

BRITISH BANGLADESHI  
**WHO'S  
WHO**  
2024

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Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

19 September 2024

Dear Abdul,

Thank you for your letter of 18 July, to the Prime Minister, Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer MP, regarding this year's British Bangladeshi Who's Who report. I have been asked to reply, and I would like to apologise for the delay in reply to you.

Congratulations on the success of the *British Bangladeshi Who's Who* publication. Since its launch in 2008, the publication has established itself as an important platform for the British Bangladeshi community, celebrating the enormous contribution that British Bangladeshis makes to our society, economy, and our national life.

Every year the publication highlights the remarkable individuals who have reached the top of their respective fields. Their accomplishments, so often the result of personal sacrifice and service, have enriched not only the British Bangladeshi community, but our whole society.

Many congratulations on the 15th edition. I wish you continued success in the future of the *British Bangladeshi Who's Who* publication in the years to come – please do pass on my best wishes to all those who have worked so hard on this year's edition.

Yours sincerely,

**LORD KHAN OF BURNLEY**

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Faith, Communities and Resettlement



## MAYOR OF LONDON

Thank you for your letter of 11 June requesting a message of support for your 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition. I am happy to provide the following message:

“I want to extend my congratulations to British Bangladeshi Who’s Who 2024 as you gather to celebrate the achievements of the British Bangladeshi community.

The contributions of the Bangladeshi community to London are an undeniable part of what makes us the most vibrant city in the world. A city that celebrates and respects its differences. I am proud to be Mayor of such a forward-looking, dynamic and global city.

I know the importance of role models, and as you celebrate your community, I know it will only continue to inspire the next generation of all Londoners, not just members of the Bangladeshi community.

Congratulations to you all, I hope you have an enjoyable evening celebrating your success”.

Yours sincerely,

**Sadiq Khan**  
Mayor of London



*High Commissioner*

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

**Message**

I am pleased to learn that the 2024 edition of the **'Who's Who'** will be published soon. The **'Who's Who'** recognition is a brilliant initiative that honours the outstanding achievements and triumphs of our extraordinarily British-Bangladeshi Diaspora, who have made their mark in the United Kingdom and the British society. I look forward to felicitating the new wave of highly accomplished British-Bangladeshi individuals who will be honoured this year.

The British-Bangladeshi diaspora's hard work, dedication, philanthropy, direct investments and remittances, all significantly contribute to building a progressive, prosperous and discrimination-free inclusive Bangladesh, and in strengthening Bangladesh's political, trade, cultural, economic, and people-to-people connectivity with the UK.

I take this opportunity to specially congratulate the very talented younger generation of British Bangladeshi diaspora who are leaving their success footprints in every sphere of British society and upholding the image of our community in myriads of fields, including politics, business, education, law and law enforcement, the armed forces, hospitality and the services industry and many more. I believe the 2024 **'Who's Who'** recognition would further honour and acknowledge the talent and skills of our vibrant British-Bangladeshi diaspora and inspire future generations to strive for excellence.

I would like to extend my best wishes to the organizers of this initiative and to the **'Who's Who'** publication and wish them all success.

Saida Muna Tasneem  
High Commissioner



## Foreword from the Editor

It is wonderful to recognise that this is now the 15 th year of the publication. What started off as an idea has now become a yearly event that highlights the achievements of this ever flourishing community.

As usual, the 2024 publication showcases the movers and shakers of our community and the rising stars. We have also hand-picked the brightest and best and given them the awards for their achievements.

We truly hope that you will enjoy this edition as much as previous ones.

M Abdul Karim (Goni)

Editor

9<sup>th</sup> October 2024



## Foreword from the **Executive Editor**

We are now in our 15<sup>th</sup> year and what better way is there to celebrate than by highlighting the amazing achievements of the British Bangladeshi community.

The immense hard work and dedication has truly paid off. This year, much like previous years, we have unearthed some real gems.

These role models will continue to inspire the current and future generations.

I hope that you will enjoy reading the 2024 publication.

Suhana Anwar Ahmed

Executive Editor

10<sup>th</sup> October 2024.



## 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
  - 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

## WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2017

- Kazi Arif (MBA, DBA)
- Dr Sanawar Choudhury
  - Oli Khan FRSA
  - Mahi Muqit PhD
  - Syed Nahas Pasha
- Shahida Rahman (Shahidun)

## WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2018

- Dr Zaki Rezwana Anwar
- Mohammad Habeebullah OBE JP
- Mohammed Siddiquer Rahman
  - Nobab Uddin
- Mohammad Shab Uddin
- Mohammed Mustafa Kamal Yakub

## WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2019

- Cllr Barrister Nazir Ahmed FRSA
  - M Sayed Altab
- Mahee Ferdhaus Jalil
- Kamrun Nessa Khanom
  - M A Munim
- Sheikh Aliur Rahman
- Muhibur Rahman Muhib MJF

## WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2022

- Amin Babor Chowdhury
- Cllr Henna Chowdhury
- Cllr Salim Chowdhury
  - Nazmul Islam Nuru
  - Akke Rahman
  - Lutfur Rahman
- Mohammad Shamsur Rahman Nickel
  - Syedur Rahman Ranu
  - Tipu Rahman
  - Syed Afsar Uddin

## WHO'S WHO AWARD WINNERS 2023

- Emon Ahmed
- Apsana Begum MP
- Foysool Hussain Choudhury
  - MBE MSP
- Tofozzul Miah
- Mahbub Rahman
- Tapan Saha FAIA, FCCA
  - Abdus Salam
- Valerie Ann Taylor OBE



## Md Abdul Haque

**Sector:** Information Technology / Media

Md Abdul Haque is a distinguished entrepreneur with over 27 years of experience in the IT and software industry, where he has established himself as an expert in the field. Born in Moulvibazar, Bangladesh in 1976, and now residing in London his journey from skilled technician to influential business leader is a testament to his dedication and acumen.

