:

Community

Mahbub Iزدani Khan resides in Chadwell Heath, Essex. He is the eldest son of Late Ali Mehdi Khan and Late Rabya Begum Chowdhury.

His father was the Deputy Director General of National Security Intelligence & Chief security officer to the Prime Minister Bongho Bhondur Sk. Mujibur Rahman. He came to the UK in the year 1972 for further study and joined South Bank University as a full time student and graduate and post graduate from the same university in Management.

In 1980 Mahbub went to Saudi Arabia and worked as a Marketing Manager for the Detroit based General Motors until 1990.

After returning to the UK he worked as an Welfare development office in the London Borough of Newham.

From 1999 to 2002 he worked in Forest Health Care NHS Trust and also South West London St. Georges Mental health NHS Trust as a head of the families support Team. During this time he received best employer of the year award.

In the year 2003 he joined as a Head of Carers & families support team in West London Mental Health NHS Trust for 14 years organising events like conferences, Seminars, where high profile individuals, Govt. Ministers (Dept. of health) spoke on the subjects that are important for patients and carers. One of his successful events took place in June 2008 where he invited HRH Princess Royal to attend John

Conolly wing and meet the patients and carers.

Mahbub is married to Nurul Jannat Khan who works for the London Borough of Redbridge and have two children , one son and a daughter.

He is also a Board Member of International Congress, Royal College of Psychiatrists, Member Carers advisory board, Royal College of GP, Involvement representative of North East London Foundation NHS Trust, President, The Friends of Bangladesh and UK, a charity organisation run by British/Bangladeshi Professionals.

Born in 1967, the eldest son of Abdul Munim Ludhi and Syeda Monowara Akhtar, in the village of Mathiura, Beanibazar, Bangladesh. Mr Ludhi studied at the central Mathiura Govt Primary school, Mathiura high school, the aided high school and Murari chad college (MC COLLEGE) in Sylhet. In 1985 he came to London and studied at Westminster College.

In 1987 he started work with a catering business. Within a few years, he became a self employed business-man and opened a number of restaurants. Now a well established businessman with a huge property portfolio in the UK and Bangladesh. In 2004 he served as the convenor of "Beanibazar Welfare Trust", "Beanibazar Jonokollan Sommitee" and "Flood Relief Fund Committee" which he and his fellow committee members raised more than £10000 for the flood victims in Beanibazar.

In 2005 he was the convenor of the Tube Well Fund Raise Committee, raised around £9000 and distributed 110 tube wells for the poor and the needy in Mathiura.

He served as a joint secretary "Shahiedgha Probashi Sommittee" UK (1995-97). In addition, he was the joint secretary of Maithura College School Development Committee UK (1994). He then served as the membership secretary of "Beanibazar Welfare Trust" UK (2000-2003). Then during 2004-2007 he was the

Health and Welfare Secretary of "Beanibazar Welfare Trust" UK. Since 2005 he has been the treasurer of "Beanibazar Jonokollan Sommittee" UK.

In 2006 he was the convenor of the "Bus Donation Fundraise Committee" and he and his fellow committee members raised £15000 to go to the cause of supplying buses for the students at Beanibazar Women's College. In 2007 thirty five computers have been donated to all the Beani Bazar secondary school by Beani Bazar Welfare Trust.

In 2016 he participated in London Bridge Walk, fundraising for Kidney Research UK. Also he is a regular donor for Save the Children, British Heart Foundation, Macmillan Cancer UK and the National Heart Foundation hospital.

He is the Founder and Chairman of the Mathiura Trust UK as well as Life Member of London Bangla Press Club. Moreover Mr Ludhi is the founder trustee of Beanibazar Welfare Trust UK in addition to being Life member of Beanibazar Muktizudda kollan trust, beanibazar, sylhet Bangladesh. Mr Shamim Ludhi is a organisation secretary of National Heart Foundation hospital UK comitee. He is also a member of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce. Also he is a author of Beanibazarer haryea jawa shunar shontanera Book

He now lives in Clayhall, Essex with wife Popi Aktar and their three children Ashraf, Tahmid and Shakief.



**Enamul Munim
Shamim Ludhi**

Sector:

*Business and Community
Relations.*

Dewan Mahdi is a well known solicitor within the legal society. He is highly regarded within the Bangladeshi community for his various involvements in a number of organisations. He is the grandson of late Dewan Ahbad Chowdhury who was an MP (1936-1946) of Assam Legislative Assembly before the partition of India, and a fellow & senate member of Calcutta University.

Dewan Mahdi is a partner at Citygate Solicitors, he has a wide range of experience in Property law. Apart from Residential & Commercial Conveyancing, his practice area covers Employment law, Civil litigation, Landlord-tenant dispute, Family and Will & Probate. His pragmatic attitude has earned him local reputation. Dewan describes himself as 'a performer and objective orientated professional who can deliver best result for his client'. His clients range from a single site operator tenant to an established multi-millionaire developer.

Prior to qualifying as a Solicitor, he worked with a leading telecom operator O2 in a different capacity. He was awarded by the head office for exceptional customer service. The experience guides his commercial approach to legal advice which enables him to provide practical solutions to his clients. As a top sales adviser, he was selected to compete in the PALM Sales apprenticeship under the supervision of Sir Alan Sugar.

As a student at University of Law, Dewan took the opportunity to participate in the UK Supreme Court Ju-

dicial Shadowing and pro-bono with Clifford Chance legal clinic. He is the elected press and publicity secretary at the society of British Bangladeshi Solicitors Society ('SBBS'). The SBBS is the leading body that represents the interests of British Bangladeshi Ethnic Minority Lawyers in England and Wales and ensures that their views are articulated and heard within the profession, the Law Society, media and other relevant bodies.

Dewan also presents a legal advice program live on TV. He is an active member of Conservative party and possesses a great passion for political debates. In his spare time he enjoys travelling, cricket, political debates and spending time with his friends & family.



Dewan Mahdi

Sector:

Law



Haji Matin

Sector:

Civil / Structural Engineering

Chartered Engineer Haji Matin C.Eng FISTructE (UK) FIE(B) was born in 1942 in the village Bagula, Upozilla Chunarughat in the district of Habigonj. He attended the Habigonj Government High School then completed a course in Civil Engineering in the Dhaka Polytechnic and worked for a few years there.

He came to the UK in 1963 after arriving in the UK he enrolled in the University of Aston in Birmingham in the Evening/Day release course of Civil Engineering and worked full time in a Engineering Consultancy. He's qualified as Chartered Structural Engineer (UK) in 1973 as well as gained the fellowship of the Institute of Engineers in Bangladesh.

Mr Matin worked in UK for Civil and Structural Engineering for 49 years. His career included 20 years at Thames Water. He met the Queen with other colleagues. This project earned him the fellowship of the Institution of Structural Engineers in 1993.

His career also included 20 years with Transport for London where he spearheaded a number of Bridge and Tunnel construction projects for the capital. From 1978 to 1980, he was seconded as field Consultant Engineer to the Government of Ghana.

In 2013 Mr Matin received a certificate to commemorate 40 years of Chartered Membership of the Institution of Structural Engineer London as one of only 364 members who achieved this milestone.

Mr Matin has founded five education and welfare trusts in his local Upozilla Chunarughat from 1977 to 2000. The trusts award yearly scholarships to 12 students in every school from the income of the funds. Mr Matin donated a portion of his land for the establishment of two villages; Atikpur in his father's name and Matin Nagar in his name in Chunarughat Upozilla. He established Haji Abdul Matin Primary School in Atikpur. This is now a government School. He built Mosques and tube wells for every few houses with Solar power facility in both villages.

Mr Matin is a donor to the Habigonj Diabetic Hospital Ashulia Cancer Hospital and the National Protibondi Foundation in Dhaka.

Mr Matin was awarded Community Award by Channel 5 in London in 2013 and honoured at the Queen's garden Party in recognition of his charitable work for the community.

Mr Matin is married to Latifun (Tulu) Hussain with two daughters. Dr Nashaba Matin BSc, MSc MBBS FRCP and Samantha Matin BSc MSc MBA.

Mr Matin and Mrs Matin are both retired and are active in local labour party Politics and are constituency Labour Party (CLP) members in the Tottenham Constituency in North London.

He recently published his memoirs "Sreethe Theke Kichu Khota"



Molik Dobir Miah

Sector:

Catering

Molik Dobir is a successful businessman and a community activist based in Leeds, West Yorkshire.

He is the managing director of the very successful Bengal Brasserie chain of restaurants. He started off with the first branch in York back in 1995. His latest venture is the flagship restaurant next to Leeds Arena with a capacity of 120 diners offering the very best in modern India cuisine. With 7 different branches in York, Leeds, Wetherby and Market Weighton, Bengal Brasserie is one of the most successful British-Bangladeshi restaurant chains in the United Kingdom.

Over the years Bengal Brasserie branches have won numerous local and national accolades including; CIEH National curry chef 2002 regional winner, shortlisted among the top six Indian restaurant in the North of England and the top 30 in the country by British Curry Awards in 2005, Bengal Brasserie chain scooped a top award at the British fusion food festival in Dhaka Bangladesh in 2007 organised by Curry Life magazine and winner of Curry Life chef of the year 2012/13.

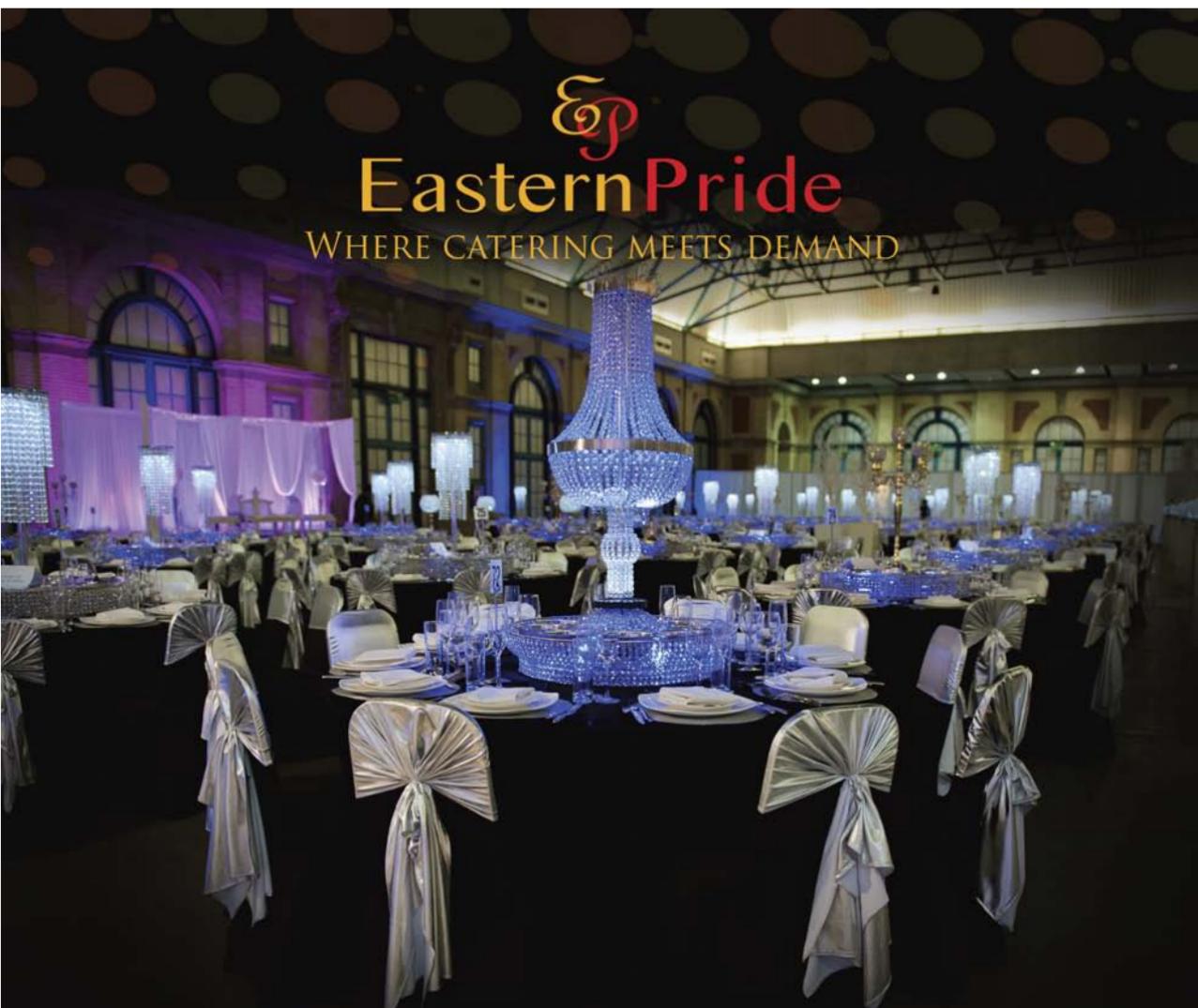
Molik Dobir is a caring and compassionate man. An outstanding citizen and well respected amongst his peers. He has devoted most of his adult life serving

the local community in Leeds. He has served as a Director of Leeds Bangladeshi Community Centre since 1994 including a period as the Secretary. As a devout Muslim, he has been a long-time supporter and Management Committee Member of Shahjalal Jamia Masjid Leeds. He had the privilege to serve as Chairman in 2013/14.

Molik Dobir's generosity has not just been restricted to the Bangladeshi community in Leeds alone. In fact, his donations and support of Save the Children opened up the door to him meeting HRH Princess Anne on two separate occasions in 1997 and 2008. He has also been a generous donor to St Leonard's Hospice, Age Concern, British Heart Foundation, St Gemma's Hospital to name just a few charities.

On the International front, Molik Dobir is the current Chairman of the Trustee Board of Jamia Darul Quaran Sylhet, Bangladesh as well as a regular donor to various other charities in Bangladesh.

In 2007 Molik Dobir was featured in a book titled "Enlightened Bangladeshis in Britain" published by AFM Sayeed in Bangladesh. In 2016 Molik Dobir received a NTV Recognition Award for his contribution as a Business Friend of NTV.




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Sanam Mia

Sector:

Business

Sanam Mia embarked on his business career at the age of 19 in 1989 in the catering industry. Subsequently his business portfolio expanded into the family real estate, cash and carry business (both retail and wholesale) known as SHA Cash & Carry, remittance industry and many more.

However, Sanam's main passion and interest was and remains the global remittance industry. He is the Founder and CEO of Worldwide West 2 East Services Ltd t/a SHA global. He has played a key role within the U.K in developing and growing the outflow of remittance by British Bangladeshi ex-pats living and working in the U.K to Bangladesh within the guidelines of the U.K Governments financial and regulatory bodies. In more recent years he has started to expand his operations into Europe, namely Portugal, Spain and Italy.

Remittance is a vital source of income for the families, friends and charity organisations not only in Bangladesh but in all third world countries globally. Some argue that the remittance industry has done more in alleviating poverty in Bangladesh and other third world countries than global aid given by wealthy nations has achieved. Sanam is a very proud and successful player in this industry on behalf of the Bangladeshi community.

His entrepreneurial streak has naturally led him to become involved in many other business enterprises;

however never forgetting his roots and in line with Bangladeshi family tradition, he has also engaged in many social & welfare organisations.

Sanams main activities in the UK are ,SHA Global - Money Transfer Operator (U.K. And Europe) working closely with and in partnership with some of the largest money remittance companies in the world such as SmallWorld LCC and Xpress Money, Trustee and Public Relations Officer of Greenwich Islamic Centre (one of the largest and most Islamic multi-diverse centres in the whole of U.K) and he is a Director of Edwards Estates Agent.

In Bangladesh his company is an Exclusive distributor of Well Foods Bakery, Sweets & Confectionary for Sylhet Division. He is also the Proprietor of Sylhet's only operational 'Call Centre' in Sylhet Bangladesh, Founding Director of 'Legacy City' real estate development , Member of SHA Charity Foundation in Bangladesh and Co-founder of H.A.R.T education trust.

Sanam resides with his wife and children .



Muhammad Harun Miah

Sector:

Politics

Harun came to England with his parents and brothers in the late 1960s.

At school he proved to be an eloquent and adaptive communicator. He became the most fluent in English among his Bengali peers, often approached by elders in the community to explain and translate from English to Bengali.

He completed his education in 1974 in London, then worked in many trades, including owning and later selling his own Indian restaurant.

Harun felt it imperative to tackle the issue of a disenfranchised Bengali population in East Sussex. He worked closely with the Independent Advisory Group for Sussex Police, became a Food Hygiene Course trainer with Eastbourne College of Arts and Technology (ECAT), translated for many organisations within Sussex and more.

Harun also helped establish a relationship between the local Bengali community and the Eastbourne Mosque, providing grieving families support, especially during times of loss.

He formed the charity, The Shunar Bangla Association, with good friend (late) Mohammed Ansar Miah in 1987. Together they hosted Bengali cultural activ-

ities, making good use of Harun's multiple talents in folk music, writing, filming, acting, and sports.

His passion and devotion for serving the community was felt by all; there were often collaborative projects with the Chinese and Afro-Caribbean communities in East Sussex thanks to Harun's inexhaustible love of culture.

His campaign to develop a local park in his neighbourhood was noticed by the Liberal Democrat Party's TRH MP Stephen Lloyd, Borough Council Leader Cllr David Tutt, Cllr Troy Tester, and former Cllr Irene Sims.

He was successfully elected Councillor of Langney Ward, Eastbourne Borough Council, in May 2007. He was re-elected for the next three elections. Harun is the first Asian councillor in the southeast of England. Harun held the title of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Champion in East Sussex.

His work within the Liberal Democrat Party gained Harun recognition, in 2007 Cllr Troy Tester and Cllr Daniel Purchase proposed Harun be put forward as a candidate for Deputy Mayor. Harun was unanimously voted to become the first Asian Deputy Mayor of Eastbourne Borough Council in 2007 and continues to be so to the present day.

He lives in Eastbourne with his wife Razia Begum and children Chorna and Rajoo .

Abul Monsur is an award-winning curry chef who has been a leading figure in the development of British curry cuisine during the past 30 years.

His restaurant group, the Taj Cuisine is based in Medway, Kent, priding itself for being the most popular eateries specialising in food from the Indian subcontinent.

Abdul Monsur runs two popular award-winning restaurants in Chatham's Walderslade and a takeaway in Lower Stoke, Kent.

The Kent's hardest working restaurateur and chef manage a team of 20 and still personally prepare all his businesses' sauces and marinades as part of his hands-on approach.

Chef Abul Monsur is committed to pushing the boundaries and continues to evolve our trademark to give people a unique dining experience in the Kent region.

His passion for cooking came from his mother and he began his apprenticeship as a teenager working in a succession of restaurants

His first full-time position as a chef came courtesy of his father who was opening a takeaway business.

His 'job interview' was cooking a meal for his father who proceeded to eat it without comment before disappearing upstairs to talk with his wife.

The general consensus was 'the boy can cook.'

Abul is one of an elite group of 'best of British' chefs

who participated in the Taste of Britain Curry Festival which tours the world promoting the unique style of British Indian fusion cooking that has developed in the UK.

During the Curry Life's Taste of Britain festival, Abul had the opportunity to work alongside highly acclaimed Michelin starred chefs like, Dominic Chapman, Mark Poynton and Rupert Rowley. Purpose of this globe trotting food festival is to showcase the best of British cuisine, including British curry. Abul has been actively part of this Great British food promotion for almost a decade.

His awards include Curry Chef of the Year from his local council. Despite achieving high in his profession, he remains an approachable and affable mentor keen to pass on his skills and techniques onto a new generation of emerging chefs.

His restaurant group, the Taj Cuisine is also well known for its generosity for organising annual fund raising event at the restaurants for raising money for local needy charities.

Abul Monsur is married to Fahmida Chowdury. They have 6 daughters and 4 sons. Abul Monsur was born in Bon Gaon village of Jagannath Pur, Sylhet Bangladesh. He came to the UK with his parents at the age of 8 in 1973.



Abul Monsur

Sector:
Catering

Bobby Rahman graduated in 2003 with an Honours Degree in Computer Science with Business Management BSc from King's College, London and he has been working steadily as a successful front office equities product manager with over 14 years of knowledge and experience within the financial services industry. His main talents lie in developing products with a client focus and delivering high profile projects within rapid paced environments

Fresh out of University, Bobby began his career at Merrill Lynch in 2003 specialising in electronic trading, quickly developing a passion for building complex technology solutions for the biggest and most complex and demanding clients.

Five years later he joined hedge fund Citadel Securities to establish the client facing business in EMEA – performing a hybrid role of building systems from the ground up, new business development and trading. Following this, he was hired by Liquidnet initially as an Algorithmic Product Manager to develop the next generation algo suite for equities, rapidly rising to be Head of Product EMEA, focused on driving the firm's innovation strategy. One of his greatest achievements was launching 'Targeted Invitations' a product created to unlock latent block liquidity for the Buy Side community and being nominated for most innovative product by Financial News.

In 2017, Bobby joined Electronic Trading Product de-

velopment team at Bloomberg Tradebook Europe, focusing on developing the liquidity strategy across the full electronic trading product suite. With the seismic regulation impact of MiFID II taking place in 2018 Bobby believes the opportunities for the original fintech company are infinite, and he plans to harness the opportunities of MiFID II to drive Bloomberg to new heights of success.

With a huge passion for fundraising and charitable causes he became a founding member of the South Asian Professional Merrill Lynch network, organising cultural and charity events for the bank. A keen sportsman he also completed the London Marathon in 2006 and climbed Mount Everest Base Camp in 2008. His voluntary aid work and interest in humanitarian causes has taken him to third world countries such as Haiti and Africa. In his spare time Bobby enjoys spending time with family, watching films, dining out and travelling. He recently spent two months travelling through South-East Asia with his wife and two young children.



Bobby Rahman

Sector:
Business



Mohammad Shamsur Rahman Nickel

Sector:
Arts

Mohammad Shamsur Rahman Nickel is an Artist and the director of Altamira Art and Design Ltd. Mohammad Rahman studied M.F.A and B.F.A from the Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka. Since childhood Mr. Rahman has won lots of awards in National children art competitions and secured awards in poster and sketch competitions. In Bangladesh Mr. Rahman has worked as a Textile Designer at Chittagong Dyeing Finishing & Printing Mills Ltd., BSCIC Industrial Estate. He had also worked as Graphic Designer in Delta Millers in 1995 and worked as Designer at event management section of Unitrend Limited till 2001 before he moved to United Kingdom. Within the last 16 years, he has taken part in a multitude of multicultural activities and events, in which he directed the aesthetic aspects of everything.

The highlights from the endless amount of events where he lead a directorial duty include: The Lord Mayor's Show, set design from the anniversary celebration of a large Bangladeshi television channel, multiple high end restaurants through out the United Kingdom, many Bangladeshi celebrations and he has also had the honor of working with some of the most

famous and influential organizations in the Bangladeshi community. These include Channel 5, NTV, Clifton Group and Boishaki Mela. Through his business, he maintains close affiliations with Bank of China, the Malaysian Embassy and the Gateway Housing Society.

He has been blessed with two boys: Nahian Rahman, 14 and Nabil Rahman, 8. For the last 2 decades he has been married to Wahida Sultana.



Mohammed Siddiqui Rahman

Sector:
Catering

Mohammed Siddiqui Rahman was born in 1971 in Luton, Bedfordshire. He completed his GCSEs in Denbigh High School in 1987.

At the age of 16, Siddiqui started working part time at an Indian restaurant which initiated his interest in the restaurant trade.

At the age of 19 he opened his first thriving business, an Indian takeaway which he later converted to a restaurant in Oxhey, Hertfordshire called Curry Cottage. After the success of Curry Cottage, in 1997 he went on to open another Indian restaurant, Raj Garden in Bushey, which became his most successful venture, receiving many awards for their service and support of the community. Since then, he has opened several other restaurants around the country but in 2002, he decided to diversify and invest in another industry.

In 2002, he began his career as a property investor buying houses to re-develop them and put them on the rental market. This has enabled him to develop his property portfolio and diversify within the property industry. He is the director of Luton Property Management Ltd and the senior negotiator for Simply Move, overseeing the management of properties. This business is fast becoming one of the busiest property management companies in its area.

He is also the owner of M.S Rahman Properties (Real Estate).

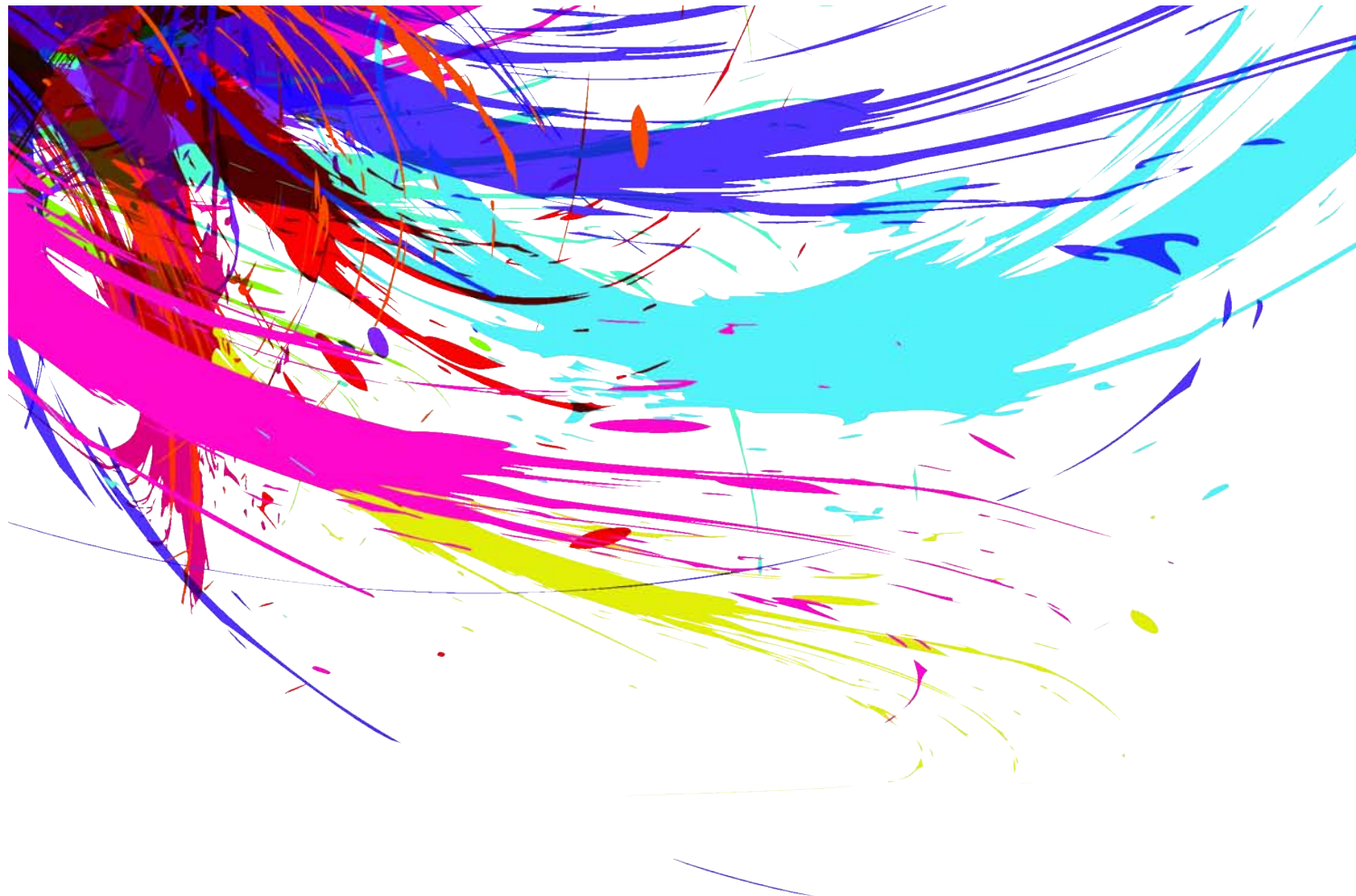
In addition, he is a member of several business associations such as one of the directors of the UKBCCI and an EC member of BCA. He is also a member of the National Landlord Association and a member of the ARLA which is an association for residential let-

tings.

He believes giving back to society is a vital part of life. Therefore, he is the secretary of Jalal Pur Welfare Association which gives unprivileged children in Bangladesh a chance to transform their lives. He is also a part of the advisory board at Dhokin Surma Committee, a role passed on from his father. This is a charity in Bangladesh for the betterment of society.

In the UK, he is a dedicated member of charities such as the Peace Hospice and local charities especially in the Watford area, for which he has gained certificates and awards from local MPs and Mayors.

Siddiqui Rahman enjoys travelling around the world and meeting new people. He also likes to learn about new cultures. Siddiqui Rahman is happily married with 4 children.



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Mohidur Rahman

Sector:
Business

Mohidur Rahman is a highly esteemed member of the Bangladeshi community, a successful serial entrepreneur within the British Bangladeshi Diaspora in the United Kingdom. Mohidur has established his footprint across diversified business industries from chain of real estate companies to various trading companies both in Bangladesh and the United Kingdom.

Mohidur is currently the Chairman of Probashi Palli Group which is an NRB (non-resident Bangladeshis) funded initiative founded in 2007, to cater the needs for real estate products to the non resident Bangladeshis. Under the direction of Mr. Mohidur Rahman Probashi Palli Group has established itself as one of the leading real estate industries in Bangladesh and has diversified its business by investing and acquiring different businesses. Notable investments are the “Daily Ajker Patrika”, a 5-star hotel and resort project in Cox’s Bazar “Probashi Palli Inani Resort”, and “NRB Power Limited” an independent power project located in the outskirts of south Dhaka.

The development of foreign direct investment (FDI) and promotion of local investment in Bangladesh is one of the areas Mr. Mohidur Rahman has keen interest on. At times he opens discussion with honorable Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the investment welfare of the country. He believes in the growth of country’s GDP by increasing FDI and local invest-

ment, thus creating work opportunities for millions of well-educated capable youth of Bangladesh.

Mohidur has an ultimate vision for Bangladesh to become a double digit economy. He is currently an avid supporter of local, national and international charities through sponsorships and funding/creating employment for the educationally improving youth, also a successful attributer in the educational sector of Bangladesh. He is one of the founders and the Vice Chairman of MAGMET Education Trust. An academic initiative in Sylhet, provided scholarships and financial support for over 100’s students every year.

Aside from his association with business he remains closely connected with local and community based initiatives. He is one of the founders and the Chairman of MAGMET Education Trust. An academic initiative in Sylhet, provided scholarships and financial support for over 100’s students every year.

As a regular traveler to Bangladesh, he has found a balance between business, social responsibility and leisure. Aside from his professional career, Mohidur has a keen interest in sport. He is the founder of “Mohidur Rahman Gold Cup”, which is a privately arranged football tournament in Sylhet, held every year.



Mujibur Rahman

Sector:
Business

Mr Mujibur Rahman, son of late Haji Abdul Karim from Shubhani Ghat, Sylhet, Bangladesh. After studying for a BA Education at Sylhet Government college, he moved to the UK in 1993. Mr Mujibur Rahman is now living in Cliff Gardens, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire.

He started his restaurant business in London Road, Norbury, the first of three of his restaurants. He moved to Scunthorpe and bought an established, well known restaurant Raj Pavillion. It is situated in Hull and is in partnership with Mujibur’s brothers in law. Mujibur became a Property Developer in 1999.

He now has 2 of the biggest modern restaurants in the North , currently employing over 60 workers. He is a very renowned and highly respected person in North Lincolnshire.

He is the running chairman of Bangladesh Welfare Association North Lincolnshire, Vice Chairman of Bagha Union Development org UK and ex-president of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) North Lincolnshire. He also was the General Secretary of Greater Sylhet development and welfare council North region and ex-joint secretary Jatitabadi Chattradal (Sylhet Shohor 1990).

He has established a madrasah which is called Uttar Bagha Noorani Madrasah in Bagha, Gulapgonj, Sylhet with his family’s support. He has also established

a charity organisation called Haji Abdul Karim memorial foundation. The project supports vulnerable and helpless families, also helping poor students and carry on sewing classes for the poor young girls.

Mr Mujibur Rahman is married to Nasrinara Rahman, they have two sons and two daughters. The oldest son, Hafizur Rahman graduated in law and is working with HM revenue as a tax investigation officer. Anika Aysha Rahman is studying final year in Sheffield Hallam University. Maisha Rahman and Naveed Ijaz Rahman are currently studying in Secondary School..

He has a dream to establish a female college in his village where the students can learn Arabic, Bangla and English.

Mujiburs hobbies include watching football, reading books and travelling.

Saidur came to UK with his Family at the age of 19. As a student Saidur studied at Moulvibazar College and he also studied Business Management at Westminster College in UK.

Saidur is a highly successful entrepreneur and renowned businessman who is actively involved in the catering industry for over 25 years.

His ancestral home is in the village of Sabia (Hazi Bari) Moulvibazar, Bangladesh. His father Late Alhaz Mohammed Batir Miah was a successful business man. Saidur established his first business Great India in 1958 at Sloane Square, Chelsea, London. During that time there were very few restaurants owned by Bangladeshi; there were only a few places where new arrival Bangladeshi people used to get help and Great India was one of them.

He started work at his father's Restaurant Great India. Later he established several businesses by himself.

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

Saidur is married to Bahar Y Rahman (Dipa) in 1995. Together they have 3 sons and 1 daughter.



Saidur Rahman Bipul

Sector:
Catering

Sheikh Aliur Rahman is the Chief Executive of the London Tea Exchange, one of the leading rare and luxury tea merchants in Europe. Prior to joining the London Tea Exchange he worked for a leading investment company in the City and has extensive senior management experience. He still acts as a senior advisor to a number of high profile clients on major developments across London and recent projects include delivering three of the tallest residential towers in Europe.

Aliur has been at the forefront of working with large investment projects and has worked extensively amongst the private, public and third sector. Aliur currently holds various advisory roles at a local, regional and national level and remains active in urban regeneration programmes. He has been prominent in representing investment companies in many of the leading emerging countries and has been involved in major projects in Europe, Africa, Middle East and Asia.

Through his travels Aliur has developed a passion for tea. In 2003 Aliur founded the London Tea Exchange and started the process of collecting rare and premium teas from around the world. Authentic to the core, yet loyal to a set of powerful values, the company has evolved and carved an enviable niche in the luxury tea market. Today, London Tea Exchange has one

of the largest collections of rare and premium teas in the world and is renowned amongst tea connoisseurs and collectors from across the globe.

Aliur is well known for his philanthropic contributions and over the years he has supported a wide range of charities and third sector organisations. He continues to support a number of leading charities support young people from deprived backgrounds including Upraising, My Life My Say, One Million Mentors and Patchwork Foundation.



Sheikh Aliur Rahman

Sector:
Business



Syed Mohibur Rahman

Sector:
Politics

Councillor Syed Mohibur Rahman is currently Mayor of the Leighton Linslade town council of Bedfordshire. He is the first person of Bangladeshi origin who has been elected as Mayor of Leighton Linslade council. He is a conservative Councillor for Grovebury Ward in the Leighton Buzzard Borough of Bedfordshire, having been elected since 2011.

A successful Businessman and community activist, he has become the president of Luton north Rotary club in 2017. Councillor Rahman contributed a lot of work for community. He completed his graduation in Bangladesh before moving to the Germany. At the age of twenty-seven, Councillor Rahman established many businesses throughout in UK and Bangladesh, most notably having invested in the restaurant and garment industry. Before coming to UK, he stayed Germany for seven years where he developed franchise business. Then he continued his focus on the restaurant sectors after arriving in the UK where he also opened a restaurant at Leighton Buzzard.

He has been closely involved with the Brihattor Sylhet Education Trust where he has served as a chair person. Cllr Rahman also helped to organise the various program for the Luton north rotary club to raise fund for the destitute children for the world. He served as a governor for Barnfield college from 2004 to 2012. Over the last thirty-three years, he has been involved

with many local and national organisations holding a range of posts where he contributed significantly for the community.

Councillor Rahman has supported numerous mainstream national charities through donations and regular fundraising, and is currently fundraising for the Mayor of Leighton Buzzard Charity Appeal 2017-2018 in aid of his chosen charities, KEECH HOSPICES, AUTISOM, HOMELESS, AQUIREES, ST James Hospices In the UK.

Cllr Rahman is married to Lebu Rahman and has two sons and one daughter.



Nasir Ali Shah B

Sector:
Finance

Nasir Ali Shah is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and has been practising as an accountant in UK for over 25 years. He is the senior partner of Mohammad Shah & Co. LLP a reputed Chartered accountancy firm in UK.

He was born in Dewpasha and raised in Moulvi Bazaar Town, studying at the Government School. He completed his Bcom from Dhaka. In 1966 he emigrated to the UK to pursue his accountancy qualification. Upon qualifying as Chartered Management Accountant (CIMA), he worked for 12 years in a FTSE 100 company. However, he always had the ambition to start his own firm and pursue private practice, which he started in 1987, primarily serving the Bangladeshi business community. Mohammad, Shah & Co. went on to become one of the largest accountancy firm with 2 offices operating in the community.

Mr Shah is also the Founder Chairman of Progressive Life Insurance company Limited, one of the leading life insurance companies in Bangladesh and Director of International Medicare Limited (medical and graduate nursing college) in Bangladesh. Through these endeavours he has helped create employment for tens of thousands of people in the country.

Recently he was awarded by the Dosh Foundation UK for long-standing professional services in the community.

He is a successful entrepreneur, well known social worker, life member of Bangladesh centre, London Bangla Press Club, Bangladesh Welfare Association of Croydon in UK, Jalalabad Association, Moulvibazar Association in Dhaka and Chairman of Darul Amaan Masjid Management committee in UK.

Mr Shah is married with two children. His son Nohshad Shah is a British Investment Banker who works for Goldman Sachs and daughter Nadia Shah also working in an American Real Estate Management company.

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Nohshad Shah

Sector:
Finance

Nohshad Shah is a British Investment Banker who works for Goldman Sachs as Managing Director in the Securities Division. He has been in the financial services industry since 2001 and started off as a trader with Bear Stearns & Co. He was then a Portfolio Manager with Endeavour Capital, a \$4bn hedge fund, taking advantage of arbitrage opportunities in global rates and foreign exchange markets. Prior to assuming his role at Goldman Sachs, Shah worked at Deutsche Bank as Managing Director responsible for hedge fund clients in Europe.

Shah graduated with a Masters in Finance and Accounting from The London School of Economics (LSE).

He has been recognised by British Bangladeshi Power & Inspiration (BBPI) as one of the 100 leading British Bangladeshis.



Sukumar Saha

Sector:
Finance

Sukumar Saha (Suku), a face of the Bengali accountant in the mainstream British economy. He was born in 1970 in a small village of Khulna, Bangladesh. He studied in Dhaka University before coming to the UK in 1995. He studied accountancy and completed ACCA within 3 years, setting a milestone in the community at that time. ACCA was still very new and known as a marathon accountancy degree which was difficult to complete. While many were afraid of work pressure for self-finance study and coping with the intensity of such a high level qualification, Suku stood firm against the wind. He was acclaimed with a community reception for breakthrough achievement and become an idol of the fellow accountancy students.

Suku worked for a large accountancy practice and started his own in 2005. He wanted to bring top class accountancy services for SME businesses in East London, as result Plus Minus Accountancy was born. The firm introduced a new taste of accountancy with a modern touch. For clear knowledge and transparent services, the firm became well known in East London without much advertisement or publicity. Soon Plus Minus was registered as a brand. In 2016 Plus Minus acquired a heritage magistrates' court building in Woolwich town centre and moved its head office there.

While Plus Minus was still growing, in 2012 Suku took an office in the city to establish ARN Hoxton Chartered Accountants, a boutique tax advisory & accountancy firm aimed at wealthy UK and foreign clients. Situated next to silicon roundabout ARN Hoxton proved to be game changer. The firm has a large number of foreign clients and number in rapidly growing. Suku has a considerable knowledge in personal tax, specially real estate and succession planning. For his exceptional business acumen in 2016 he was identified as "One to Watch" by Acquisition International. In 2017 ARN Hoxton own ACQ Global accountancy award.

In addition to his accountancy practices Suku has a huge interest in property. His forecast of future market condition and property acquisition strategy made him popular to his clients. Suku also has personal investment in properties and owns a multi-million-pound property portfolio.

He is married with two sons and one daughter. He lives in an exclusive private estate Hutton Mount, next to Shenfield station.

Alpana Shaikh was born in the village of Fakirhat, Bagherhat, Bangladesh. Her father, Sheikh Abdus Salam is an engineer and mother, Meleva Begum is a member of the local government. Due to her father's employment with the Power Development Board Alpana travelled to different parts in Bangladesh with her family. As she was moving with her family to different places, she studied her primary school in Khulna, Secondary school in Coxes Bazar and College in Chittagong.

Alpana then joined Bhuiyan Academy, Dhaka, as an external student of the university of London in her pursuit to be a lawyer. While she was studying Law at Bhuiyan academy, she was also working as an apprentice at Dr Kamal Hossain and associates, a renowned law firm in Bangladesh. At the same time, she was also undertaking a certificate course on drama at Theatre School, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Alpana moved to London in 2002 to complete her legal study and pursue a legal career. Alongside her study, she worked at Beter Bangla as newscaster and programme presenter, at Ekushe TV as newscaster. She also worked at Channel S as an anchor in a popular celebrity talk show 'Chenamukh'.

Alpana is currently working as a consultant at Littlestone Cowan Solicitors. Her main area of practice is Commercial and Residential Conveyancing, Landlord

and Tenant, Wills and Probate and Family Law. She serves a wide range of clients from different backgrounds and is well connected. Alpana is at the forefront of any changes in the law and aims to find practical and innovative solutions to meet all her clients' objectives.

Alpana lives in Chigwell with her husband Mohammed Masud Karim and their only child Zaydan Abrar Karim.

Alpana's hobbies include singing, theatre, swimming



Alpana Shaikh

Sector:

Law

MD. Sumsul Alam Talukder is a first generation of British Bangladeshi, Community Activist, British Politician and NTV News Presenter.

Sumsul Talukder is the son of late Tofazzal Hossain Talukder and Lily Talukder from Tangail district, Bangladesh. Sumsul is married with 'Sayeda Shamima Jahan'; BSc in IT, level-3 qualified in Teaching & Child Care. He is a father of two young children.

Sumsul Talukder has attended 'London Metropolitan University' and graduated in Computing Information System (CIS), obtained 2.1 grade. He Lives in London Tower Hamlet borough. He is an active member of London metropolitan university student's alumni association. He is an Executive member for Bangladeshi students union UK, Voice for Bangladesh. Sumsul is also serving as an Organising Secretary of Tangail Zilla Shomity UK.

MD Sumsul A Talukder is a CEO of 'Human Skills Development' online portal page and founding Director of 'IT4Trade BD Ltd, it's an IT innovation and research based organisation in Bangladesh. He is working as an 'Operations Controller' for Savills Management Resources (SMR). In his professional career he has worked for some world class organisations including Chelsea Football Club (CFC), BNP Paribas FORTIS investment Bank, Standard Chartered Bank

and Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS).

He involved in charities and fundraising activities to support in need children's, flood and natural disaster victims in Bangladesh. Has regular contact and contributions for British Red Cross, East London mosque and Muslim Aid charity organisation.

MD. Sumsul Alam Talukder Tareq; has been involved in local politics in Tower Hamlet from 2010 and was an active campaigner in last two UK general election and the mayoral election in Tower Hamlet.

As a community activist he raised the necessity of "Private landlord registration and fairer private rent policy" and "Burial funding cut" in the Tower Hamlet full council meeting. Sumsul Talukder has involved in the democratic demonstration against Education funding cuts, youth centre shutdown and represent public petition in full Council meeting to reconsider residence car parking policy in Tower Hamlet. He also made him involved in group discussions, TV & social media to make community awareness about drugs 'Nitrous Oxide' known as Laughing gas and the youth empowerment.

MD. Sumsul Alam Talukder Tareq, is a hard working and dedicated professional. He is well aware of every community needs and challenges. Sumsul is passionate to serve the local community and willing to take active role in British politics.



MD. Sumsul Alam Talukder Tareq.

Sector:

Community Relations & politics



Nobab Uddin

Sector:
Media

Nobab Uddin is the Editor of Janomot, the oldest ethnic Bengali newsweekly in Britain, which was established on 21 February 1969. Nobab joined Jamomot in 1990 and became its Editor in 1997, a position he still holds. Nobab's diligence and dedication has directly led to Janomot Newspaper's popularity within the Bangladeshi community in UK and Europe. His commitment is synonymous with the newspaper, earning unparalleled respect across different members of the community.

He was born in a respected family in Shahandar (Fatehpur) Munshibari village in Moulavi Bazar District in Sylhet Division. He came to United Kingdom in July 1978.

Having studied for his Bachelor of Science in Quantity Surveying Building & Construction, he further obtained the Diploma in Construction Management. He started his career working with a construction company, and continued his career progression working for different local authorities and housing associations. He is currently working for a leading RSL at senior management level.

Nobab Uddin is a member of several professional bodies and many social communities and charity organisations. He is one of the founder members of the London Bangla Press Club in 1991, carrying out his role first as Treasurer of the Club, and then President from 2014-16.

Nobab further takes part in voluntary work across various community organisations in London. From 1990

to 1994, he was the General Secretary of the biggest Bengali voluntary organisation BWAG (Surma Centre) in Camden. He was involved in sports from an early age, representing his school and district at national level in both badminton and athletics. This keen interest in sports led to him forming the Bengali Sports Council in UK 1998, in support of National Sports Council. He was founder Secretary of this organisation, motivating youths to take an active part in sports.

During the early eighties he formed Link Promotions, a cultural and promotional organisation, which has been staging plays and cultural shows in the UK. Accordingly since 1982, Nobab has written and successfully staged several stage plays across the country. His status as playwright and stage director perhaps has had the most tangible impact within the British Bangladeshi community. His stage productions reflected profound social dilemmas by tackling taboo subjects, such as forced marriages and drug use in the British Bangladeshi community. His understanding of social life therefore bridged community cohesion. Nobab Uddin is the Chief Adviser of the historic Bangladesh Centre in Notting Hill, an active associate of London Borough Tower Hamlets 'Boishaki Mela Engagement Group' and he is associated with 'British Bangladeshi Power & Inspiration 100'.

He has written plays, published five books, and edited three further works including 'The Racist Murder of Altab Ali'.

Nobab Uddin is married with two children.



Nazim Uddin

Sector:
Finance

Nazim Uddin (FCCA, FHEA, MBA, BSc, BBM) is a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) and Higher Education Academy (HEA). He has spent many years working at various UK universities and professional bodies as a lecturer, external examiner and assessor. This includes just over five years work as a lecturer at the University of East London, three years' experience as a marker for the ACCA and he is currently an external examiner for the Newcastle University. He has significant shares in several private limited companies in the UK, which employ around 115 staff in the UK. In addition to his distinguished academic and entrepreneurial background, he has voluntarily worked with many charitable organisations including acting as the treasurer and a trustee of the East London Citizens Advice Bureau.

Nazim Uddin was born in Chittagong, Bangladesh on 28 October 1975. He is the youngest of three children to Mr. Kabir Ahmed and Mrs. Shamsun Nahar. Nazim studied at one of the poorest schools in his early life but secured first division for his secondary school certificate and higher secondary certificate. He gained a first class degree in business management from the University of Mysore in India and was the first Bangladeshi student to secure a first class degree

from the University of Mysore. Nazim Uddin completed his MBA in Bangladesh and secured top-grade in the history of his University.

Nazim Uddin has played an integral role within the British Bangladeshi. Among these ventures are NCL Tours, Nelson College London and London Churchill College along with shares in various public limited companies. The private companies he co-owns has an annual eight-figures turnover, with an annual net profit in seven figures, employing more than 115 staff and has a collective net asset of just over ten million. Additionally, he and his extended family have multiple investment in Asia and Europe.

In recognition of Nazim's academic achievement in his MBA programme in Bangladesh, he received a gold medal which was presented to him by the president of Bangladesh. He was awarded "Entrepreneur of the Year" by the UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry" (UKBCCI) in their inaugural Business & Entrepreneur Excellence Awards 2016 in the presence of over 800 guests, made up of dignitaries, Lords, Ministers, MPs and prominent members of the business community.

Mr. Uddin is also involved in many charitable causes.

Rehan Uddin is a successful entrepreneur, sportsman and philanthropist based in Devon.

Rehan was born and raised in Torquay attending the prestigious Torquay Boys Grammar School. Rehan was not only an outstanding student academically; he developed a love for cricket and eventually went on to captain Paignton Cricket Club, the first British-Bangladeshi to hold the position. Not only did he play at a local level, Rehan was involved in overseas tours including the very successful all-star team that played in Barbados.

Rehan Uddin has a BSc (Bachelor in Science) degree from DeMontfort University in Leicester. This opened up the opportunity to work for the BBC on the popular programmes Watchdog and Rouge Traders at the television centre in White City in London.

Venturing back to the South West, Rehan opened the Bombay Express Restaurant in Torquay. The business has gone from strength to strength and he has now opened up an Indian cookery school at the local college to develop home grown talent.

Rehan is the only British Bangladeshi in history on the steering group for the English Riviera Bid Food and Drink committee, using his vast knowledge and networks to amass new vivacious techniques for the bays offerings in catering and hospitality.

Giving speeches around the country on the Asian restaurant industry, Rehan became the Managing Di-

rector of ARON (The Asian Restaurant Owners Network). He has successfully brought together restaurant owners from around the UK to bring about positive change in the Hospitality Industry. Rehan under the ARON banner is known for working closely with Bangla TV, Channel S, Catering Circle, BCA, BBKA and UKCC.

86400 Events is Rehans' latest venture, a comedy and live music events company working with acts such as Andrew Lawrence, Darren Altman, Aatif Nawaaz, Holly Morwenna and Mani Liaqat. Rehan is known for venturing into areas and creating a wealth of innovation.

Rehan son of Naime and Nizam Uddin is married to Shamima Salma Moon and has one son Ya-Seen Uddin. Rehan's hobbies include cricket, football, vlogging and golf.



Rehan Uddin

Sector:

Hospitality & Events

BRITISH BANGLADESHI WHO'S WHO 2017



**Mohammad
Habeebullah OBE JP**

Sector:
*Literature/
Community Relations*

Mohammad Habeebullah OBE JP is a published Author and Social Science Researcher. His research work has attracted national recognition from Association of Metropolitan Authorities and Royal Institute of British Architects, and has been featured by the BBC and The Guardian. An alumnus of Manchester Metropolitan University, Mohammad has been appointed as its first Bangladeshi Governor. Manchester Metropolitan is one of the UK's largest universities with over 38,000 students. Mohammad has dedicated his career to working in the public and NGO sectors as a Lead Practitioner and Consultant in Education, Housing, Community Planning and Urban Regeneration. He was awarded an OBE in 2012 by Her Majesty the Queen for his lifelong work and services to the community of Greater Manchester.

Mohammad has been a leading figure in the voluntary sector in the North West for over 30 years; setting up a number of accredited training, further education, social welfare, media training and employment creation projects. He is a founding member of Rochdale Bangladeshi Community Project and Kashmir Youth Training Project (KYP). KYP is an independent charity dedicated to the development and economic regeneration of Rochdale and North West area, and is one of the largest self-financed youth/adult training and employment creation projects in the UK.

Mohammad has considerable experience as Director and Trustee of a number of charities and social enterprise projects including Rochdale Citizen Advice Bureau and

CDF North West. Currently he is a Trustee, Chair and founding member of the Prestwich Muslim Welfare Trust in Bury and Al-Falah Social Welfare Trust in Manchester. Mohammad also serves as a Governor for Eden Boys and Girls Leadership Academy in Manchester; part of the nationally renowned Taheedul Education Trust. He also served as a Magistrate for the Rochdale and Bury bench for more than 20 years.

In 2000 Mohammad established Al Habeeb Foundation Bangladesh which provides technology based education and training, employment creation and the provision of primary healthcare and social services to rural communities in Bangladesh. In 2005 Al Habeeb Foundation UK was set up to encourage students from all backgrounds to enter Higher Education, Vocational & Non-Vocational Training, and to promote Equality, Diversity and Representation in the public and private sectors. The two pioneering initiatives of Al Habeeb Foundation UK with Manchester Metropolitan University are: (1) Providing Scholarships for MA in Multi Media Journalism encouraging students to champion issues facing BME communities in the UK, and is available to students from all communities. The Al-Habeeb Scholars have been very successful at securing employment with high profile media organisations including the BBC and BMTV. (2) First Generation Scheme, the first of its kind in the UK, supports students from all communities whose family have never attended university.



**Mohammed Mustafa
Kamal Yakub**

Sector:
Catering

Kamal Yakub came to UK as a full time student in 1972. He completed his A Levels in Pure Maths, Applied Maths and Physics from Paddington Technical College London.

Later, Kamal completed his Degree at University College London (UCL) and successfully obtained a degree in Engineering in 1977 and then worked for some time in Burma Oil Company's Research Centre in Bracknell.

In 1980 he started his own restaurant business in Worcester Park, Surrey and has since been in the catering trade to date with different outlets.

Kamal is the current National President of Bangladesh Caterers Association. He first joined BCA in 1986 and has always remained with BCA as an active member both regionally and nationally. He served as Secretary of 'BCA Surrey Region' with Mr. Abdul Malik of Star Restaurant in Cheam, Surrey as the President. During the last term Kamal was the President of BCA Surrey Region with Hellal Malik (Mr Abdul Malik's son) as the Secretary. Prior to being elected as the 'National President' of BCA in May 2017 he had been a Senior Vice President continuously for a few terms in a row. He held the responsibility as the Convenor of BCA's Annual Award

& Dinner Committee over the last few years requiring a substantial amount of activities and experience.

During the Presidency of Mr. Bajloor Rashid MBE he was Head of the Action Committee for the static demonstration held at Trafalgar Square in 2008. He later with a few senior BCA Members represented BCA with Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) in the Home Office which successfully brought about the inclusion of Bangladeshi skilled Chefs and Managers in the 'Shortage Occupation List', SOL of the Points Based System.

Outside BCA, Kamal has been a Trustee and Secretary of Surrey Muslim Centre in Addlestone, Surrey since 2006. He is also involved in other community related voluntary works. He is a senior adviser for 'Surrey Muslim Funeral Services' which is a voluntary organisation.

BRITISH BANGLADESHI
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Abdul Ahad

Sector:
Catering

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 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.

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



Bashir Ahmed

Sector:
Catering and business

Bashir Ahmed is a prominent figure within the Bangladeshi business community in the UK and Europe and 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 the 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 a 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 an eye for innovative ideas and breakthrough projects.

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 entered Journalism joining Weekly Surma as a news-editor. He has 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 and 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.



Mohammed Belal Ahmed

Sector:
Media

Faruque Ahmed is a highly esteemed member of the Bangladeshi community, married with two children. He is a qualified and vastly experienced Bengali interpreter who undertakes work across a number of disciplines including, criminal law, human rights and civil matters.

Mr Ahmed arrived in the UK in 1959 to pursue further education. He was born in Kaliti-Tea State, Kulaura and is the eldest of four sons and two daughters. His father, Mulfath Uddin Ahmed was a successful manager of James Finlay Tea Garden Company. In 1952, Mr Ahmed's father bought a house in Chowhatta, Sylhet town with the intention of relocating to provide higher education for his children.

Mr Ahmed passed his Matriculation exam in Aided School, Sylhet before completing his Intermediate in Arts.

Upon arriving in the UK, Mr Ahmed joined The Regent Street Polytechnic College to study Tea Technology. Unfortunately, due to a sudden heart attack, his father passed away resulting in Mr Ahmed ceasing his studies to seek employment in order to provide for his brothers' education in Bangladesh.

Mr Ahmed is known for his active role during the campaign for the independence of Bangladesh and was involved in a number of select committees to help advance the cause.

Mr Ahmed entered the insurance industry and began as an Associate for American Life Insurance Company

(ALICO). In 1988, Mr Ahmed became the first Bengali branch manager in the UK and has achieved several awards for the success of his branch in Piccadilly Circus. Due to his elevation into management, he often represented ALICO at international conferences including – Brazil, Canada, Portugal and Spain.

Mr Ahmed chose to leave the company following a heart bypass operation and later began interpreting. Over the years, Mr Ahmed has been recognised in the community for his ongoing efforts and commitment to help the impoverished in Bangladesh.

Mr Ahmed is currently an Advisor to the Aid Bangladesh Community Forum UK. He is also the UK President of Komolgonj Somitee and also Chief Advisor to Shamsul Haque Saleha Choudhury Red Crescent. Mr Ahmed started the Jobeda Khatun Foundation, named after his late mother as a gateway to improve the lives of his local community in Komolgonj. The foundation continues to provide funding for education, food and clothes all year round.



Faruque Ahmed

Sector:
Community Relations



Iqbal Ahmed OBE

Sector:

Business



Award Winner 2012

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.

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 somosas, 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, he opened their USA sales office in New Jersey and have since acquired a warehouse and a cold store in Brooklyn, New York to distribute 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 and 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 established and is the Chairman of the UKBCCI.

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



Jamal Ahmed

Sector:

Education, Skills & Training

Jamal Ahmed was born in Moulvibazar, Bangladesh in 1974 and currently resides in London. He is the eldest son of Alhaj Kahlil Miah and Mrs Minara Begum.

Currently he is Managing director of Hamlets Training Centre. Obtaining a first class in MSc in Physics Jamal joined Bangladesh Civil Service and worked as a lecturer of Physics both in Sylhet MC College and Moulvibazar Govt College in Bangladesh.

Jamal came to the UK in 2004 under the Commonwealth Scholarship while he was a lecturer in MC College. He obtained his English Language Teaching Qualification CELTA from University of Cambridge and worked as an ESOL teacher in Greenwich Community College and London Guildhall College. Jamal started his career as a customer service officer and worked at GMG and Emirates Airlines in Bangladesh. For his outstanding achievement, Jamal was awarded best customer service officer of the year in 2001.

Prior to becoming a businessman, Jamal had been working as a senior officer in London Borough of Camden. Having worked in the UK and Bangladesh, Jamal accumulated his skills and experience and set up Hamlets Training Centre in 2011. As a believer to turn challenges into opportunities, Jamal first started his training centre

with one laptop and a desk in a small office room in Hanbury Street in East London. Accredited by the British Accredited Council (BAC) Hamlets Training Centre is now approved by many British Awarding Bodies including EDI, English Speaking Board, Trinity College London and Highfield Awarding Body for Compliance to offer courses in Health & Safety, Food Safety in Catering, First Aid, Fire Safety, Personal Licence, Customer Service and English Language Courses (ESOL). Hamlets Training Centre has been working as a strong partner to deliver training for the Barts and NHS, London Borough of Camden, Deafroots and many other organisations.

Alongside his professional career Jamal is a television personality and presents a very popular programme called Skills for Life on Channel 5 TV. He has been serving as Trustee of 'BagBooks' and Barts and NHS London. He is also a resident director of EastEnd Homes in Tower Hamlets and a parent governor of Stepney Green Coat School in East London.

Jamal is married to Ayesha Choudhury who has graduated from Westminster University and is working for London Borough of Tower Hamlets. He is a father to Azhar, Zara and Jamal and is committed to work for the British Bangladeshi Community.

Nasir Jilani is a Firefighter who is based at a fire station in the London Borough of Wandsworth. He joined the London Fire Brigade in January 2006 and is one of the first British Bangladeshi's to serve in the London Fire Brigade.

Nasir was born in 1979 in Balaganj, Sylhet, Bangladesh. His late father Janfor came to the United Kingdom in 1958 as a young man in search for a better life, to work and to provide for his family.

Initially he settled in the Yorkshire region of England and worked in the local factories as a machine operator.

Nasir's father was a selfless man who always put others first. Throughout the 1960's and 1970's he assisted numerous people, including his own extended family members and friends to settle in the United Kingdom and to this day those family member, friends and their children and grandchildren approach Nasir to acknowledge and appreciate that without Nasir's father assistance they probably would not be where they are in life and that he was such a great man.

In the mid 1980's Nasir, his mother and siblings migrated to London, England. Nasir spent his early years in the Limehouse area of the East End of London before moving to Bethnal Green in the early 1990's.

His home was above a fire station in the East End during his childhood and was the source of his inspiration to become a firefighter. After attending Tower Hamlets College, Nasir was thrilled to get through the firefighter selection process in 2004/5.

For Nasir, it has always been about serving the community he grew up in, helping those that are less fortunate and

assisting those that are vulnerable in the Bengali community due to generational, language and cultural barriers. Nasir always reminds himself that it's important to remember your roots and give something positive back to those who look up to him as a role model.

When on duty at incidents, attending to routine inspections or home fire safety visits, Nasir regularly is approached by young British Asians on the streets of London who often tell him that he is a great inspiration to the young Asian generation in the UK as they rarely come across Asian firefighters. They find it a great pleasure in speaking to him as they can relate to him being from a similar background. He is often quizzed about what it's like to be an Asian Firefighter and what advice and guidance he can provide if they were to choose a career within the UK Fire and Rescue Services.

Nasir has been involved in a number of outreach initiatives over the years with the London Fire Brigade including the Notting Hill Carnival and the Boishakhi Mela (celebration of the Bengali New Year) which is held annually in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and regularly gets involved in charities and donations particular with organisations in Bangladesh.

Nasir was a finalist runner up at the 4th British Muslim Awards 2016 in Civil Servant of the year category for his role in helping to keep London and its communities safe. The annual gala dinner was held in Birmingham on 28th January 2016.



Nasir Ahmed Jilani

Sector:

Fire & Rescue Service

Jubel Ahmed is the director of Stirling & Co Group. Jubel was born in the United Kingdom, Cambridge and moved to London at the young age of 3. He is the eldest son of Eashad Miah. His parents originated from Bangladesh, father from Jagonathpur, Alagdi, and mother from Nobi gonj, Digholbak.

Jubel studied and completed a BA Hons in Education and Community Studies at the University of East London after which he worked in social care within the Mental Health Field in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

After 7 years working in social care, Jubel left his job to pursue his ambition of owning his own business. He has always been very articulate and forward thinking, and maintained a firm interest within the property field. Jubel has set up a successful Estate Agents business in 2010. His company now manages assets valued in millions as well as offering his clients investment opportunities in business ventures and properties.

His Company, Stirling & Co Estate Agents offers a unique free landlord and tenant support and advice service. The vast majority of Stirling and Co's clients are from referrals of existing satisfied clients. Due to not spending thousands on marketing and keeping costs low, the company are able to offer its clients very competitive rates and returns. Through this model, Stirling and Co have quickly become recognised for

its honest low-cost service, quality and efficiency.

Jubel supports a number of charities in particular 'Al Isharah', (a charity set up to support deaf Muslims access services).

Jubel gets his motivation and business inspiration from his father, who is a businessman for many years, a well respected and recognised individual within the Bangladeshi community.

Jubel Ahmed is happily married and resides in East London.



Jubel Ahmed

Sector:

Real Estate & Investments



Maruf Ahmed

Sector:

Financial Services & Property

Maruf Ahmed is the Financial Controller of Victorstone Group, and has been responsible for overseeing the organisations finances for the past 7 years. During his tenure, Victorstone Group has rapidly grown to become market leaders in both the Financial Services and Property Sectors, and has become a recognisable household brand in the UK.

He is an ACCA qualified Chartered Accountant with wide and diverse experience in Accounting. He started his career with Victorstone Group as an Accounts Manager and subsequently became the organisations Financial Controller.

Maruf Ahmed was born in Golapgonj, Sylhet, Bangladesh in 1974 into a middle class family. His early education was in MC Academy Golapgonj, Sylhet, Bangladesh where he passed the SSC with a first division. For his further education, he enrolled at MC College in Sylhet, Bangladesh, where he passed the HSC and obtained a first class Science Degree in Physics, Mathematics & Statistics.

After completing his academic education in Bangladesh, he undertook vocational training from a private institute in Sylhet and specialised in Computer Programming & Database Development becoming proficient in C++ and visual basic languages.

He started his initial career as a Computer Programmer with one of the largest construction companies in the Middle East, the Saudi Binladin Group, which was based in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, where he worked for six years. During his tenure with Binladin Group he was inter alia, responsible for implementing ISO 9002 control system within the company and was appointed as Management Representative for obtaining ISO Certification for the company. He subsequently became the Chief Internal System Auditor and received best Internal Auditor award by ISO for the year 2002.

He then moved to London for his higher education and obtained a degree in Applied Accounting with first class Honours from Oxford Brookes University. He later studied for his ACCA in London and thereafter became a qualified Chartered Accountant.

Maruf Ahmed now lives in London with his wife and two children. His hobbies include playing Chess, Astronomy, Reading and Cooking.



Mesba Ahmed

Sector:

Sports/Community Relations



Award Winner 2014

Mr 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 arrived in UK in the early 1960's, and was highly respected as an award winning member of his community in City of Westminster. The late Mr Uddin was the Former President of the West London Awami League, as well as the Former Chairman of Marylebone Bangladesh Society. Mr Ahmed's grandfather moved to the UK in the 1950's. Mr Mesba Ahmed followed both his grandfather's and father's footsteps by moving to the UK in 1972. He completed his education in England.

Mesba then worked for Allied Dunbar as a Financial/Mortgage Consultant. Due to the recession in the early 1990's, he was forced to change his career.

Mr Ahmed's real passion in life is football. He has played at many levels, including semi-professional. He has pleasure helping others, he wanted to create opportunities for young people who lacked vision in life and needed guidance. He set up the London Tigers in 1986 and it has grown immensely since its inception providing services to 3000 people from 60 Nationalities across the UK. London Tigers now boasts Semi pro Football Club playing in The world's famous FA Cup and he has had influential people supporting his work such as Honorary Patron of London Tigers former Mayor of London Boris Johnson, as well as former Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Gordon Brown. Mesba has won numerous awards. In 2004 Westminster Leadership Award, 2005 GG2 Leadership Award, 2007 Sony Asia TV Sports Awards, London Tigers

won Best Community Organisation UK 2010 Channel S Awards. Best Asian Football Club UK 2012 by FA, Best Asian Cricket Club 2014 by ECB.

In 2011, London Tigers were one of key partners with The Conservative Social Action Project in Bangladesh with Baroness Syeda Warsi, Ann Maine MP, Syed kamal MEP, Nicky Morgan MP, where they launched their international projects such Sylhet Football academy and Girls High School.

The highlighted achievements for Mesba during his journey of London Tigers is accomplishing his dream of acquiring a 25 year lease in 2014 on a 19 acres Park in Southall, which is now a £4m London Tigers Sports complex.

Mesba was recognised for his Londonwide philanthropist work as Founder of London Tigers by Editors of the London Evening Standard and selected him as the only Bangladeshi in UK in The Top 1000 Influential Londoner 2014 Book along with many other high profile individuals such as George Osborne, Mayor Boris Jonson, Prince Harry, Prime Minister David Cameron, David Beckham, Ed Miliband, George Clooney, Laxmi Mittal, Bill Gates, The Queen and many other celebrities, artist, politics.

Mesba is married to Mrs Lubna Ahmed, and together they have four children Ridhwan, Zaynab, Maryam and Yasin.

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 Biswanath, 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. 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.

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. He is also one of the Directors of the British Bangladeshi Chamber of Comomers.

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.



Monir Ahmed

Sector:

Business & community relations



Award Winner 2011

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- Bhogram High School.

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



Mosleh Uddin Ahmed

Sector:

Media (Journalist)



Muquim Ahmed

Sector:

Business and Politics



Award Winner 2009

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, Hordsham, Chelmsford, London and another café style eatery in Brick Lane. Today amongst many other projects, his award winning 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 Im-

migrant Britain' which was based on highly successful Brits of ethnic background.

He was the chairman of Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce for two consecutive terms. He is also a former 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.



Nurun Ahmed

Sector:

Business and Community Relations

Nurun Ahmed, a candidate on BBC the Apprentice series 10, is an emerging businesswoman. Nurun competed amongst 70,000 thousand applicants to secure her place as one of the 20 candidates to appear on the 10th series. Her vivacious personality and entrepreneurial ability was spotted by BBC the Apprentice for setting up 3 small businesses within 18 months. Nurun is unprecedented in being the first Hijabi on the show.

Nurun, a marketing professional, fashion retailer, a mother of two and a carer for her father, has been motivating other Muslim women and a source of support for women wanting to achieve a work life balance. She is a regular guest speaker at events inspiring women and encouraging empowerment within Bangladeshi and Asian communities.

Nurun's academic and professional background is in marketing. Her marketing experience is extensive and diverse and by using community intelligence, she has helped to influence hard to reach communities through targeted campaigns. Nurun was recently head hunted by Murabbi Consulting, a leading faith-centric mentoring and Consultancy Company, as their Head of Business Development.

Nurun is currently focusing on two new online businesses, the Nurun Ahmed collection (clothes & accessories) and Xclusively Tumi, a partnership with

Nadia Ali (BBC Asian network radio) a matrimonial service for elite and professional Bangladeshis due to launch later this year.

Quotes from BBC the Apprentice;

Lord Sugar quoted "Nurun is a lovely girl and very enterprising, I admire her determination."

Jo Malone MBE quoted "I'd work with Nurun any day."

Mark Wright the Apprentice winner, (Lord Sugar's business partner) "Nurun is nature's gift."



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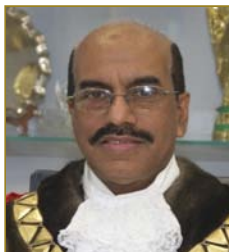
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Cllr Parvez Ahmed

Sector:
Politics



Award Winner 2016

Cllr. Parvez Ahmed is the immediate past Mayor of the London Borough of Brent. He was the first person of Bangladeshi origin to be elected as Mayor of Brent. He is also a Councillor in Dollis Hill in the London Borough of Brent, having been elected in 2014.

A successful Businessman and community activist, in 2016, Cllr Ahmed was recognised for his outstanding contribution to politics and the local community by being presented the British Bangladeshi Who's Who Outstanding Achievement award. In 2017, during his Mayoral year, the Canary Wharf Group PLC, commemorated Cllr Ahmed's excellent contribution to civic duties. Prior to this, in 2006, Cllr Ahmed received a community achievement award from Channel 5 in recognition for many years of hard work in the community. He completed his education in Bangladesh before moving to the UK. Since the age of twenty one, Cllr Ahmed established a number of businesses throughout Bangladesh, most notably having 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 twenty eight years. Cllr Ahmed is also the Chairman of New Generation 2000, and was formerly a Director at the North West London Chamber of Commerce. Cllr Ahmed also helped organise the inaugural education awards ceremony for the Bangladesh High Commission celebrating the achievement of young British Bangladeshis, which is now a celebrated annual event.

Cllr Ahmed is an active member of the Labour party. Over a number of years, He has been involved with many local and national 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. He is also an advisor for the Bangla Post UK Newspaper and a Life Member of the London Bangla Press Club.

Cllr Ahmed has supported numerous mainstream national charities through donations and regular fundraising. During his Mayoral year in 2016/17, his charity appeal was in aid of his chosen charities, Community Action on Dementia Brent, Brent Centre for Young People and Sufra North West London. He raised thousands of pounds and raised significant awareness for some very worthy causes. In Bangladesh, he has a charity named after himself (Parvez Ahmed Female Educational Trust) to encourage women to continue studying, in addition to supporting the APEX International and the Red Crescent project. Furthermore, he is a Life Member of National Heart Foundation Hospital (Sylhet), Beanibazar Cancer Hospital, Red Crescent Bangladesh, IQra Academy Sylhet, Jalalabad Disabled Rehabilitation Centre and Hospital and Balangonj College.

Married for 32 years to former London Borough of Brent Councillor Lena Ahmed, the couple have been blessed with two sons. His elder son, married with a daughter, has a Masters in Biomedical research and works in the Civil Service, whilst his younger son, has a Law Degree, and works in Local Government.



Cllr A M Ohid Ahmed

Sector:
Politics

Cllr Ohid Ahmed was the Ex-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 the 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 communities 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. He was also Cabinet mem-

ber of Regeneration, Localisation and Community Partnership from 2006 to 2009 and Education and youth Services for 2005. Councillor Ohid Ahmed was the 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.

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.

Mr Shofi Ahmed is a national award winning writer, poet, journalist and lyricist. He is one of the most talented writers to come out of the British-Bangladeshi community. Mr Ahmed was the founder and editor of Bangla Mirror, the first weekly English newspaper for the British Bangladeshis. Currently he is freelancing with English news agencies. He is also a Adviser to Bangla Post newspaper and regularly writes for the paper.

Shofi Ahmed has pioneered bilingual journalism in the British Bangladeshi Community. He contributed in English sections of almost all the Bangla newspapers.

Notably he wrote an editorial in Bangla Mirror in 2002 then sent to all the High Commissioners and Ambassadors in London. To motivate them to celebrate the International Mother Language Day in their respective countries on 21 February every year, which was first announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999.

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, the science wiz kid's work was getting acknowledgement from the mainstream press as he won the Daily Telegraph's National Young Science Writers Competition.

Mr 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.

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 was involved in a project enabling blind, deaf and disabled people in London how to use the Internet in their own homes at a cost they can afford in 2001. He worked with a range of professionals from different backgrounds who were all committed to open up the Internet for people with disabilities. U Can DO I.T scheme was major success and was even featured in Paddington People magazine. Mr Ahmed's efforts have been widely recognised by the community as he received an award from Channel S in 2006. He has been awarded by Sylhet Muslim Sahitya Sangsad Kobitar Ashor Awards in Bangla.

He lives in North London Mr Ahmed is blessed with four children Zohura Ahmed, Ali Ahmed, Zubeda Ahmed and Zunairah Ahmed.



Shofi Ahmed

Sector:

Media and Literature

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.

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 Interna-

tional 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.



Syed Ashfaque Ahmed

Sector:

Education & Community Relations



Ahsan Akbar

Sector:

Literature

Ahsan Akbar is a poet and writer. Born in London, he subsequently grew up in Bangladesh, before moving back to the UK at 16 on his own. He studied Economics at Exeter University, worked as a vinyl record seller, bookseller, and as an equities trader in the City and Southeast Asia. His debut book, *The Devil's Thumbprint*, is a collection of poems which has received critical acclaim since its publication in 2013. The book is included in the English literature programme at SOAS, University of London.

Akbar is currently at work on a novel, and has written for *The Telegraph*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Wasafiri*, *Dhaka Tribune* and other international publications. His poem "Tree Without Roots" was selected to represent Dhaka in "Capitals", a unique book of poems representing all the capitals of the world. The collection was published from Bloomsbury International. Akbar is co-founder of Zephyr:Media PR, a multi-platform PR and marketing boutique based in London with a global reach, with clients in fashion, food & beverage, hospitality and the arts industry.

In addition, Akbar is a Director of Dhaka Literary Festival, now in its seventh year, and previously known as Hay Festival Dhaka. Attracting over 250 speakers and performers, and approximately 25,000 visitors every year, it is one of the highlights of the in-

ternational literary calendar. He is a board member of Bengal Lights, Bangladesh's most prominent literary journal in English.

Akbar curated Bangladeshi writing, amongst other places, for *Granta* and *Wasafiri*. The latter is an example of an international literary journal dedicating an entire issue to Bangladesh for the first time.

Akbar has recently been selected as a Governor at one of the oldest Colleges in London – The Working Men's College, also known as The Camden College.



Alhaj Ali Akbar (JP)

Sector:

Business and Community

Mr Al-Haj Ali Akbar (JP) arrived in the UK in 1975 from Saheb Bari, Chandai, Dakkin Surma, Sylhet, Bangladesh and now resides in Cardiff, South Wales. Mr Akbar is the son of Late Al Haj Alauddin Ahmed and Mrs Shafia Khanom. Grandson of Late Pir E Kamil Hajrat Moulana Johir Uddin Chandai Saheb Mr Akbar completed his GCSE's and A-Levels at Highridge Comprehensive High School, Scunthorpe, South Humberside. He is now a Magistrate Justice of Peace as well as a Property Developer which was his first line of business. He owned his first portfolio of properties in 1982.

Mr Akbar has received an honouree award letter from the Queen for his community work.

Mr Akbar is very much involved and enjoys having a part in his local Community here in the UK and in Bangladesh and is the Finance Director of the Wales Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce, Vice Chair of Penylan Labour Party, and executive member of all the following: Magistrate Bench Committee, Race Equality Council Cardiff, South Wales Police Cohesion Committee, Numerous local and national charities and organisations. He continuously fundraises for the UK, Bangladesh, Palestine and many other countries in their time of need.

Mr Akbar is currently the Chairman at the Shahjalal Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre in Cardiff.

Mr Akbar is the Founder of the Pir E Kamil Johir Uddin Saheb Health Clinic, Chandai, Sylhet, Founder of Al Haj Alauddin Ahmed Primary School Scholarship, Chandai, Sylhet.

Mr Akbar's businesses does not stop there, he is also the Founder Director of Dreamland Park Sylhet, Al - Hamra Shopping City Sylhet, Ahmed Traders, Kalighat, Sylhet and the Holy City Darga Gate, Sylhet.

He is married to Shah Johura Khatun Akbar (Jasmin) and has four children, three daughters, Shahana Akbar, Shabana Akbar and Redwanah Akbar and one son Javed Mohammed Akbar.

His hobbies include working for the community, helping those in need, charity fundraising, travelling, reading, playing football, snooker, rugby, tennis and socialising with friends and family.