Haque holds a bachelor's degree in Maths and Computing from Brunel University and a master's degree in Advanced Software Engineering from the University of Westminster. His career began in the civil service, where he worked as a specialist software engineer on flight data processes for National Air Traffic Services (NATS). However, driven by a vision to innovate and lead, he transitioned into entrepreneurship, founding Purple I Technologies. As the Managing Director, he has been instrumental in advancing the EPOS system within the Bangladeshi and Indian restaurant sectors. His pioneering spirit also led to the creation of the dineNET Online Order & Reservation System, further solidifying his impact on the industry.

In addition to his achievements in the IT sector, he brings over five years of experience in the fine dining industry as the Managing Director of 'Piya Piya', a renowned Thai restaurant and lounge located in the City of London. This venture highlights his versatility and ability to succeed across different industries, enriching his business portfolio with hands-on experience in hospitality.

Beyond his IT and hospitality ventures, Haque is the creative force behind Catering Circle, a media platform that addresses and solves key issues within the catering industry through collaborative dia-

logue and the active participation of caterers and stakeholders. His leadership extends to the role of Vice-Chairman at Channel S (Sky 777), a television station dedicated to the Bangladeshi community in Britain and Europe, founded by his brother, Mahee Ferdhaus Jalil.

Despite his demanding professional life, Haque finds time for his passions. An avid traveller, he has explored numerous countries, with Malaysia being a particular favourite, praised for its hospitality, cuisine, and strong Islamic identity. He also speaks fondly of his travels to destinations like Barbados, Antigua, the Maldives, and Canada. In addition to travelling, he enjoys playing badminton, going to the gym, and watching films.

Haque is married to Mary Rahman, a successful PR entrepreneur in London, who specialises in promoting clients from the arts, theatre, film, and fashion industries. Together, they form a dynamic and accomplished couple, each excelling in their respective fields.





## Yashmin Harun BEM

Sector: Sports and Charity

Yashmin Harun BEM serves as the founding Chair of the Muslimah Sports Association (MSA), established in 2014. With over 20 years of banking experience spanning various roles from back-office to Head office positions, she currently holds the position of Credit Policy & Governance Officer at SMBC Banking International. Recently, Yashmin completed a Masters in Global Public Policy, for which she received a scholarship.

Yashmin's dedication to community and advocacy is evident through her recent appointments.

Yashmin's most recent appointment is as a Non-Executive Director at Charity Bank. She was also selected by Baroness Warsi to join the Islamophobia Working Group led by Kick It Out and elected as Vice Chair at the London Football Association. Additionally, Yashmin serves as the Chair of Frenford and MSA Women's Football Club, facilitating the participation of over 100 girls from a South Asian background in football.

Her contributions extend beyond sports, as evidenced by her involvement in the recent House of Lords Sports and Recreation consultation and her role as a guest lecturer at Manchester Met University, where she shares her lived experiences. Yashmin's efforts in the voluntary sector have earned her recognition, including the prestigious British Empire Medal in 2020 for her work in increasing representation of BAME females in sports.

Yashmin has broken barriers in various fields, becoming the first Muslim Bangladeshi woman to serve as acting Senior iNED at British Fencing and as a Director at London FA. She also serves on the FA Council, where she advocates for diversity and inclusion in sports policies and strategies.

Her achievements have not gone unnoticed, as evidenced by her recent accolades, including the Asian Woman of Achievement Award for Sports and Sister in Business Award in 2023, and her inclusion in the Top 50 Most Influential Muslims in Europe list.

Yashmin's commitment to diversity and inclusion in sports has been recognised through various awards and was recognised as one of the Top 50 most influential Muslim in Europe. Other awards include the Faith; Belief Awards, FA Grassroots Football Award, FA For All Award, and the She Awards 2019. Additionally, she received the London Sports Workforce Award in 2018 and The Muslim News Award in 2017. Yashmin's contributions have also led to winning the National Diversity Awards in 2023.



## Jalal Rajonuddin

Sector: Politics and Community Relations

Jalal Rajonuddin came to the UK with his parents at the age of 12, after the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1972.

He later graduated in social, political and economic studies and secured a post graduate degree in Management Studies.

In his teens Jalal participated and led the resistance of Bangladeshis in Tower Hamlets and London following the murder of Altab Ali in 1978. This achievement has been made into a Channel 4 documentary and broadcasted recently. This event was the spur, which radicalised and propelled him into organising Bangladeshi youths and then the entire community in the voluntary and community sector for the next 50 years.

Jalal was a pioneer in setting up community organisations amongst youth, in the field of racial equality, education, local economic development, culture etc. Amongst others, he was founder Secretary of The Bangladeshi Youth Movement (1976) and Federation of Bangladesh Youth Organisations-FBYO (1982), Co-founder of the Hackney and Tower Hamlets Defence Committee [1978], Community representative on the Race and Housing Action Forum of the former Greater London Council-GLC [1986], Founder Chairperson of Tower Hamlets Association for Racial Equality-THARE (1984), Secretary of Bangladesh Educational Needs-BENTH (1985) and Co-ordinator of Tower Hamlets Initiative on arts, culture and education (1985).

Jalal was also the key campaigner for persuading local, regional and national governments to create and establish a community assets base and was instrumental in creating a political coalition to establish the following: the Bangladesh Centre, Kobi Nazrul Centre, Weavers Youth Centre, Whitechapel Centre, Children's Education Centre, Davenant and "Jagonari" Women's Centre, Rich Mix Centre, Berner Youth Club, Wapping Youth Centre etc.

Jalal not only established organisations in different spheres but also began to represent the local ethnic minorities on different representative bodies. He sat on the National Steering Committee of Anti-Nazi League, was a member on Joint Docklands Action Committee—JDAG, Board member of various Regeneration bodies like

City Challenge, City Fringe, Single Regeneration Budget Board (SRB) and New Deal for Communities.

This trajectory of campaigning, representing, establishing community cohesion, resistance and resilience made Jalal gravitate in a political direction and he became involved in local and regional mainstream politics. He joined the Labour Party and participated in Trade Union activities in the 1970's and began the uphill task of representation of Bangladeshis and other ethnic minorities in party organisational bodies and then onto to local elections.

Jalal became a Councillor in Tower Hamlets in 1990 and rose to become Deputy Leader and Chairperson of Regeneration Committee from 1990 to 1998. In this capacity he represented the London Borough of Tower Hamlets on the former London Dockland Development Corporation—LDDC [Canary Wharf, DLR and Social Accord Developments]. He also went on to be on the approved list of Labour's prospective parliamentary candidates [PPC], EU candidates and GLA member candidates. During this period he implemented housing, regeneration and economic initiatives with partner organisations, by attracting special funding allocations from the national government and European Commission. Moreover, Jalal was instrumental in re-naming the Altab Ali Park, setting up the "Banglatown" [including the annual "Baishaki Mela"], and established the local "Soheed Minar".

After leaving active community work and politics Jalal worked in a number of charity organisations, the Royal London NHS Trust, the Tower Hamlets College, and Havering Council.

After early retirement Jalal is involved as a feature writer, political and media commentator in various publications, radio and TV channels.

Presently Jalal is involved in writing his memoirs.

He is married to Gulshanara Ahmed and has two daughters and a son.



## Shams Uddin Khan

### Sector: Education

Shams Uddin Khan is the CEO/Director, Khan Associates UK Ltd (StudyUni).

He is a prominent figure in the education consultancy industry, with a strong presence across the UK, Bangladesh, and beyond. As the CEO and Director of Khan Associates UK Ltd, operating under the esteemed brand name StudyUni, Mr Khan, the MBA Graduate from the University of Wales, has dedicated his career to helping thousands of international students realise their dreams of becoming accountants, barristers, solicitors, and other professionals.

Since founding Khan Associates in 2008, Mr Khan's firm has earned widespread recognition, receiving numerous prestigious awards. These include being named Highest Performing Agent for BPP University since 2014, Top Recruiter for Roehampton University London in 2023 and Outstanding Counselling Award from the University of Hertfordshire in 2024. Additionally, Mr Khan was honoured as Top International Agent Recruiter 2023 by the Roehampton University of London and attended Brunel University London's International Familiarisation Event in 2023 and 2024. His firm also received the Business Excellence Award Limelight in 2022.

Under Mr Khan's leadership, Khan Associates has expanded internationally, establishing multiple offices focusing on business development, admissions, and visa compliance. His influence extends beyond education consultancy—he serves as Director at SKRJ Private Ltd, overseeing the acquisition and management of real estate assets.

Earlier in his career, Mr Khan served as Managing Director of SmartTEL Pvt Ltd, where he led a diverse team and played a key role in enhancing business procedures. Known for his strategic thinking, collaborative leadership, and commitment to excellence, he has consistently developed policies and frameworks that drive organisational success.

Through his work, Mr Khan has made a significant impact by promoting Bangladeshi heritage and facilitating the education of thousands of students, many of whom have gone on to build successful careers after completing their studies in the UK.

Beyond his professional achievements, Mr Khan is a devoted family man interested in travel, sports, and world politics. His expertise and contributions have been highlighted by various community TV channels and newspapers, further solidifying his reputation as a leader in his field.



## Karim Miah (Shamim)

### Sector: Entrepreneur/Philanthropist

Karim Miah (Shamim) is a visionary entrepreneur, community leader, and philanthropist, whose remarkable journey has left an indelible mark on both the business landscape and the social fabric of the United Kingdom. As the President of the British Bangladeshi Association in Somerset, Karim has become a pivotal figure in championing the interests of the Bangladeshi community while also fostering broader cultural and economic ties.

Entrepreneurial Success and Business Leadership Karim's entrepreneurial career is a testament to his foresight, resilience, and innovative spirit. He began his journey with a profound desire to uplift the lives of those in his local community, particularly in Southwest England and London.

Over the years, he has meticulously built a diverse and successful business, serving as the driving force behind several prominent companies.