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**Dr Mohammed
Nurul Alam**

Sector:
Accountancy

Dr Mohammed Nurul Alam is a qualified Accountant and Tax consultant in public practise with 36 years' experience, who is also founder of Alam and Company, an accounting firm providing a quality of accountancy services both on-site and off-site and business consultancies since 05/04/1981.

He was born in Habiganj district of greater Sylhet on 08th Feb 1948 and his father late Mohammed Abdullah M.A (Eng) LLB who was a politician and a practising lawyer in Supreme Court of Bangladesh & also was a member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of undivided India & continued in politics until his death. His mother Syeda Siddiq Khatoun was a primary school teacher.

He came into the United Kingdom on 19th September 1974 for higher education. After completing his Accountancy education and article ship in a very renowned Chartered Accountants firm in London. In 1981 he Commenced self-employment and practising as Alam & Co as a sole practitioner and started his own independent Public Practice from Manchester and then shifted to Lancashire and continued for 10 years then in December 1989 he shifted to Shepherd's Bush in London and still operating the practice successfully from this address.

He has degrees in B.A (Hons) Econ and M.A in Economics and later earned PhD in Accounting and Finance. Besides the academic qualifications he has added a lot of professional qualifications like. F.C.E.A, F.A.I.A, F.C.M.I, F.A.F.C, F.A.C.B (UK), C.M.A, A.I.C.P.A, C.P.F.A (USA), A.C.E.A (CANADA). He is a Member of the European Accounting Association (M.E.A.A) and also a qualified member of the Banking Institute and the Central Superior service of the then Pakistan.

He is serving as chairman of the Central Council of the Institute of Cost and Executive Accountants since 1995. Served as Chairman of the Disciplinary and Practising Committee, served as Vice Chairman of the British Institute of Management (Now Chartered Management Institute), East Lancashire, served as the Honorary Treasurer of the ICEA for more than 5 years, senior member of

the planning committee, and examination committee for the ICEA prior to his present position.

His firm is comprised of highly talented, experienced and well-educated professionals which includes qualified ACCA, MBA, ICEA and qualified members from other professional accountancy bodies. Majority of the present staffs are serving for 10 /12 years. He is a mentor and an approved accredited employer of ACCA & AIA. His firm's main target market is Catering and Hospitality Industry but his firm also providing voluntary services to Charities (free of cost). Serving individual professional including Barristers, Solicitors, Doctors, IT consultants, builders and many more. He is also specialist in TAX and VAT investigation and Tribunal cases.

What sets his firm apart from other firms? The collective added value of his overall delivery of professional services and personal services.

In his leisure time, enjoys travelling throughout Europe, North and South America., North Africa, Middle East and Asia and he has built up his practice by his personal service and driving from door to door all over the United Kingdom with pleasure. While he doesn't strive to be the biggest Accountancy Practice, but he does strive to be the best. Being a music lover, he is associated with many Cultural and Social organisations home and abroad accordingly he formed for the first time in the United Kingdom Nazrul Parishad Ltd with the active cooperation of a prominent Bengali Singer Sadia Afroz Chowdhury who became an executive director of the organisation. The aim of this organisation is to promote our national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam's creations such as poetry, music, writing as to continue research on it. Dr Alam became a sole director and the first chairman of this organisation.

Dr Alam has recently formed another organisation as a director and first chairman of Abdullah Siddiq Memory Ltd with the intention to continue with his planned charity, donations and disaster related assistance for the needy people all over the world.



**Md Shahidul Alam
(Ratan)**

Sector:
Sports

Md Shahidul Alam arrived in the UK in 2008 and is now the Director of Cricket, Capital Kids Cricket, a cricket development organisation working across London.

A British Bangladeshi who has achieved one of the highest cricket coaching qualifications among all Bangladeshis. He qualified as level 3 coach from England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in 2001 and became a Coach Education tutor from 2009 under the ECB.

In Bangladesh Md Alam played at the highest level of domestic cricket from 1985 until 2000 and represented Bangladesh in 1990. He acted as National Cricket Coach / Senior Coach of High Performance programme under Bangladesh Cricket Board from 2001 until November 2006. During that period he worked with the National team, Bangladesh A team, Under 19 & Under 17 and managed junior development programmes, coach education courses, developed talent scouts procedure etc.

He also joined the Malaysia Cricket Association as National Coach to take up a special project to run the high performance programme with Under 19 side for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2008.

He is an Asian qualified ECB Coach Education Tutor / assessor and initiated T20 Asia Blaze in 2015 where local communities / leagues came together to play under the country names India, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The ECB are now looking to take this competition nationally. Middlesex community cricket league is another successful league that was set up in Victoria Park which has seen many young adults get playing opportunities on a regular basis. He has managed some national programmes including Chance to Shine and Street Chance with huge

success. Projects run by Md Alam have been recognised nationally with his players, coaches and clubs receiving due credit. Also some projects featured in various media including Sky Sports and BBC. Md Alam has been shortlisted for and won many awards.

His great mentoring skills have enabled 40 coaches to gain the UKCC L1 qualification and over 25 coaches to gain the UKCC L2 qualification. Under his guidance, he has developed three coaches who are currently working full time for Middlesex, Essex & Surrey Cricket Boards and several others are working as sessional coaches across London.

Over the past 8 years, he has built up and supported four new clubs; London Tigers Southall CC, Tower Hamlets CC, West Ham Junior CC and Stratford CC. The first of the three clubs are now competing in structured leagues within the county cricket system. He is also involved with developing a junior cricket club in Waltham Forest.

He also received the National Award to Develop Grassroots Cricket in the Asian Cricket Awards 2016.

His efforts have not only been at grassroots level though, he has coached the East London Tigers team in the Lord's Taverners City Cup (formally Wisden City Cup) for the past 7 years. This team won the competition in 2009 & 2010, with Dipayan Paul (2011) & Zain Shahzad (2012) gaining professional contracts with the MCC Young Cricketers through the competition.

One of his greatest assets is using his contacts within the business industry to raise funds for community cricket in the UK and in Bangladesh. He was the inspiration behind the International London Sixes cricket competition that has raised over £30k for community cricket in East and West London in the past 6 years.



Award Winner 2016

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 Take-away.

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 Asso-

ciation. 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 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.



Meah Monirul Alam

Sector:
Business & Community Relations

Glasgow based Aladin Ali experienced the excitement and passion of business life as a child growing up within her entrepreneurial family. She is constantly developing successful ventures and still experiences the passion for ideas and implementation that she first experienced as a child while watching her father progress in various business initiatives.

Aladin's West End based business, The Healing Academy, has been operational for several years and is a far cry from Aladin's initial catering businesses. The Healing Academy has fast established a reputation for excellence and quality reflecting on Aladin's determination for perfection and insistence on putting her clients first. Aladin's clients include prominent personalities and blue chip companies in Scotland.

Another business, Aladin the Collection, is a range of exceptional skin care products which have been internationally feted. These have been positively reviewed widely and demand has outstripped supply. Aladin the Collection has further innovative products in the pipeline undergoing intensive research and development.

Aladin's collection was very product centric but almost in polar opposite at The Healing Academy, Aladin is the brand. The story surrounding this inspirational example of entrepreneurial strength, is putting this business out there beyond Scotland.

Aladin puts her success down to a passion of over-

coming obstacles, staying positive and self-belief. Aladin has a YouTube channel and she has established a good reputation for self help and motivational reference. Aladin regularly speaks at seminars and lectures internationally and is sought after as a motivational speaker.

In addition to international TV networks Aladin has been featured in national newspapers and magazines for her books which have been published such as the highly acclaimed *Wind Beneath your Wings: Inspiration for Daily Life* available in the mainstream including Amazon.



Aladin Ali

Sector:
Business



Amin Ali

Sector:
Catering



Award Winner 2010

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 been winning rapturous praise for almost 25 years and many 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 he was 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, it was

the first restaurant that contradicted the stereotypical view of Asian eateries. 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 the first ever exhibition of Jamdani, the hand-woven rugs and textile designs at London's Whitechapel Art Gallery. He was also instrumental for organising the first 'London Festival of Bangladesh' in 1994. The 'Bangladesh Food Festival' at the Red Fort was another successful event he was responsible for. Mr Ali is one of the most 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.



Anwar Ali

Sector:
Business

Mr. Anwar Ali was born in 1967 and hails from Shamat, a small village in Joggannathpur. He arrived in the UK's East End in 1976 at the tender age of nine-years old and quickly adapted and thrived in his surroundings. After completing his primary education in Brick Lane's Christ Church Primary School, he went on to study in Robert Montifore Secondary School. At the age of sixteen, Mr. Ali-brimming with ambitions and innovations started his own business in leather garment manufacturing in partnership with his older brother. Slowly but surely Anwar's business grew steadily and established itself far ahead of any of its competitors at the time.

Anwar married in 1990 and has six children with his wife Sitara Begum. With her loving support they have raised and educated all of their children both in intensive Islamic and Arabic studies and in national curriculum through the use of higher education. He also began his own property management services in 1995.

Anwar first performed his holy pilgrimage to Makkah in the year 2000, and again in 2003, displeased and bewildered by the poor services provided by many of the Hajj tour operators, he decided to leave his leather garments factory and to start up his own Hajj and Umrah travel service to amend the appalling situation

over there.

In 2003, he founded Al-Qibla Hajj and Umrah Travels and Tours with the help of his partner, friends and family. After many arduous years sustaining hardships and many tests of endurance, Al-Qibla has emerged as the leading travel agency for Hajj and Umrah services in the UK. He takes great pride in always providing the best possible service, engages personally with all of his clients and ensures they all have a safe and above all meaningful pilgrimage. As an established businessman, Anwar Ali has always upheld the deep value of appreciating his roots and regularly donates to the poor and misfortunate in Bangladesh. He also gives back to his UK community by involving himself to many charities and community organizations. He is the treasurer of (ABHA) Association of British Hajj and Umrah Agencies, a trustee of Patli Union Welfare Trust, and a trustee of (JBBET) Joggannathpur British Bangla Education Trust.

Mr Ali is always focused on his goals, and with Allah at the forefront of this, he has accomplished many of his desires. He is a caring kinsmen who respects others and supports his community the best way we can.



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Ashid Ali

Sector:
Academic

Ashid Ali is the third son of Al-haj Aftab Ali. He was born in Ghulduba, Nobiganj and arrived to the UK in 1984. He went to school and college in Oldham and completed his first degree at the University of Huddersfield, PGCE in Manchester and Masters in Education at the University of East London. He has dedicated his career to education as well as being actively involved in community development work. He was the Chairman of Oldham Bangladeshi Youth Association and in 2001 was invited to debate at the Oxford Union as well as to speak at the UN conference on Racism, Discrimination and Xenophobia in South Africa. He was the chair of Oldham Coalition Against Racism leading its successful campaign to stop the BNP getting elected to the council in Oldham.

Ashid is a very active campaigner for equality and justice. He was an executive member on the National Assembly Against Racism campaigning for racial equality in the UK and a committee member for the Geographical Association UK's International Committee working for better geographical education.

Ashid loves sports and played badminton competitively for his university and local league. He was also involved in setting up and running a number of football teams which played in City of Manchester Sunday league and the under 16's team played in the Rochdale Youth league.

Ashid started his teaching career in Oldham in 1998 and in 2002 moved to East London to take up leadership roles. He has been a school leader for the past 14 years which included six years as an Assistant Headteacher in Newham where he completed the National Professional Qualification for Headteachers (NPQH). Whilst working in East London, Ashid has encouraged, trained and developed many young people to the teaching profession and school leadership.

Ashid is now the Founder and Principal of London Enterprise Academy which opened in 2014 and will cater for 600 students. He has a passion for education and wants to see every young person pursue their ambitions and dreams.

Ashid is a believer in the power of education being able to transform families and communities. He grew up in inner city Oldham where university education was for the few. Education transformed his family and his friends and he is a believer that this is the recipe for social mobility.

Ashid is married to Ajufa Ali who is a Chemistry teacher and they have two boys ..

In his spare time, Ashid plays badminton and enjoys travelling and he has extensively travelled with his family around Europe, Africa and Asia.



SI Azad Ali

Sector:
Community Relations & Catering

Mr Ali moved to the UK in April 1969 and studied at the London Hampstead College of Business Management.

Arriving in Britain as a 15-year-old with his parents, he started working in a restaurant kitchen and within eleven months, he was promoted to a junior waiting staff role. Mr Ali then established himself as a waiter at the Mount Everest restaurant in West Hampstead and The Ganges, Gerred Street in W1. Three years later, he spent twelve months in Greater London before starting up his first restaurant, the Shapla Tandoori, with his nephew Shafiqul Ahmed in Canvey Island, Essex, which opened in May 1978. It was soon to become the first of many restaurants under his ownership as he quickly gained a reputation as a successful restaurateur with The Milaad Tandoori, The Shalima Tandoori, Bengal Diner, Paprika, Spice Garden, Spice Club and La Cantina.

Aside from catering, Mr Ali is also the sole proprietor of the Whitecliff group of companies. He is currently the International Public Relations Secretary for National Heart Foundation, Sylhet. He is also the International Secretary for the Gonofram Davi forum Greater Sylhet. Mr Ali is particularly active within organisations in Jagannathpur. He is the Founder, Treasurer and Chairman of the Jagannathpur British-Bangla Education Trust, and the Founder and

Co-ordinator of the Jagannathpur Probashi Kollayan Trust. In the UK, Mr Ali was the former Director of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and the former Public Relations Secretary of the Bangladesh Caterers Association. He is now the Director of the UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce & Industry.

Mr Ali's other business involvement includes a European clothing company; he is also part of a land project in Sylhet involving a Surma river view model town near mireer chok, Gazi Burhan uddin Road Tultikor Union Sylhet (Company Chairman)

Mr Ali is happily married to Lilufa Begum Ali, and they have four children – one son and three daughters. Their eldest son, Miladun Islam Ali, graduated from the London School of Economics. He is married and working in RBS as a Consultant. Their eldest daughter, Shalimar Aktar Ali, graduated from the University of Westminster having completed a degree in Business, Accountancy and Information. She is married and working in marketing. Their next daughter, Shamima Aktar Ali, completed an LLB from the London Law College after having graduated from the University of Greenwich and is married and working. Their youngest daughter Karima Aktar Ali is married and working as a manager of an insurance company.

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 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 education.

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.



Dr Azmal Ali

Sector:
Medicine

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 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. In the 2009 ceremony, the chief guest was the former 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". He is currently the President of the BBCC.

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.



Enam Ali MBE

Sector:
Catering / Hospitality



Award Winner 2009



Kamru Ali

Sector:

Property & Finance



Award Winner 2015

Kamru is currently the Managing Director of the District One Estates Group, which focuses on property investments. He is an accountant by profession and after graduation from University of London with a BA (Hons) in Accountancy & Law, he initially trained as an auditor in the 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 to pursue a career as an accountant and instead become an entrepreneur.

Kamru started investing in property in his early 20s. By the time he was 29, Kamru achieved his goal of becoming a self-made millionaire. Kamru is one of the most dynamic and well respected property entrepreneurs in the UK. As well as building his own £20 million property portfolio, he has helped over 5,000 fellow Bangladeshi people source and finance property deals through his property and finance companies.

Additionally, Kamru organises and delivers property investment seminars, which has resulted in his clients and investors making substantial profits to date on their investment. All of Kamru's achievements came as the result of endless hard work and unwavering tenacity. Kamru is dedicated to showing others how they have the opportunity doing the same and is continually inspired by watching his clients, friends and family members achieve the kind of success they thought they could only dream of. Since the inception of Channel S, Kamru has appeared regularly on television as the property and finance expert for the channel.

Although Kamru has amassed his wealth with property and land business investments in the UK and

Bangladesh, having a financial and law education background has enabled him to own and co-own a variety of businesses. Premier Properties and Apex are well acknowledged brands within the British Bangladeshi households. He is also featured in the other mainstream Who's Who publication, including being highlighted as Young Business Leader in the 'Who's Who of Britain's Business Elite'.

Kamru has been appointed as the director of the newly formed Tower Hamlets Chamber of Commerce and Enterprise (THCCE). He is an active member of the Conservative Party and a philanthropist. He has for many years sponsored a number of charities both in the UK and overseas. He is voluntarily involved in work with the youth, elderly, people experiencing poverty and homelessness. He has also worked as a volunteer at the Citizen Advice Centre.

He was the founder member of the Newham Youth link and his companies regularly sponsor football tournaments and local football teams. Kamru set up developing village roots in 2005, predominantly to help underprivileged children get access to education in Bangladesh. In 2014 jointly with his brother Askir, they have set up Hazi Johur Ali Trust, which donates to the vulnerable and needy in Bangladesh. Kamru works in a voluntary capacity to an enormous degree and has received numerous awards for his voluntary and charity work. Kamru is a family oriented individual and is married to Rina Begum. They are blessed with 4 children. They all attend some of the best private schools in England. His hobbies include travelling, socialising, football, swimming and reading.



Mazhar Ali

Sector:

Catering/Hospitality

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 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 Shoburyness. 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 Shoburyness 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 into 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 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.



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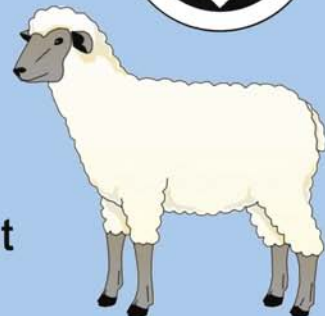


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Monir Ali

Sector:
Business

Mr Ali is a successful and leading business figure, born in the village of Dashghar, Bishwanath in Sylhet, Bangladesh. Son of Haji Moshud Ali who moved to the UK in the early 60's working in the steel industry, a contributor to the industrial revolution of Britain. His grandfather Mr Taher Ali came to the UK in the early 50's and was a navy man who travelled to Singapore, Australia and settled in South Shields, in the north of the UK, his grandfather was amongst the very first of the Sylheti community to arrive and settle in the UK.

Mr Ali came to the UK with his mother and siblings at a very young age to join his father in 1982. He completed his schooling in Shoreditch and later went to college in Newham to study IT, at the same time he worked in the family run business in the clothing manufacturing industry.

On completion of college Mr Ali went onto the real estate business, buying and renting out properties in the East London area building up a large property portfolio. In 2003 Mr Ali became a stakeholder and managing director at General Auto Services, turning the company around making it into one of the largest and renowned Bangladeshi owned Claims management firms within the UK.

Mr Ali is a highly focused individual with comprehensive knowledge and understanding of corporate business setup, development, finances, marketing and budgeting and currently an advisor with the Ministry of justice, accredited by the Institute of the Motor Industry as a qualified engineer and Audatex a leading platform for most major insurers in the UK.

In 2013 Mr Ali went onto invest and setup one of

Bangladesh's first non resident banks, played a key role in understanding and implementing many new ideas and policies and onto becoming a sponsor, the bank has now become a beacon for Bangladesh's banking sector and is a leading brand.

Mr Ali is the current General Secretary of Dashghor Union Progoty Trust UK, is an active member of the executive committee of Bishwanath education trust, Dashghar probashi society and continues to work with various other organisations to promote the welfare of children in third world countries including Bangladesh, a firm believer that the foundation to bring people out of poverty is through education and investment in the future generations, has a very compassionate relationship with charities built on these beliefs and ethics. He is keen to find new ways of promoting health, education, and wellbeing in the motherland, Bangladesh and remains enthusiastic to hear from people with suggestions and ideas and remains open minded.

Mr Ali is a co-founder of an NGO based in Bishwanth, Sylhet called Shomota, and a member of the board of management for a number of years. Shomota focuses on funding small rural projects within Bishwanath for its residents, start-up businesses and currently a leading Non Government Organisation which has so far helped thousands of people.



Mubarak Ali

Sector:
Business

Mr Mubarak Ali was born in Kadipur, Biswanath Sylhet. His father is late Alhaj Mohommed Samed 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 Mubarak 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 Bangobondhu 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 has some real estate property business in Sylhet and Dhaka. Recently he is building an apartment in Dhaka.

Mr Ali is an international film Director, Producer and Writer from London, who graduated with a BA in Film and TV Production in 2004 where he set up his film production company.

He has worked with international stars including Anupam Kher, Asia Argento and recently with Bollywood superstar Karishma Kapoor. His other productions and promotions include working with global names such as Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Rani Mukherjee to 50 Cent and JAGGED Edge. He has also produced hard-hitting docu-films highlighting social issues.

Mr Ali is the Founder and CEO of the Limelight Film Awards, the largest independent short film awards in the UK which identifies emerging film talent. It is attended by over 500 film makers, media personalities and celebrities and is recognised by the International Film Fraternity.

In 2012, Mr Ali was invited to meet HRH Prince of Wales Prince Charles as a successful, local, social entrepreneur. In the same year Mr Ali was presented with a Civil Award in London for his Contribution to Arts.

In 2014, Mr Ali was honoured at the House of Parliament in London where he was listed on the British Bangladeshi Power and Inspiration 100 list.

He has now launched the London Bengali Film Festival (LBFF), which is an annual celebration of films from or about the Bengali Diaspora, aimed at the international audience.

Mr Ali recently completed his eye-opening debut feature film 'Shongram', meaning a struggle. It is a ro-

mantic drama set during the 1971 Bangladeshi Liberation Struggle, starring Anupam Kher, a Bollywood star, and Asia Argento, a Hollywood star, with the acclaimed script editor Billy Mackinnon.

The movie had its world premiere during the London Indian Film Festival which was the first time a Bengali based film to be premiered in London's Leicester Square, followed Darpan Singapore Film Festival, Keswick Film Festival and other prestigious screenings.

Mr Ali has participated in various dialogues and been featured on TV, radio and press, including BBC World News, BBC London, London Live, East End Life, Wharf and many others both in the UK, India and Bangladesh.

Mr Ali is extremely busy and at the moment as he is releasing two new films. The first is called Cinema – Welcome to the world of ambition, love, loss and betrayal. A movie about a young actor (WHO) enters the world of cinema, as he quickly rises he also finds a whole new world of exploitation, corruption, drugs, thugs and betrayal which he never knew he was going to be a part of.

The second is THE FINAL MESSAGE, which is a supernatural horror based around the Hebrew scriptures, Christian scriptures and the Quran. An eye opening thought provoking and visual film that has been on Munsur's mind for a decade.

In 2014, he married Bengali supermodel and actress Dilruba Yasmeen Ruhee.



Munsur Ali

Sector:
Film



Award Winner 2015

Nadia Ali began her media career 8 years ago on a live Children's TV programme, which was beamed into thousands of Asian households across UK & Europe. Nadia's media career has always been defined by her love for Bangladesh and passion for the Bangladeshi culture.

Nadia has hosted many prestigious award ceremonies & talent shows across the UK on a number of Asian TV Channels, which include B4U, Channel S, ATN Bangla and NTV.

She also hosted on an international platform which was the first ever international reality show in Bangladesh in 2011, following the journey of 10 young adults from across the world in the search for their forgotten roots.

Since then she has been involved in many community projects in the UK and Bangladesh and has recently been appointed as a Director for "British Bangladesh Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs". Nadia has been recognized and awarded by many organisations for her involvement in the community.

Recently, Nadia made a transition from live tv to live radio on the BBC Asian Network. Nadia's show is aired every Sunday evenings on the BBC Asian Network, connecting the community with events in the UK, inviting special guests & holding discussions. She

also brings the latest news, entertainment & fresh beats of Bangladeshi music and culture.

Alongside Nadia's media career, she was employed as a Bank Manager in 2008 for one of the largest retail banks in the UK. Since then Nadia qualified as a Barrister in 2012 and is currently a member of Lincolns Inn.



Nadia Ali

Sector:
Media



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 Project (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 2002. 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 everyone.

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's Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association.



Mohammed Monchab Ali JP

Sector:
Catering and Community Relations

Mohammed Monchab Ali is the former Chairman 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 Restaurants 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.

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Shakur Ali

Sector:
Catering & Community

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 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 including 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 Director 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 organised 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. 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.



Nazia Ali

Sector:
Literature and Publishing

Published author Nazia Ali embraced her talent for writing from a young age. Her earliest accolade was the Young Author's Award in Bridgeport, CT. Followed by an original short story titled From Bangladesh to America--the piece was published in a local magazine. Since then, a dream had been born. Her vision is for her writing to be a practical tool for her readers to build a relationship with their creator. Ali's work explores dawah and community building.

As a Bangladeshi native, she was highly inspired by her parents--native author, Manoara Shanur and charity worker, Mohammed Choudhury. Kodomtoli, Sylhet was home to Ali in her earlier childhood. Growing up, Ali has spent a good part of her life in the U.S. where she has studied and spent her adolescence. Her family moved to the states in 1988. While living there, she was experimental with her writing and honed her talent. Ali later met the love of her life and moved to the U.K. where she settles today.

Debut book, Healthy and Halal Choice (2012) was Ali's introduction to healthy lifestyle choices and building a balanced life. The book invites different faiths and ethnic groups to try different recipes that promote a healthy lifestyle. Her debut was well received and made several world appearances including an international book fair in Frankfurt, Germany, book signings in the United States, United Arab Emirates, and Bangladesh. At the local level, Ali was recognized and awarded by Channel 5 for Healthy and Halal Choice.

After outstanding debut success, Ali released her second book, Into the Light from the Darkness--a fictional novel about a woman's journey towards Islam. When asked

about style and thematic expression, Ali chooses to cite the Quran and Sunnah in her writing. She chooses to preserve the authenticity and the message of her Creator and drive examples of the Prophet (PBUH) and his followers. In 2016, her show 'Healthy Iftar' debuted for TV One, helping people find the sweet spot where healthy and delicious meet. In the same year, Ali was invited to several local schools to teach parents how to give up the junk food culture and prepare healthy, cost efficient packed lunches that the kids enjoyed eating.

In 2017, Ali's new book 'From my kitchen, to yours' was published by AuthorHouse.

When Ali is not writing, she is committed to local services and non-profit work. Currently, she serves as the UK Chairperson for the MSB Foundation and the Muslim Baag Madrassa. She is heavily involved with the youth and hosts healthy cooking workshops where children explore the culinary arts; she has also introduced Halal food to several different local schools alongside being a judge at numerous cooking and bake-off competitions. Ali has also hosted several local healthy cooking demos--one in particular that was featured at a local food festival. Her commitment to her community has been recognized among several platforms both at the local and international level. Ali is the face and chairperson of the NFA Foundation and among many of her accolades, her foundation drove her to be an honorary guest speaker for many different events in the USA, UK and Bangladesh. She is also an established property developer.

As of recent, Ali has focused her efforts on a new novel with a release date that is still to be determined.

Rushanara Ali is the Labour Member of Parliament for Bethnal Green and Bow. She was first elected in May 2010 with a majority of 11,574, having defeated George Galloway's Respect Party. Bethnal Green and Bow was one of four Labour gains in 2010. Rushanara was re-elected in 2015 doubling her majority to 24,317 and earning 61% of the share of the vote and again re-elected in 2017, increasing her majority again to 35,393.

Rushanara grew up in her constituency attending Mulberry school and Tower Hamlets College. She was the first in her family to go to University and studied Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University. Until her resignation from Labour's front bench in September 2014 over her decision to abstain on the vote on airstrikes in Iraq, Rushanara served as Shadow Minister for Education and Young People, and between October 2010 and October 2013, as Shadow Minister for International Development. Rushanara has previously served as a member of the Treasury Select Committee and the Energy and Climate Change Select Committee and the Communities and Local Government Select Committee. Rushanara has recently been elected once again to the Treasury Committee. She was appointed the UK's Trade Envoy to Bangladesh in 2016.

Prior to her election in May 2010, she was Associate Director of the Young Foundation, where she co-founded UpRising, a national leadership development and employability charity which has helped thousands of young people develop their campaigning and lead-

ership skills. Rushanara has also recently created One Million Mentors, a national online platform to recruit, train and deploy mentors to organisations working with young people.

She also co-founded the Social Innovation Exchange which works to connect innovators and social entrepreneurs around the world to collaborate to tackle major social problems. Rushanara also worked at the Communities Directorate of the Home Office, leading a programme of work to support local areas following the 2001 riots in Bradford, Burnley and Oldham; at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office where she helped establish what became the Forced Marriage Unit; as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Public Policy Research (1999-2002) working on anti-discrimination issues, and as Parliamentary Assistant for Oona King, former MP for Bethnal Green & Bow (1997-1999).

She has also worked as Research Assistant to Lord Young of Dartington (author of the 1945 Labour Party manifesto), helping him to set up Language Line, a national telephone interpreting company and Futurevery, a youth charity which has helped over a 100,000 young people - raising aspirations, cutting youth crime and getting them into work. She has previously served as a Commissioner on the London Child Poverty Commission; a board member of Tower Hamlets College; a Trustee of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation; a member of the Tate Britain Council and a member of the Home Office Working Group on Preventing Extremism established after the 7/7 London bombings.



Rushanara Ali MP

Sector:

Politics



Award Winner 2010

Mohammed 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 its 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 Chair-

man 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 Jammie Masjid in Southend-on-Sea for over four terms.

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 pursuing a career in medicine.



Siraj Ali

Sector:

Catering



Award Winner 2011



Cllr. Farida Anwar

Sector:
Politics

Cllr. Farida Anwar is an elected Councillor of Oxford City Council since May 2014. She is the first British Bangladeshi Councillor in the whole of Oxfordshire County.

Cllr. Farida started her career as a UK Civil Servant at the Department of Health and Social Security (now DWP) for 18 years. Then she was appointed as a Team Manager of Home Care Section at Social Service Department in London Borough of Camden in 1987. She was finally promoted to the position of Commissioner of Housing and Adult Care Department in 1991.

After working about 40 years in British Civil Service and local government, Cllr. Farida took early retirement in 2007 to join politics as member of the UK Labour Party.

Apart from civil service and political career, Cllr. Farida has always been a sincere and effective community activist. She has always been a strong voice for the promotion of Bangladeshi and Asian communities in Oxford and London. Her involvement with Oxfordshire Bangladeshi Association, Muslim and Christian Forum Oxford, 'MIND in Oxford' demonstrates her selfless efforts to forge bondages between the various social, ethnic and religious communities in Oxford and its surrounding areas. She is well known as one of the founders of Oxford Asian Cultural Centre which is regarded as the hub of inter-ethnic relationship in Oxford. Her activism also includes

education and health sectors. She is a governor of St. Michael CE Primary School in Oxford where she chaired Community and Preschool Committee. She is an elected member of London Moorfields Eye Hospital Patients' and Governing Body. As an elected committee member of UNISON (Camden branch), Thames Valley Police Consultative Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee of the former Oxfordshire Council for Community Relations, Cllr. Farida has been playing a key role in the preserving the interests of the ethnic minority groups in London and Oxfordshire.

Cllr. Farida was born in the Faridpur district in Bangladesh to her mother Late Salema Khatun and father Late Shah Mohammad Israil Huq retired as a Joint Secretary in Bangladesh Civil Service and is directly related to the family of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. She is married to Mr Sayedul Haque. Her only Daughter Fahmida is an Oxford Graduate who works at the University of Oxford in the Postgraduate Research Centre. Cllr. Farida Anwar has three grandchildren.

Cllr. Farida has five brothers & one sister. the elder brother is the Vice Chancellor of Barisal University, another brother is a professor of New York City University, USA, rest three brothers are in Bangladesh Civil Services.



Shamim Azad

Sector:
Arts, Culture &
Education

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 plays 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 from Bangladesh, Artist of the Year Award in 2000 from London Arts, Sonjojon A Rouf Award in 2004 and Civic Award in 2004 in the UK.



Award Winner 2009



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Abdul Aziz

Sector:

*Entrepreneur &
Social Work Practitioner*

Abdul Aziz is the co-managing director of Regents Lake Banqueting Venue in Tower Hamlets. This is Aziz's first business venture and as the youngest of the directors he started the company without any prior experience of the wedding industry nor running a big business. His background is in law; he worked for a city law firm as well as Appeal Courts. He had great interest in reading law and at a point wanted to train as a lawyer but his main passion was in understanding and working with people. In particular, he wanted to explore and understand the human cognition; psychological processes; behavioural science and human development. He left his legal work and went to university, where in 2008 he completed his undergraduate honours degree in Psychology. His interest in business and becoming an entrepreneur was coincidental. This interest stemmed partly from his research and study of Business and Occupational Psychology, which uses psychological theories in examining consumer behaviour; psychology of marketing and understanding organization as systems.

Although business was becoming an area of increasing interest, Aziz also wished to pursue a professional career. Whilst setting up Regents Lake, Aziz undertook his professional qualification at the prestigious Tavistock NHS Clinic in Swiss Cottage London. After two years of study, in July 2013 he was awarded his Master of Arts in Social Work. For two years Aziz worked full time setting up and running Regents Lake and at the same time studying and training at the Tavistock. During his training he worked at St Hilda's East Community Centre in Shoreditch as well as for Barking & Dagenham Adult Social Services. As a qualified social worker Aziz wishes to pursue his career helping vulnerable adults and children in Tower Hamlets. He sees his career as

a means to give back to the very community where he has lived most of his life. He hopes to start his professional career in the near future.

Since obtaining his Masters degree in July 2013 Aziz has been able to dedicate himself to the business as he wants to take Regents Lake to a new height, making it the gold standard in the wedding and venue industry. He now works full time and heads the marketing, finance, business strategy, procurement and has many other executive roles. One of Aziz's core aims for Regents Lake has always been to produce an experience for customers that cannot be found or matched in any other venue. In this respect he believes he has made a significant impact as many facilities and amenities are exclusive to Regents Lake and many of these have become its own Unique Selling Points.

Apart from running a venue Aziz is also the director of a new catering company which he and his partners hope to refresh, innovate and bring high quality product and services to the wedding industry. Aziz believes that for too long the wedding catering market has been stagnated with the same choices and its oversubscribed menus. He believes the time has come for a refreshing change and a new beginning for exclusive catering to take a foothold in the marketplace. The focus will be on exceeding towards excellence, quality, choice, service and innovation rather than mass selling low quality mediocre products and services that have saturated the market. Aziz and his partners are passionate about this new approach and are already seeing growth in the demand for premium catering services. The incremental shift towards quality over quantity has started and the hope is that the Bangladeshi consumer will continue in this trend.

He lives with his parents, his wife and two children.



Lisa Aziz

Sector:

Media



Award Winner 2012

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.

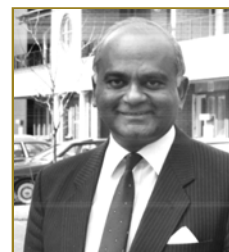
Suhail Ibne Aziz was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh. His ancestral home is Thoigaon, Balagonj Thana. After passing matriculation and intermediate science examinations with distinction, he joined the Pakistan Navy in 1954. Following pre-cadet training in West Pakistan, he went for naval training at the world renowned Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, England, and ships of Dartmouth Training Squadron. He was Commissioned by the British Board of Admiralty in 1958. This was followed by service as Sub. Lieutenant and Lieutenant on Pakistan Navy ships - destroyer Khaibar and minesweeper Mubarak. Since coming to England in 1966, Suhail obtained bachelors and masters degrees in economics of London University, and a diploma in management studies. His professional qualifications include: Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management (FCIM); Fellow of the Institute of Consultancy (FIC); Fellow Certified Management Consultant (FCMC). He is a committee member of the International Consulting Economists Association (ICEA).

Suhail Aziz is a British trained Bangladeshi with record of achievements in organisation, management, economics and community relations whose expertise has been gained in sophisticated multi-nationals: Unilever, Ford, Mars. He has valuable senior-level experience of British government machinery; also ex-

perience of World Bank, DFID, ADB etc involved in the developing world. Mr Aziz is founder chairman and managing director of his company The Brettonwood Partnership Ltd, an international management consultancy firm working in developing countries. Suhail Aziz has held numerous high level public appointments, appointed by British Cabinet Ministers. He has been Chairman of the London Probation Board for the Home Office (2001-07); Chairman of two NHS Trusts in inner city London (1997-2000). He was a Trustee of the Community Development Foundation (1998-2008). Mr Aziz served as a Director at the Commission for Racial Equality and was a member of the Commission's top management team. Suhail has served on numerous ministerial advisory councils and community based organisations. He is a leading member of the Asian community in Britain. He is a Rotarian.

Suhail Aziz is married with two daughters – the elder Lisa Aziz, a TV personality; the younger Rebecca Aziz-Granberg, an EU and UK civil servant. They live in London.

Suhail gets mentions in “Who’s Who”; “Debrett’s”; and “Asian Who’s Who”,



Suhail Ibne Aziz

Sector:

Consultancy/ Public Service.

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 group.

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.

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'.



Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari MBE

Sector:

Islamic Affairs and Community Relations



Award Winner 2011



Ruqsana Begum

Sector:
Sports



Award Winner 2016

Born and raised in East London, the second of five children, the young Muay-Thai kickboxer won her first World Title against Swedish champion Susanna Salijarvi and is the current World Kickboxing Association (WKA) 48kg champion, British Atomweight Champion, European Gold medallist and World bronze medallist.

Anyone who believes that women can't or shouldn't fight needs to meet Ruqsana Begum. Ruqsana has also won a number of British titles and European championship gold medals.

Ruqsana fights Muay Thai kickboxing, often referred to as the 'Art of Eight Limbs', the national sport of Thailand, where it is far more popular than football. Unlike regular boxing, competitors can use any combination of punches, kicks, knees and elbows to strike an opponent during a bout.

Ruqsana's sporting career is only scratching the surface. She is an inspirational figure way beyond her own community. She is a motivational speaker, teaches kickboxing classes for women, juggles numerous media commitments, and leads a busy family life with many responsibilities as the eldest girl in a large family.

Ruqsana's road to glory in one of the hardest sports was not easy. Raised in a conservative Bengali Muslim envi-

ronment, the thought that a young woman would choose to compete in the kickboxing ring would not sit well with some in her community.

But Ruqsana has fought hard to explode negative perceptions of women in sport, and indeed young British Muslims and remains a shining example to young British people.

An Olympic Torchbearer in 2012 in her home city, Ruqsana has been nominated for several awards for her outstanding contribution towards sport and the community, including working with the Dame Kelly Holmes Get on Track Programme; such as the Sky Sports Sportswoman of the Year, Muslim News Sportswoman of the Year and the UK Muslim Women's Sports person of the Year.

The architecture graduate has also launched a stunning range of sports hijabs; Sports Hijabs by Ruqsana Begum, specifically designed for young Muslim women who might feel too intimidated or ill-equipped to engage in sport.

BRITISH BANGLADESHI WHO'S WHO 2017



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Taj Brothers

Sector:

Business and Property



Award Winner 2016

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 in Brick Lane. They took over the business from their late father Alhaj Abdul Khalique who came from Baur Bagh, Moulvibazar, Bangladesh.

Junel, Jamal and Joynal all grew up in Brick Lane, East London and progressed their education to Milestone Preparatory Private School in Bond Street, West London.