Karim's business acumen is perhaps most evident in his presence in the hospitality and food sectors, where he has launched and managed several well-known establishments. At the heart of this success is his award-winning Indian Restaurant. He is also the founder of Desserts for you, a rapidly growing chain of dessert outlets that has earned a loyal customer base through its wide assortment of treats. Complementing this success, Karim expanded into the fast-food industry with Kebabs for you, a chain specializing in authentic German Donner Kebabs.

His work in property renovation is characterized by a commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, offering premium rental options that meet the highest standards. His ventures in the real estate sector further underscore his versatility as a businessman and his keen understanding of market dynamics.

Philanthropy and Community Leadership Karim Miah's influence is not confined to the business world; he is equally dedicated to social development and humanitarian causes. His deep-seated empathy and commitment to improving the lives of others have driven him to take on numerous leadership roles within charitable organizations. As the Co-Founder and Chairman of the Autistic Foundation as well as Trustee of the Valerie Taylor Trust, Karim has played a crucial role in advocating for the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities.

His commitment to the community is further exemplified through his leadership of the Labour Friends of Bangladesh Somerset, directorship of UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry (UKBCCI) and the Bridgwater Islamic Cultural Centre.

In his role as a Trustee of the Beani Bazar Cancer & General Hospital, Karim has been instrumental in ensuring that individuals in need have access to quality healthcare services. His involvement in the hospital's operations reflects his broader commitment to addressing the critical healthcare needs of underprivileged populations, both in the UK and abroad.

He is also the Vice President of BCA London region, friends of national herts foundation sylhet, director Somerset investment club, life member of British Bangladeshi chambers & commars, Member of Jalalabad Association UK.

In various advocacy and leadership roles. He has been appointed as the Vice President of the Rajngaar Welfare Society UK and the Greater Sylhet Development and Welfare Council in the UK South-west region. These positions have allowed him to advocate effectively for the rights and well-being of the Bangladeshi community, striving to create a more inclusive and equitable society.

Karim's influence is further recognized through his permanent membership in the Bangladesh Centre London and his life membership in the LondonBangla Press Club. These affiliations underscore his ongoing commitment to promoting cultural and professional ties, not only within the Bangladeshi community but also across broader British society.

His legacy is one of compassion, leadership, and steadfast belief in the power of collective action to bring about meaningful change. As a beacon of hope and progress, Karim continues to inspire those around him to work towards a more prosperous, inclusive, and harmonious future for all.



## Alaur Rahman

### Sector: Music & Entertainment

Alaur Rahman was born in Alagdi, Jagannathpur, Sunamganj, Bangladesh.

He attended Madrasa, primary school and The Aided High School, where he would also sing hamd, na'at, qasida and other religious songs as well as songs dedicated to Bangladesh. In 1977, at the age of 14, Rahman came to the United Kingdom with his parents. He attended Pandit Horidas Ganguly School where he learned North Indian classical music.

In 1985, Rahman appeared on BBC programme Naya Zindagi, Naya Jeevan and sang ghazal and modern songs live. In the same year, Rahman recorded a 12-track debut album Smaranepare (Shoronay Poray). Rahman composed music for all 12-tracks, which were arranged by Qutbuddin and the lyrics were written by Abdul Mukit, Nurul Ghani, Delwar Khan and Shamsheer Qureshi. The album was produced and released by Jhankar Music. In 1986, he performed on Bangladesh Television (BTV).

In 1992, he performed on television a programme about the Bangladeshi community of East London.

In the 1990s, Rahman became one of the leading singers in Britain's Bengali community and went on to sell numerous songs. His musical influences are Mohammed Rafi, Mehdi Hassan, Ghulam Ali, Nurul Ghani and Talat Mahmood.

Rahman moved onto making spiritual and religious music and was selected by Ekushey Television to be the voice of the Adhan (call to prayer). Rahman has sang over 600 songs, which include Hindi and Bangla songs. His best of album Best of Alaur Rahman was released by Serengeti Sirocco. His songs are about the loss of a sense of belonging and the material conditions that underpin his life in Britain. Alaur Rahman has sang over 600 songs, which have been sung in many languages such as Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, Gujrati and more.

Rahman has won numerous awards globally. These have included awards from Zee TV, Channel i, ATN, Bangla TV and Channel S, where he has won awards for being the best singer.

In 1986, Rahman married Rozina Rahman. They have two sons Rabi and Ra'id, and a daughter Aniqqa.



## Ashiqur Rahman

Sector: Travel/Business

In the bustling streets of Whitechapel, stands a testament to perseverance and entrepreneurial spirit - Imran Travels. At its helm is Ashiqur Rahman, a man whose journey from a small town in Bangladesh to becoming a prominent figure in the UK's tourism sector is nothing short of remarkable.

Born in South Surma, Sylhet, Ashiqur Rahman harbored dreams of becoming a teacher. His academic pursuits led him to earn a Master's degree in Chemistry from Chittagong University. For a time, he lived this dream, working as a part-time professor at MC University College and Ambarkhana Government Girls College.

In 1996, Rahman's life took an unexpected turn when he moved to London. Little did he know that this move would set him on a path to becoming a successful entrepreneur in the travel and tourism industry.

Driven by the principles of honesty, hard work, and determination, Rahman established Imran Travels in Whitechapel. What started as a small local business soon expanded across the United Kingdom, with agents in almost every major city.

Rahman's business acumen didn't go unnoticed. In 2011, he was selected as a Certified Agent of Biman Bangladesh Airlines. By 2015, he had achieved the status of best Sales Agent for Biman in the UK. Today, Imran Travels represents not only Biman but also major international airlines like Emirates, Qatar Airways, Saudi Arabian Airlines, Royal Jordanian, Kuwait Airways, and Turkish Airlines.