Junel studied at Architectural College before joining the family business. His passion for architecture and design saw him design and build his dream home in Essex. Jamal on the other hand attended the private American International College where he completed a Diploma in business before himself joining the family business followed swiftly by the youngest sibling Joynal.

People who can, they achieve it by their quality, hard work, love and trust. Likewise, Taj Stores is the name of an inspiration to British Bangladeshis in the UK. Taj Stores started its journey in 1936, by their late uncle Abdul Jabbar who then passed the business to the late Alhaj Abdul Khalique. Taj Stores is now on its way to celebrate the 80 years of its pride. Outside Bangladesh, if there is any business that has been operating with such goodwill and benevolence that is the Taj Stores.

They are also Directors of Taj Properties Construction/Investment Ltd, NRB Bank Ltd and the UKBCCI. Besides running 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 Dubai.

The brothers are donors to several charities 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.

They also established a charity organisation called J Brothers, whereby the project supports vulnerable and helpless families in Bangladesh by providing sheltered homes, installation of water pumps and donating land. Jamal quotes "Charity should begin from home. We are inspired from the love and feeling that my father and uncle showed to the people of Bangladesh. So we do not go for formalities, rather, we have started our charity work from our own village."

Today Bangladeshis are on the way to portray themselves as a successful community in the UK and Taj Stores is one of those names of successes.

The brothers have their own hobbies such as travelling, jet skiing, photography and golf.



Abdul Gaffar Choudhury

Sector:

Media, Arts and Literature



Award Winner 2010

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 Ju-

gantar 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.

Sir Akhlaq Choudhury, the first British Bangladeshi High Court Judge is only the second barrister of Bangladeshi heritage to achieve the rank of Queen's Counsel. Akhlaq graduated in Physics from the 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 one of the premier chambers in the country being ranked as a leader in many fields including employment, public, information and procurement law. Past members of Chambers with whom Akhlaq has worked include the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg QC and Lord Justice Elias and Lord Justice Sales of the Court of Appeal. Akhlaq's practice developed rapidly and he is consistently ranked by his peers as a leader in his areas of expertise. He is listed in the Legal 500 (2015-2016) where he is said to be "Undoubtedly one of the best advocates at the Bar". Akhlaq was a long-standing member of the Attorney General's A-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 was retained

as counsel for the Information Commissioner and has appeared in many of the ground-breaking cases in the developing area of Freedom of Information and Data Protection law. In 2009, Akhlaq was appointed a Recorder and he sits as a part-time Judge of the Crown Court presiding over criminal cases. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2015 and made a High Court Judge in 2017.6y

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.



**The Hon Mr Justice
Akhlaq Choudhury QC**

Sector:
Legal (Barrister, Judge)



Award Winner 2015

Aziz Choudhury is the Chairman of the Spitalfields Small Business Association (SSBA) which is a unique Community Business and social enterprise with over 30 years' experience of regeneration in the Spitalfields area of London. SSBA provides 80 tenant members with affordable workspace. It also develops training and enterprise programmes through the SSBA Community Trust.

Between 2001 and August 2016, Aziz Choudhury was the Director of Montefiore Centre, London which provided important services to the community with workspace and training for around twenty businesses, charities and community organisations.

From 1999-2001, Aziz Choudhury was Managing Director of Otherwords Ltd which ran the East End Enterprise business newspaper and the Spitalfields Business Club. He is well known for his time as Chief Executive of Bengali Workers Association between 1995 and 1999. At that time, he was responsible for running the Surma Community Centre in Camden and several local projects. 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 Chartered Accountancy firms. He obtained his BSc in Physics, Chemistry & Mathematics from Dhaka University in 1967. He Studied Account-

ancy at the London School of Accountancy between 1972—74. 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.

Aziz Choudhury has been involved in several community and voluntary initiatives both in the United Kingdom and in Bangladesh. These include being involved with East London Small Business Centre, East London Business Alliance, West Euston Partnership and he has been a PMG member of the Tower Hamlets Partnership. Most recently, he has been a member of the Board of Directors for the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership (THE Partnership) and the Founder and current President of the Sylhet Sadar Association. In Bangladesh Aziz Choudhury founded the Jalalpur Degree College in Sylhet and he is a trustee and General Secretary of Rosae Trust, which raises funds to support a hospital in Dhaka.

Aziz Choudhury is married to Heima Choudhury. They have two sons, the elder son Ashike is a medical doctor (consultant) working for the NHS and the younger son Siraj is a solicitor working in senior management for local government.



Aziz Choudhury
Sector:
Community Relations



Anwar Choudhury

Sector:

*Civil Service /
Ambassador*



Award Winner 2009

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 ini-

tially 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 became Director of International Institutions, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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. He is currently the British Ambassador to Peru.

His hobbies include Cricket, Bridge, Bengali Folk music and an addiction for Bangladeshi cuisine.



Amirul Choudhury

Sector:

Telecoms/Media/Property



Award Winner 2012

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

He is the Managing Director 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.

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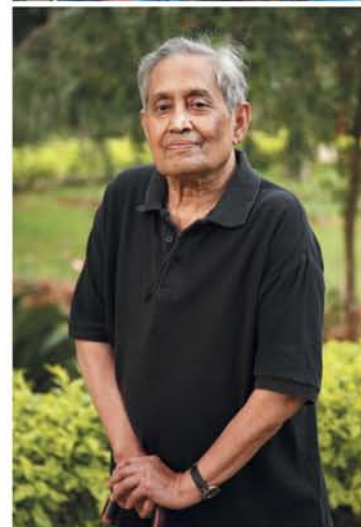
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Atique Islam Choudhury

Sector:
Industrialist



Award Winner 2016

Atique Islam Choudhury was born on 5 May 1963, the son of Dabirul Islam Choudhury and Khaleda Choudhury. He is an industrialist, property developer and social entrepreneur born in St. Albans, Hertfordshire.

Atique has been a prolific property developer for over three decades, building a vast portfolio of trophy assets - this includes an array of residential properties, converting derelict banks, cinemas, silk mills and grade II listed buildings. Atique definitely has an eye for quality and detail as recognised by the International Property Awards, one of his developments was nominated recently for "the best designed apartment".

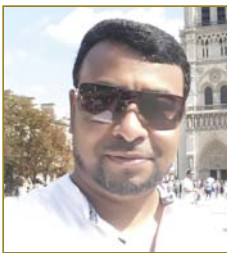
After 35 years in the restaurant industry and building a successful string of award winning restaurants, Atique has specialised in Thai, Japanese, Mexican and South Indian vegetarian cuisine. After owning and operating multiple cuisines, Atique retired from the restaurant industry in 2014.

Atique is now the managing director of Mystic Pharmaceuticals Bangladesh after the untimely passing of his late brother Sharif Islam Choudhury in 2015. Under his leadership, the business has streamlined and has taken a growth of 400% and is currently expanding internationally. He is also the chairman of Cultural Business Management in which they invest

in renewable energy and the agricultural sector in Bangladesh.

Atique has an eventual vision for Bangladesh to become a double digit economy. He is currently an avid supporter of local, national and international charities through sponsorships and funding/creating employment for the educationally improving youth of Bangladesh. Atique has since set up an educational institution with accommodation for the homeless children of Ulambatu, Mongolia. Alongside this, Atique is a trustee of the Rural Development Foundation of Bangladesh - with an aim to improve women's maternity and healthcare for the underprivileged; and is an honorary chief executive of the Bangladesh Female Academy who provide accommodation, clothing, food and education for over 300 homeless girls in Deerai, Sylhet. These girls are aged from 4-18 and are from a range of different rural areas in Bangladesh. He is also the chairman of weekly Janomot

As a regular traveller to Bangladesh, he has found a balance between business, social responsibility and leisure. Aside from his professional career, Atique has indulged in the world of sport. Mr. Choudhury was the first British Bangladeshi to play in an international semi-pro badminton tournament. He is also a keen golfer and a proud supporter of Arsenal Football Club.



Buran Choudhury (Rimon)

Sector:
Real Estate

Mr Burhan Choudhury Rimon was born in Khadimpur Boro Bari, Balagonj, in Sylhet, Bangladesh. He is the only son of Late Al-Haj Md Ala Uddin Choudhury and Jomirun Choudhury and has five sisters.

Rimon first arrived in the UK in 1982 at the age of 7. He currently resides in Ilford with his mother, his wife Rufia and two daughters - Anisa and Fariha.

Rimon is the Managing director of 1st Capital Homes Incorporating MBRC Investments Ltd established in 2001. His company is one of first British Bangladeshi suppliers of temporary accommodation to the local governments located in the heart of East London and also manages properties on behalf of his handful of selected private clients where he gives his personal attention to them supported by his team. Rimon successfully built a reasonable real estate portfolio of properties in and around London in the span of the last 10 years. The size of the portfolio is growing year by year. He has a mixture of properties within his portfolio from residential properties to 5 star hotel apartments to commercial properties. He is one of the successful young British Bangladeshi entrepreneurs who were brought up in the most deprived part of East London in Shadwell. Rimon started his company from Mortgage brokerage where he was arranging mortgages for clients and advising his clients on property investments. Rimon is self trained and built his vast amount of knowledge on mortgages

and property investments in the local area. He has been following the property market from the humble age of 19 years, even though he did not have any money but had a dream to build a portfolio. Rimon says it's not just the skills, education and capabilities that contribute to the success of a person in his/her respective area of interest. It's the honesty, dedication, determination and perseverance towards achieving the set goals that take the person to the place where he/she always desires to be. Rimon believed in himself and was determined to be successful no matter what the obstacle was with full support of his wife Rufia Choudhury.

Rimon has set up Burhan Choudhury Zakat foundation; he runs and personally finances the foundation with support of the local community leaders and volunteers. The foundation is based in Sylhet Bangladesh and was established in 2010. The foundations aims and objectives are to provide winter blankets and clothes to poor needy people and provide financial support.

Rimon's hobbies include reading, exploring and learning new ideas, researching subjects that interests him, travelling abroad and shopping.

Foyso Hussain Choudhury MBE is from Badardi, Nabigonj, Habigonj, Bangladesh. He is the eldest son of Late Al-Haj Gulam Rabbani Choudhury and Rukeya Rabbani Choudhury. He is married to Tahmina (Moni) and has a son Ikram and a daughter Madiha. During his time at University he took responsibility for his ailing father's business. He quickly expanded the business and is now a successful entrepreneur with interests in catering, hospitality, finance and real estate across the United Kingdom and Bangladesh.

Foyso is a prominent community activist in the UK, he is known for his leadership and commitment to improving social justice. He has worked with the Scottish Government and various councils to improve community relations. He believes passionately in the Equality for all the citizens of Scotland and is an active member of civic society, playing a leading role in several charities. He has been involved with the Edinburgh and Lothian's Regional Equality Council (ELREC) since he was a teenager and has been an active campaigner for equality and good race and inter-faith relations in Scotland. He's served ELREC in different capacities, as a Trustee, Company Secretary, Vice-Chair and he currently holds the post of Chair. Foyso has led the organisation through its transition from the race equality council to a pan-equalities regional council that is truly representative of those from a wide range of legally protected characteristics.

Foyso is also one of the founder directors of Edinburgh Mela and is currently its Vice Chair. Since its formation in 1997, the Edinburgh Mela has grown to be one of the biggest events in the Edinburgh Festivals Programme. The Edinburgh Mela seeks to embrace all diverse communities and cultures, providing a showcase for local and international artists. He is committed to furthering its aim to promoting understanding between people and advancing the cause of community coherence.

Foyso is an active member within the Bangladeshi diaspora in Scotland, he was elected as the Chairman of the Bangladesh Samity Edinburgh in 2010 and passionately promotes the interest of the Bangladeshi restaurants across Scotland. He has organised, annually, Bangladesh Independence Day Celebrations and other events to promote strong community relations. Foyso has campaigned for a permanent monument (Shaheed Minar) to be built in Edinburgh.

Foyso is passionate about Bangladeshi cuisine and has channelled his expertise in promoting the interest of the restaurant and catering trade as the Chairman of the Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateurs of Scotland and as one of the founding members of the very successful Dine Bangladeshi Campaign.

Foyso is heavily involved in fundraising campaigns, raising over a quarter of a million pounds for causes including Bangladesh Cyclone Appeal in Scotland, St Colombia's Hospice, Leukaemia & Cancer appeal, Sick Kids appeal, British Heart Foundation and many others. In addition to this he is also one of the organisers who built two shelter and 40 houses for the survivors of Cyclone SIDR Bangladesh in 2010.

In recognition of his services to the community, Foyso was proudly awarded an MBE in New Year's Honours list 2004.



Foyso Hussain Choudhury

Sector:
Politics, Business & Community Relations

Mamun Chowdhury is a highly successful British businessman with over 25 years experience in the design and manufacturing of high-end outerwear. He is of Bangladeshi origin from the village of Moynabad of Chunarughat in the District of Habigonj. Having completed his education in Bangladesh, after a short period in the Middle East, Mamun arrived in Britain in December 1991.

Being innately an entrepreneur, he immediately started setting up his own business. In 1994 he established London Clothing Limited, importing garments from abroad and selling to clients in the UK and rest of Europe. This was supported by setting up his own factory to manufacture garments here in the UK.

Realising quickly how fierce the competition was and that the East End clothing manufacturing trade was on the decline. In 1996, He decided to change his business model and focus only on high-end outerwear and work with some of UK's top designers. Being always socially responsible, in 1998 his business was large enough to provide opportunities for fashion students to gain work experience. Mamun says that he learnt as much about designing from the top designers as he did from the fashion students.

Mamun used his freshly honed designing skills to design and develop his own range. Still hungry to grow yet humble enough to recognise his skills gaps, he decided that he would explore taking on a partner to grow the business further. So in 2001, Mamun asked his good friend Rob Huson, a top city fashion Executive to join him and thus London Tradition Limited was born.

Mamun's success has been honoured by her Majesty the Queen by being awarded the highest business accolade in the UK with the Queens Award for Enterprise 2014 and International Trade for over 600% growth in 6 years. London Tradition is regarded as a luxury outerwear Brand that inspires and instils confidence in its customers, suppliers and staff because it excels at what it does.

Mamun envisions his Company to be the leading luxury heritage outerwear brand in the world with the mission of delivering exceptional quality outerwear garments to inspire its customers. Quality, Service, Value, Innovation, Trust, Fairness and Social Responsibility are the values that guide and inspire Mamun and his Company.



Mamun Choudhury

Sector:
Manufacturing/Fashion



Award Winner 2014



**Reza Ahmed Faisal
Shoaib Choudhury**

Sector:
Media

Reza Ahmed Faisal Choudhury Shoaib is the son of late Alhaj Eklmur 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.

Faisal'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. Faisal 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 Faisal 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. Faisal 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 the 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.



**Shafiqur Rahman
Choudhury**

Sector:
Politics

Shafiqur Rahman Choudhury was 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. Shafiqur 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 role in movements against autocracy and demanding the trial of war criminals. He also played a role 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 prob-

lems 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-convenor of the Martyrs' Day Observation Committee. This Committee has been observing the Martyrs' Day in different parts of London. Mr Choudhury also played an 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.

Capt. Tasbirul Ahmed Choudhury was born in much respected family of Chandborang, Choudhury Bari, in Biswanath Sylhet, his family having a background of over 700 years in the village of Chandborang.

Capt. Tasbirul Ahmed Choudhury is son of Late Kamar Uddin Ahmed Choudhury and Late Begum Jahanara Choudhury. He went to United Kingdom at the age of 11 with his parents, after completing his o-levels from Fort Loton High School, Kent, UK and A-Levels from Hackney College, (Under London University) UK. Capt. Choudhury decided to become a professional Airline Pilot. In 1989-90 he obtained British PPL & went to USA Florida, for further study for Commercial Pilot License & Airline Transport Pilot License. He graduated the ATP (The highest License for Pilot's) in 1996. He obtained several prestigious flying licenses from various authorities around the world.

These include ATPL from Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, ATPL from FAA (USA), PPL, IMC from UK. He has also undertaken rigorous training and successfully completed Training as Captain including Airbus 310-300, MD-83, DASH-100/300 (as route training instructor & examiner as DCP-A), ATR- 42-320, as Captain, L-410-UVF-E-9 as Captain & Instructor, Y-12-11, PA-30-200, PA-31-325, PA-34, PA-28-200 & 181, C-172, C-152, PA-38. He has flown over 6500 hours as Pilot in Command. He was also able to acquire vast experience in the field of General Aviation flights and Airlines. He joined Southern Aero Club at Shoreham, Sussex, UK & USA in 1990 and flew with business flights throughout UK and Europe from 1990 to 1993. Later, he moved to the USA and joined Global Air Transport & Choice Aeronautical Academy, Orlando, Florida USA in December, 1993 and flew as Charter Pilot throughout Florida and Bahamas till February 1996. Then he decided to move back to homeland and joined as a Captain of Y-12-11 Air-

craft at Aero Bengal Airlines Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 1996 (The first Private Airline of Bangladesh). Later he joined as Deputy Chief Pilot & Airline Training Pilot for L-410 aircraft at Air Parabat in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In September 2001, he joined GMG Airlines, Dhaka, Bangladesh as Chief of Flight Safety and Route Training Instructor for DASH 8 Aircraft, until start of his own venture, which is now the largest and most successful airline in the country-United Airways (BD) Ltd. United Airways started with only one 37 setter aircraft. In just six years of Operation & under his very able leadership the airline is now having 11 (Eleven) Aircraft & operating in 8 (Eight) International routes & all the Domestic routes of Bangladesh. Today United Airway is the first & only Airline in the Capital Market of Bangladesh, and the largest company in the country in terms of number of share holders.

Since first flight of United on 10th July 2007, United Airways has achieved various prestigious awards, Development for Bangladesh Council at the House of Commons London for best Investment by the Bangladeshi British Expatriates-2010. United Airways also received "Deshar Kagoj Business Award-2007", "Begum Rokeya Shining Personality Award-2007", "Arthakantha Business Award-2008, 2011, 2012 and 2013" in Airline Sector, "Business Express Business Award-2009", EBL-Monitor Domestic Airline of the Year 2010", "NRB Investment of the Year 2012", "Business Asia Most Respected Company Award-2012, 2013" and "Sylhet Ratna Foundation Award 2013".

After successful completion of United Airways, he started new venture of Aviation Training Academy "TAC Aeronautical Academy". The academy will help the airline and the country to overcome the constant shortage of pilots, engineers, cabin crew and other professionals.



Capt. Tasbirul Ahmed Choudhury

Sector:
Aviation/Business



Award Winner 2013

Syeda Choudhury has lived in Tower Hamlets since her childhood; she attended local schools, college and university. Syeda migrated to the UK with her family to join her father in 1981. Her family came from the village of Bakamura in the district of Moulvibazar.

At the age of fifteen Syeda started her community work alongside her studies with youth and community organisations. She was involved in youth exchange programmes, which required travelling to various countries, namely France, Germany, Holland and Denmark to learn and value other cultures.

Since coming to the UK, Syeda has been involved with various youth and cultural activities. She has performed Bengali cultural dances in numerous venues including the Royal Festival Hall, The Commonwealth Institute and at the launch of the Kabi Nazrul Centre in 1982. She was a member of cultural groups named Amra Kojhona, Jholock Shilpi Gushti, Shapla and Shejuti.

Syeda was an active member of Women Unite Against Racism during 1990s. She took up challenging work to combat racial issues during the time when Derek Beacon was elected as a councillor on Isle of Dogs. Syeda was in the management committee in Jagonari Resource Centre, Island Advice Centre, Culloden Bangladeshi Parents Association & Bow Bengali Forum and was a director of Boshaki Mela Trust in East London. She was a parent governor in two different schools in Tower Hamlets.

Syeda has been involved in local politics in Tower Hamlets since 2005 and was an active campaigner for the "Yes

for Mayor" referendum and two mayoral elections in Tower Hamlets. She was a councillor candidate in Tower Hamlets council election in 2014 but unfortunately she missed the seat by a few votes.

Syeda has been working extensively with women and youths for more than 20 years, to raise awareness about health issues, training and employment, women empowerment, drugs and alcohol. She worked as a community development officer, social investment officer and health advocate with public organisations and many housing associations.

Syeda runs her weekly Betar Bangla Radio programme "Open Talk" and also she hosts "Women's Voice" – a programme on Bangla TV, where she brings issues relating to British Bangladeshi community in the UK, especially issues that affect our women. Through Betar Bangla Radio she presented programmes on BBC Asian Network. She is the women secretary of Greater Sylhet Development Council in East London Region. She has launched her own fashion label SyedaC.

Syeda is married to Sirajul Choudhury, who is a teacher at a Tower Hamlets school. She is the mother of two children – her daughter is studying A-levels and her son is studying at University.

Syeda's hobbies & interests include singing, designing & making clothes, cooking, travelling and networking.



Syeda Choudhury

Sector:
Community Relation & Social Work



K M Abu Taher Choudhury

Sector:

Media and Community Relations



Award Winner 2009

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 well-known 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 Jus-

tice 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 language in the UN. Last but not means least, he is an Advisor and Trustee of the Goreeb & Eatheem Trust fund 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 Buckingham Palace.

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.



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 previously 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.



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**Ahmed Us Samad
Chowdhury JP,**

Sector:

*Sector: Media, Char-
ity, Business*



Award Winner 2009

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 President in Bristol. In business, community development and media Mr. Chowdhury has been a driving force for which he is much loved.

Founder of "Potrika" (Britain's popular Bengali newspaper) Mr Chowdhury is also the Chairman of the most watched Bengali channel in Europe, Channel S Television. 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 both in the UK and in Bangladesh. He is also the co- owner of Kushiara Compsite Knit Industries- a 100% export orientated enterprise earning vital foreign currency for Bangladesh. He is the Director of Kushiara Power Company, a 170 MW Gas-based combined Cycle Plant and should be able to supply power to the National Grid in coming months.

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 aimed at women and youths he founded Bangladesh Centre in Bristol. In 1998 Mr. Chowdhury championed the project to establish South West's only purpose built

mosque. Mr. Chowdhury serves as the Trustee of Bangladesh House, Bangladesh Centre and Shahjalal Jame Mosque Trust.

Locally Mr. Chowdhury raised funds for the Royal United Hospital and has helped numerous Charities. A Justice of Peace since 1991, he has served as a Governor at City of Bath College, National Steering Committee Member for Hospitality Training Foundation under the Ministry of Education, Advisor to New Deal (Ethnic Minority Group) during Tony Blair's government. 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, Senior Vice President, National Heart foundation, Sylhet, Chief Patron of The All European Bangladesh Association, Chief Advisor of Bangladesh Female Academy and is also involved with many national and International organizations, 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 (the only office outside Britain). He contributed to the foundation of many projects such as Children's Hospital, Cyclone Shelter, Orphanage and a Hospital for the Disabled and Paralysed and many educational institutions in Bangladesh.

In year 2013 The International Biographic Society published his Biography amongst selected people from around the Globe.



Golam M Chowdhury

Sector:

Media (Radio)

Mr Golam M Chowdhury known better to his friends and family as Najim was born in 1954 to his mother Zabera Khanam Chowdhury and Father Mahabubur Rahman Chowdhury in Golapgonj, Rankali, Sylhet, Bangladesh though now he resides in London, UK.

Mr Chowdhury is the Executive Director of Betar Bangla Ltd, A community Radio Station. He is also a proud freedom fighter of Bangladesh and was very active during the liberation period. Due to unavoidable circumstances he left Bangladesh in December 1977 for West Germany, where he met and married Marianne. They moved to the UK in 1983 and he set up his first business in Lewisham, London as a wine wholesaler.

During his time in this business he observed and contemplated the realities of living in a multi cultural community. He was surrounded by a variety of cultures and nationalities and developed a diverse and large circle of friends as he set roots in the UK.

By 1987 Mr Chowdhury had 3 children Ramona, Manuel and Melisa.

During 2002 his marriage to Marriane ended and he is now married to Shahina Hussain and has 4 children, (Ramona, Manuel and Melisa from first wife and Nehal

from Shahina). In 1989 he considered getting involved in community radio which lead to an introduction to the "community" radio phenomenon. Sky Radio broadcasting in the South East area provided him with two hours of airtime exclusively targeted at the Bengali community, broadcasting in Bengali.

So as a result the UK's first Bengali community radio station was born it was called Betar Bangla and commenced operation from September 1989 in Lewisham and stopped broadcasting in November 1990.

In 2000, he was then introduced to Sayed Sharif Islam and with the assistance of his elder brother Abu Ahmed in June 2000 they rented a small room in Mile end and officially from 26th of July 2002 restarted Betar Bangla which is now a full 24 hours radio station. He was introduced to LOL Gellor in Sound radio who offered him a 3 hour programme on his radio as a pilot project.

They received 24 hours radio licence in 2010 from Ofcom .

During his spare time Mr Chowdhury enjoys Snooker, Swimming, Social outings and meeting friends.

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 Chairman 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 a non-executive Director of the five star hotel Dhaka Regency located in Dhaka, Bangladesh. In addition, he is also establishing a new luxurious hotel venture in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

He is the founder of Thahiria Mohila Academy in Shahbagh, Bangladesh, and the Chairman of the trustee board of Shahbagh Jamea MQU trust. Also, he is the founder of Guljarunesa and Jasmin medical centre in Shahbagh, Zokigonj. He is also the founder and CEO of the BestChildren international charity which was founded in 2000 in the UK. He is the NATIONAL SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT of Bangladesh Caterers Association UK. The founder life member of London Bangla Press Club. He started his political ambition back when he was in University as an active International student union member. He has been Deputy Chairman of Royal Wootton Bassett & District Conservatives for the last 8 years, Honorary Vice President of Conservative Friends of Bangladesh, he was appointed as a TEAM-2015 Team

Coordinator by Conservative Campaign Headquarters London, it was a very important voluntary position which helped win the 2015 general election. He is a member and actively involved in the international rotary club, he has assisted in various charitable and philanthropy related projects in the U.K and Bangladesh. He has recently been appointed a member of the police independent advisory group (IAG).

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. Recently he has been appointed as a community governor at Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, UK.

In 2009 ENAM CHOWDHURY with other high profile members of the Non Resident Bangladeshi (NRB) community from UK, EUROPE, CANADA, USA, AFRICA and the MIDDLE EAST created the NRB WORLD-WIDE 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. He is one of the founders of Jalalabad Association UK. Mr Chowdhury has been previously awarded the Special Citizen Privilege Category "A" (CIP) from the Government of Bangladesh.

He has attended many International seminars and Conferences including one in October 2009 IDEAS and INNOVATION for the Development of Bangladesh: THE NEXT DECADE at HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Boston, USA. Mr Chowdhury is married for 29 years to JASMIN CHOWDHURY the couple have been blessed with three sons.



Mr Enam-Ul Haque Chowdhury

Sector:
Business

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.

Jilani took up the prestigious position of Ex-Mayor of Islington with great pride and feels very privileged to represent Islington whilst he was a Mayor of this welcoming and creative borough which has a proud tradition of acceptance and tolerance.



Cllr. Jilani Chowdhury

Sector:
Politics



**Mamun Rashid
Chowdhury MBE**

Sector:
*Community Relations &
Voluntary*

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 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.

In March 2009 he 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

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 Organising Secretary of the London Bangla Press Club. He 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 Degree College to complete his H.S.C studies. He completed both his BSS(Honours) and MSS in Political Science from Jagannath University.

Afer 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 special contributor. In addition to his role in print media, he is a Director of a Private Ltd company. Mr Chowdhury is engaged in various non-profit social welfare organisations.

He was the founder Secretary of Udoyachol Jonokolan Songsta, Manu, Hajipur in Kulaura, Moulvibazar, 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 one brother and five sisters and is married with one son. For the foreseeable future, he wants to continue helping the poor as well as developing more educational projects in Bangladesh.

Salim Chowdhury resides in Harrow. He is the Eldest son of Abdul Motin Chowdhury & Hafsa Chowdhury. Salim Studied Management.

Salim is an Entrepreneur and has an illustrious record of business ownerships including a group of fine dining restaurants. He is a Sponsor Shareholder of NRB Bank, Founder of General Auto Services & runs a successful Property business & has a portfolio.

Salim started his first partnership business at the age of seventeen. He also served as a police officer for the metropolitan police. He is a founder & executive member of Conservative friends of Bangladesh. as well as being a member the Conservative Muslim forum. He is well connected with the conservative party and various organisations affiliated to the party. Salim also served as a councillor for Harrow Council.

Aside from his association with politics. Salim remains closely connected with local and community based initiatives. Salim is also a former senior vice chair of probashi balagonj & Osmani nagar Education trust, Founder Secretary of Poshchim London Bangladesh welfare Association.

He is the founder Organising Secretary of British Bangladeshi Caterers Association (BBCA) Salim is also the Joint Secretary of Shahjalal Islamic Centre & Life Member of London Bangla Press Club. Perma-

nent member of The Bangladesh Centre, Member of UKBCCI.

Furthermore Salim is a former chairman of Harrow Traders Association & former President of Middlesex Awami Jubo League, Trustee of Harrow Bangladeshi Association and a former school governor.

Salim is also a Founder and Director of BDGL, a new premiere double glazing company in Bangladesh.

There are numerous other organisations which Salim takes an active role in. He also donates regularly to numerous charities and community based projects (in Bangladesh) he has funded a school hall and madrasa in his village & an orphanage. Salim is married to Jasmine (a teacher) & they are blessed with three children, Al-Imaan, Jaariyah & Sabriyah.



Salim Chowdhury

Sector:
*Politics & Various
Businesses*

Md Shabul Chowdhury was born in Chitmoni village, Osmani Nogar Upazilla and is the son of Alhaj Mokkodos Ali Chowdhury and late Saira Begum Chowdhury. He has two brothers (Abdul moyein Chowdhury and Abdul Muktedir Chowdhury) and two sisters (Lipy chowdhury and Nargis Chowdhury) who all reside in the UK. He has studied his BA at Sylhet MC College, M.A first part at Jogonnath University Dhaka, as well as LLB Dhaka Law College In 1991. He migrated to Birmingham with his family and completed his studies at Birmingham City College.

Mr Chowdhury is currently working in social services under Birmingham City Council and holds the position of sub editor of the Bangla Kagoj. Whilst studying in Bangladesh Mr Chowdhury took an active role in student politics and held the position of joint secretary in the Sylhet district student league.

When he arrived in England, he worked in restaurants in addition to having several businesses. He became heavily involved in the media including working as the Channel S Midlands correspondent, the reporter for Daily Bangladesh and part of the editorial board for fortnightly Sironam. He was also editor of Birmingham Somachar. As a columnist his work has been published in various publications such as Surma, Jonomat, Potrika, Shamal Sylhet and currently has a weekly column in Bangla Kagoj and is a member of London Bangla press club.

In addition, Mr Chowdhury has vast experience in working with many social and political organisations, including acting as secretary of Birmingham Bangladesh welfare association as well as publicity secretary of Greater Sylhet Council. He was the education secretary of BESCO and the head teacher of a Supplementary Bangla and Homework Support School by BESCO.

Mr Chowdhury is heavily involved in Bangladeshi politics as part of organising secretary for Midlands Awami league. Previously being press secretary for UK Jubo league and president of Midlands Awami league. Also he was a general secretary all European bongo bondhu parishod in Birmingham.

Mr Chowdhury is married to Akhtarun Nessa (Gulshan) and has four children – 3 daughters and one son. His eldest daughter Farhana Chowdhury Easita is studying for her A-levels at King Edward VI Handsworth Grammar school. His son Samadul Chowdhury Tahid is currently in year 10 at Handsworth Grammar. His two younger daughters Afsana Chowdhury and Sabrina Chowdhury are currently attending primary school.



Md Shabul Chowdhury

Sector:
Media



Shamim Choudhury

Sector:
Media



Award Winner 2014

Shamim is a print and television journalist whose career has been varied and prolific. She has been working for Al Jazeera English since 2007, where she fulfils a number of roles including that of deputy news editor, news editor, reporter and field producer. She is based in the network's London offices, but has also worked in the main news centre in Doha, Qatar. In recent times Shamim travelled with a reporting team to Bangladesh on three occasions, including during the January 2014 elections, when she field-produced and reported on a range of subjects. She is considered by the channel to be its resident Bangladesh expert, has close personal contacts with many of the most influential people in Bangladesh and secured an interview with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for Al Jazeera in 2012.

Shamim has also been closely involved in Al Jazeera's coverage of the unrest in Ukraine – one of the biggest news stories to come out of Europe in the past few years. As well as travelling to Kiev twice at a time of heightened tensions major security concerns, she was in Crimea for three weeks in March 2014 when her team covered the referendum and witnessed the region fall into Russian control after being part of Ukraine for decades.

Prior to Al Jazeera, Shamim worked in various capacities for Sky News, the BBC and ITV news. She started her career in print journalism and has written news stories and features for The Daily Express, The Daily Mail, The Daily Telegraph and comment and opinion for The Independent. For a while she also had her own column in the Bangla Mirror.

In addition, Shamim has taken part in current affairs and politics debates at The House of Lords and on live television

discussion programmes.

Since October 2013 she has been on the panel of judges at the Asian Media Awards for the categories of Journalist Of The Year and Best Investigation.

Shamim was born in London and is of Sylheti heritage. The late general Muhammad Ataul Gani Osmani, the commander-in-chief of the East Pakistani liberation forces of 1971, is her great uncle and grew up in the same household as her paternal grandfather.

She received a BSc in chemistry from Queen Mary, University of London, an MSc in race and ethnic relations from Birkbeck College and a post-graduate diploma in newspaper journalism from City University, for which she won a prestigious bursary from the Wellcome Trust. After completing her Bachelors degree she spent six months living in New York City working as an intern for an NGO affiliated with the United Nations, during which time she contributed to a book which educated American school and college students about the workings of the United Nations.

Shamim has a passion for travel and has visited almost fifty countries including Syria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Cuba, China, India and parts of West Africa. Some years ago she worked with a leading charity to help build a community centre in a remote part of Cambodia.

She also enjoys sport and has a black belt in karate.

As well as her day job, Shamim occasionally blogs for the Huffington Post on a range of socio-political issues and is studying English Literature part-time at Oxford University. She can be followed in twitter on @shamiminlondon



Shamir Chowdhury

Sector:
Health and Fitness

Shamir Chowdhury also known as 'Sam' to friends and colleagues was born in July 1971 in Bangladesh. He arrived in the UK with his family at the age of 14. After leaving school, he continued with his studies at college and then secured a job as an Apprentice Mechanic with the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). However, Mr Chowdhury performed various roles including Station Officer, Information Security Officer, Information Manager, Information/Business Analyst and Business Architect during his 22 year career with the MPS.

In 2009, Mr Chowdhury completed his Master's Degree in MSc Information Management and also obtained a Practitioner Certificate as a 'Life Coach' through the European Coaching and Mentoring Commission. This achievement enabled him to support many colleagues and friends to reach their full potential via coaching and inspirational talks.

Towards the end of his career with the MPS, Mr Chowdhury became a Volunteer Special Police Constable, serving as an officer for two years within his borough, Barking and Dagenham. He also helped with various recruitment drives including Eid in the Square with the aim to recruit ethnic minorities.

During the 22 years in the MPS, Mr Chowdhury took the opportunity to join the British Army (Territorial) and served for several years. He acquired many transferable life skills and qualifications, which helped him to enhance his career within the MPS. He was the first Asian to join the Regiment – Royal Logistic Corps

(RLC). After a few years he was promoted to Lance Corporal, managing soldiers and sections and attending other specialist courses such as 'Skill at Arms' and 'Instructional Techniques'. These qualifications enabled him to train soldiers and officers at the firing ranges, both indoor and outdoor. Mr Chowdhury also appeared in the Army magazines and newspapers in order to promote and encourage ethnic minorities to join the Army.

In 2011 Mr Chowdhury left both the Army and the MPS with the intention to open a business. By 2012 Mr Chowdhury launched Energise – a 'women only health club'. His aim was to create a comfortable environment where women from all walks of life can exercise and keep fit. The reason for deciding to open a business of this nature is because Mr Chowdhury was fully aware of the fact that women particularly from our Asian/Muslim community face a number of medical issues due to lack of exercise. And although some women are willing to take up exercise, they are reluctant to exercise in a mixed environment. Energise offers a fully-equipped gym, fitness classes, 1-2-1 personal training, an infrared sauna, a beauty lounge and a hair lounge.

Mr Chowdhury is also keen on community development and with that in mind, he is involved in community meetings and works with local councillors and the Police to make environmental improvements, as well as helping to prevent anti-social behaviour.

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Tareq Chowdhury
Sector:
Legal and Media

Tareq Chowdhury is well known in the Bangladeshi Community as a Journalist. He is also an immigration expert and a Barrister. He is the editor of weekly Bangla Post, the first Bengali newspaper in the UK newsagent. He is also a Principal of Kingdom Solicitors.

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 Shaistaganj 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 Honourable 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.

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 Course.

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



Abdul Md Fakruzzaman
Sector:
Arts & Culture

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 than 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 graffiti 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 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.

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.



Shahagir Bakth Faruk
MSc.

Sector:
Business and Community Relations

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



Gulam Mostafa Faruk
Sector:
Media



Dr Rupa Huq MP

Sector:
Politics



Award Winner 2015

Rupa Huq's parents came to the UK from the town of Pabna in pre-independence Bangladesh in the early 1960s. She was born in West London and educated at Cambridge, University of East London and Strasbourg University in France. Her main career has been as an academic: she taught at Kingston University and University of Manchester from 1998 onwards until she was elected Labour MP for Ealing Central and Acton in May 2015.

She is author of three books: (i) Making sense of suburbia through popular culture. (2013) Bloomsbury, (ii) On the edge: the contested cultures of suburbia. (2013) Lawrence & Wishart and (iii) Beyond subculture: pop, youth and identity in a postcolonial world. Academically her main interests have been the sociology of the suburbs and popular culture. In Parliament she is vice chair of the All Party Parliamentary Music Group and the APPG on Crossrail. She is also chairing an All Party Parliamentary Group on London, with specific reference to planning and the built environment.

Since being elected the main issues she has spoken on are affordable housing in the capital, transport and the NHS. She served on a UK government Foreign and Commonwealth "Understanding Islam" delegation to Bangladesh in 2008.



Abdul Haque

Sector:
*Information Technology
& Media*

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 Bangladeshi/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 reports.

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



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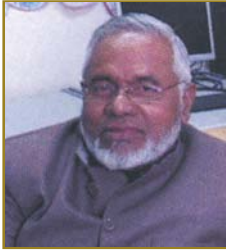
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Cllr Ahmadul Haque

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 5 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.

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 Habigonj 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.

Additionally Cllr Haque is involved with various community initiatives. 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 Kishorehoni 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.

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.



Syed Samadul Haque

Sector:

Media



Award Winner 2015

Mr Aman Haider arrived in London in 1992. He was born to Late Mr Ehtesham Rosool Haider and Mother Mrs Shahjadi Begum Haider and now resides between London and the Cantonment, Dhaka.