Beyond his business success, Rahman has established himself as a community leader. He has served as the General Secretary of UK-BATA (UK Bangladesh Agents Travel Association) for many years, showcasing his commitment to the broader travel industry.

Despite his professional success, Rahman maintains a strong focus on family and personal growth. He is a proud father of five, with his

eldest daughter working as a junior doctor after completing her MBBS from the University of Buckingham, and his son holding a Master's degree in Data Science from Leicester University.

Rahman firmly believes that life is about more than just accumulating wealth. He sees his success as a platform to give back to society and continues to look for ways to integrate his business with evolving technology and societal needs.

As Ashiqur Rahman looks to the future, he has plans to expand his business further, always with an eye on how to better serve his community and adapt to changing times. His journey from a chemistry professor in Bangladesh to a leading figure in the UK's tourism sector serves as an inspiration to aspiring entrepreneurs everywhere.

In Ashiqur Rahman's story, we see the power of embracing change, the importance of hard work, and the impact one individual can have when they set their mind to achieving their goals.



## Sabbir Zamee

**Sector:** Entrepreneur/ Public Servant

Sabbir Zamee is a distinguished entrepreneur, dedicated community leader, and committed public servant. His contributions have left a significant impact on the British-Bangladeshi community and beyond. Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Zamee comes from a family with a strong legacy in medicine and philanthropy. His father, Dr. Md. Shaidullah, was a highly respected doctor and principal at several of Bangladesh's premier medical institutions, including Dhaka Medical College, Rangpur Medical College, Barisal Medical College, and the prestigious PG Hospital. His mother, Jahanara Begum, was a renowned philanthropist whose charity work in Dhaka touched countless lives. Growing up as the youngest of five siblings in such an environment, Zamee was instilled with values of service, leadership, and community responsibility from an early age.

Zamee's journey in the United Kingdom began in 2005 when he became a resident of the Thames View Ward in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. His integration into the local community was swift and impactful, marked by his active involvement in various socio-political and cultural organizations. A dedicated member of the Labour Party, Zamee's commitment to public service culminated in his election as Councillor for the Thames View Ward. Beyond his political career, Zamee has made significant strides as an entrepreneur. He is the founder and Managing Director of 'Z Coach & Tours Limited,' a well-regarded transport provider that serves the British-Bangladeshi community. Under his leadership, 'Z Coach London,' a subsidiary of the company, has expanded to operate seven different routes, transporting over 200 students to leading grammar schools across London. The company's fleet of ten Euro VI coaches and a dedicated team of over 10 staff members ensure that students receive reliable and safe transportation. Additionally, Z Coach & Tours Ltd offers affordable UK and European tours during school holidays, making travel accessible to a wider audience. Zamee's entrepreneurial success is a testament to his ability to iden-

tify community needs and create sustainable businesses that address those needs.

Zamee's leadership extends well beyond his business ventures. He has served as the Secretary of the Thames View Muslim Association for nearly a decade, showcasing his unwavering commitment to the spiritual and social well-being of his community. In this role, he has played a pivotal part in organizing religious, cultural, and educational programs that enrich the lives of the community members. His leadership is also evident in his role as the Chair of the Thames View Tenant & Residents Association, where he advocates for the rights and interests of local residents, ensuring their voices are heard in local governance.

Zamee's family shares his commitment to excellence and service. His son, Ishraq, is currently pursuing an undergraduate degree, continuing the family's legacy in the field of business. His daughter, Aniya, is thriving in grammar school, reflecting the importance of education within the family. His wife, Ishrat Jahan Zamee Kumu, is actively involved in the UK's Bangladeshi cultural sector and works in a local school, contributing to the community's cultural and educational fabric.

Despite his numerous professional and personal responsibilities, Zamee remains deeply engaged in charitable and socio-cultural activities. He is an active member of several alumni organizations both in the UK and Bangladesh, which allows him to maintain strong ties with his roots while contributing to the development of his adopted home.

In sum, Sabbir Zamee is a multi-faceted leader whose work as an entrepreneur, public servant, and community advocate has had a profound and lasting impact on his community.



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WHO  
2024

NEW ENTRIES  
2024

Malik Ahmed is a restaurateur and philanthropist based in Cookham, Berkshire. Originally from Patanpara, Sylhet Town, Malik arrived to the UK in 1975 at the young age of 12. The third child of late Abdul Mumin and the late Nomira Khatun Baksh, Malik is one of four children. His father was a police officer by profession and his mother a homemaker. The family settled in Yorkshire and soon made the UK their new home.

Malik's first job was in 1977 as a waiter at a Harrogate-based Indian restaurant, Star of India. In 1978, Malik's father, Abdul, opened a restaurant in Yorkshire called Shahi Raj. Malik and his elder brother absorbed themselves into the family business and worked tirelessly to support their family. However, circumstances changed drastically when Malik's father suddenly passed away when Malik was only 16 years of age. At the tender age of 16 and 19, Malik and his older brother, Faruque, suddenly became the heads of the family. Broken by the death of their beloved father, the brothers made the tough decision to sell the family business.

A knack for business and hospitality is a common and inherent characteristic in Malik's family. Restaurants can be traced back over 150 years in Malik's family; his great grandfather was the founder of the renowned restaurant Moshrafia, located in Bandar Bazar, Sylhet. Famous for their Dhali and Bakarkhani and assortment of sweets, the family restaurant is still up and running to this day.

Malik decided to move to London and soon managed esteemed restaurant, Khan's. He then worked in Star of India, both incredibly famous haunts in the 80's and renowned restaurants for celebrities in central London.

After 4 years of hard work, Malik and his elder brother Faruque bought their new home in South London. In 1999, an Italian restaurateur and Malik's good friend sud-

denly offered to sell him his restaurant in Cookham, Berkshire. After accepting an offer he could not refuse, on the 18th of February 1999, Malik's Cookham restaurant was born. The business expanded shortly after; in 2003, Malik opened his second branch in Gerrards Cross and then a third in Marlow, a takeaway in Gerrards Cross and another takeaway in Cookham.

The restaurant has won countless Awards and is enjoyed by celebrity chefs such as Heston Blumenthal and Tom Kerridge. The likes of Russell Brand, Peter Jones, David Seaman amongst other profiles are known as friends and not simply customers.

Despite having five branches, Malik is very much a family-run restaurant. Malik's brothers, Faruque and Rumel have supported and helped him build an enterprise from the very beginning and even to this day.

Malik is an avid philanthropist, having founded several charitable organisations in his hometown Patanpara. Malik chairs Patanpara Welfare Trusts - a charitable organisation that raises funds for different local causes. From renovating mosques, to raising thousands of pounds for families during COVID to sponsoring the education of the less fortunate, Patanpara Welfare Trusts made an incredible impact on the community.

Malik has five beautiful children with his wife Farhana Ahmed Choudhary. His oldest daughter (University of Birmingham and MA Queen Mary University alumna), Anika, is a Strategy Analyst for a global, London-based real estate firm; his second daughter (University of Birmingham and MSc UCL alumna), Maisha, is training to become a solicitor with a London-based Tech company; his third and fourth daughters, Ramisa and Aisha are studying Criminology and Neuroscience, respectively, at university and his son, Aman Malik, is the baby of the family and is in Year 10.



**Malik Ahmed**  
Sector:  
*restaurateur/  
philanthropist*

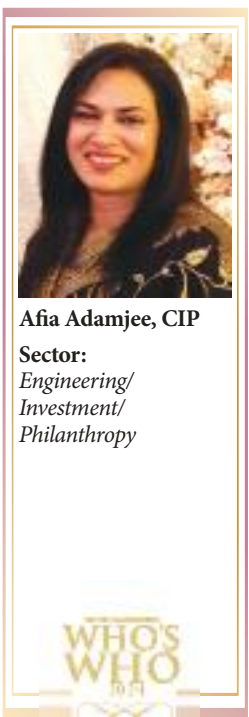
Afia Adamjee is an electronics engineer, philanthropist, prominent foreign investor, wife and mother of four children. For over 40 years, Afia has been a trailblazer in almost every new challenge she has undertaken. From being the only female student in her HSC programme at MC College Sylhet, to being the only woman in her Bachelor of Engineering cohort at the University of Westminster.

Afia's academic excellence was recognised by ITN (Independent Television News), who sponsored her degree and offered her a top of the market graduate job. Since graduating in 1994, Afia was the only female engineer at Gravity Media, an industry leading firm, and she now continues to advocate for and train the next generation of female engineers in a male dominated industry. Afia's career as a highly specialised Senior Broadcast Engineer has taken her around the world. Her expertise has been demanded at major events since 1995, from the Commonwealth Games in Malaysia, Goodwill Games in Australia to the Tennis Masters in Monte-Carlo; and more recently at the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, Wimbledon and Paris Olympics.

In December 2023, Afia became the first woman of British Bangladeshi origin to be awarded Commercially Important Person (CIP) status by the Government of Bangladesh, for her contributions as a direct investor to the industrial sector in Bangladesh. Since 2017, Afia has been the Director of

British Bangla Chemical Ltd. (BBCL) and invested significantly in the development of the companies' chemical plant in Sreemongal. The plant has been operational for several years now, producing Precipitated calcium carbonate (PCC), and British Bangla Chemical has become a pioneer in the global lime industry, putting Bangladesh on the map of major buyers.

Afia's contributions to the Bangladeshi community, both in Bangladesh and the UK, also manifests in her charitable endeavours. As a trustee to the Just Help Foundation, and major donor to the development of the Just Help Eye Hospital, Afia has contributed to fundraising efforts in the UK and organisation on site at the hospital in Sylhet. Afia is also the co-founder of the Adamjee Foundation, which works hard to provide accessible education for under privileged children, as well as mentorship for first-generation university students in Bangladesh. Afia has a particular passion for supporting women and mothers, and this carries over to her work in the Adamjee Foundation as she endeavours to provide maternity care for rural women.



**Afia Adamjee, CIP**  
Sector:  
*Engineering/  
Investment/  
Philanthropy*



**Imam Uddin Ahmad**

**Sector:**  
*Business*



Imam Uddin Ahmad was born in Balagonj, Bangladesh, in 1967 and moved to the UK in 1975 at the age of eight. From a young age, he displayed great ambition, and in 1990, at just 22 years old, he launched his first restaurant in Wolverhampton alongside his two brothers, Md Jamal Uddin and Md Shahab Uddin. This initial success marked the beginning of a prosperous career, with Imam opening five additional catering outlets over the next six years, from 1990 to 1996.