Mr Haider comes from the famous royal muslim Nawab family (Nawab Faizunnessa) in Bangladesh, which is historically known for many contributions in forms of educational faculty i.e. Schools/Colleges and Madrasahs.

Nawab Faizunnessa concentrated on women's education and encouraged them by providing facilities for educational purposes, including medical facilities such as hospitals for the public of Bangladesh to use as well.

They say that true success is not in employment but in doing business. And yes, many entrepreneurs have proven that doing business is actually more profitable than getting employed into some company.

Mr Aman Haider is the Managing Director of Classic Shoes Ltd, Nida Ltd. & Franco Bellini, who is doing business in exclusive designer shoes, bags and similar leather products. He has proven himself to be a strong competitor in the fashion market within a very short span of time & has taken a special place in customers' minds in many countries, like the UK, Africa, USA, and Canada by establishing a reputation for quality

& reliability.

Mr Aman Haider studied in Dhaka City College and has completed his BA in Jogonath University in Dhaka and is now regarded as one of the inspiring figures in the present business world.

He is married to Sofina Haider, which is a supportive wife. She also is a designer and company director. She designs the products sold in the showrooms in London. They have two sons, Awsaf Nibras Haider and Afwan Faraz Haider and one daughter Nida Midhat Haider.

Due to his business Mr Haider travels abroad a lot for his products. Mr Aman enjoys travelling, socialising, playing cricket, Golf and listening to music.



Aman Haider

Sector:

Business



Mahmud Hasan MBE

Sector:

*Community Development
and Social Care*



Award Winner 2015

Mr. Mahmud Hasan was awarded an MBE at the birthday honours of HRH Queen Elizabeth II in 1999 for extensive community relations in the UK.

Mr. Hasan was born in a respectable Muslim family on 6th August in 1952 in the village of Boraikandi in Sylhet, Bangladesh. His father was Moin Uddin Ahmed, who was the commander in chief of Pakistan National Guard Regiment in 1947 and later joined the Pakistan Army as Lieutenant, who passed away in 1986.

Mr. Hasan has graduated from Bangladesh. In 1968, he became a member of the then Student League and played an active role during the mass upsurge against the then autocrat ruler of Pakistan in 1969.

He also participated in the war of liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. He was a member of Bangladesh Liberation Front (BLF). Immediately after liberation he worked with International / Bangladesh Red Cross Society towards the rehabilitation programme in the war torn areas of the newly born country.

Mr. Hasan first came to the UK in 1979, and settled in the London Borough of Camden. Within the first two years of his settlement in the UK, he started working in the field of community development through Camden Committee for Community Relations (CCCR) and Bengali Workers Action Group (BWAG).

In 1984, he was appointed as part-time Community Development Worker to work with elderly people and homeless families in Camden. In the same year, he was elected as Ethnic Minority Representative to the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA). In 1987, he was appointed to a challenging position as a co-ordinator to redevelop the BWAG known as Surma Community Centre. He has since worked in different senior positions in both voluntary and local government. He successfully led the completion of the construction work

of the purpose-built Surma Community Centre in Camden in 1989. After completion of the Centre, he was strongly supported by the community to take the lead on further development and management of the Centre and was elected chair of BWAG in a voluntary capacity.

In early 1990, he was appointed as Senior Community Development Officer of CHIC, a Charitable Organisation based in Westminster.

He has successfully completed graduation on Leadership and Networking from Common Purpose in 1991-1992.

Mr. Hasan has played a key role, along with others, to bring a positive change in Camden which had been experiencing lots of social deprivation and disadvantages. As one of the then young activists, he worked hard to change the destiny of the community: from desperation to dignity and achievement.

Mr. Mahmud Hasan has remarkable contribution to help and support the homeless people, develop health and education, intensify anti-racism campaigns, fight against discrimination and strengthen racial equality.

He has contributed significantly to combat racism, particularly in Central London and is always constructive to develop racial harmony within the multicultural society of Britain.

'He was always engaged voluntarily to act on behalf of others in need and in defence of a moral cause', remembers one Camden resident.

Mr. Hasan was elected as the first Bangladeshi chair of Camden Racial Equality Council (CREC) in 1993. A year later, Mr. Hasan was elected as the first Bangladeshi Councillor in the London Borough of Camden.

Mr. Hasan has been involved in various Voluntary Sector Organisations including as the Director of Camden Community Law Centre, Voluntary Action Camden, Governor of St Michael School and Kingsway College Corporation, Member



Abdul M. Hamid

Sector:

Law

Abdul is a Senior Lawyer for the Government Legal Department, (previously the Treasury Solicitors). He conducts litigation on behalf of, and regularly advises the Secretary of State as well as Junior Ministers and Civil Servants on a wide range of employment and commercial law matters including; industrial action, discrimination law, workplace disputes, TUPE, pension regulations and public procurement. In addition, Abdul provides legal training to Government Lawyers and external clients. Abdul is currently advising the Department for Work and Pensions on a multi-billion pound re-tender of the Personal Independent Payments (PIP) assessment contract involving a number of potential suppliers and sub-contractors across the UK.

Aside from his aspiring legal career, Abdul is the Founder and Managing Director of the 'Study Buddies Group', a leading education provider with branches across London. As a community-focused business, the 'Study Buddies Group' offers a range of education and mentoring services to students of all ages.

In addition, Abdul is the Founder of 'The Future Focus Network', a not for profit community organisation that supports young people from under-represented communities find employment within mainstream sectors. The Future Focus Network has partnered up with a number of leading employers including: Barclays Bank, The Aracdia Group, Government Legal Service, Care Plus and Charles Stanley Stokebrokers. In doing

so, The Future Focus Network has helped many young people secure long term careers in fields such as: retail, banking and finance, IT, social care, education, and the legal sector.

Abdul is married and has a young daughter. In his spare time Abdul enjoys swimming, playing football and is a keen cricketer. He is one of the founding members of Scintilla Cricket Club, (Champions of the Essex County League 2017) and a member of their Senior Management Board.

Abdul is the youngest son of late Al-Hajj Abdul Hamid who was amongst the first Bangladeshi migrants to arrive in the UK and was a founding member of the Indian Seamen's Welfare League.

Al-Hajj Abdul Hamid was a prominent businessman and restaurateur, having owned a number of chain restaurants including the famous 'Kohinoor' and 'Islamabad' in London's West End.

Al-Hajj Abdul Hamid facilitated and sponsored the arrival of many Bangladeshis into the UK in the 1960s and 1970s and made significant contributions to the liberation of Bangladesh. He was the former Treasurer and Chief Financer of the UK Awami League Party, (circa 1968-1974) and sponsored a number of organisations including the Bangladesh Welfare Association, and The Soho Islamic Centre, (formerly Berwick Street Mosque).

Rafique Hayder is the Director of Bangla Town Cash and Carry in Brick Lane, which is 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. He is also one of the Directors of the NRB Bank LTD. 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 well-wisher 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 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.



Rafique Hayder

Sector:
Business

Tipu is the eldest son of Al Haj Md. Redwanul Hoque (deceased) and Mrs Rufia Begum from Sreeramshi Degir par, Dist.Sunamganj.

Tipu came to the UK in 1989 to join his father, a well-respected restaurateur, establishing the Sonar Bangla Restaurant in 1968 at 46 Hanbury Street, which was both a successful business and crucial forum drumming up support for the Bangladesh Independence Movement in 1971. His father was also an international political organiser for the Jatiya Janata Party. After studying for a BA Education at MC College Sylhet, Tipu moved and continued his studies in London in English, Computing and MCSE (Microsoft Certified System Engineering).

After gaining invaluable restaurant experience for three years, Tipu ran his father's restaurant before owning and running his own restaurant in 1997.

In 1998, merging his IT knowledge and practical restaurant experience, Tipu and his nephew developed customised EPOS software for restaurant/ take-away businesses. The software used in-house was developed and sold to restaurants/takeaways.

Tipu's initial aspiration to do something positive for the community politically was transformed into helping to change restaurant business culture introducing technology into restaurant businesses by removing the fear of change and technology and making the software user friendly. Despite early business resistance, Tipu foresaw EPOS as an essential business tool, however small the business, which it has become today. After starting his software business in 1998, Tipu is now the director owner of Unisoft Solutions Limited. A thriving supplier of specialist catering software to

more than 1,000 restaurant/takeaway businesses with a local, national and international customer base.

Despite early setbacks, Tipu's persistence and firm belief that running a successful business is more than material success but requiring integrity, professionalism, adaptability and openness to advice remains central. Unisoft's survival and advance are a testament to Tipu's self-belief, work ethic and strong religious faith contributing to success.

Tipu and Unisoft continue to adapt utilising the latest technology with some staff working remotely in Europe, North America and the Asia Pacific.

Tipu runs the business from part of a building originally home to the family restaurant business. Staying close to his roots keeps him well-grounded and appreciative of the support received over the years. He acknowledges the support of family, especially his father, and long-term friends and colleagues including Asfar, Nisar, Abu and Gary. Tipu also recognises the continued loyal customer support since 1998, without which he could not have survived and thrived. Commitment to putting customers first is reflected in 95% of business sales originating from customer recommendations.

Tipu's main focus in life apart from family and business is active support of community voluntary organisations in the UK and Bangladesh and enjoying martial arts.

Tipu has one younger brother Mohammed A.Hoque and two sisters Salma and Halima. He is a dedicated family man, married to Mrs Rumena Jamjam Chowdhury and has two children, a son E.Hoque Mahdi and daughter Mahira Asma Hoque. They live together with Tipu's mother in Hanbury Street, off Brick Lane.



Emdadul Hoque (Tipu)

Sector:
IT Business



Enam Hoque
BSc, MSc, AmILM

Sector:
Energy

Enam has risen to prominence in the UK Energy Industry having recently been promoted to the role of Director (Business Development) for Logical Utilities, which is one of Europe's leading energy consultancy firms. He is recognised as one of the youngest directors in his industry and is the leading authority on UK energy sustainability and security. Bringing together senior members of the European parliament, Enam has been a key figure in facilitating the UK Government's steering committee on sustainable energy solutions for Pan European industrial & commercial consumers. The current Energy Market Reform (EMR) initiative being introduced and deployed by the Government to help manage energy usage and capacity in the UK whilst maintaining European carbon emission targets has been a project highlight for Enam thus far in his career.

Before joining Logical, Enam was employed by RWE npower, a German based utility firm with £8bn annual turnover. He spent 7 years learning the complex industry, eventually recognised for his tenacity and ability to deliver business plan results, he was promoted to the corporate sales wing of RWE npower. In this role, Enam delivered £1.1m gross margin (GM) in 2012 and £1.3m GM in 2013. These industry leading deliverables ensured Enam forged commercial relationships with household names such as Sainsbury's, TATA Steel and British Telecoms (BT), whilst working to secure better commodity hedging strategies for

his client's multi-million pound energy budgets.

Enam graduated in 2004 from the University of Bradford with a 2.1 (Hons) in Technology & Management. He subsequently went on to complete his Masters' degree with distinction from Aston Business School in 2005. After completing his studies, Enam was successful in gaining the much coveted graduate program role for RWE npower in Sept 2005.

Whilst at university, Enam was a tireless campaigner for charitable causes. He has maintained this devotion to working for good causes throughout his career. In 2011 Enam secured £34,000 sponsorship for Sight Savers International and continued the success story into 2013 and 2014 where he campaigned for children's charities and raised a staggering £56,500 from corporate sponsorships.

Enam came to the UK in 1988 at the age of 8 years old and completed his Bangla GCSE with grade A at the age of 13 years. He is the only son of Al-Haj MD Abdul Alim and comes from Goala Bazaar, Usmani Nagar, Sylhet.



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.



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Aliar Hossain

Sector:

Academia and business

Aliar Hossain was born in Bangladesh in Narayanganj, 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 Finance (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.



Subrina Hossain

Sector:

Media

Subrina Hossain is a successful TV executive, a popular media personality and a dedicated business woman. She is the Chief Executive of NTV Europe and also overlooks the daily operations for many other businesses both at national and international level.

Her bold venture has proven a phenomenal success, making the NTV brand the leading Bangladeshi TV channel around the world.

A resilient adaptable and strong willed individual of Bangladeshi origin, she overcame cultural and religious barriers to reach her goals.

Her relentless efforts over the years have successfully resulted in raising the Bengali profile to the mainstream British society. She is regarded as a celebrity by the Asian media and business community.

Subrina graduated from the London Metropolitan University with a law degree. It was then, where her leadership attributes began to emerge, as she was elected the star of the law course representing student's needs, concerns and expectations to the university officials.

Aside from her full time profession, she is also known for her dedication for helping the community and an active fundraiser for a number of leading charities.

Recently she made history by becoming the first female to be elected on the board of Directors on the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce. She is also the Vice President for British Bangladeshi Chambers of Women Entrepreneurs an organization looking at profiling successful business women in British Society.

In response to the government's calls to businesses to

create opportunities for local people into training and employment, Subrina has set up a social enterprise along with a community interest chest.

She is a qualified training provider and is delivering relevant training programs for local unemployed people, helping hundreds to improve their chances of securing apprenticeships, training and employment.

Subrina also has a keen interest in politics formally joining the Conservative Party in November 2008. She founded and chaired the London Metropolitan University Conservative Group, where she made over 100 members in a short space of time.

She was elected Executive Member for Poplar & Limehouse Conservative Association for the past three years and represents the Association at Party and regional conferences.

In May 2010, Subrina was the Conservative Council Candidate for the Bromley by Bow ward in Tower Hamlets; a Ward, which has historically been a very comfortable seat for the Labour Party.

The Conservative Party votes in this local ward have always been around 200-250. However, Subrina received over 1100 votes, a massive 6% swing.

Currently she holds the Chair position for Conservative Friends of Bangladesh Women Group. She aims to encourage more women from the Bangladeshi community to join the party.

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 poverty-stricken 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.

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) - which is expected 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.



Dr Mozammel Huq

Sector:
Academia

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 background 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 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'.



Dr. Hasanat M. Husain
MBE

Sector:
Academia



Award Winner 2009



**Husain Shahida
Hasanat**

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 – 1989.

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 Co-ordinator 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.



Anwar Hussain

Sector:
Education

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 Sunam-

gonj 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.

He is the first person within the Bangladeshi community to have launched an Independent college of Further and Higher Education in the UK called 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).

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Cllr Forhad Hussain

Sector:
Politics

Forhad has been a local elected councillor in the London Borough of Newham for over six years and is currently serving as a full time Cabinet Member for Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. He is the first Bengali Councillor to hold a Cabinet Portfolio position in Newham.

As the Chair of Newham's Investment and Accounts Committee, Forhad has the executive responsibility to manage Newham Council's one Billion pound Pension Fund and to approve the Council's financial accounts. His work through the pension scheme has been recognised by the pension industry by the fund being awarded the Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Pension Fund of the Year 2014 (above £750m), Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) Investment Performance of the Year 2015 & Professional Pensions - Public Sector Scheme of the Year 2015.

Through sitting on Newham's Strategic Planning Committee as the vice chair and being a member on the London Legacy development Corporation Planning Committee, Forhad plays a significant part in the regeneration of Newham and East London.

Forhad studied Aeronautical Engineering (MEng) at Imperial College London. He is also a qualified Science teacher and has taught in an inner London challenging secondary school by taking part in the Inaugural Teach First Scheme in 2003/04.

Previously, as a Project Manager within the Health Sector, Forhad was responsible for delivering successful major improvement projects within Central London hospitals. Forhad has also been involved in a number of successful start-up businesses within the IT, Media and Aviation industry working with successful Bangladeshi businessmen and women.

Forhad sits on a number of Charitable Trust boards responsible for issuing Community grants across East London, including Royal Docks and East End Community Foundation Trusts. He is also the Vice Chair of the London Council Grants Committee, which delivers Pan-London commissioned programs to help vulnerable Londoners out of poverty and into employment and housing.

As a community activist, Forhad has brought communities together through various different channels such through charity fundraising events and developing community spaces. A recent example was Forhad's key involvement to help organise a community fundraiser in Newham to help raise over £300,000 for Syrian refugees.

Forhad is passionate about Cricket and is currently on the Board of Essex County Cricket Club (ECCC) where he is working with the English Cricket Board (ECB), Local Authorities & the County team to develop grassroots Cricket across East London.



Forhad Hussain Tipu

Sector:
Catering/Charity

Forhad was born in Bangladesh in a village called Dasura, located in Beanibazar, sylhet. His father's name is Mr Lobibur Rahman and mother is Mrs Morium Begum.

Forhad is married to Amina Aktar and has three daughters called NISHAT Hussian, Nazia Hussain and Nazeezah Hussain.

Forhad started his primary Education in Dasura Senior Madrasa in Bangladesh later to PC High school in Barlekha, Moul- vibazar where He completed SSC in 1995 and completed HSC at Barlekha Degree College in 1997. While studying Economics hon- ours in MC college, sylhet, Bangladesh in 1998 Forhad travelled to UK with his family on his 18th birthday. Soon after his arrivals to UK Forhad continued with his education at Tower Hamlets College, Later Ethames Business School and Sunderland University successfully completed Business Management Degree. Forhad dreams always to be a business man.

Forhad and his older brother opened up their First Business "Spice Zone" a Bangladeshi Takeaway in Halstead, Essex in July 2001 which has been so successful and Since then Forhad has opened up another four Spice Zone branches. Alongside takeaway food businesses, the property industry is also high on Forhad's business empire tThrough successful running of their takeaway chain and property business, Forhad is very actively involved in many community

and charitable organisations.

Forhad is the Co founder, Trustee and Marketing director of Bangladesh's first cancer Hospital "Beani Bazar Cancer & General Hospital". Forhad served a chief Treasurer of Britain's oldest Organisation Beani-bazar Jonokollayan Samity UK. Forhad also Co Founder of Beanibazar Sporting Club UK.

Forhad's involvement with the curry industry also brought him to be a leading figure of the prominent Bangladesh Caterers Association UK and severed General Secretary of Bangladesh Caterers Association Essex Region and currently holds the position of Central Press & Publication Secretary. Forhad Also Executive member of Community famous television show Catering Circle at Channel S.

Forhad currently resides in Ilford and loves to lead a simple lifestyle. Forhad is keen in helping people and has wide ranges of interests including meeting new people, learning new things and travelling to explore the world.

Mr. Ishtiaq Hussain Dudu; a social organiser, educator, progressive activist and politician was born in April 1969 to his Father Mr. Towhid Ali a social worker and Mother Late Hawarunnessa at the village of Tilakchanpur in Balagonj Upazila under the district of Sylhet.

Mr Hussain passed his schooling (S.S.C/ Matriculation) from Balagonj D.N. High School and his higher secondary (H.S.C/ Intermediate) from Sylhet M.C. Collage in year 1985 and '87 respectively and later completed his BA (Hons) and MA degree from Chittagong University in General History.

Mr Hussain is an examined and devoted leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (B.N.P). He served as the president of Balagonj Chatra Dal (Student wing of B.N.P) and as the joint secretary of Balagonj B.N.P and also was an executive member of Sylhet district B.N.P.

For being one of the founding members of Balagonj B.N.P. he took part in 1990's national protest against the military ruling and re-establishing the democracy; where he achieved success and got appreciation from overall audience.

Along with his position in politics, Mr Hussain has had bright contribution for the development of Balagonj's education. He was one of the pioneers and founding members of Balagonj Degree Collage. For

his huge contribution towards this, the people of Balagonj took him as their closest.

Mr Hussain started his professional career as a history lecturer at Goalabazar Standard Women's Collage and also worked as Superintendent of the government's Mass educational programme while he visited the rural areas frequently and served as a committee member of the board of directors of Balagonj Toyrunessa girl's high School.

Well renowned this dedicated social activist continuing his good work in the UK. He is currently serving as a member of Balagonj Education Trust, Balagonj Standard Society and Birmingham Trust for Poor Development, UK and founding chairman of Nesa & Nesa Welfare Trust. He is operating as membership secretary of Essex region for the renowned British Caterers' Association, UK too.

Successful restaurant businessman Mr Hussain is living in Calchestar, Essex with his wife Mrs. Rashida Begum Rubi, daughter Shawlin Sanjida Hussain, sons Suhash Imam Hussain and Nabil Hussain.



Ishtiaq Hussain (Dudu)

Sector:

Community relations and Catering

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.

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.



Mahbub Hussain

Sector:

Media



Shelim Hussain
MBE

Sector:
Entrepreneur



Award Winner 2009

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.



Ifty Islam

Sector:
Finance

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.

Moinul was born in Amkuna, Golapgonj, as the third child to Jamshed Ali and Khaleda Khanam. He came to the UK in 1977 with his parents and siblings, Nazmul Islam Nuru, Shamsul Islam Shelim, Shahanara Momtaz, Aminul Islam (Abu) and Shahida Khanam.

In 1994, he married Monojaha Islam Polly and together they have 3 children, Farzana Islam, Nihal Islam and Zarah Islam.

After graduating from University of Reading with a degree in Politics and International Relations (Hons.) in 1993, he later went on to study law and obtained a second degree in LLB (Hons.) from City University. Having completed his Bar-at-Law qualification from Inns of Court School of Law, he was called to the Bar in 2001. In 2001 he joined the charity, IAS (Immigration Advisory Services), and served both in Bangladesh and in UK. He worked at the IAS Head Office until 2006 as a Legal Services Commissioner Supervisor (LSC). In 2006 he left the charity and founded Immigration Aid with offices in UK and in Bangladesh. His main work involves Advocacy and Representations before the Immigration Tribunal.

Alongside his profession, Moinul has also business interests in both UK and abroad. In Bangladesh, he

founded FSM Water - a company involved in bottled water in Sylhet and also Worldglazing - a company which introduced Double Glazing in Bangladesh. He is also the founder of Banglanews.com.



Barrister Moinul Islam

Sector:

Law/ Business

Dr Momotaj Gafur Islam is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist who has a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (University of Surrey), Post-graduate Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapies (Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London), Post-graduate Certificate in Psychology & Counselling Skills (City University, London), and BSc (Hons) Psychology (University of Westminster, London).

One of only a few Bangladeshi Clinical Psychologists in the UK, Dr Islam has been a member of the British Psychological Society since 1994 and an accredited member of the British Association of Behavioural & Cognitive Psychotherapists since 2009.

For over 20 years, Dr Islam was dedicated in her work in the NHS as a Clinical Psychologist in community mental health teams within various Psychiatric Hospitals in London, before deciding to leave the NHS to work more independently. She has also been teaching and training post-graduate psychology students for many years at various academic institutions, mainly at the University of Surrey, which she continues to enjoy. Dr Islam currently runs her private practice, MiMindMatters, from SW London. She provides individual and couple therapy, specialising in Cognitive Behavioural Therapy, which she can conduct in Bengali where required. Dr Islam also provides supervision to trained therapists, delivers seminars and careers talks, and does expert witness work.

Dr Islam has been involved in promoting mental health awareness and working towards reducing the stigma of mental illness which still exists in most communities but is perhaps more prevalent in the Bangladeshi community than some others. With this aim, she has appeared on a number of TV and radio programmes, given talks at conferences, and developed programmes for the Asian community in the London boroughs in which she worked. She continues to be involved in some of these projects.



Dr Momotaj Gafur Islam

Sector:

Medicine (Psychology)

As a board member of the Islamic Psychology Professionals Association, Dr Islam is involved in developing the understanding of Islamic perspectives on psychology & psychotherapy. She is also a member of Muslim Women's Network (MNWUK) and Brit-Bangla, with which she has helped organise events for International Women's Day for a number of years.

Dr Islam is committed to a number of charitable causes and gets involved whenever possible. This year, she co-organised a fund-raising event, the 'Saree Soiree', which was well attended and praised, raising considerable sums for women's causes and poverty relief in Bangladesh.

Dr Islam comes from a family of teachers in Sylhet. She grew up in London where she completed all her post-graduate training and developed her career whilst married and raising a family.



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 currently finalising the development of a proposed 4-star 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.

He also owns a hotel in Poplar, London.



**Nurul Islam BA
(Hons), MSc, MBA**

Sector:

Financial Investments

Nurul Islam is an experienced investment banker and currently Director and CEO of Fincorp Capital an emerging market fund manager and a Director of Praxis Capital a corporate finance company. Nurul is also a Director of Intrepid Capital based in Malta which is fully regulated by the Malta Financial Services Authority (MFSA) as an investment manager. Previously Nurul was a Partner for the Global Financial Services Practice with 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 advisor to many of the FTSE 100 senior executives in multinational companies and governments and has in-depth capability in devising strategy, mergers & acquisitions, fund management and regulatory compliances, due diligence and business developments.

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 Business School.

Nurul is a Freeman of the City of London and the Worshipful Company of International Bankers (WCIB).

Nurul is an Approved Person with the Financial Conduct Authorities (FCA).



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Nazrul Islam

Sector:
Catering/Business

Mr Nazrul Islam was born in August 1961 in Hasan Fatema Pur; the upozilla of Jogonnath Pur, under the district of Shunam gonj. He is the first son of Late Mohammed Afroz Miah and Mother Late Mushuda Khatun. At present he resides in Redbridge, Essex in The UK.

He first arrived in London in 1986 and was extremely privileged then many, as his father was an established business man in the UK. Nazrul has started his own career through the following of his father's footsteps. Mr Islam's father also worked in the Restaurant industry between 1959-1982. Mr Nazrul was keen to join in the restaurant business and bought the Royal Tandoori (96 Mile End Road) in London.

For the next few years Mr Islam flew back and forth to Bangladesh to maintain his family businesses as in residential Hotel and travel agency called Al- Amin, a brick field and a housing prokolpo in Sylhet. The Al-Amin was once a very popular hotel in the late 70's.

In 1992 Mr Islam became the Managing Director of Al-Amin Travels, which is now one of the most well known Travel agencies in East London.

Mr Nazrul had a very active student life which began at The Aided high School in Sylhet, followed by completing his Intermediate in MC College Sylhet. This is where he was an Elected Vice President for the student Union between 1980 -1981.

Mr Islam had an interest in politics and stood as an independent parliamentary candidate for Shonam Gonj- 3 in

the Bangladesh by election in 2005, in which he received over 21000 votes. He may not have won but he realised how adored he was by the community and this is where his care grew for people. Next he became a Trustee of the Quantum Meditation Society London, Life member Kendrio Muslim Shahitto Shongshod Sylhet, Life member for the sylhet diabetics association and the Life Member of the Sylhet Rifle club in Sylhet Bangladesh.

Mr Islam is married to Jannath Rehana Chowdhury who is a Primary Teacher and they have been blessed with two talented sons. The eldest is Syedul Islam who graduated in Mechanical Engineering at Kingston, and completed his Masters at Brunel University in Aerospace Engineering. He is at present working for BAE Systems plc in Barrow. His youngest son Ashraf Islam has also completed his degree in Material Science and Engineering at Queen Mary University and has completed his PGSE in Secondary School Teaching in Mathematics at present from Gold Smith College.

Mr Islam's hobbies are reading, helping the community, meditation, travelling and having fun with friends and family.



Polly Islam

Sector:
Community Relations

Monojaha Polly Islam is a founder Director and Secretary General of British Bangladesh Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs (BBCWE).

Polly is a role model and champion of female entrepreneurship in the British-Bangladeshi Community. Through her ability to engage with women, Polly has managed to empower many people both in the UK and Bangladesh.

Polly's professional career has included working as a Women's Development Officer for Marlybone Bangladesh Society serving Bangladeshi women in need of support with welfare benefits, housing, employment and training. For the past 10 years she has been an Immigration Adviser at Immigration Aid a law firm with offices in the UK and Bangladesh.

As a businesswoman and entrepreneur she saw a gap in the market for Islamic wear clothing for modern Muslim women and as a result founded Zarah's in 2011, an on-line and retail business based in Luton. Polly holds investments in a range of businesses based both in the UK and Bangladesh including World Glazing. World Glazing is the first UK based company to set up and introduce sound reducing and energy efficient uPVC and aluminium double glazed doors and windows in Bangladesh.

Away from her dedication to her business interests and family, Polly is a passionate advocate of giving something back to wider society. As a result, she dedicates a substantial amount of her time on volunteering. Polly Islam is the Head of Women's Group and Mental Health Project, CAP Foundations a UK-based international relief and charity organisation, which aims to alleviate the suffering of the least fortunate within the Asia. As well as responding to emergencies, CAP Foundation promotes sustainable economic and social development by working with local communities from all background regardless of religion, race or gender. She is also the vice-chair of London Tigers, a UK registered charity which uses sports to engage with communities from disadvantaged background. London Tigers currently have projects across the UK and internationally in Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka, treasurer of Central London Youth Development, founding Trustee and current Chair of Bangladesh Female Academy.

Sabirul Islam, a young entrepreneur from the age of just 14, a global motivational speaker having spoken at over 778 events worldwide and author of the best-selling books *The World at Your Feet* and *Young Entrepreneur World*, with the latter having launched in February 2012.

With Sabirul becoming a junior trader at 16 and his inspiring books selling over 100,000+ copies to date, which have been published in multiple languages including Spanish & Bangla. Sabirul launched his Teen-Trepreneur board game at 18, to educate young people about business, which has sold to over 650 schools in the UK and in 14 countries worldwide, which is now used as a pivotal part of the business studies curriculum in those countries.

By 20, Sabirul set up Teen-Speakers; a speaker's bureau consisting of 39 of the world's most successful and influential young people, all under 25 striving to empower youth worldwide with a message that 'Generation Y' has what it takes to be successful. Which led to Sabirul's new book to be published in February 2012, titled 'Young Entrepreneur World' interviewing 25 of the Teen-Speakers, sharing their ideas of 'what it takes to be successful' on a personal, business and political scale.

At 21, Sabirul's desire to leave behind a legacy inspired him to launch the 'Inspire1Million Campaign' with a

vision to inspire, engage and transform the lives of million people to develop a positive mindset and approach in life, with a strong focus on enterprise and entrepreneurship. The Inspire1Million campaign has led Sabirul to deliver 777 events so far since May 2011 in 26 countries, with 63 international visits with attendance of 890,145 people worldwide so far.

The campaign has mostly been delivered in Africa, Asia & Latin America.

Sabirul's global presence has now landed him his own 13 week TV series in South Africa. A youth business TV show to encourage growth in entrepreneurship across Africa. Which will now be produced in Bangladesh.

Sabirul is a regular columnist for the Prothom Alo 'Swapno Nie' article in Bangladesh. Sabirul's passion is to inspire millions of people around the world, sharing the message that 'money isn't all too difficult to make in modern day society. The real challenge is to be able to make a difference.' Encouraging people to believe in living a life with purpose, meaning and valuing 'legacy.'



Sabirul Islam

Sector:
Entrepreneur



Award Winner 2013

Syedul Islam was born in Bangladesh and is the eldest son of Nazrul Islam (owner of Alamin Travels Ltd) and Jannath Chowdhury (primary school teacher). He originates from Hasan Fatema Pur in Jagannathpur, Sylhet, Bangladesh. Islam started his education at a well-established English medium primary school called Ananda Niketon, before his father decided to resettle to the UK in 2001. His family current reside in Redbridge in London.

Islam started his secondary school education at Sir John Cass Redcoat School in 2001. After completing his GCSEs in 2006, he went on to study A Levels at Sir John Cass Sixth Form College. Islam chose to study at Kingston University, where he completed his degree in Mechanical Engineering in 2013. In the following year, he went on to complete his Master's by attending Brunel University where he studied Aerospace Engineering. During that period, he held a part-time job as a sales assistant in Waitrose at Canary Wharf. Whilst completing his Master's degree and at his parents' request, he started to apply for graduate engineering jobs. Islam is currently working at BAE Systems as a graduate engineer; developing nuclear submarines for the Ministry of Defence and the Royal Navy UK.

Syedul Islam likes to travel abroad and over the years he has visited many countries, with more on the wish list, thanks to his father's well-established travel

agency – Alamin Travels Ltd (London) and Alamin Hotel Ltd (Sylhet). He has one younger brother, who is a secondary school mathematics teacher. His mother, Jannath Chowdhury, is currently a primary school teacher and has been teaching children for the past decade.



Syedul Islam

Sector:
Engineering



Mohammed Abdul Munim Jahedi

Sector:
Media

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 Khanom.

Mr Jahedi is one of four children. His eldest sister is Rehana Begum, second sister is Ruhana Begum. Mr Jahedi's brother, Abdul Mukabbir Jahedi, 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 Finance.

He is the chairman of London Iqra 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 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.



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.

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Misbahul Jamal

Sector:
Media and Arts

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.

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 was 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.

As well as being an Executive Member of the National Heart Foundation Hospital he is now the UK Committee Secretary.



Shoeb Kabir

Sector:
Media

Recognised as one of the youngest creative journalists, Shoeb Kabir is known for his extensive participation in all news media including print media (newspapers, newsmagazines), broadcast news (radio and television), and online newspapers.

Mr Kabir got himself involved with media while he was in Chittagong. Mr Kabir worked for the famous and old Newspaper 'Daily Azadi' with the feature team. Under his directorship, he also published the Monthly Ruposhi Chattagram. During this time, he also served as an Executive Editor of the Weekly Bandar Nagari and News Editor of the Weekly Chatgar Bani.

Mr Kabir began his career as a feature editor with one of Britain's oldest Bengali newspaper 'Notun Din'. Side by side, he founded Britain's first online 24-hour Bengali News portal "UKBDNEWS.COM". The news portal caused quite a stir at that time. It has been always the first news portal to publish community based news. Subsequently, a weekly Bengali newspaper 'Weekly Bangla News' was published focusing innovative efforts under the editorship and supervision of Mr Kabir.

He also served as the special reporter of 'Bangla TV', the first community based TV Channel in the UK. Later, he worked as the Community News Editor of 'Channel I Europe'. He is currently the London Correspondent of 'SOMOY Television'. Prior to this, he

also worked for the popular radio 'Betar Bangla' in London.

He is training other young people on electronic and print media. Through his never-dying spirit and determination, he has been contributing to the local media as a founder member of UK Bangla Press Club. He is also an active member of the mainstream journalists association 'National Journalist Union'.

Around the same time, Mr Kabir also wants to get involved himself with the Bangladeshi Media. Having this in mind, he published the first 24-hour online News Postal 'CTG News' in Chittagong. He has already initiated the process of publishing daily and weekly newspaper Simultaneously from Dhaka nationally. While working for media, he has also established IT organisation 'Creative Workshop' in Chittagong.

For his outstanding contribution as the youngest editor he was awarded 'the Civic Award' by the Tower Hamlets Council at the age of 25.

Born and raised in Chittagong, he completed his schooling in Chittagong. He is the second child of his parents. Mr Kabir moved to the UK at the age of 19. He studied Business Management in the UK and completed his Masters Degree from Cardiff Metropolitan University.

Thamina Kabir is the principal of Thamina Solicitors. She was born in Bangladesh in the village of Ichakhali in Mirasari, Chittagong in 1985 to her father Humayun Kabir Helaly and mother Nazma Kabir.

Ms Kabir was always a high achiever at school, with outstanding academic results. Ms Kabir completed her secondary school at Bangladesh Mohila Samity Girls' High School and then completed her Higher Secondary Certificate from Chittagong College. She stood 9th in the combined merit list in SSC and 6th in the combined merit list in HSC. Due to these outstanding academic achievements she was awarded the Ministry of Education, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh award on the both occasions. When interviewed after publication of her results by the BD journalists about her future plan, she expressed her desire to become a Barrister, which was also her childhood dream.

With a view to studying law, Ms Kabir moved to the UK in 2003 at the age of 18. She graduated with a LLB (Hons) from University of Northumbria in 2008, followed by the Bar Vocational Course from the prestigious City University in 2009. Subsequently, she was called to the Bar in 2009. She is a member of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. In 2011, she has become a Solicitor.

Ms Kabir has a post graduate diploma in International Commercial Arbitration from Queen Mary Univer-

sity, London. She is a member of both the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) and Young International Arbitration Group -LCIA.

Since 2013 she has been serving the community as a co-opted governor of Barclay Primary School. Barclay Primary is an academy, part of the Lion Academy Trust, She is now the current vice chairman of the board of the governors. Ms Kabir was also the first Bangladeshi woman to participate in the international beauty contest "Mrs Universe" and has won the friendship award. She is connected with British politics and an active member of Labour party. She is also a member of Associate of Women Solicitors and Junior Lawyers Division.

Currently, she is married to Mr Mohammed Mizanur Rahman and together they have 3 children. She is the eldest of four siblings.

Ms Kabir has a keen interest in Charity and her hobbies are current affairs, travelling and networking.



Thamina Kabir

Sector:

Legal

Associate Professor in Organic and Computational Chemistry Department of Chemistry, University of Leicester Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Dr Karim is a British born Muslim academic in the Department of Chemistry at University of Leicester. He is an internationally recognised academic pioneering the design of novel polymeric materials for applications in medicine, security, food and the environment. He has 50+ publications and numerous proceedings and patents and has been an invited/plenary speaker at international conferences. He is of Bangladeshi (Sylheti) heritage and pursued an academic career when very few Muslims from this background were entering education. He is passionate about education and spreading knowledge and won Services to Science and Engineering at the British Muslim Awards, 2017. He has shown through excellence that one can inspire students by acting as a role model and overcoming the historical barriers that our communities face through hard work and dedication benefiting this and future generations. He is currently an Associate Professor in Organic and Computational Chemistry, Deputy Head, Leicester Biotechnology Group, Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and also holds important roles in Employability, Academic Integrity as Careers Tutor, Plagiarism and Ethics Officer.



Dr Kal Karim

Sector:

Academia



**Muhammad
Abul Kalam**

Sector:
Law

Barrister Muhammad Abul Kalam was born in Bangladesh. His village is in Sadipur, Osmani Nagar Upazilla, District-Sylhet. His father was a businessman Alhaj Mr Mohammed Mokbul Hussain. His mother is Alhajja Mrs Syeda Khanom.

Mr Kalam started his education life in Azad Bakth High School in Moulvi Bazar, Bangladesh. He studied there for five years before receiving 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 in 1989.

He then continued to pursue his legal career 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 & Wales. He furthered his carrier and qualified as a Barrister and called to the Bar of England & Wales. He is member of the Honourable Society of Lincolns Inn.

Barrister Muhammad Abul Kalam is the Senior Partner of Kalam Solicitors at 128 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1JE. The largest law firm in the Bangladeshi Community. He qualified as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court England and Wales in 2001 and since he has been practicing as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of England & Wales. Mr

Kalam has been part of the very successful solicitor. There he embraces many responsibilities and holds the position of Principal/Senior Partner.

He was the founder Secretary General of the Society of Bangladeshi Solicitors. He is the founder of the Liberty Law (British Bangladeshi Joint Venture Law Chambers in Bangladesh) in 2/3 Segun Bagicha, Dhaka, Bangladesh. He also involve with the ethnic solicitors such as Black Minority Ethnic Group an Ethnic Community group for all ethnic community lawyers with the Solicitors Regulation Authority and the Law Society of England & Wales. He is a leading Immigration Practitioner. He has regularly appeared on many community TV channels on all area of legal update issues such as Channel S, Channel I, Bangla TV. He also involve with various community and social organisation in UK and Bangladesh.