In 1999, Imam expanded his business interests by adding a frozen fish and prawn supply company to his growing portfolio. A year earlier, in 1998, he had also ventured into the property market, investing in both residential and commercial buy-to-let properties. While juggling his commitments to both the catering and property industries, he eventually shifted his focus entirely to property development, recognizing its lucrative potential. In 2008, after obtaining qualifications from Manchester University, he established his own Letting and Management company. Imam Uddin Ahmad now runs Urban Link Estates Ltd, which manages his Letting and Management operations and Urban Link Property Developments Ltd, which oversees his buy-to-let and property development ventures. His most recent business, Urban Property Acquisitions, specialises in sourcing investment properties for both UK and international investors.

This company offers a comprehensive package, providing below-market property deals along with mortgage services, conveyancing, refurbishment, letting and management.

In addition to his business achievements, Imam is deeply committed to community work, both in the UK and in Bangladesh. He serves as the President of a charity supporting impoverished communities in Purbo Poilanpur Union, Balagonj, Bangladesh. Furthermore, as the President of a local mosque in Wall-sall, he plays a pivotal role in overseeing a £1.4 million project to rebuild a purpose-built mosque.

Imam Uddin Ahmad is also the President of the Midland Region of the UKBCCI (UK Bangladesh Business Chamber of Commerce), reflecting his dedication to fostering business connections and supporting Bangladeshi enterprises in the UK. He is married with 4 children Amin Uddin Ahmed 34 who is Solicitor and runs his own law firm in Birmingham. His second is a daughter who is an optician, 3rd is son who is a self-employed Dentist and 4th is daughter who is studying medicine at Birmingham University.



**Jayanal Abedien**

**Sector:**  
*Community/ Media*



Jayanal Abedien is well known in the Bangladeshi community for being a community activist and a popular journalist. He is also widely known as a former lecturer at Goalabazar Government Women's Degree College in Bangladesh, Ousmaninogur, Sylhet. He is an individual who is the sub-editor of Weekly Bangla Times and Bangla Post. Bangla Post is known to be the first Bengali newspaper in the UK. Furthermore, he is the esteemed founder President of Sherpur Welfare Trust (UK) as well as the unsurpassed president of Haji Abdul Jollil & Mahmuda Khatun Welfare trust (UK). In addition, he is the Secretary of Khalilpur Welfare & education trust (UK).

MD Jayanal Abedien was born to Bangladeshi parents in Moulvibazar, Sylhet, Bangladesh in 1973. He is the Son-heir of the late Haji Abdul Jolil and the late Mahmuda Khatun. He completed secondary at Azad-Bakh High school and completed higher secondary at Sylhet Govt College. Also, he has completed MSS at the National University in Bangladesh.

He also completed his Bachelor of Arts at the Greenwich University in London. At present, Jayanal Abedien is a member of London Bangla press club. Jayanal Abedien is passionate about contributing to betterment of society and fostering connections within the community. His journey from Bangladesh

to the UK has shaped his perspective and drive, and he looks forward to continuing his endeavours in both journalism and community service, while leaving a lasting positive impact wherever he goes. Jayanal Abedien resides in Bethnal Green, Tower Hamlets with his wife Mrs Mahdia Chowdhury and son Mohammed Zunayed Abedien.

Arif practices as a corporate lawyer at DLA Piper, one of the largest and most recognised law firms in the world. His journey to this prestigious firm is a testament to his relentless hard work and determination.

Born and raised in the UK, Arif grew up on a council estate and attended a school where fewer than 22% of students left with 5 GCSEs. Despite the disruptive environment at home and school, he never gave up. Through sheer determination and hard work, Arif achieved an impressive 11 A/A\* grades at GCSE and AAB at A level, securing a place at a prestigious Russell Group university.

Arif's background is a blend of British and Bangladeshi cultures, with his parents originating from the Sylhet region in Bangladesh. The rich traditions and values from his heritage deeply influenced his upbringing and perspective. Coming from a working-class environment where opportunities to excel were limited, Arif was inspired to co-found a local youth organisation. This initiative aimed to support teenagers at risk of dropping out of education and falling into crime, providing them with the guidance and resources needed to succeed.

Before commencing his legal career, Arif worked as a policy officer for the UK Government (DEFRA). At DEFRA, he worked on food security during COVID-19 and was an active member of the department's Diversity & Inclusion team, creating and delivering bespoke training sessions. During the un-

certainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, Arif demonstrated remarkable tenacity by pursuing his master's degree full-time while simultaneously working for the government. Balancing these demanding responsibilities showcased his exceptional ability and relentless drive to succeed in all areas of his life.

Arif's dedication and innovative thinking have led him to build a vast network of individuals, which has been instrumental in his success as both a lawyer and social entrepreneur. This network has allowed him to make a significant impact in his career and the communities he serves. His journey is an inspiring example of how faith and a strong network can pave the way for success.

Currently, Arif is one of the few British Bangladeshis working at a top 10 global law firm. As a lawyer, he has mentored numerous students from disadvantaged backgrounds, helping them enter professional careers in the legal sector. He advises on a range of work focusing on mergers & acquisitions, group reorganisations, and private equity investments, with clients across many sectors including real estate, renewable energy, and technology.