Having been in the Law industry for so long, Mr Kalam loves what he does, yet is involved in many other organisations. He is a member of the Bangladesh Law Association, Probashi Balagonj Education Trust in UK. He is also members of the Balagonj Samitte UK and Greater Sylhet Council in UK, where he plays an influential role.

Mr Kalam married with Mrs Shahanara who is a social worker. Mrs Kalam achieved BA (Hons) in Sociology, which she achieved at the University of East London. Mr Kalam lives in Redbridge, Ilford with his parents, wife Mrs Shahanara Kalam and three children; Sabiha, Yeasin and Tayyiba, who are students.



Ibrahim Khalil

Sector:
Media

Mr Khalil is a young Professional Journalist and Senior Reporter of the Most powerful and number one British Bangladeshi Television, Channel S. Mr. Khalil has shed so much positive light on British Bangladeshi community through the excellent services that he has undertaken. Mr Khalil has been a writer for 16 years and his reports and features have consistently highlighted the positives of the Bangladeshi community, be it through reports on issues or interviews with residents, sports people and Politicians.

After serving with the Sylhater Dak in Bangladesh Ibrahim came to the UK and has carried out vital reporting positions with British Bangladeshi based satellite TV stations. At Channel I Mr Khalil worked himself up to the position of news editor and then the chief reporter at Bangla TV. His focus is British Bangladeshis and he highlights issues which affect the everyday lives of residents. Mr Khalil's reports are also vital in getting across messages and announcements to the parts of the community who are hard to reach. Mr Khalil was born in 1986 at Boro Hazi Pur village of the Sylhet district, Osmani Nagar Upozella, under west Pailon pur Union. Mr Khalil's Father Alhaj Abdus Shahid is a respected person in the area. As a student Mr Khalil became involved in journalistic activities in Sylhet named Sylhet Express. Mr Khalil

went on to become a staff reporter on the most read Bangla Newspaper, Daily Sylhater dak at Sylhet, in the mean time Mr Khalil came to London for Higher studies and started to work with Daily BritBangla Newspaper as a staff reporter in 2010. In 2011 Mr Khalil moved to another weekly newspaper London-bangla then in 2012 Mr Khalil was appointed as the News Editor of the paper. Now he is working as a news editor of weekly Bangla post.

Mr Khalil is married to Ruksana Khanum and is very active in social work with vast experience within community, volunteers and sports. Mr Khalil was the first youngest National Executive Committee (NEC) Member of Balagonj-Osmani Nagor Adarsha Upojela shomity. Mr Khalil was a first division cricket team player of Sylhet, Founder Secretary of 'Pangery Welfare Foundation' through the organisation Mr Khalil has helped hundreds of needy children, a trustee of 'Balagong-Osmani nagor Education trust'. He is a media ambassador of renowned charity origination "Cap foundation".

Now Mr Khalil works with community liaison officer of London Tigers, volunteers with mental health department in London borough of Camden area and language teacher of secondary school London Enterprise Academy.

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Musabbir Karim (Sabbir)

Sector:

Catering

Musabbir Karim, known as 'Sabbir' to the many folks who know him, is a man of many talents. Along with assuming the role of Chef Patron at a pair of esteemed Indian restaurants Salaam Namaste and Namaste Kitchen in London and playing Purser role for British Airways' as "fly to serve" cabin crew for almost two decades, he is a consultant, humanitarian, and activist.

Sabbir's highflying lifestyle and extensive travels ensuring he returns to the restaurants full of new culinary inspiration. The knowledge and skills he has built in the catering sector, meanwhile, inform and determine his ultimate vision: to expand his healthy dining concept around the globe. The Guardian described him as 'a maestro in Modern Indian and traditional cooking' rating 9/10.

Sabbir has constantly evolved his cooking, handpicking new and original recipes from well-regarded chefs and added his innovation to generate new faith in Indian Cooking. Legendary Fay Maschler from the Evening Standard—opining that she was more than happy to pick up a personal tab and acknowledged Sabbir's Namaaste Kitchen as a 'critics favourite'.

In 2012, Sabbir's year long Regional Food Festival, focusing on a different area of India each month—providing yet another lure for the media and London's gourmets.

Sabbir has won many awards & recognition, 2012 Sabbir won The 'Best Asian & Oriental Chef of the Year', and the following year Sabbir took the title of "Best Asian & Oriental Innovative Chef Of The Year 2013". His restaurants have also won many accolades including Best Newcomer 2012.

Sabbir is a confident and engaging spokesperson for entrepreneurship, and a convincing ambassador for the value of

pursuing one's dream. He has been interviewed multiple times for various platforms including national and international radios and television channels including the BBC and British Airways' magazine, 'UptoSpeed', and has staged cooking presentations.

Recently, Sabbir was invited to Zee TV's Zee Companion show as a special guest spokesperson to discuss the 'Healthy Meal Plan'. The chef continues to write recipes for mainstream media; and his Peshawari lamb chops recipe was published the Sunday Telegraph alongside 'Prince William's Wedding Menu - Exclusive Collectors' Version'.

Sabbir is also highly motivated where philanthropy is concerned; involved with a multitude of charities on an ongoing basis. With BA, he was a UNICEF champion and worked with the Sreepur Project in Dhaka and Action Against Hunger. Both Salaam Namaaste and Namaaste Kitchen support Find Your Feet's annual 'Curry For Change' campaign.

In 2014, Sabbir raised £4,500 by hosting a charity dinner at his restaurant to celebrate the 25th anniversary of SreepurVillage Charity; a UK organisation to aid destitute women and children in Bangladesh. Noted guests at the event included the Bangladesh High Commissioner, His Excellency Mohamed Mijarul Quayes; Rt. Hon. Frank Dobson MP.

Sabbir has an unfaltering commitment to the cause of both engineering and delivering creative cuisine; and retains his passion to surprise & delight diners on each and every occasion. This ethos spills over into his career in the field of aviation, and the chef is endlessly enthused and inspired by the idea of improving airline food with British Airways and other carriers.



Akram Khan

Sector:

*Artistic Director/
Choreographer/Dancer*

Akram Khan is one of the most celebrated and respected dance artists today. In just over 16 years he has created a body of work that has contributed significantly to the arts in the UK and abroad. His reputation has been built on the success of imaginative, highly accessible and relevant productions such as *Until the Lions*, *Kaash*, *iTMOi* (in the mind of igr), *DESH*, *Vertical Road*, *Gnosis* and *zero degrees*.

An instinctive and natural collaborator, Khan has been a magnet to world-class artists from other cultures and disciplines. His previous collaborators include the National Ballet of China, actress Juliette Binoche, ballerina Sylvie Guillem, choreographers/dancers Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui and Israel Galván, singer Kylie Minogue, visual artists Anish Kapoor, Antony Gormley and Tim Yip, writer Hanif Kureishi and composers Steve Reich, Nitin Sawhney, Jocelyn Pook and Ben Frost.

Khan's work is recognised as being profoundly moving, in which his intelligently crafted storytelling is effortlessly intimate and epic. Described by the Financial Times as an artist "who speaks tremendously of tremendous things", a recent highlight of his career was the creation of a section of the London

2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony that was received with unanimous acclaim.

Khan has been the recipient of numerous awards throughout his career including the Laurence Olivier Award, the Bessie Award (New York Dance and Performance Award), the prestigious ISPA (International Society for the Performing Arts) Distinguished Artist Award, the Fred and Adele Astaire Award, the Herald Archangel Award at the Edinburgh International Festival, the South Bank Sky Arts Award and six Critics' Circle National Dance Awards. Khan was awarded an MBE for services to dance in 2005. He is also an Honorary Graduate of University of London as well as Roehampton and De Montfort Universities, and an Honorary Fellow of Trinity Laban.

Khan is an Associate Artist of Sadler's Wells, London and Curve, Leicester.

Mashuk Ahmed Khan is the eldest son of Mohammed Matur 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) and blessed with three children; a son and two daughters namely: Mustafa, Nabila and Farzana. All three children had the privilege of going to independent schools from day one of their schooling lives, unto the sixth forms. The son is a Litigation Executive for the NHS (W Midland region). The eldest daughter is a graduate in Accounting and Finance, and pursuing a further diploma in Banking with the Chartered Institute of Bankers. The youngest daughter has achieved a degree in Accounting and Finance with a first class honours, and progressed to ACCA programme in pursuit of qualifying as a Chartered Accountant.

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 a keen reader on Marx, Rousseau, Bentham, Mills, Hobbes and Locke. He is also a political critique, columnist, a Rotarian, and an author gifted with literary skills. He has written numerous articles on political affairs and governance of his native Bangladesh. His most recent article "Our Independence Hitherto Confined in Political Wilderness" (BanglaMirror, 11/01/2013), depicts a momentous account of Bangladesh's morbid political antecedents and the fetid stench of her overall political environment. 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 po-

litical crises were published in Bangla Mirror, London (237 & 316), Sylhet Madan Mohan University College Literary Council's publication "Katha Lata" (4&5) and in Sylhet Mobile Pataghar's narrative publication "Chayalap" (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 in HRM: "Export Orientated Industrialisation and the Exploitation of Labour in the Developing Economies", he had re-assigned his academic interest into Law with sustained enthusiasm and achieved a Master of Laws degree (L.L.M) with merit from the World-class Birkbeck College of the University of London. He is engaged in further legal research in the development of International Human Rights with particular focus on the "virtues, protections and myths" - surrounding the process. He is currently investigating the extent to which US government policies on Incarceration, Capital Punishment and the death-row phenomenon clash with the European Convention on Human Rights in light of the decision in Soering v United Kingdom [1989]ECtHR. 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 Masters 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 - engaged 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 documentaries, travelling, listening Tagore Songs, Urdu Ghazals, Mozart, and Pavarotti.



Mashuk Ahmed Khan

Sector:
Academia

Abul Kalam Khan is a young dynamic business entrepreneur in the event management industry. He has been successfully running Henna Events, a leading events and catering company based in East London. Amazingly Henna Events has successfully managed over 1,500 event functions since its inception in 1999. Popularly known as 'Khan bhai', he has had a diverse career since completing his education from Tower Hamlets College. Khan's employment career started from humble beginnings by working at a McDonalds restaurant in Canary Wharf, becoming the Assistant Store Manager, and later moving to work for the insurance industry as Senior Insurance Consultant for Budgets, Trident, J&M and Century Insurance.

Khan completed his secondary education at St Paul's Way, before moving to higher education to successfully complete his General Vocational Qualification at Tower Hamlets College. He later went to study at South Bank University.

A family man of 4 sons and a supporting wife, Sabrina Ali Khan, has been instrumental in the success of Khan's business and family life. Khan lives in a beautiful part of Essex and has a portfolio of properties.

Henna Events today is leading the way in innovative ethnic wedding events, creative culinary and outstanding event décor.

Khan was born in Shaharpara (Audoth Khan Bari), Sylhet and migrated to the UK at a very young age. He has two brothers and four sisters.



Abul Kalam Khan

Sector:
Hospitality



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 people to maximise their independence within the local community by using a person centred approach.

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 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 an 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 himself 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.



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 Institute.

One of six siblings, Mr Khan is married to Sultana Aktar Chowdhury and has been blessed with one son and two daughters.



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Helal Uddin Khan

Sector:

Travel & Hospitality

Mr Helal Uddin Khan came to the UK in 1986 after completing his H.S.C in Bangladesh. In 1990 Mr Khan started his first business which was an Estate Agency called '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 is now one of the most established and recognised business men in the travel industry in the UK and Bangladesh. Now Mr Khans office is in Green Street, London and at present he employs twelve employees. To help the local community he has opened a call centre in Sylhet with 15 staff, which he hopes to expand to offer further employment.

Mr Khan is always up to date with latest information in the Travel Industry as he participates in different training (Reservation and Ticketing) and courses. He has also visited many countries around the world under the education tour programme sponsored by different Airlines.

Mr Khan is an associate member of Greater Sylhet Association since 1995 as well as an active member of Bangladesh Welfare Association since 1990. He has been an Executive Member of Nurul Haq Education

Trust Fenchugong since 1993, the Ex General Secretary Fenchugong Kollan Shamite (oldest Association in UK) since 1986, Deputy Director General of British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry I and Chairman of United Kingdom Biman Approved Travel Agent Association.

Mr Khan is married with two daughters and two sons.

He is a very popular person among the Asian community due to his amiable personality and support he gives to hundreds of organisations and events every year. Mr. Helal Uddin Khan is very much interested about Bangladeshi Culture and in his spare time likes to sing and go to concerts. He has continued being involved with various fundraising initiatives in the UK and abroad.



Dilara Khan

Sector:

Media

Dilara has a wealth of experience in charity, voluntary sector, education, local government and extensive experience and expertise in management. Her professional career spans 13 years in senior management in the National Health Service (NHS) managing several services, and ensuring service improvement and implementing changes to improve health outcomes for the people of Tower Hamlets, Inner Cities and Nationally.

Dilara first began her journey in Media and Journalism as a student at the prominent newspaper The Voice and BBC local Radio. From there continues her education into BSc Hons in Communication and Cultural Studies followed by MSc Management and Leadership Inter-professional Practices from the prestigious business faculty of the City University (University of London).

Having been a student of communication Dilara believes that mass media is the key to improving lives and livelihoods. Dilara is currently working on developing international TV shows abroad. Dilara is also the creator of 'Forgotten Roots' International Reality Show and 'Maa Amar Maa Awards'.

Dilara is also the founder President of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs

(BBCWE), recently launched at the House of Lords as well as the founder and Chairperson of the charity 'People Like Us' (PLU).

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 35,000 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.

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.



Dr Shafi Khan

Sector:
Academia and Politics

Mr Islam Uddin Khan comes from the renowned Atghar 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 various 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 avoid 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.



Islam Khan

Sector:
Legal (Barrister)



M.A Mannan Khan

Sector:

*Education and
Community Relations*

M A Mannan Khan was born in 1953 in Khan Bari, Kismoth Maizbhag in Golapgonj, 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 teacher-training 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 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 Motijee Theatre in Dhaka, Committee Member of the local Mosque Masjid-e-Bitul Mukarram Trust, and he is currently working for Channel S as their news reporter for Leicestershire.

In his spare time Mr Khan likes to write poems for magazines and newspapers.



Tasmin Lucia-Khan

Sector:

Media

Tasmin Lucia-Khan is an Entrepreneur, TV Personality and Film Producer with over 16 years of on-air experience. She has presented and produced over 5,000 programs for the BBC, ITV and NBC, broadcasting to global audiences of millions.

Her current role is CEO of the publicly traded Hollywood film company WR Entertainment (widerelease.com), a global entertainment business focused on Book-to-Film crossover with head-quarters in Los Angeles. She took the company public in January 2016, listing it on the Oslo Stock Exchange Merkur Market. She is also a producer on the first action adventure film, alongside Mark Huffam, producer for Ridley Scott's Oscar nominated 'The Martian' and 'Alien: Covenant'.

Tasmin has reported on some of the biggest news stories in the world including the South East Asian Boxing Day Tsunami, the death of Michael Jackson, Barack Obama's inauguration and the capture of Osama Bin Laden. She has interviewed global figures such as Bill Clinton, Angelina Jolie, Shah Rukh Khan and hosted the Commonwealth Games Baton Relay at Buckingham Palace with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in attendance.

An entrepreneur from an early age, Tasmin has grown several successful tech start-up businesses in the Silicon Valley and London. In 2007, Tasmin was a founding team member and Vice President of AdMaxim

Inc, one of Europe's leading mobile advertising agencies based in San Francisco and London. For this work she was awarded Entrepreneur of the Year 2014/2015 by the Lloyds Banking Group in the UK for her leadership. Another company co-founded by Tasmin is app development and creative agency Sivvr, which was named a Top Digital Influencer at the United Nations 70th Anniversary ceremony in San Francisco two years ago.

Tasmin has an Oxford University degree and Masters in Politics, Philosophy and Economics, and is married to cardiologist Dr Junaid Zaman. She is passionate about giving back and is involved in children's charities in Bangladesh. She is also proud to be an Ambassador for Prince Charles' British Asian Trust.

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.

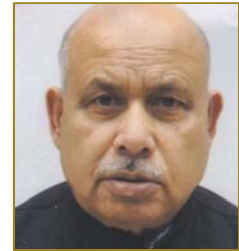
On top of that, he has an enormous investment in the tea estates in Sylhet and also owns several houses in London.

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 party. At present, Md. Shamsuddin Khan resides with his wife Mrs. Safarun Nesa Khanom and their three children.



Md. Shamsuddin Khan

Sector:
Catering and Politics

Mayor Tahir Khan of Luton was born in 1967 in Bangladesh and came to live in the UK in 1982. The rise of racial tensions and arrival of young new migrant community from South Asia particularly from Bangladesh proved to be a challenging dilemma for the authorities to cope. The experience of new migrant young people in the eighties led to abandoning his ambition to study medicine but inspired him to get involved in youth and community work to support young people in improving their life chances. He studied DipHE in Youth and Community Development at the De Montfort University and a management degree at the University of Bedfordshire.

Tahir joined Bangladesh Welfare Association in 1986 as a Community Worker to pursue his mission of supporting the local community with their challenges. In 1988 he joined Bangladesh Youth League (Luton) (BYL) and was elected as President. His passion to develop community leaderships led to developing a governance system within BYL that ensured youth involvement and participation at all level within the organisation, providing platform for young people to develop and nurture key skills of leadership.

Tahir played an instrumental lead role in progressing the business of the BYL developing innovative projects that responded to ever changing needs of young people in the most deprived parts of Luton and won a number of high profile awards. The most significant project achievement has been founding of the Centre for Youth and Community Development (CYCD) in 1995.

Tahir served as the founding Chairman for CYCD and he is also a successful entrepreneur, volunteered as community activist served as Treasurer for the Bedfordshire Youth Association a regional umbrella organisation, was

Board Member of Princes Trust Bedfordshire Committee for 10 years, served as a Director to Luton and Dunstable Partnership Board and led on international development projects on behalf of a charity including establishing a school cum cyclone shelter in SIDR effected area of Bangladesh. Tahir currently serves on the board of a number of charities.

Using BYL as a platform he engaged at national level with Home Office's Special Support Unit and Equalities Associates in delivering a specialist training program to Senior Police Officers and Judges across the nation. Challenging the institutional racism that infested the police force and judicial system led to influencing much of the changes that we see today.

Tahir has been working for Local Government for over 26 years in various capacities including at senior management level. He worked for Bedfordshire County Council, Luton Borough Council and some of the London boroughs. In his work life he has always been championing the young people's issues and developing opportunities for young people to participate in positive activities and his work gaining national and local awards.

He was elected as Councillor in 2007 and served in a number of committees. Following the local election he was subsequently elected to the Council's Executive. He successfully served as Lead Cabinet Member for Children Services for 5 years. Amongst the many projects some of the highlights of his cabinet role has been BSF programme, achievement of 5 star Children Services by Ofsted, convincing the Council to allocate Bath Road site for a new primary school, development of Children Centres. He is also a Director at London Luton Airport Board.



Cllr Tahir Khan

Sector:
Politics



Zakir Khan

Sector:

*Community Relations
& Corporate*



Award Winner 2012

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 City-side 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 teams. 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.



Yasmin Khatun

Sector:

*Journalist/ TV producer/
Contributing Writer/
Blogger*

Yasmin is a journalist and ex senior producer at the Islam Channel, with a varied role producing, reporting and anchoring news programme 'The Report'. She works on investigative pieces for the channel and produced landmark series 'Bangladesh in Crisis' in the wake of turmoil last year, she was also responsible for co-producing the channels Olympics 2012 coverage. Earlier this year she travelled to Chad to document the crisis faced by refugees fleeing from the Central African Republic producing documentary 'Crisis in the Republic'. Writing for a number of different publications including The Huffington Post, her work is diverse and touches on a wide range of topics from fashion, ethics and current affairs. Yasmin regularly comments on fashion, politics and Islam having taken part in programmes on the BBC and Bangla TV channels. Earlier this year Yasmin organised an unprecedented event at the London Muslim Centre where she chaired a panel to debate ethics in the garments industry. A journalist you can't quite pigeon hole she has a number of hobbies and passions but Ethical Fashion seems to be the one that stands out, The garments industry is something she says she has always been passionate about. Taking her passion to work she is a

board member for Fashion Revolution Day, a charity launched in the wake of the Rana Plaza Factory collapse in Bangladesh working towards making the industry a fair one for all. This year Yasmin also took the 'Live below the Line' challenge with the global poverty project aimed at eradicating extreme poverty around the world, raising money for a number of charities.

Hailing from Stoke Newington, London, Yasmin has always had a political note and set up debating societies to channel her political interest at school. After graduating with a bachelors at Goldsmiths College studying Sociology & Politics she spent a year teaching at an independent school before entering the field of journalism. She had interned at The Guardian, The Independent, Red magazine, Harpers Bazar and at the press office in City Hall before entering into the Islam Channel.

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Dr Nazia Khanum, OBE

Sector:

Research & Academia



Award Winner 2011

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, is the former Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets. An interesting example of the empowerment of Bangladeshi women in the 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 writing 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 Au-

thority 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 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 Circuit 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 used to practice 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 2014 she was made a full time Circuit judge.

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.



Sapnara Khatun

Sector:
Legal (Judge)



Award Winner 2010

In the world of British-Bangladeshi media industry, Minhaj Kibriyah has proven to be a genius in the world of advertising, sometimes even single-handedly pushing businesses to the next level of prosperity.

Minhaj Kibriyah is adamant that whilst he has worked his way up relentlessly from directing TV Commercials through his own company AdWorks, to directing stunning music videos, to directing two Bengali movies in Bangladesh But his pioneering work in the advertisement industry for nearly past two decades is what shaped the business community. Kefayeth Khan, an actor who has collaborated with Kibriyah on numerous adverts, calls Kibriyah a 'master': "The man knows his stuff. He is a master at everything and an advertising genius. When it comes to the art of concept Ads, there is no equal."

Raja Kaasheff the world famous United Kingdom-based Music Composer and Singer, who has collaborated with Adnan Sami and produced Bollywood songs calls him a 'star-maker': "I have worked with many directors and stars but Minhaj Kibriyah stands out against them all because he is a trend-setter".

Minhaj Kibriyah is now the Creative Director of Channel S, the UK's number one channel for a Bangladeshi audience.

Taz Coudhury, the TV network's CEO, explains "Kib-

riyah was hired as Creative Director precisely because of his creativity. His record in the advertising and music industry speaks for itself and we wanted that creative spark here. The channel is reaching out from the first generation of Bangladeshis to the second and the third and Kibriyah is talented and imaginative enough to attract that audience."

And it is clear that Kibriyah's attitude had filtered throughout the network as colleagues at Channel S, can only speak highly of him: "He's a can do man, he never says no to any task facing him. He always tries to do everything differently but creatively. He's a man that brings every skill you could ask for to the table and more."



Minhaj Kibriyah

Sector:
Media



**Cllr Syeda Amina
Khatun MBE**

Sector:
Politics

Cllr Syeda Amina Khatun MBE is currently the Deputy Leader of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, Chief Executive Officer of Bangladeshi Women's Association Limited and the Chairperson of Bangladeshi Regeneration Council in England & Wales.

Councillor Khatun was the first Bangladeshi woman to be elected Councillor in the Midlands region in 1999 and was made a Member of the British Empire for her services to Community Development in 2004. Whilst retaining many political and professional portfolios, Councillor Khatun has always been a strong community champion and remained open to serving the entirety of the community as well as showing tremendous devotion towards the betterment of the Bangladeshi people. Over the past thirty years of her career in the community sector, Cllr Khatun has successfully planned and managed hundreds of community development projects that has improved lives of thousands of disadvantaged people and communities. Councillor Khatun has also committed herself to 'empowering communities together' by sharing of services and opportunities across all boundaries and culture.



S.H Khurshed

Sector:
*Media and
Entertainment*

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 created 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 the past years. 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 Haque, Jahan Haque and Jahia Haque, and two daughters, Jynat Haque and Jannat Haque.

Mohammed Gulam Kibria was born in the village of Noorpur, Osmaninagar UP Sadipur, in Sylhet. During his time spent in Bangladesh, he studied in Pailgaow High School in Jagonathpur. His father Late Sikondor Ali, worked as a soldier for the British Army and was also one of the councilors for Osmaninagar UP Sadipur. Mr Kibria comes from a large family which consists of four sisters. He is the only son and is the second eldest child in the family.

Mr Gulam Kibria first started his own business in the year 1980; this was a flourishing perfume business in Kingdom of U A E. Before coming to the UK in 1985, he decided to travel around a little and so he visited Singapore and the later, Malaysia.

In the year of 1986, Mr Md Gulam Kibria set up his very own construction business situated in the UK, called Oriental Contracting Co. Ltd, of which he is still the Director and Proprietor. Mr. Kibria's business has ever since been extremely successful. It can be said without a doubt that Mr. Kibria has come far in life and done well due to his hard work, enthusiasm and determination to thrive both as a businessman and an individual.

On top of running his own business, Md Gulam Kibria is also involved with many community organizations, most of which are in Bangladesh. He is a life member of

Pailgaow B N High School, which he had previously attended himself and is also a life member of the Probashi Balagonj Osmani Nagor Education Trust since 1992. In addition to that, he took on the role of being the Treasurer between 2000-2002 and General Secretary between 2002-2005 of the Trust then elected as the Chair Person and President between 2009-2011. Mr Kibria was also the President of the Probashi Balagonj- Osmani Nagor Adarsha Upozilla Shamity and the Balagonj Education Trust between 2006-2008 and the founder and chairman of Taneem Hospital from 2004, a hospital which he helped set up in his own village in Bangladesh. Md Gulam Kibria is forever giving to charity as well, and has donated money towards many schools, colleges along with mosques, roads and bridges.

During the Caretaker term, Mr Kibria visited the Head of State Mr Faqur Uddin and was a major donor towards the ILR Sid Disaster fund. Mr Kibria received the Tower Hamlets Civic Award in 2014.

At this moment in time, Md Gulam Kibria lives contentedly in the East London with his wife Mrs Fazal Kibria. They have both been blessed with three wonderful and much adored sons, Zayed Kibria, Waleed Kibria and Fahad Kibria and two daughters Taneem Kibria and Sumaiyah Kibria.



Md Gulam Kibria

Sector:
Construction

Taysir Mahmud is very well known in the British Bangladeshi community as a committed professional journalist. He is currently the Editor of Weekly Desh, Britain's first Nationwide free Bengali newspaper.

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 Sylhet MC University College.

As a student he became involved in journalistic activities and worked as a staff reporter on the Daily Sylhet Bani newspaper. He went onto become the sub-editor for the newspaper. He later established Media Line, a powerful news agency in Sylhet. At one stage Mr. Mahmud was senior staff reporter at daily Jalalabad newspaper and at the same time was programme compiler in Radio Bangladesh, Sylhet Centre. He was also a permanent member of the Sylhet Press Club.

Mr. Mahmud arrived in UK in 2003. He started his career as News Editor at Notun Din. In 2007 he was appointed as the Executive Editor of the paper and served in this position until he joined Weekly Desh, as an Editor. He still remains an honorary director of Weekly Notun Din.

Mr. Mahmud married Farhana Mahmud in 2006, the daughter of respected community leader Al-Hajj Atik Miah of Hazipur, Golapgonj.

Farhana Mahmud is a secondary Science teacher. They are the parents of three children, Jibreel, Sarah & Mikael Mahmud. The family resides in East London.



Taysir Mahmud

Sector:
Media



Mohammad Abul Lais

Sector:

Catering

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.

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 sitting the SSC Exam in 1975 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 and £11 000 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 to 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 Bournemouth University.



Muhammed Abdul Kuduse

Sector:

Telecommunications

Mr Kuduse is Successful entrepreneur and businessman from Dokinshurma, Alam Pur, Bangladesh. Born to his father Abdus Shohid (Khola Miah) and mother Hawarun Nessa. He arrived from Bangladesh with his family and with just a few GCSEs and is now the Director and Owner of Go Phone Ltd one of the fastest growing mobile phone chains in southwest of England.

Mr Kuduse completed his GNVQ Business at Bristol College and his English at Bhasvic College, Brighton. Moving to Bristol in 2003 Mr Kuduse started working part time at JD Sports and the Thai Express. In 2004 Mr Kuduse started working as a sales person at Phones4U where he gained the skills to implement new sales techniques, strategic planning and leadership, negotiation and growth attainment. With his passion and drive Mr Kuduse was promoted to Manager in Two years after which he left and joined JAG communication in 2007.

Mr Kuduse by now had mastered the key elements of the mobile communications industry and in 2009 decided to leave JAG Communications to start his own venture, Mad Mobiles in June 2009 with three employees and achieved turnover of £400,000 in his first year. With success Mr Kuduse opened another 14

stores in the span of 6 years, in 2015 the company turnover was £3.5 Million and by then Mr kuduse has also owned few commercial properties.

Later in 2015 Mr Kuduse sold his shares and started another own venture Go Phone Ltd, which is already exceeding key operational performance targets and his principle for success as said by Mr Kuduse "Service after sales is the key point for my business to be successful".

In May 2016 Mr Kuduse has established another firm Style Spas (South West) Ltd, and opened first massive showroom in Brislington retail park, Bristol.

Mr Kuduse also has a property portfolio with investment mainly in Bristol.

Mr Kuduse is married to Minni Ahmed Choudhury. He is also budding philanthropist who often enjoys fundraising for his self-run charity, Hazi Abdus Shohid Foundation in Bangladesh.



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Ajmal Masroor

Sector:

Politics and Religion

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 is 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 "Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism training manual" and "Organisational Capacity building handbook".

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.



Piara Mayenin (Piya)

Sector:

Law/Community

Piara Mayenin, aka Piya Mayenin is a Bangladeshi lawyer with a feminist edge, who practices law, specialising in Immigration; Human Rights, Wills and Probate, Family and Employment Law; discrimination. Her dedication and commitment to the community precipitated her to become a Radio and TV presenter; she hosts and produces legal programs on Bengali speaking television and radio since 2010. She appears as guest on popular TV shows to discuss and confer opinion on issues affecting the community.

Piya Mayenin was born to Mohammed Abdul Noor and Champa Noor in Ziapur, which is a village in Chhatak upozilla in the district Sunamganj. She is sixth of seven siblings. On entering the UK with her parents at tender age of three months her entire upbringing has been in the UK. She attended Harry Gosling Primary School in Tower Hamlets followed by Mulberry School and North Westminster Community School in Westminster. Having graduated with BA Honours in Economics from The University of Greenwich, she then attained Postgraduate Diploma in Law followed by LPC from The University of Law formerly known as The College of Law. In 1996 she married Munayem Mayenin, a writer and poet and they have a son, Ohie and two daughters, Saahia and Raaneem.

Piya Mayenin is an active human rights campaigner, whose work includes generating awareness amongst the community and challenging discrimination, bigotry and hypocrisy that affects the community at large, creating barriers and causing alienation and segregation. Community empowerment has been her lifelong commitment. She promotes equality and awareness by participating in various activist and cultural organisations, in addition to organising cultural events, seminars and writing blogs and articles.

In addition to Piya Mayenin's legal profession, she is an amateur singer who received classical vocal and harmonium training from Pundit Haridas Ganguly, Ustaad Fida Hussain Khan and Mahmudur Rahman Benu. As a hobby she performs occasionally and believes in upholding culture and heritage, spreading happiness for everyone through these performances.

Mr. M A Matin was born in the village Amnia of Golapganj Upazila under Sylhet district. His father Alhaj Ayub Ali was a businessman in Sreemangal which is now under Mulvibazar district of Sylhet Division. His father died at the age of 105 and mother died at 90 years of age.

Mr. Matin came to the UK in 1963 during the Earth while East Pakistan of present Bangladesh but always he had a strong feelings for his mother language. After his arrival he achieved few courses like Photography and Tea Trade from City of London College.

He had the intention from the beginning that he should have his own business and from that thinking & endeavor he started a supermarket as his first business at Enfield in the year 1968. After four years he also qualified as a Driving Instructor and in 1973 he started a Driving School. Again he started Rack Trade in Brick Lane along with Messers. Islam and Kasru Miah. In 1979 Mr. Matin went to Bangladesh in response to his mother's wishes to see her and he obeyed the desire of his mother by getting married to Suriya on 8th May 1980. Mrs. Suriya is very much fond of Tag ore's song and she herself loves to sing. It was a co-incident that their wedding date was the Birth Day of Rabindranath Tagore.

After eight weeks he returned to the UK with his newly married wife. He was thinking to start a new business like Catering as he observed that Bangladeshi Restaurants were known as Indian Restaurant but his intention to involve with the restaurant business was to identify the Bangladeshi Catering Business as the 'Bangladeshi Cuisine'. In 1981 he started Restaurant Business named Lalbag Tandoori Restaurant at Bays water in Westbourne Grove. To promote the culture & heritage of Bangladesh, the country who then achieved independence a decade before he mentioned his Restaurant as Bangladeshi Cuisine, hoisted flag of Bangladesh and the menu was prepared both in English & Bengali. Mr. Matin also founded other four restaurants in different places in London. The Restaurants were Sunderban Bangladeshi Cuisine, Sugandha Bangladeshi Cuisine, Sunflower Bangladeshi Cuisine & Saqhi Bangladeshi Cuisine.

Mr. Matin was actively involved with the Bangladesh Caterer's Association (BCA) and he became the Deputy Secretary General from 1986 to 1990. During his tenure he proposed to use a common logo of the BCA to all the Bangladeshi Restaurants & use the word as Bangladeshi Cuisine. So, the customer & the general people can easily understand about the Bangladeshi Restaurant & food. It was very unfortunate that his proposal was not materialized yet. He also involved with different socio-cultural organization such as member of Lions Club of Kensington and Chelsea, Founder Director of Weekly Bengali Newspaper 'Notun Din', Founder Member & General Secretary of a reputed Charity organization named 'Friends of Bangladesh', one of the donors of the National Heart Foundation Sylhet also Vice-Chairman of the UK Committee and a life member of Bangladesh Centre London.

He has a great feeling to the poorer and a commitment to help the distressed people in Bangladesh. To fulfill such commitment he is helping the poor people especially in his jurisdiction. Presently under his full support there are two boys & one girl are full time student. Among them, the girl Masuma is the daughter of a Rickshaw puller in Dhaka who got admitted in the Dhaka Medical College. She secured a place in the Intermediate Examination. One boy Md Pinak from his own village is now in the 3rd year in Sylhet Polytechnic and other one Shaded Ahmed is in the final year of Electrical Engineering in the Islami Bank Institute of Technology, Sylhet. His financial help started to all of them after passing their SSC Examination. He has an urge to all the members of the Community to come forward for such helping to the poor students, so that illiteracy in Bangladesh will be reduce in a large number within a short time.

Mr. Matin oftenly writes Column, Features and Travel Memories in the Bengali Newspapers. He also published his Autobiography in Bengali 'Dinguli Mor Sonar Kachai' which lunched in a colorful ceremony at Brady Arts Centre in London on June 2012. His every intention is how to develop the quality and the betterment of his Community.



M A MATIN

Sector:
Media

Karim Miah was born in London and both his parents are from Rajnagar, Moulvibazar, Bangladesh and is the 5th child of seven siblings.

Mr Miah is a successful entrepreneur with a fleet of restaurants and fast food takeaways under his management in the South West. He has won numerous awards for his restaurants. He is also a keen property developer and has a property portfolio in the UK.

In his younger days Mr Miah attended South Camden Community School then continued his studies at Hammersmith and the West London College before moving to the South West to work in the Indian catering industry.

Mr Miah has always been a hard working and passionate man. He used his savings to eventually open his own take away after several years of planning. Now he enjoys looking after the chain of Restaurants and fast food takeaways in the South West. He is a generous contributor to many charities starting locally in the UK to being a trustee of the Beani Bazar Cancer Hospital, Bangladesh and also actively participates in various charitable projects in Bangladesh. He is also trustee of al Itihaad madrasah based in Bangladesh.

Mr Miah's most recent project is dealing with autism,

where he is the chairman of the Autistic foundation. Based in Bangladesh he is currently establishing an autism school and healthcare for young and vulnerable children.

He is an assistant membership secretary of the Rajnagar Welfare Society UK, Secretary of European Probashi Bangladesh Association U.K., Vice President of Greater Sylhet Development and Welfare Council in U.K. South West region, Co Founder of British Bangladesh Association South West and also permanent member of Bangladesh Centre London.

Mr Miah is active in his local community, playing a leading role in establishing the Islamic and Cultural Centre where he is currently serving as secretary.

Mr Miah likes spending time with his family and generally relaxing in his free time. He aspires to travel to as many places around the world to learn about the country and culture, travelling to different places is something he likes to do. Mr Miah also enjoys swimming with his sons and is a thrill seeker as he likes visiting many theme parks.

Mr Miah is married to Hasina Begum and they live in the South West with their three children, Ema, Eijaz and Ifraz.



Karim Miah (Shamim)

Sector:
Catering



Anawar Babul Miah

Sector:

Legal / Politics

Mr Anawar Miah was born in Holiarpara, Jagganathpur Thana in the Sunamgonj region of Bangladesh. He is the son of Late Alhaj Barik Miah who settled in the United Kingdom in 1957 and is the Founding Chairman of a major British investment company.

Anawar was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 1998. Anawar is the President of the British Bangladeshi Practising Barristers Association. Anawar is an expert on complex financial arrangements and international public law and he practices law from Great James Street Chambers near Chancery Lane in Central London. 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.

Aside from legal issues Anawar has written numerous articles on current affairs which have been published.

Anawar was also the Labour Party Parliamentary Candidate for the General Elections in 2015 for his home constituency of Welwyn Hatfield in Hertfordshire where he achieved one of the biggest swings for Labour that year.

Anawar is married to Sony Sadaf Haroon, who is also a Barrister of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn and she runs her own law firm in St Albans Hertfordshire United Kingdom. They have 4 children together.

Anawar's pastimes include travelling, reading English literature and studying traditional English architecture.



Mr Saad Meah

Sector:

Legal-(Judiciary)

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 GCSE'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 Of-

fices 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 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 through out 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.

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Md Harun Miah

Sector:

Finance

Harun Miah comes from the village of Lamachandarpur, Post office Chandarpur Bazar in Golapgonj Upazilla of the Sylhet District. His father is Alhaj Moboshir Ali and his mother is Surojan Bibi. He is the eldest among three siblings. Mr Miah came to UK in 1972 where he completed his O'Level. He lived in the Tower Hamlets Borough since 1972 and established his residence and business empire in E1 area. Md Harun Miah is married to Minara Begum and they have four children, two sons and two daughters. Both daughters and one son is now married. Other son is pursuing his education. Mr Miah is an eminent business personality and established social worker. Harun Miah plays 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 the country. Harun Miah is one of the Trustees of London based Bangladesh Centre, member of the Bangladesh Welfare Association UK, Member of the Golapgonj Education Trust, Founder member of Al Emdad High School and College. Chairman of Al Emdad Degree College Trust UK. Director of UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce & Industry (UK-BCCI). He is also a Permanent Member of Sylhet Club Limited.

He was also the treasurer of the Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee of Al Emdad High School and College. He personally contributed and help raise over £100000 and continuing to raise till now for Al-

Emdad, as well as being a member of the British Cheque Cashers Association and UKMTA.

Mr Miah owns a number of business under the Kushiara name which includes 'Kushiara Cash and Carry', Kushiara Financial Services Limited 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. 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.

He is a Director of Shahjalal Islami Bank in Bangladesh and has been appointed as Vice Chairman of the bank from 2010 to 2013 and 2016 to 2017 respectively. He is also a director of Shahjalal Islami Bank Security Limited. He holds directorship in Pritom Hotel Dhaka and current Chair of the organisation. 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 countries effectively.



Faruk Miah MBE

Sector:

Education

Faruk Miah MBE is an award winning educator and preminent thought leader on the Bangladeshi diaspora in the UK. A qualified ICT lecturer, Faruk has over 25 years of experience & expertise in Further Education and Community Learning sectors.

Faruk is currently a senior manager at the Adult & Community Learning section of London Borough of Tower Hamlets Council responsible for over 10,000 learners and 1,000+ part-time courses. He has played a key role in the improvement of standards, quality and results over the past 7 years.

Prior to his move to London, Faruk had a very successful career at Leeds City College, one of the largest further education institutions in the UK. Along with managing various different campuses across the city, he played an instrumental role in the development of the college's International Strategy. Working closely with the British Council, he was a frequent visitor to South Asia & Middle East to promote the College and recruit new students.

Faruk has received numerous national and international awards in recognition of his contribution to the Further Education sector. His proudest moment came in 2010 when he was awarded an MBE by Her Majesty the Queen for services to Further Education

and the Community in Leeds.

Inspired by Common Purpose and supported by the British Council, Faruk is developing the Bangladeshi Diaspora Knowledge Network (BDKN), a forum to connect the Bangladeshi diaspora around the world. He is also currently working on a number of diaspora leadership development and recognition programmes.

Faruk is the secretary of Conservative Muslim Forum. The role has allowed him to engage with ordinary people who are interested in developing their knowledge & understanding of the political system in the UK. He has organised a number of very successful events in the Houses of Parliament as well as taking groups to the European Parliament in Brussels.

Faruk is the former host of the popular current affairs TV programme Community Matters which was aired on NTV (sky channel 838) until work commitments meant he had to give up the role. He is still a regular guest on various current affairs programmes on TV.

In recent years Faruk has devoted a substantial amount of his time on charitable causes. He is the founder of "JustSmiles" whose key aim is to make a small difference to the lives of the most vulnerable and needy in society both in UK and overseas.

Jusna Begum Miah is a barrister and practice manager at M R Solicitors. 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.

Whilst 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.



Jusna Begum Miah

Sector:

Legal

Rohema Miah has worked in the parliamentary sphere for over 20 years. Her experience spans working for MPs, Ministers and Lords. Notably, she has worked for the Rt. Hon. Harriet Harman MP and Baroness Oona King of Bow, currently YouTube's Global Head of Diversity. She is currently the Political Advisor to Lord Robin Eames OM. Rohema continues to champion issues relating to social mobility, discrimination, inclusion and equality and holds a number of positions in the charity and voluntary sector.

Rohema was elected as the first female to the UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry (UK-BCCI) in February 2014 as a non-Executive board Member. This organisation exists to promote business between the UK and Bangladesh.

Having worked as a Consultant to local, national and international organisations and departments, Rohema has a record of establishing, strengthening and developing both new and existing relationships.

Her experience working with grassroots community organisations, along with various media, faith and disability groups, corporate, local and international NGOs gives her a great insight to the range of opportunities for positive impact. Rohema 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.

Ms Rohema Miah 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). Within the last few years, she has also co-ordinated 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 organization, 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.

As part of the Women's National Commission she was one of the core advisors for the Commission's 'She who Disputes' nationwide consultation that helped raise the issues around Muslim women in the UK and public policy. Rohema also works as a Trustee for the Henna Foundation UK – a charity committed to strengthening Muslim families in the UK.

Having successfully organized the Bangladesh e-Commerce fair in London in 2015, she has taken on further projects to promote and strengthen the role of women in ICT and is currently organizing global conferences in women inclusion in ICT.



Rohema Miah

Sector:

Civil Service



Sufi Miah

Sector:
Media/Real Estate



Award Winner 2012

Sufi Miah is the Managing Director of ATN Bangla UK, a director of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and a successful property developer with a portfolio of properties in the UK and abroad.

Sufi moved his home in 2004 from a deprived part of West London to a luxury villa in one of UK's most expensive areas of Cuffley, Hertfordshire. He owns a fleet 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 fare.

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, 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 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. And during the weekends he worked 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 to his parent so they don't 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 a 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".

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 investment market. And 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. Sufi is currently developing high-end luxury villas across Greater London.

Sufi is actively involved in various charitable programmes and is currently supporting poor people in a village in Zakigonj, Bangladesh, 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.

Sufi is married to Mrs Shumi Islam, who is also his business partner and they are blessed with 4 children, Sahil, Isha, Niyaz and Eva.

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 and 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.



Shanur Miah

Sector:
Retail

Shanur Miah was born on the 12 February 1964, in the village of Araihaal in Moulavibazar Sador. His father is Haji Md Askir Miah (Akhonji) and mother Faizun Nessa.

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 accepted.

Now Shanur Miah is a successful and proud owner of Sangeeta. He resides with his wife Shahanara Akther and three children.



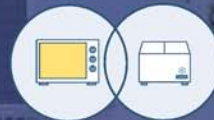
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Sheikh Sujat Miah

Sector:
*Politics & Community
relations*

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

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.



Tommy Miah

Sector:
Catering/Hospitality

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 manufacturing.

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 programme 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.

Mr. Jamal Uddin Mokkaodus is well known with in the British Bangladeshi community mainly for his reputation in the business world. Also for the time dedicated to social activities which are helping the community in the UK and abroad. Hi is based in Harlow in Essex.

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, not long after in fact within two years he opened his first establishment. Which happened to be the first Indian restaurant in the area.

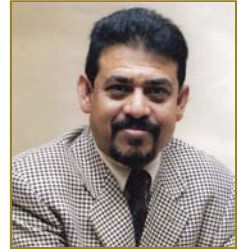
In his time he has founded and steered many restaurants to becoming a success. From the first restaurant Bilash to Vojan. He not only is involved in the Indian/Bangladeshi food market but also ventured out to Italian and Thai. Actual fact he was one of the first Bangladeshis to enter the Thai food market and take it to an upmarket scale. Jamal Uddin Mokkaodus has always been a pioneer in the field of catering. His Current flagship Vojan was one of the first restaurants to introduce a contemporary look and help take the industry forward. He currently has the Raj Lodge, Garden Of India, Raj, Saanuk, Chequers pub/hotel, Star of india and the flagship Vojan.

Mr. Jamal Uddin has other businesses, including a vast property portfolio consisting of commercial and residential. He is also founding director and chairman of

M18 foods based in Harlow. Which is a wholesale food business started to cater for the Indian food market but now cover all styles ranging from chinese, thai, Italian even down to west African. It is also open to the public which has made it easy for locals to access Halal products and saves them traveling.

Also he is heavily invested in Bangladesh whether it is in a social aspect or financial. He is a founding director of the Homeland Insurance Company. Founding director and chairman of adventure world theme park in Sylhet Bangladesh. He founded and solely funds a High school in his native village, which was founded in 1999 which has been funded by him since then. This was originally for the under privileged families in the area. Due to the success of the school it has become inclusive of everyone. Not one person has to pay for anything.

He is also the former finance director of British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce. Currently Founding director and London region president of UKBCCI. Also founding member and chairman of the Essex region of the Bangladesh Caterers Association.



Jamal Uddin Mokkaodus

Sector:

Catering

Mr Mohammed Zilu Miah was born in Bangladesh in the village of Gumgumiah , Nobigonj in Hobigonj to his father Haji Alkas Miah and his mother Haji Rupban Begum . He arrived in the UK in 1988 at the age of 14 and currently lives in Birmingham with his wife Mrs Shopna Begum and their four children, Shaniz , Shazad , Samiul and Riyana.

This year Mr Miah became the Chairman of the famous London Tigers semi professional Football Club as well as the Director of the Al Falah Investments Ltd. Mr Miah being a very ambitious determined and an enthusiastic individual started work at A One engineering firm at the age of 16. He then became the owner and bought the same engineering firm at the age of 18 years old. Mr Miah also owned a supermarket called Wattville Super Market Ltd at the age of 19 years old he run both company until he started to grow his property portfolio, Since then Mr Miah is involved and has become director of the following companies: M S A Investment Ltd in 2005 ,Liberty Estate Agents Ltd in 2007, Bombay Palace Ltd in 2008 , Red Peppers Ltd in 2009 , Excelsior Sylhet Hotel and Resort in 2011 and A TO Z Distributions Ltd in 2014 .Mr Miah is looking forward to opening few more companies in near future . Mr Miah bought his first property at the age of 19 years old and now has multi millions pounds property portfolio and has vast experience in development and management of land and properties in UK, Bangladesh and in Dubai.

As an expatriate philanthropist he frequently visits his

motherland Bangladesh and donates generously to many charities and organisations this year Mr Miah arranged the supply of electricity in three villages Gumgumia, Halimpur and Korgaon of Nabiganj under Habiganj district in Bangladesh. It benefited 475 families of these villages who long-awaited connection of electricity supply line. He also installed internet in his village which meant Local schools, madrashas and colleges have entered into a new era of advancement due to his contribution.

Being a friendly, humble and easy going person Mr Miah has made his biggest contribution to his village by solely funding and building a beautiful mosque on three acres of land which could cater for over 700 people to pray at the same time, which is highly appreciated by his village. Mr Miah has also built a Bangladeshi independent monument a shohid minor in memory of the martyrs of Bangladesh in his village. It doesn't stop there, due to lack of skilled teachers he himself pays for two extra teachers to teach and pays for students to study in his village school Mr Miah also contribute toward the cost for the medication to the hospital in his village for the people of his village and other near villages.

Mr Miah's hobbies include playing football, swimming and playing snooker.



Mr Mohammed Zilu

Miah

Sector:

Business



Ghulam Mortuza

Sector:
Politics

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).

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 Spitalfields 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.



Rowshanara Moni

Sector:
Arts

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 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 2009.

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.



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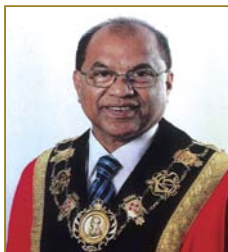
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Cllr M.A Mukit MBE

Sector:
Politics

Cllr Mukit MBE has lived and worked in Tower Hamlets for 43 years and was amongst the first few Bangladeshis in the East End to receive the Queen's Award in the Millennium Year, for youth and community development. He has a passion for politics and advancing community interests.

Cllr Mukit MBE has established a continuous record of working for the community. His achievements include setting up numerous youth initiatives; the Sylhet Friends Society, Bangladesh Sports Association, UWA, Progressive Youth Organisation, Boundary Community School, Weavers Community Trust and a host of other parent and community forums.

In addition Cllr Mukit MBE also received the House of Lords British Muslim Honorary Award in 2001. His dedication and commitment has extended to a variety of causes including combatting racism and building positive race relations in the 1970's and 1980's, as well as involvement in setting up projects in the East End in more recent years in support of youth and community development, housing, educational achievement, health and employment.

As Chair of the Human Resources Committee and Health Scrutiny Committee for Tower Hamlets Council he played a crucial role in promoting good governance. He is the trustee for Spitalfields Market Trust and for many years chaired the Spitalfields Housing Association, and he continues to play a lead-

ing role in its development. He was responsible for setting up the first community regeneration project, the Spitalfields Small Business Association. At present he is a school governor at St Matthias Primary School.

Cllr Mukit MBE has a long association with local residents and community groups, he believes in sustained community development and the promotion of racial harmony and justice. Tower Hamlets represents a rich culture and diverse community and Cllr Mukit MBE is committed to working with everyone. Having spent last year as Speaker, carrying out a number of official engagements and gaining experience and knowledge.



M A Munim

Sector:
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.

Nazmul Islam Nuru arrived to the UK in 1977 at the age of 17 and has established himself as a businessman since the 1980s in the UK as well as Bangladesh. He has connections in various businesses as well as being involved within the community in numerous charity organisations.

Mr Nuru is involved in many business developments and activities. He holds the post of the Director of Finance for Shahjalal Islamic Bank BD, where he represents 75,000 shareholders. He is also the founder of the renowned Kushiara Islamic Hospital, Asirgonj Golapgonj. His involvement in the property market includes Property Management of Windsor and Osmani Housing Prokolpo Airport Road Sylhet. His business activities also include Viceroy Group Restaurant UK and Grand Eating Ltd. Mr Nuru's business portfolio diversifies as he works with Fairview Enterprise Ltd in addition to Monica Enterprise BD.

Mr Nuru's contributions towards the community cannot go unnoticed. He is the Director of Finance for the UK BCCI, he had held the post of the Vice President of British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce (BBCC). He is very recognized within the

Bangladeshi Community, having previously been a Trustee of Bangladesh Centre and a current member of Bangladesh catering Association. Mr Nuru is also a Founder Trustee of Mother & Child UK.

Some of his previous positions held have been the Chairman of Golapgonj Education Trust UK, Treasurer of Greater London Bangladesh Catering Association and Managing Director of Sylhet Dak Weekly UK. Mr Nuru was also a Member of Management Committee of Bangladesh Welfare Association and of Shoid Miner Altab Ali Park.

Nazmul Islam Nuru is from the Village of Amkuna in Bangladesh. His father is Haji Jamshed Ali and mother is Khaleda Khanum. In the UK, he resides in Windsor, Berkshire with his wife Farida Parvin Nuru. They have three daughters and one son. Their eldest daughter graduated from Manchester University. Their second daughter and youngest daughter are in their final year of studying Medicine at Kings College London and Liverpool University respectively. Their only son will be going to University College of London to study Electronic Engineering.



Nazmul Islam Nuru

Sector:
Business

Mahbub Murshed is a name for his role in making accountancy an art, bringing accountancy into the drawing room and creating a new dimension to his profession. His success story is now a sensation in the British Bangladeshi community and media. His live TV programme, "Accountancy with Mahbub Murshed" is probably the first ever and the longest running accounting and tax advisory programme in the known world. This only happened because of his vision, hard work, dedication and passion.

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 scratch and changing his path to accountancy. It was late Mr MS Zoha, a prominent Bengali accountant, who inspired Mr Mahbub. Mr Mahbub used to work for one of Mr Zoha's clients and the turning point of his life was when he went to Mr Zoha's office to collect his P45 and being offered a job in his office in 1991. Instead of using the conventional method of manual book keeping and accounting, Mr Mahbub became the pioneer among British Bangladeshis by using his computer programming skills to write his own software.

After being in the shadow of Mr Zoha for nearly 10 years and gaining invaluable work experience and academic qualifications, Mr Mahbub decided to set up his own accountancy firm, Mahbub and Co, in 2001 with his younger brother Shah Arif. Starting off with just one employee and a handful of small clients, it was a huge risk for anyone to start with a fragile business in a competitive market. But through dedication, multi-

lingual skills and sincerity, Mr Mahbub was able to expand his business from strength to strength. His friendly professional approach towards his clients has given him a name, "The Accountant with a Smile".

Additionally Mr Mahbub has supported many of the youth with work experience and career development. Currently Mahbub and Co is holding the ACCA Gold status as an employer, awarded only to the firms which provide high quality work experience in accountancy. After serving the community for more than a decade, Mr Mahbub launched his new and unique initiative to fulfil the community's need for accountancy related issues. He is the key person together with NTV Europe to start producing the programme "Accountancy with Mahbub Murshed". He believes in empowering the community. So, rather than bringing the people to the accountant's office he went live on TV to answer the questions in his own capacity.

Being inspired by the success of this TV programme, he decided to set up a training institute in conjunction with his firm where school leavers, accounting students, newly qualified accountants and unemployed people could gain hands-on training and practical knowledge. The initial purpose of this training programme was to break the vicious circle of "not getting a job without experience and no experience could be gained without a job". Mr Mahbub devotes time from his relentless schedule to teach the students.

He also sponsors charities, sports, cultural and community activities.

Mr Mahbub is passionate about photography and gardening. His amateur, yet artistic photography is loved by the wider audiences in social media. He plays badminton, listens to music and watches cricket.

Mr Mahbub is married to Nilufa Murshed, daughter of a well known Sylheti businessman of the 1960s – Mr Mosahid Ali. Their son, Nayeem Murshed, has graduated in Biochemistry from Imperial College London, and daughter, Nimah Murshed, is an A Level student.



Mahbub Murshed

Sector:
Accountancy and Media



Award Winner 2015



**Mr Nur-ur Rahman
Khandaker Pasha**

Sector:
Catering



Award Winner 2012

Better known as Pasha Khandaker, he is the former-President of the Bangladesh Caterers Association. He 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 these have been established businesses for the last 25 years. His third venture in the restaurant sector is Curry Lounge in 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 pursued a career in the restaurant business. Throughout his academic life he was heavily involved in various extra curricular activities such as student politics, setting up 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.



Biplab Poddar

Sector:
Law

Mr Biplab Poddar was born on 12 July 1973 at Pirojpur, Bangladesh. He enjoyed his childhood in a village where he had chances of learning honesty, integrity and the local culture. He understood basic structure of communication and the greatness of people around him. Mr Poddar's education consists of an SCC and an HSC from Bangladesh. He then achieved a LLB (5 yr Hons) from the University of Calcutta in India and a LLB (Hons) from the University of Wolverhampton in the UK. Mr Poddar further achieved a PGD in International Trade from the University of Northumbria and in 2010, a LLM in International Law and World Economy from the University of East London, both in the UK.

In the year 2000, Mr Poddar became an advocate at the Bangladesh Bar Council in Bangladesh. In 2008 he became a case worker at Regents Law Solicitors here in the UK, before moving on to work as a solicitor at Kalam solicitors and in 2013 Mr Poddar became a partner at Hamlet Solicitors.

Mr Poddar's devotedness and interest in his profession has brought him a unique recognition within his professional community. He has had many reported cases, not to mention, being recognised as a filing solicitor of *Alam and Others v Secretary of State for Home Department* [2013] to the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom. The case itself provided a sub-

stantive amount of inspiration and attachment to his profession.

Many scholars believe that the case would bring justice and fairness to many immigrants as it has raised issues on Human Rights, discrimination, Conflict of Law by Parliament and Home Secretary's failure of providing guidance. The case would be a huge breakthrough in immigration law. Mr Poddar has successfully won a few cases of Judicial Review, where many of them have been settled by Home Secretary before hearing.

Mr Poddar also wrote a book on *The Effects of Sharing Water between Bangladesh and India*. The book was published by LAMBERT Academic Publishing in 2010. The book discusses how the environment changing around the world and its effects on Bangladesh. The book also identified the core reasons of unequal water sharing and how such a problem can be solved.



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Robin Paul

Sector:
Business

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. He is also one of the Directors of NRB Bank Ltd.

Robin was a footballer and a member of the Tajpur Taj Club and Balagonj Abahani Football Club. He is also a member of the Balagonj Saimati and trustee and is the 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 and Kadipur Shiv Bari (Khullara) amongst others. He is also a donor member of Mangalchandi

Nishikanta High School, founder member of Balagonj College, life member of Goulabazar Public Library and 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 was the General Secretary of the election commission of the Balaganj Usmani Nagar Education Trust.

Robin is married to Shilpi and they are blessed with three children.



Dilruba Qureshi

Sector:
Legal (Barrister)

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 pupillage 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 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.

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 to the Bar in 2000. He obtained his BSS (Hons) MSS in Political Science under the Dhaka University (Jagannath 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 effectively 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.

Mr Rahman resides with his family in Redbridge, Essex.



Ataur Rahman

Sector:
*Legal/Community
Relations*

Murad Qureshi was 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 establishing 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 allevi-

ate 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 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.



Murad Qureshi

Sector:
Politics



Anis Rahman OBE JP

Sector:

Legal (Barrister)



Award Winner 2009

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 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.



Akik F Rahman

Sector:

Business

Akik F. Rahman came to England in 1973. Mr Rahman first began work during his studies and started his first business in 1977 in West Kensington, London. His next business was open in North London in 1985. Then, in 1986 he opened a restaurant in Cirencester. These were all followed by his next business in 1993 in Swindon another in 1995 in Cheltenham and 2006 in Marlborough.

Mr Rahman is also involved in investment properties, as well as being an investor in many projects in Bangladesh; he is the Director of Dreamland amusement park in Sylhet, first amusement park in Bangladesh and the Director of Valley city resort in Sylhet.

Mr Rahman is a member of Cirencester Chambers of Commerce, member the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and the Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh caterer association south west region. He is also the Chairman of the Bangladesh Association Swindon and has been since 2002, the Chairman of Jagannathpur British Bangla Education Trust and Kadeem Swindon Central Mosque and Islamic cen-

tre.

Mr Rahman is currently the Chairman of Nayabondor education welfare society UK (NEWS UK), meeting financial needs for Nayabondor high school and college, among other schools madrasas, mosques and other welfare programmes in his area.

Mr Rahman is married with four sons, one daughter and one granddaughter.



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Aziz-ur Rahman

Sector:

Catering

Born in Mirpur, Sylhet, Bangladesh in 1958, Aziz-ur Rahman moved with his 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.



Atikur Rahman

Sector:

Catering/ Media

Chef Atikur Rahman was born on August 1977, Bangladesh Moulvibazar. Chef Atik came to this country only at the age of 19 with his family and is currently living in Chelsea with his wife Lina and his son Samuel.

Atik developed the passion for curry at the tender age of 12, where his very first curiosity with spices and ingredients journey had began when he saw his mums cooking. He would always give a hand in the kitchen and it was then he had a great passion and immense interest in all things to do with food and ingredients.

Celebrity chef Atik Rahman started off his culinary journey working at the famous Blue Bird restaurant located in Chelsea (the heart of London). Atik passed his NVQ level 3 (professional cookery) at the Hammersmith and West London College which he took his growing food passion also opened up his own personal catering tuition class offering determined individuals to learn the secrets of spices.

To compliment his skills and talent, he provides chef consultancy, training and other curricular activities to develop the craft of cooking. Chef Atik has been honoured to be a private chef of the great Sheikh Bin Zayed who is the king of Arab Emirates. His first Major achievement was when he won the chef of the year 2007 award and in the following year he also won

the British chef of the year.

Atik has now opened up his own show called Atik recipe on channel 9 every Sunday which is his main show alongside Atik's kitchen on NTV and Roshogor on Bangla TV. All programmes allow his viewers to learn the craft of Atik's unique cooking.

Emdad is a born and bred Londoner, a celebrated writer who focuses mainly on unique community activism and positive stories featuring amongst other things homelessness, sports, the arts and human inspiration. Emdad teaches creative writing and has published over 500 football poems. He is the only published Bangladeshi football poet in the world.

Emdad is also an under 12 head football coach for Stepney Football Club and a referee. He is chairman of Essex based Scintilla Cricket Club - a grassroots outfit run by volunteers which over the course of ten years has enjoyed a meteoric rise to the top, namely achieving several promotions before being crowned Essex County Cricket League Premier Division Champions in 2014.

In terms of recognition Emdad has received Civic Awards and a Volunteer of the Year Award from Alderman David Brewer - the Mayor of the City of London at the time. He was named Londoner of the day in 2011 and through City Hall he featured in a London billboard poster campaign which highlighted volunteering in the city.

Emdad was a London Ambassador and also carried the Paralympic Torch at the London Olympics of 2012. He was made an MBE in Her Majesty the Queen's New Years Honours List. The Canary Wharf Group recognised his achievements with a sporting personality award.

In 2014 Emdad was chosen to carry Her Majesty the Queen's Baton for the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow. This was an outstanding gesture from the games

organisers and recognised the value attributed to Emdad's services to the community.

Emdad is an active writer and philanthropist. He is voluntarily involved in work with the youth, elderly, women, people experiencing poverty, those experiencing disabilities and homelessness. He is a Dementia Friends Champion and volunteers time to raise awareness through the delivery of interactive information sessions. Emdad is credited with recruiting the Battle of Cable Street veteran - The 100 year old Max Levitas is currently the world's oldest Dementia Friend.

Emdad's activities are voluntary and this year in his honour he was made a Freeman of the City of London for the diverse work that he does.

Emdad has used the skills he has gained over the years to achieve unique and great change which has benefitted the communities he works with to an enormous degree.

On a charitable level Emdad has, amongst hundreds of activities, run three London marathons, completed climbing the three UK peaks, ran numerous 10k's, and 3 marathon night walks for Cancer.



Emdad Rahman MBE

Sector:

Journalism and Community relations

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.

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.



Mahbub Rahman

Sector:

Media



Habib Rahman

Sector:

Legal/NGO

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 is a dedicated human rights activist and he considers himself as fortunate in that he has been able to pursue this in his professional life.



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 it's 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. He is also the International Affairs Secretary of the Central Committee for the BNP.

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 is also a member of the support group UK. He has delivered 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 Madrashes, 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.



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Mohammed Mujibur Rahman

Sector:
*Community Relations
and Academia*

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 Jagonnath University College Dhaka from 1980 to 1981. He was as elected President of the student organisation from 1981 to 1983.

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.

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.



Cllr Oliur Rahman

Sector:
Politics

Councillor Oliur Rahman is the son of the late Mr. Goni Miah, and Mrs. Suraza Begum from Golmukapon, Osmaninagar, Sylhet. Cllr Rahman has a Post Graduate in Politics and also a diploma in Children and Young People.

Cllr Oliur Rahman was a leading figure in the anti war movement in Tower Hamlets during Iraq war, this is how he got involved in politics.

Cllr Oliur Rahman was first elected as a councillor in 2004 and then re-elected a further 3 times in the Stepney Ward. When first elected in 2004 he was one of the youngest councillors in London and was the first Councillor from the Respect Party in the country. Cllr Oliur Rahman stood a number of elections including MP at the age of 24 for Poplar and Limehouse, GLA election etc. In the past Cllr Rahman was a Cabinet Member for Employment and Skills and more recently he was Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families until 2014. Councillor Rahman is particularly interested in the needs and concerns of young people and his department was widely praised for its role during the London riots, where disturbances in Tower Hamlets were markedly less than in neighbouring boroughs. In June 2014 Mayor Lutfur Rahman appointed Cllr Oliur Rahman as his

Deputy (Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets). Cllr Oliur was one of the youngest Deputy Mayors of London. He is also the Cabinet Member for Economic Development.

Cllr Rahman was Chairman for The Public and Commercial Services Union, which is the largest union for the Civil servants (East London Branch), at only 20 years old. He is still very active in the union and currently is the Branch Equality Officer; he has an outstanding track record of representing hundreds of members.

Councillor Rahman chaired a number of committees including the Corporate Parenting Steering Group. Cllr Rahman took the initiative to organise a football tournament called 'Mayor's Cup' for the young people of Tower Hamlets, through raising sponsorship. This was very successful and as a result it has now become a yearly event Councillor Rahman specialises in employment with many years' of experience.

Cllr Rahman is married to Dr. Tasmin Sultana and together have a daughter.

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 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 became successful 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 financier.

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 involved 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.



Muhibur Rahman

Sector:

Business and Community affairs

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. Arriving in the UK in 1977 with his parents. He enrolled in a Business and Management course and began his successful career in 1985. He now owns a chain of restaurants 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. Apart from his business activities he is also involved in various community organizations in the British Bangladeshi Community in the UK. Mr S R Ranu joined as a Director in British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry in 1998 since then he was elected as a Deputy Director General, Finance Director, Vice President and currently serving as Director General.

He is the founder President of Rajnagar Welfare society in uk, he is also the Vice Chairman of Guild of Bangladeshi Restaurateur in the UK. 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 three sons and one daughter residing in royal ascot in Berkshire. Mr Rahman's interests and hobbies include travelling and politics.



Syedur Rahman Ranu JP

Sector:

Catering



Rashel Rahman

Sector:

Corporate / Legal services

Rashel is one of the most promising young British Bangladeshis in our Community having recently been promoted to Head of UK for Coca Cola Enterprises Ltd. He is a dual qualified Lawyer and completed his training at Eversheds (the 5th largest law firm in the world) where he specialised in Corporate, Commercial and Intellectual Property Law.

As Head of UK, his recent successes have included securing an injunction against a Nigerian soft drinks company who marketed their products globally with the iconic red background and white font typically associated with Coca Cola. As well as shutting down their operations, Rashel led the commercial action against the Nigerian company in claiming damages for infringement of copyright. The total claim value was £7.8m GBP. He was also a key member of an action brought against a rival in 2013 for breach of copyright in Australia. The total claim value was AUD 115m. In June 2014 he led the team for the action to withdraw all 500,000 bottles of Dasani in circulation in the UK and led the Defence for the subsequent proceedings that were brought against the company. His team consists of 2 senior Solicitor Advocates, 1 trainee Solicitor and 3 Paralegals.

Rashel completed his law degree at The University of Birmingham, where he was also elected President of the Law Society and was responsible for managing the academic and social welfare of the School of Law and

its undergraduates. He completed his LPC and BVC at the College of Law in Birmingham between 2006 and 2008.

In his spare time Rashel also heads up his own networking forum, the Bangladeshi Professional's Network which has over 1000 members and two sister networks in Gloucester and Manchester. His ambition is to grow this network so that the more younger British Bangladeshis are able to network with some of the more successful British Bangladeshis in the community and become inspired to emulate (and eclipse) their achievements and subsequently grow the number of successful professionals within the Bangladeshi Community. To date, Rashel has organised a Legal Seminar in Birmingham in November 2013, a Medical Seminar in Birmingham in January 2014 and a nationwide Energy Seminar in July 2014.

Rashel is the youngest son of the Late Al-Haj Md. Ashabur Rahman and Monwara Begum of Dulali Madobpur, Usmani Nagar, Sylhet.



**Mamun Rashid MBE
FCCA, BSc (Hons)**

Sector:

Accounting

Md. Mamun Rashid, MBE was born in the village of Sreeramshi, Upozila Jagannathpur, Sunamgonj Bangladesh, to late Alhaj Torik Ullah Talukdar and late Alhaj Joytun Bibi. His great grandfather, Sabir Muhammad Talukdar, was the proud owner of 233 Lalbi Rongbi and 244 Mathabalom Taluk. He came to the UK in 1985 with his parents whilst in Year 10 at Sreeramshi High School and graduated with BSc Honours from Queen Mary University of London in 1994. Following this, he qualified as a chartered accountant in 2001.

Mamun is currently employed by Islington Council as a management accountant and has set up his own Accountant firm "Sapientia Accountants". Prior to this, he worked for London Transport, NCP Ltd, Southwark College and Tower Hamlets College Finance Department etc.

Alongside his busy schedule, Mamun is involved in various voluntary work and activities. He is the founder member and current chairman of Sports Network Council, former board member and the chair of Spitafield Housing Associations Audit Committee, founder member and the former chairman of Inner London Football League – an adult football league founded in 2000 – founder member and former chairman of Poplar Youth Association – founded in 1991 – and former treasurer of Bangladesh Football Association UK. He is also the former General Secretary of

Sreeramshi Jubo Songstha UK.

On June 2012, Mamun was awarded an MBE (Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) on the Queen's birthday for "services in the community". On 7th November 2012 he was invited to Buckingham Palace in order to receive his medallion from Princess Anne.

He is the eighth child amongst 9 siblings. He has four older brothers, of whom Md. Arob Ali former Chairman of the Poplar Shahjalal Masjid and Md. Aroj Ali founded Muhamadan Sporting Club UK & former Chairman. His third brother Md. Ashique Ali currently lives in the USA. His fourth brother, Md. Angur Ali, is currently the General Secretary of Sreeramshi Welfare Association UK, and former General Secretary of Jagannathpur British Bangla Education Trust and Jagannathpur Unnoun Songstha UK and Sreeramshi Jubo Songstha UK, also life member of the National Heart Foundation Sylhet, EC member of the United Kingdom Committee Board. The youngest brother, Md. Rekhon Ali, is also a graduate with BSc Honours and is a qualified Chartered Certified Accountant.

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 organisations, here in the UK and abroad.

Mr Rahman is a founding trustee and general secretary of Cheltenham Al Madina Mosque and Chel-

tenham 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.



Mohammad Hafizur Rahman

Sector:
Catering and Media

BRITISH BANGLADESHI WHO'S WHO 2017



Cllr Md Mohibur Rahman

Sector:
Politics

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 UK. 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.

In 2015 Mr Rahman was awarded the Town Shield by the Mayor of Nailsworth Miles Robinson in a ceremony attended by many dignitaries including MP. The award was given for his contribution to Nailsworth as councillor and entrepreneur.

Mr Rahman married in 1983 to Syeda Luhfun Nessa Khatun. Together they have four sons the eldest Shahedur, who is working at Harrison Clarke Rickerby Solicitors, Second son Sadequr Rohman (B.A.Hons) working in Lloyds TSB, third son Saifur Rohman is studying BSc Computer Science at King's College and the youngest Mustafijur Rohman is studying Computer Science at the Kings College.



Sheikh Mohammed Mofizur Rahman

Sector:
Local Government

Sheikh Mohammed Mofizur Rahman is a Senior Housing Manager in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. The Local Government worker is also Chairman of the weekly Bangla Post newspaper. Born in Balagonj, Sylhet in Bangladesh, Mr Rahman completed his primary education there before moving to the UK in 1972.

Having completed his primary education at his local village school in Bangladesh, Mr Rahman moved to the UK and attended the Robert Monefiore secondary school and progressed on to City and East London College where he completed his A- Levels. The former community development worker later graduated from the Hackney Technical College with a degree on Housing Law and Property Management.

Mr Rahman started his career working with the North London Community Task Force which later evolved into a job with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets working in the Housing department as a community worker. Through hard work and a first-class work ethic, Mr Rahman soon became a Senior Housing Manager.

Whilst fulfilling a full time job, Mr Rahman is also involved in numerous community welfare projects both in the UK and Bangladesh. Currently, Mr Rahman is

the Chairman and Editor in Chief of Weekly Bangla Post, he is also Chairing the UK branch of the Nirapod Sarak Chai project as well as being involved with the Anjuman-E- Talimul Quran programme. Mr Rahman is also currently a Patron to the Bisho Shahito Kendro project in addition to being trustee on both the Balagonj Education Trust and M.M Sheba Trust in Bangladesh. Mr Rahman throughout his life has always worked on education projects and currently been elected as Vice-Chairman for both Thomas Buxton school governing body and the Balagonj College Development Committee UK. The local government officer is also a board member on the Greater Sylhet Welfare and Development Council UK and the Balagonj-Osmani Nagar Upozila Shomithy. Mr Rahman is the founder and Chairman of Sheikh Khalilur Rahman Hospital and Sheikh Abdul Aziz Plaza in Boaljur Bazar, Balagonj, Sylhet, Bangladesh. (established 28th October 2012.)

Essentially, Mr Rahman will always be remembered as the lead campaigner against the racist attack on Altab Ali in 1978. The local government officer is married to Shahara Begum and are blessed with four sons, Sheikh Khalilur Rahman, Sheikh Aminur Rahman, Sheikh Rashedur Rahman and Sheikh Waliur Rahman. .

Mina Sabera Rahman was born in a respectable Muslim family in Chhatak, Sunamganj, Sylhet. She is the eldest daughter among four sons of Alhaj Abdul Ghani and Rabiya Begum. She came to the UK with her parents as an infant of 21 days old and lived in Birmingham with her parents and brothers before moving to London in the 1970's.

Mina is married to renowned Bangladeshi politician and community worker Goyasur Rahman Goyas. Goyas previously worked for the NHS, various community organisations, owned businesses and currently is proprietor of a property management business. They have 4 children and have lived in Redbridge for the last 20 years.

On completion of her study, Mina started her career as one of the first outreach workers for Jagonari Centre in East London following its establishment in 1985. In 1986 Mina commenced working for the National Health Service based at the Royal London Hospital as a Health Worker. Having successfully worked in various departments of the NHS Mina decided to change her career.

Mina initiated her career in Housing in 1992 as a PATH trainee and achieved the Higher National Certificate in Housing. Subsequently, Mina secured a job with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets as a part-time estate officer. Due to studying and having a young family Mina worked part time for a number of years until she joined

Tower Hamlets Community Housing in March 2000. Mina commenced as a Housing Officer and was consecutively promoted to Senior Housing Officer followed by Housing Office Manager.

Despite having family commitments, established career, studying and voluntary duties Mina continued developing excellent leadership skills and is a very influential person. She attained accreditation in numerous fields including Prince 2 Project Management, Supervision in Neighbourhood Nuisance & Anti Social Behaviour, Employment Law, Institute of Leadership & Management.

Mina established London Bangla Women's Network in 2004 to help women suffering domestic violence and empower women. Mina remains Chairperson of this thriving organisation with accumulative members in Redbridge, Newham, Waltham Forest, Tower Hamlets and Barking & Havering.

Mina is politically very active and established Conservative Friends of Bangladesh, Redbridge Branch increasing membership in the Conservative Party. Mina holds various officer roles within the Conservative Party and currently serves as Vice Chairman of the Ilford South Conservative Association. Mina successfully passed the Parliamentary Assessment Board and is a Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Barking.



Mina Sabera Rahman

Sector:
Politics and Community Relations

Tipu Rahman made his journey from Bangladesh to the UK some 20 years ago originally to further his education. Like most students Mr Rahman took a part time job to bolster his finances. Working at his brother's Indian restaurant in Leicester, it was here that Mr Rahman found a new passion which was to mould his future in cooking and creating South Asian food.

From his brothers restaurant Mr Rahman went it alone and worked as a chef in Northampton and with his creations being much renowned it gave him the courage to enter a partnership and open "Tamarind" a Bangladeshi and Nepalese restaurant. Tamarind is one of the most successful restaurants in the Town, his menu and presentation is envied around Northamptonshire and is the benchmark of which other restaurants aspire within the county.

Mr Rahman and the Tamarind have won many awards from various institutions but the much coveted awards given to Mr Rahman is the "International Chef of the Year 2009 – 2010" and at the same time taking the prize awarded by Lady Frazer for "Best Vegetarian Dish". Mr Rahman has also received the Spice Times award for "Best in East Midlands" and also "National Chef of the Year 2011 – 2012" the ultimate accolade presented by the Bangladesh Catering Association which is the association representing in

excess of 12,000 Bangladeshi caterers since 1960.

Following and during these awards Mr Rahman has been featured in many National newspapers, magazines and also National television which have given him celebrity status within the UK. In addition to this Mr Rahman is the World record holder for the largest Poppadom Tower reaching a height of five foot eight inches which was achieved under strict observation. Highest esteem has been given to Mr Rahman from Bangladesh where he officially cooked his prized dishes for Scout Jamboree which included scouts from 38 different countries. Mr Rahman's recognition as an international Chef showcasing the food of Bangladesh led to the ultimate accolade of being requested to cook for the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina who recognises him as the culinary ambassador for the country.

Mr Rahman has a pride and passion for creating gastronomic dishes and presenting them in style, the Bangladeshi province of Sylhet is known as the province the Curry built, well Mr Rahman is destined to add many more bricks to its walls.



Tipu Rahman

Sector:
Catering



Mohammed Abdur Rashid

Sector:
Community Relations

Mohammed Abdur Rashid has been working for over 35 years with various communities and holds various positions in many organisations. He holds a diploma in Textiles Technology from a technical school in Sylhet, Bangladesh. Rashid also has three children, two daughters and one son, who have all graduated with university degrees.

In the 1970s, he set up the Bangladesh Women's Association to campaign for support and liberate Bangladesh. Rashid and his wife joined the Bangladesh Liberation Front in 1971, carrying out a leafleting campaign and other activities to support Bangladesh's appeal for independence. He was also the President of the Bangladesh Residents' Welfare Association. A decade later, Rashid became the Trustee and General Secretary of the Bangladesh Centre, where he helped to offer advice on immigration, housing, welfare rights, council tax and other issues. During the 1980s, he was also the General Secretary for the Bangladesh Workers' Association, a member of the Bangladesh Council, the Treasurer and President of the Bangladesh Cultural Society and a Governor of Adderley Primary School, Birmingham.

Rashid joined the European Migrants' Union Forum as a delegate in 1993-94 and visited Belgium and Luxembourg to support migrants during this period.

Rashid continued with his community work, becoming the Religious Secretary of the Bangladesh Celebration Committee in 2000. He stood as a Labour candidate in the local council elections for the Castle Bromwich ward, and later went on to become the Vice Chair of the party for Smith's Wood and Castle Bromwich. Also became chairman of Smith's Wood parish council 2013-2015 and has continued for another term 2016.

Rashid's work for the community earned him a number of accolades in 2014. He won an award that recognised his heroic contributions in 1971 and for his community service over the years. Rashid was also presented with a Community Service award from Joytel International. The Valerie Taylor Trust awarded him with a certificate for his charity work.



Cllr Gulam Robbani

Sector:
Politics

Cllr Gulam Robbani is married with four children and has been living in Tower Hamlets since 1978. He attended the Aided High School in Sylhet and completed his secondary education in Daneford School in Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets. He attended Ruskin College in Oxford and completed Social Work qualification (CQSW) and graduated in Applied Social Studies in 1991.

Cllr Gulam Robbani joined Local Government Services in 1987 and gradually rose to senior management post. In 1994/95 he was the most senior social services manager from the Bangladeshi Community. He was the Head of Service Development for Ethnic Minorities. He has developed Dean Cross Day Centre (now known as Sonali Gardens) in 1995 for Bangladeshi Elders and Somali Day Centre. He developed a number of employment scheme and recruited a large number of social services staff and empowered local community. He worked with the voluntary sector in capacity building and improved the service delivery for Bangladeshi and Somali people in Tower Hamlets. He worked for a number of local authorities and health authorities as senior Social Service Manager including Tower Hamlets, as the Head of Service Development, London Borough of Hillingdon as the Service Manager for Older People, London Borough of Enfield, North Middlesex Hospital as Hospital Service Man-

ager, London Borough of Islington, Whittington Hospital and University College Hospital (UCL) as Service Manager for Adults and Older People and Head of Safeguarding Adults in London Borough of Hackney and Lead Manager for Safeguarding Adults in the City of Westminster.

Cllr Gulam Robbani was Chair of Labour Party in Spitalfields and Bangla Town ward in 1993/94 and Vice Chair of Bethnal Green & Stepney CLP and was the campaign co-ordinator for the 1994 election in Tower Hamlets and led the Labour Party to victory by defeated Liberal Focus Group in Tower Hamlets.

He supported Executive Mayor Lutfur Rahman during his selection process and later he became his election agent during the Mayoral election 2010.

Cllr Gulam Robbani was the Ex-Mayor's Advisor on Health and Social Services and serving in Spitalfields and Bangla Town ward as elected member and sits on a number of committees such as Development Committee and also sits on as the Board Member in Tower Hamlets Homes Board, East End Homes and Tower Hamlets Community Housing Board.

Bajloor Rashid MBE is a renowned British Bangladeshi businessman and philanthropist and is currently the president of the UKBCCI.

He was born in the village of Balikandi in Moulvi Bazaar in Bangladesh and came to the UK in 1978. He gained prominence in the 80's for his entrepreneurial skill in launching a number of restaurants with his brother.

This led to him becoming one of the most prominent figures in the history of the Bangladesh Caterers Association (BCA), culminating in being its president from 2006-2012. As president, he held a number of memorable events to raise awareness of the issues, most memorably a mass demonstration in Trafalgar Square in London over immigration rules, which attracted tens of thousands of people. This was the catalyst that sparked a debate in the House of Commons just days later.

Mr Rashid was awarded an MBE in the 2012 New Years Honours, the first ever recognition for a BCA President.

Currently, he is the president and founder of the UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry (UK-BCCCI). This major business organisation helps promote trade between Bangladesh and the UK by encouraging closer business relationships, developing more SME's and creating an environment that nurtures and develops future entrepreneurs.

"Our community has a strong work ethic and a fantastic entrepreneurial zeal", said Mr Rashid. "The UKBCCI is there to assist them and build on their needs. However, it is also vital that we lay a foundation for the next generation of entrepreneurs".

In 2016 he was the driving force behind the setting up of the UKBCCI Business & Entrepreneur Excellence Awards,

with its inaugural launch at the London Hilton, Park Lane. Attended by over 800 guests from the business community along with MPs, VIPs and dignitaries, it proved to be a highly successful event and is now a leading date in the annual business calendar.

His involvement in joint business ventures has brought about board level positions. In all, Mr Rashid has been either a Director or Chairman of 20 different successful companies where he helped create an array of employment opportunities.

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 2012, the BB (British Bangladeshi) Power 100 List ranked him as one of the most influential BB individuals in the UK. The following year he was awarded first place in the Community Personality category by the same organisation. He has also been recognised in the BB Power 100 in 2016 and 2017 in the Networks and Association Category. Mr Rashid has also received many awards in recognition of his work, including the BCA Honour Award and the Channel S Business Personality Award.

Passionate about environmental issues and a dedicated social worker, Mr Rashid has been at the forefront of many community projects including assisting the plight of communities affected by one of the world's worst natural disasters – Cyclone Sidr.

Mr Rashid is married and has four children. His eldest son is a Solicitor. His youngest son and eldest daughter both work in the City, whilst the youngest daughter is currently studying for a degree in London.



Bajloor Rashid MBE

Sector:

Business and Community



Award Winner 2014

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 Sunamganj.

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 Progati Sangha, UK.

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.



Mukul Chandra Ray

Sector:

Academia



Mohammed Abdur Rouf

Sector:
Business

Mr Rouf was born in 1948 and as a Textile Engineer arrived from Bangladesh to Scotland in 1971 for higher education and studied in Dundee college of Technology "Jute Technology".

Mr Rouf is now a very successful businessman including Director of a Property Development Company which received the "Civic Trust Award" for the best architectural designed building in the heart of the city Dundee.

Mr Rouf is the owner of two very successful restaurants, one called "Balaka" in St Andrews which was voted best in United Kingdom in 2001 and another restaurant "Dil Se" was voted best in Scotland in 2003.

Mr Rouf is the Chairman of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd and its three subsidiary Companies- MTB Capital Ltd. MTB Securities Ltd., and MTB Exchange UK Ltd.

Mr Rouf is also the Chairman of Britannia Holding & Management Group, a British-Bangla Joint Venture Real Estate Company and a Director of Tiger Tours BD Ltd.

Mr Rouf is serving as the elected Regional President for the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce in the UK for Scotland for the last 16 years. He was also appointed as a delegate for the Department of British Trade Mission of Bangladesh. Mr Rouf is a senior vice president of UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce & Industry (UKBCCI).

Mr Rouf is a lifetime member of the University of St. Andrews. Mr Rouf is also a member of St. Andrews Golf club, which is the 2nd oldest golf club in the world and also a member of Army Golf Club Dhaka. He holds the post of Honorary Vice Chairman of St. Andrews University Union Debating Society for the last 17 years which is the oldest debating society in the world. Mr Rouf is the President of St. Andrews University Cricket Club. Mr Rouf had established a school named "Amirjan High School & College" in Dumni, Khilkhet, Dhaka which was named after his mother. Currently the school and college has 2300 students and 106 teachers.

Presently Mr Rouf's dream project is The Scottish Village, a multimillion dollar project in Dhaka which is just 2.5 km from The Baridhara Diplomatic Zone, adjacent to Bashundhara N block. A gated community in Dhaka City is approved by DAP (detailed area plan, Dhaka), the land is 15 acres where residential and commercial accommodation will be built. The project is permitted to build up to 25 stories and a 10 story, exclusively designed apartment block with modern facilities, is currently under construction.

Mr Rouf raised funds of substantial amount for the Scottish Cancer Research with the help of S.C.R.



Safiul Alom Rukan

Sector:
Hospitality

Mr Safiul Alam Rukan is a managing director of Regents Lake Banqueting Venue, director of Dhaka Premier Hotel, Director of THCCCE and Director of Mint Caterers. He is a successful and hardworking business man. He was born in a village called Shaduhati in Bangladesh. Alam gained his first experience working with his father Aklasur Rahman in their family business Provati Bakery, he had a sharp sense of business from a very young age. After finishing his schooling, Safiul continued his higher studies in Government Collage Moulvibazar. In 1999 Safiul with a strong will and ambition decided to come to England and establish his own business. He wanted to study further before making it big in this country, so he got Business and E Commerce degree from Tower Hamlets Collage.

Safiul gained more experience and knowledge by working in many more companies and eventually started his first business venture by investing in Regents Lake Banqueting venue which, is one of the most recommended wedding venue in Tower Hamlets. Regents Lake's success is a reflection of Safiul's intelligence and excellence. Due to his contribution, dedication and service his organisation has built its own platform.

Safiul is also a high profile and integral member of many more organisation like FC London Veteran Football Club.

During his establishment and continued success in England Safiul also started his business venture in Dhaka Bangladesh. He is the director of Dhaka Premier Hotel. By staying in England he manages all the executive roles for dph

In his personal life Safiul maintains a very low profile. He is happily married to Tahira Begum and has four beautiful sons. He is truly a family man, loves to spend spare time with them, takes his kids out for educational tours and manages to spend every occasion with his loved ones. He dedicates his success to his lovely family. Safiul is a very polite and soft spoken man, he loves to watch and play football and travel whenever he can.

Safiul is focused to take Regents Lake in every corner of England and make it the biggest and most wanted venue for every occasion.



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Dr Bijan Kumar Saha
Sector:
Medicine

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 1980s.

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 Saha is a very well respected doctor within the British Bangladeshi community.



Shapla Salique
Sector:
Music and Arts

Shapla Salique is a British Bangladeshi singer-songwriter and musician. She has been captivating audiences with her talent since early childhood.

At just 8 years of age Shapla became the lead singer in the first UK Bangladeshi musical group, Dishari Shilpi Ghosthi, a group originally founded by her father, Abdus Salique. Fronted by Shapla, Dishari Shilpi Ghosthi went on to perform at events across UK and Europe, and was frequently on national television throughout the eighties and nineties.

Shapla's first mainstream solo Bengali song 'Ziola' was released in the UK in 1996, under the music label 'Journeys by DJ'. 'Ziola' was remixed by the globally well-known DJ Judge Jules for his album 'Dance Wars'. 'Ziola' was followed by two diverse but equally well received solo albums; 'Siyono na Siyona' in 1997, a traditional folk oriented Bengali album, and in 2002, the Hindi pop album 'Lai Lai', produced and composed by Bappi Lahiri.

Shapla has performed at many prestigious venues including, The Royal Albert Hall, Hammersmith Apollo, Royal Ascot, the Barbican, and most recently at BBC Radio London, Houses of Parliament, Hackney Empire and at London's South Bank. She also held her recent solo concert at the prestigious world famous, Wilton's Music Hall, which was a huge success. In 2014 Shapla was invited to speak and perform at a

TEDX event – in front of a celebrity filled audience at the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Hall in Westminster. This was also streamed globally and watched by over a billion people.

Shapla's 3rd album is due to be released in autumn 2015. Shapla is reaching out to new audiences, opening her music to contemporary interpretations, with a combination of Jazz and Funk, for a younger generation, while maintaining her core of loyal traditionalists. Shapla has also arranged, composed and produced this new album herself. Shapla has created a sound which is a perfect blend of East and West.

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 the UK. Dr. Salam has had a distinguished career having served in the British Local Government for 28 years. He was the first Bangladeshi appointed as a Principal Race Relations Adviser in the UK.

During the 1971 Liberation Movement of Bangladesh, Dr. Salam led the movement of Bangladeshi students within the universities in the 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 the UK and 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 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. He has been performing civic duties on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen for over twenty years.



Dr. Mohammed Salam JP,

Sector:
*Local Government and
Community Relations*

Cllr Nadia Shah was elected in 2014 as a councillor for Regents Park Ward in the London Borough of Camden. She was elected by members and served on the executive committee of the council 2014/15, elected deputy mayor 2015/16, and the first female British Bangladeshi muslim Mayor in 2016/17.

Nadia was born and bred in Camden and reside there with her family.

Started career in banking but also worked for the Black and Minority Ethnic community, particularly for the betterment of the Bangladeshi Community, have been contributing to the community and working in management, in community settings and safeguarding, as well as peer education with young people, in the private statutory and voluntary sector for the last 20 years.

Went on to work on many community projects, predominantly working with woman, children and young people, breaking down barriers, lobbying and advocating for employability, education, training, health, social issues as well as devising intergenerational and culturally appropriate parenting programmes to strengthen families, many of which have been recognised and are now mainstream services.

Became a co-opted trustee for the Surma centre (the largest organisation working for the Bangladeshi community) and then went on to become an elected director.

Received the Camden Community Award in 2014 in recognition for the work and dedication for the work done with the community thus far.

At present working in the family business and also self-employed.

This year's focus for the Mayoral year is child poverty and the mental implications and raising awareness of and supporting mental health in young people and children, due to the rise of this issue and the lack of recognition from the community and government and how this impacts on children and families both now and in later life.



Cllr. Nadia Shah

Sector:
Politics



Taj Shah

Sector:
Law

He founded the offices of Taj Solicitors in the year 2002 working from home when he was working at Clinton Davies as a Criminal Defence Solicitor and also on Duty Solicitors panel cover North London area. On full time basis he commenced his practice from June 2003 at 229 East Indian Dock Road, Docklands on the same road 243- 247 the Head Office is now based. Taj Shah specialises in all aspects of Immigration & Asylum Law, Human Rights, Criminal defence, all aspects of Residential & Commercial property work.

He is the only son in his family. His father's name is Mr Abdus Salam. He originates from Village-Dhara Bohor, Gulapgonj, Sylhet. In the year 1991 he came to the UK with his mother and sisters for settlement.

He graduated with LL.B (Hons) degree and completed Legal Practice Course (formerly known as Solicitors Final) in 1998. He was called as a Barrister-at-Law at Middle Temple in July 1999. Since 1996 alongside with his studies he had been working in legal fields.

He acted for a number of well known personalities and organisations.

His remarkable achievements includes advocating in the case of AA & Others (intention to return) [2006] which is used by Immigration Law Practitioners as authority from Higher Courts as guideline case in relation to intention to return. After his success in this case all Sector Based Work Permit holders were able to come to the UK through direct entry clearance and/or appeal process. A further landmark guideline case was Ahmed (Proof of Benefits) [2013]. This settled one of the most complex areas of Immigration Law as commented in many legal journals and the law established that settled spouse/ children/ relatives claiming benefits on their

own right should not affect sponsorship undertaking and cannot be treated as having recourse to public funds. Further in the same case the Home Office was directed to change certain sections of their certain entry clearance applications as it was not consistent with the Immigration Rules and some declared policies.

He dealt with an assignment of lease matter where Dockland Light Railway is the landlord and he was defending one of the leaseholders where there was an absolute restriction on transfer of lease and the case was settled out of Court. He is proud to represent a significant number of Indian restaurant owners (over 400 listed regular clients) all over the UK through recommendations of each other.

More recently he picked up certain mistakes in Home Office application forms and wrote to the Home Secretary & Immigration Minister of their department's negligence. The mistake was admitted and immediately the forms were changed. He is currently working on the most high profile case of his career and came through recommendation of his Middle East based clients. He is acting for the ex-wife and her son of billionaire UAE prince, Al Maktoum, the son of former ruler of Dubai. Al-Maktoum is the current Chairman of Emirate Airlines. This involves their immigration status in the UK and child custody.

He is the principal contributor of Law With N Rahman (Sky Channel 814, Saturday 12:30pm- 02:00pm) for the last 5 years which is the most popular interactive legal programme.

Apart from the Head Office in London he runs two branch offices in Cardiff and Coventry serving the Asian communities. Today Taj Solicitors is a household name in the UK and Europe.



Amjad Suleman

Sector:
*Financial Investments
and Equity*

Amjad Suleman is the youngest son of Abul Bashor Ansari (a notable Bengali language poet, politician and philanthropist). He is the younger brother of Councilor Zenith Rahman, founding member and Vice President of Bromley by Bow charitable organisation.

Mr Suleman is the Managing Partner at Red.Dot Capital and Investments, Hong Kong / Germany and Asia Financial Consultancy, Singapore.

Together with his partners, Amjad Suleman currently manages a lead portfolio of more than \$200m for Asian and European clients. Mr Suleman has garnered a tremendous degree of trust and integrity in the business community he serves both in the UK and abroad. The key to his spectacular success in this endeavour has been due to three things, his extensive global network of high-net individuals, excellent personal contacts with high ranking government officials and the desire to work hard to achieve set goals. His personal mantra to doing business is simple. "Ensure you earn your clients trust and confidence every time!"

Mr Suleman is also a Founding Partner at Oishob, an online corporate marketplace focused on trading and commodity exchange. As a member of the advisory team for finance and corporate business strategy he has been instrumental in ensuring the successful launch of this innovative trading product.

Mr Suleman is a Former Senior Member of staff at: Citigroup Investment Bank, Wachovia Bank, Firstdata Merchant Banking Services, SchlumbergerSema and Atos Origin.

Mr Suleman is an advisor and business associate of a number of international corporations, consulting them on finance and business strategy: ADP (UAE) - Energy and Social Eco projects, AMSIA Green Automobile (China/ Brazil), xGemina (Asia) - Merchant Banking Services, Soft Bank (Europe) - Financial Technology, Rally of Kings (UK) - Social & Sports Entertainment, Capital Markets UK Fair (UK), Banglatv UK - Media, Wentworth Lawyers (UK) - Islamic Finance, Hossain Jomuna Group (Bangladesh), BRIC PLUS Magazine (UK) where Mr Suleman regularly contributes articles on banking finance and investments for this prestigious magazine, with a primary focus on Asia and BRIC nations.

Mr Suleman is also - Regular contributor of Currylife Magazine, writing features around investments and opportunities within the curry industry.

Mr Suleman honed his entrepreneurial skills after obtaining his professional qualifications from the Investment Banking Institute of New York. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree from a prestigious UK university and is a proud graduate of the Cisco Academy, where he passed out with distinction. He continues to develop his academic and professional skill sets and he has been awarded a scholarship and is currently in the process of completing a MBA programme in Chartered Banking Finance.

Mr Suleman dedicates a lot of his time and efforts in global charitable project work, in developing deprived and needy people. He has successfully started an elementary school for orphan children and a housing project, in building houses and facilitating fresh water for really poor family in isolated villages who cannot afford to build their own houses.



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Abdul Shahid

Sector:

Accounting

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 TV (in particular, current and business affairs). 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.



H M Shahjahan

Sector:

Media

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 Moham-madpur Shera, Jagonathpur Upazilla, (Sunamganj 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 Moham-madpur 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 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 Com-

mercials, 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 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.

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 Shariff 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 democracy in the 70's, 80's, 90's and 2000's. Channel 5 honoured him for his services to the community.

He lives with his wife, Nora Shariff, in London.



Sultan Mahmud Shariff

Sector:

Community Relations

Professor Mr Sadeque Imam Shaikh is now the Pioneer of British Bangladeshi Community in IT education and Research Industries of UK. He has 13 years of teaching experiences in different Universities of Bangladesh and UK. At present he has been employed by Glyndwr University London as Senior Faculty member of computing to teach M.Sc and B.Sc Students and also employed by University of Derby to deliver Lectures of M.Sc and B.Sc students of IT around the Globe. During the last seven years, Mr Shaikh established about 8 IT departments in different higher education Institutes/Colleges of UK under Chartered Institute of IT, BCS where thousands of international students have successfully completed their studies. In Bangladesh Mr Shaikh was the Assistant Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Science Engineering and Technology of University of Science & Technology Chittagong. He was also the guest lecturer of Southern University Bangladesh.

He is the first Bangladeshi to receive "Graduate of the year Award-2011" (7500GBP) from University of Bedfordshire UK for his outstanding academic, technical and research skills.

He is also the first Bangladeshi to receive the Finalist award of UK IT Industry Award-2012, "Individual Excellence Award" Organized by Chartered Institute of IT for his outstanding contribution for IT education Industries of UK. This year again he has been selected as a Finalist for UK IT Industry Award-2013 Category "IT Consultant of The Year 2013" which will take place on November 2013. He also received ASDF "Best Computer

Science Faculty Award-2012" organized by ASDF, India and "Best Teacher Award-2012" from different colleges. He is also promoting IT education and research for Private Higher Education sector of UK. As a part of that he has formed International Association of ICT and Research UK a non profitable organization of UK and established International Journal of ICT and Research UK where he is the Chief editor, International Journal of Business Informatics(IJBI),UK official journal of London school of technology where he is the associate Editor and Journal of Portsmouth International College where he is the Chief Editor. He has also about 22 research papers which are published in different Journals and Conference Proceedings around the globe. He has been also selected one of top researchers of UK by Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE).

Mr Shaikh is also working for the British Community as an active member of different charities like of British Computer Society (BCS), Amnesty International UK, Green Peace UK, Save the Children UK and a UNICEF UK.

Mr Shaikh has completed his M.Sc in Computer Networking from University of Bedfordshire of United Kingdom during 2008. Before that, he completed an MSc in Computer Science and BSc in Computer Science from National University of Bangladesh. At present He has been selected for his Postgraduate study at University of Oxford. He is also certified by Microsoft Certified Technology Specialist(MCTS), Microsoft Certified System Administrator and CISCO cetified Network Associate(CCNA). He is also member of BCS and IEEE.



Sadeque Imam Shaikh

Sector:

IT Education and Research



MP Tulip Siddiq

Sector:
Politics

Tulip Siddiq is the MP for Hampstead and Kilburn and the state minister for culture, media and sports for the shadow cabinet. She 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 has her own blog where she writes about both British and Bengali politics.

Tulip was the 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 (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).



M Altab Syed

Sector:
Business & Community

M. Altab Miah (Syed), the eldest son of Late Haji Md. Rajab Ali, born Jalal Pur, Sunam Gonj, Bangladesh. Mr Altab came over to the UK in 1977 where he continued with his education.

He completed a diploma in Business Studies, Mr Altab established himself as 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 holiday lettings and property development ventures in the UK and in Bangladesh to diversify his portfolio of investments.

Mr Altab is married with seven children and is very grateful to almighty Allah and indebted to his family and friends for all his achievements in life. His ambitions in life is 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 him for a lifetime.

Over the years, Mr Altab has contributed greatly towards charitable work and has been involved with numerous community organisations. Through his personal and business contacts, the Bangor based entrepreneur has helped generate large donations for victims of natural disasters and has contributed towards numerous community developments and educational projects in Bangladesh.

He was one of the Co founders of Bangor Bangladesh Welfare Association. He is an active member of the Federation of Small business in addition to his long term membership with the Bangor Business forum. He is the chairman of Bangor Islamic Centre (BIC) and has invested an extensive amount of his time and efforts to the multicultural community of Bangor.

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Shadia Syed

Sector:
Media

Shadia Syed was born, brought up and educated in London. She studied at the renowned public school James Allen's Girls' School in Dulwich, from where she went to Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, and graduated with a BSc (Hons) degree in Mathematics. Subsequently she became a student member of the Institute of Actuaries in Oxford, and is pursuing her professional studies. Shadia is an Associate of the Royal College of Science.

Shadia has been in the media world since she was a child, having sung solo songs on an LP when she was seven years old, performed in front of HM Queen Elizabeth II, sung at the Royal Albert Hall, Royal Festival Hall and various other esteemed venues. She was the first musical act to sing at the European Parliament and has performed alongside numerous musical legends. Shadia can sing in five languages, has been featured in many newspapers, and was named "Shirley Temple of Asia" by Capital Radio. She won a gold medal for her excellence in Speech and Drama. As a broadcast journalist, Shadia has worked on major television channels in the UK and in Bangladesh, both on and off camera. She is well known as a senior English-language news anchor for ATN Bangla, as well as a programme presenter and producer. She was Editor of Dia ASIANA, Bangladesh's franchise of UK's ASIANA magazine. Shadia is a guest Radio Jockey for Colours FM 101.6 in Bangladesh. She has interviewed some of the

biggest names in show business and politics for television, radio and the magazine, both in the UK and in Bangladesh. She is at home in front of a microphone or camera, and is known for speaking eloquently and precisely.

Shadia regularly hosts and presents some of the biggest events in the UK, Bangladesh and Europe. She has taken part in over twenty quiz shows on television in the UK, and works as a quiz show deviser and consultant.

Shadia is also a media and communications consultant and a political analyst. In Bangladesh she worked for the National Democratic Institute (NDI), where she was responsible for the organisation's high-profile projects and seminars focusing on democracy. She continues this work as a political consultant. Shadia has worked as a Consular Warden at the British High Commission in Dhaka.

In her spare time, Shadia enjoys music, travelling and photography. Her background in mathematics enables her to handle all aspects of her life in a clear, calm and logical manner.

Shadia's ancestral roots are Sreefalty Zamindar House, Kaliakoir, Gazipur and Shibganj Zamindar House, Mohasthan, Bogra. She is the only child of Dr and Mrs Alo Chowdhury and lives in Dulwich, London.

For more information, visit www.shadiasyed.com



Sheik Tuahid

Sector:
Media

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.

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.

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Baroness Manzila Uddin

Sector:
Politics



Award Winner 2013

In 1988, Baroness Uddin became the first Bangladeshi woman councillor in UK, representing Shadwell Ward in Tower Hamlets. She is a pioneer of women's work. She is an activist and campaigner for social justice, human rights with particular focus on empowerment of women. This led her to working in Local Government, subsequently becoming a councillor and elected as Deputy Leader of Tower Hamlets council in 1992.

In recognition for her contribution to the community and advancement of women's rights, Baroness Uddin was appointed by the Queen to become the first Bangladeshi and Muslim to enter the House of Lords in 1998.

Baroness Uddin began her activism inspired by the movement in late 70's against the fascist activities in Brick Lane. She became involved in Labour led community coalition countering racism. Consequently immersing in the anti racist movement of the 80's amongst a handful leading women, which eventually saw the transformation of the East End of London. She led alongside contemporaries, many campaigns which resulted in increase equity in the provision of healthcare, education and housing for residents of Tower Hamlets.

With her friends and colleagues she set up the Jagonari, the UK's first purpose built Asian women's education and training centre, as well as contributing to the development of several community led NGOs. Many of which over the decades improved opportunities and access to services as well as jobs, particularly for women. During her term as deputy leader of Tower Hamlets Council, she led with her colleagues changes to the council's policies to 'reflect the community' within its workforce.

As a member of the House of Lords, Baroness Uddin has worked on the Select Committee on European Affairs and chaired several government Task Forces, leading the work on domestic violence and forced marriage. She was also asked by then Prime Minister to chair the work with women on Community Cohesion and Preventing Extremism, which enabled her to travel across many parts of UK as well as Middle East, Europe and USA.

As the chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Bangladesh, in 2004 and 2008 she assisted the Disaster Emergency Response Committee, launching in the Parliament, their fundraising campaign, inviting amongst others Christian Aid, Save the Children Fund, Oxfam, involving the leading Muslim Charities to respond to the disastrous flood and cyclone in Bangladesh.

In 2008 she was asked to Chair of the Black, Asian and minority Ethnic Women Councillors Taskforce, a cross party initiative set up by the Government. In her role as Chair, Baroness Uddin set out and successfully securing the commitment of the Prime Minister and the Opposition Leaders to change the face of political institutions and address the gross underrepresentation of minority women in public life with evident success.

Professionally, over a decade she worked in Newham Social Services. More recently with Addaction led the Zurich International funded, Breaking the Cycle Project which worked successfully across UK, with families affected by drugs and alcohol.



Anwar Uddin

Sector:
Sports



Award Winner 2014

Anwar Uddin has been involved in top level football for over 15 years. He begun his career at premier league club West Ham United where he grew up with world class players including Rio Ferdinand, Frank Lampard and Jermaine Defoe, to name a few. A successful education winning the FA youth cup and being among the first team squad paved the way for a long career playing in all 4 divisions in English Football. Anwar went on to represent Sheffield Wednesday, Bristol Rovers, Dagenham & Redbridge, Barnet and Eastbourne Borough. Anwar was the first British Asian to be appointed as an Assistant Manager (Barnet 2011) and captain of a football league club (Dagenham 2006). He has also clocked up hundreds of first team appearances winning championships and accomplishing a boyhood dream of lifting a trophy at the new Wembley Stadium in Dagenham's triumphant play off win.

is the with the Football Supporters' Federation as Diversity and Campaigns Manager in partnership with Kick It Out. Anwar's role is to work with the millions of Football fans in making football as inclusive and accessible for all. The role includes travelling around the world with football fans Internationally and domestically, challenging the number of issues supporters may face following football.

This is something that Anwar is now synonymous with having spent 2 and a half years delivering anti discrimination education to footballers of all levels and students all over the country. Anwar undertook this work for the Professional Footballers Association and Show Racism the red card who have also inducted Anwar into the show Racism the Red Card hall of fame, for his contribution to all their anti racism work in education and Football.

Anwar who was born and raised in the heart of East London and went to School at Raines Foundation in Bethnal Green. He is part of a big Family consisting of 3 sisters and 2 brothers and now lives in Kent with his wife and two boys Kai and Jayden.

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 Coordinator.

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 ac-

tivities 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 European Bongobondhu Parishod.

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 Dagenham.



Dr Ruab Uddin

Sector:

*Education and
Community Relations*

Syed Monsur Uddin is a journalist and columnist. Uddin began his career when he was a student at Dhaka College back in 1989. In his school days, he developed an interest in journalism as one of his uncles was a journalist himself.

Having finished his studies at college, Uddin joined the Department of Political Science at the University of Dhaka, and started contributing to the Weekly Ekota and Daily Bangla Bazar. He was the university reporter for both newspapers and was elected as an executive member of the Journalists' Association.

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 to the first phone-in programme on BTV – Ovivot. The show was anchored by Md. Jahangir. The programme gave Uddin greater exposure to the social and natural realities of Bangladesh. After his Honours and Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Dhaka, he joined Bangla Bazar and became their senior reporter in 1996.

Uddin came to England in 1997 and joined Bangla TV in 1999. He was with the newsroom of Bangla TV and contributed greatly to its growth and development. After a year with Bangla TV, he accepted the News Editor role at Weekly Surma in 2000, also serving as an Editor since 2006 to August 2013. For a brief

period, he was the founding News Editor of Bangla Express – a short-lived weekly publication of Surma News Group.

In 2013, Uddin worked for the Tower Hamlets Labour Party as a Media Adviser and for British Bangladeshi MP Rushanara Ali's campaign team. He is currently working as a Political Adviser for John Biggs – the Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets.

Uddin is an executive committee member of the London Press Club, and was part of the executive committee of Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in London. He was also a founding member of the institution.

Appreciated as 'funny and lovely' by his son Sadaf, Uddin is from the village of Charabhanga in the Madhabpur Upazilla, Hobigonj. His father is Syed Muhammed Idris and his mother is Rafia Khatun Chowdhury. Uddin currently lives in Chigwell, Essex, with his wife, Hadi Jannah, and daughter, Shompreeti. His hobbies include reading, gardening, travelling and cooking.



Syed Monsur Uddin

Sector:

Media and Politics



Moin Uddin

Sector:

Hospitality and Catering

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.



Haji Mohammad Shab Uddin

Sector:

Catering/Charity

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 in the 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 soon moved into the catering industry in 1977, opening 'Dreamland' restaurant in the Tower Bridge area which was later renamed 'Tower Tandoori'. The family soon developed a chain of successful Indian restaurants 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 Dhaka regions.

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 talented students 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 and front gate for a local school and mosque respectively.

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

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



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Dr. Wali Uddin
MBE JP

Sector:
*Catering and
Community relations*



Award Winner 2014

One of the most successful Bangladeshi businessmen living in Scotland, Edinburgh-based entrepreneur, Dr Wali Uddin MBE, was born in Moulvibazar 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 Uddin-JP

Sector:
*Community Relations &
Social Care*

Zafar credits his parents, who died several years ago, as his inspiration.

A stalwart of the community, Zafar has been a safeguarding Social Worker for children services for 27 years and currently fostering and adoption officer for Stockton Borough Council. Who have been Trustee and Director for Middlesbrough's Citizens Advice Bureau since 1997 and serving member of the NHS Foundation Trust. He has also been a Magistrate at Teesside Magistrates Court since December 2001. He has Chaired Bangladesh Muslim Welfare Association for more than 20 years. Was a director of a community venture helping underprivileged families in East Middlesbrough.

Zafar Served many years as a Governor at Archibald and Stainton Primary schools as well as serving as Chair of International Community Centre Management committee. Vice chairs of Middlesbrough Law centre, Cleveland Racial Equality Council. Also served as the Chair of Redcar & Cleveland Multi-Cultural Association, Vice - Chair of Redcar and Cleveland Islamic Cultural Association for 20 years. He served as advisory committee member of BBC Radio Cleveland for four years. Zafar has been the Chair of Park Ward Community Council for over 15 years. He has been a Secretary of Tees Valley Bangladeshi Association for 6 years, currently serving as the Vice Chair. He has been Vice Chair and Chair for MOSUM for 4 years. He has been Vice Chair and Chair for Middlesbrough Mela Management Committee for 8 years. Zafar helped Nurtured Middlesbrough Mela into the Northeast's largest multi-cultural event; as a result he has been made a Teesside Hero in 2014, by Middlesbrough and Teesside Philanthropic Foundation Charity.

For his outstanding contributions in British, Bangladeshi & BME Communities he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by Tees Valley BME Network in 2013. He was nominated and became finalist of Evening Gazette's Community

Champion's Award twice respectively in 2006 and 2010. For his outstanding contributions in British Bangladeshi Society, his profile has been featured in the British Bangladeshi Who's Who Magazine in the Community Relations and Social Care Sectors by Bangla Media Group since 2010.

Zafar has been involved in fundraising activities for many disasters and for the disadvantaged communities around the world for many years. He has recently been appointed as the Governor of Abingdon Primary School. Zafar has been elected as the Councillor for the Central Ward, Middlesbrough in 2015. In Bangladeshi's history Zafar is the first Bangladeshi who has been a Magistrate and an elected Councillor in the Tees Valley. Zafar has received a Community Champion's Award in May 2017 from Tees Valley Bangladeshi Association for his continued outstanding contributions to the British Bangladeshi Society.

Zafar's friends say he is a considerate person who goes extra miles for the members of the community to help anyone in need. He generally writes in the local and national press highlighting the issues relevant to the members of the public. Zafar has been known to work for the benefit of the community and general welfare of the people. With regards to his Achievements and various Accolades he says;

"It means a lot to me to be recognised in such way for what I do and I dedicate all these Achievements and Awards to all of the brilliant organisations that I dearly love and support, my Community and my family who have supported me for over the past 42 years. I sincerely like to thank everyone from the bottom of my heart that, my late grandparents, my parents my two brothers Iqbal and Ashraf, their wives and my sisters, their husbands, my wife Polly as well our children, and my friends and colleagues in the community for their support and giving me the opportunity to become who I am today, thank you".

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 Group. Her second novel 'Desi Girl' 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 British-Asian experiences for the mainstream in an adept manner has resulted in her being cited as one of Asia'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.



Ms Rekha Waheed

Sector:
Arts

Naufal Zamir is a successful entrepreneur, a dedicated businessman and a committed leader. He arrived in the UK in 1999, equipped with a degree in law from Dhaka University, and started down the same path as his legally-adept family. His father, brother and sister are all legal professionals, and by 2003, Mr Zamir had completed his LLB at London University, qualified as a Barrister-at-Law and was called to the bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn.

Armed with only a laptop and a fax machine, Mr Zamir set off on a mission to create a business that would challenge him, test him and push him to grow as a person, a businessman and a leader. It was from those humble beginnings in 2004 that he founded Zamir Telecom.

In the company's short history, it has achieved phenomenal growth in all three of its serving sectors and has established itself as a trusted name in the international wholesale market, a well-recognised brand in the retail market and a respected service in the corporate sector. Recently, Zamir Telecom has soared to new heights, being named amongst the fastest-growing UK tech companies in the Sunday Times' Tech Track 100 in 2011 and 2012. It has expanded its operations in Middle East, South Asia, South-East Asia,

Africa and North America and notably, the company has expanded exponentially, year after year, in spite of rough economic trends globally.

One of Mr Zamir's forte is public speaking and he has addressed audiences in award ceremonies, events and congregations of industry peers at the highest level. But even with all his success, Mr Zamir continues to dedicate himself to furthering his education and development as businessman. He has attended the LSE Summer Courses in Leadership and Entrepreneurship and regularly attends seminars and events relevant to successful personalities. He has worked alongside a broad range of consultants - whose areas of expertise range from finance and management to technology and regulatory - and is an active member of the entrepreneur community around the world.



M Naufal Zamir

Sector:
Telecommunications



Award Winner 2011



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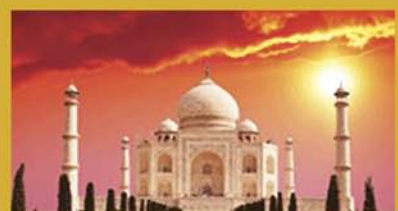
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WHO'S WHO

2017

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