Arif's story is a powerful example of overcoming adversity and achieving success against all odds. He is a role model for young British Bangladeshis today, showing that with hard work, determination, and a strong support network, anything is possible.



**Arif Ali**

**Sector:**  
*Law*



Rahee Akbar Ali serves as the current Mayor of Stapleford, representing the town both locally and beyond. Born and raised in Nottingham to parents Jasmin Aktar Ali and Showkot Ali, who originally came from Sylhet, Bangladesh, Rahee has a deep connection to the community. He completed his primary education at John Clifford School, his secondary education at Chilwell School, and his A Levels at George Spencer Academy Sixth Form. He holds a BSc in Human Biology from Staffordshire University and has built a diverse professional background that includes experience in pharmaceuticals, clinical trials, and now financial services, where he specialises in supporting individuals facing financial challenges.

As Mayor for the 2024-25 term, Rahee has had the privilege of attending a wide range of events, including the Freedom Parade commemorating the 80th anniversary of D-Day and celebrating Armed Forces Day, as well as numerous gatherings organised by local community groups and charities that highlight the positive impact being made in Stapleford. At the age of 26, Rahee is not only the youngest but also the first British Bangladeshi to serve as Mayor of Stapleford. He is committed to showcasing the town's

achievements and continuing to represent the community with pride, both within Stapleford and beyond.



**Cllr Rahee Akbar Ali**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



# The man for the migrants



Md. Lutfur Rahman was born in a small village in Bangladesh, where opportunities were limited, yet his aspirations were boundless. He often studied by the faint glow of a hurricane lamp, as there was no electricity in his village. Although he faced numerous challenges, he excelled in his studies, understanding that education was his only way out. Life was tough, but his family always valued resilience and hard work. However, nothing could have prepared him for the challenges he would encounter after relocating to London for his law studies.

Arriving in London as a law student with only **£3 in his pocket**, he worked in his uncle's restaurant during the day and slept upstairs at night. His earnings went toward his tuition and also the education of his siblings and family responsibilities back in Bangladesh.

One day, he met Nahid Sultana Parvin, an old acquaintance of his. As they spent more time together abroad, their friendship blossomed into marriage, which he considered the best decision of his life. This marked the beginning of the most important chapter for him, both personally and professionally.

**Despite being qualified barristers**, Nahid and Lutfur had to work low-wage jobs to make ends meet. Nahid worked at a chocolate shop while Lutfur worked at Burger King during the day and took on delivery jobs at night. They struggled financially but were determined to build a life for themselves. Lutfur recognised that many migrants like him faced similar uncertainties and wanted to do more than just survive; he aimed to help others.



Md. Lutfur Rahman, FCILEx  
CEO, WorkPermitCloud

Lutfur Rahman could have taken an easier path by becoming an individual solicitor and building a comfortable career, but he was motivated by something greater than himself. He knew that he wasn't the only one struggling to navigate the UK's complicated immigration system, and he wanted to create a platform where others wouldn't have to face it alone. This vision led him to start WorkPermitCloud. The company was created not just to help businesses but also to provide opportunities for migrants like him, who needed more than just legal help—they needed a chance to succeed. Today, **over 95% of the workforce at WorkPermitCloud are migrants, each with their own stories of struggle and hope.**

WorkPermitCloud is not just about following legal rules; it is about helping people succeed in a new country, just as Lutfur has done. The company reflects his journey and the values he believes in: hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to helping others overcome their difficulties. They want to make sure that no one has to go through this journey alone. Work Permit Cloud is a place for change, helping improve the migrant experience while assisting businesses in finding the right skilled workers they need—all while following UK laws.

For Lutfur, this is more than just a business. He is working toward a future where everyone can follow their dreams without being held back by borders regardless of their origin.

**WorkPermitCloud Limited** Registered in England & Wales. No. 12909694  
**Corporate Office:** The Gherkin Level 28, 30 St. Mary Axe, London, England, EC3A 8BF  
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HR

# Is your Sponsorship Licence at risk?

**+** Discover why HRMS matters

As a UK employer sponsoring migrant workers, having a robust HR system is not just beneficial; it's a requirement from the Home Office. A compliant HR system helps you manage employee records, monitor compliance, and fulfill your sponsor duties.



## What are the consequences?

### Suspension of Sponsorship Licence :

- Company will not be able to sponsor new migrants
- Will be removed from the public register of sponsors
- Home Office downgrades your licence from an A-rating to a B

### Revocation of Sponsorship Licence:

- Migrants leave curtailed.
- They will be given 60 days to find alternative sponsorship or leave the United Kingdom.

## Key Features of WpCHR



### Visa Expiry Monitoring

Automatically track and receive reminders for visa expirations to ensure timely compliance and action.

### Change of Circumstance for Company/Employee

Efficiently report changes in migrant circumstances (e.g. name, address, contact details and more) to the Home Office within required timeframes.

### Audit-Ready Documentation

Maintain up-to-date HR files including attendance, leave, contracts, and changes of circumstances, ensuring readiness for Home Office inspections.

## How much is it?

1-10 USERS

£100

PER MONTH

11-30 USERS

£250

PER MONTH

31-50 USERS

£333

PER MONTH

50+ USERS

Contact Us

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**Syed Maruf Ali**

**Sector:**  
*Education/ Community*



Syed Maruf Ali is an Assistant Head of Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11) at a prominent secondary school in Oldham, Greater Manchester and a community activist who has inspired many children and young people from deprived backgrounds in Oldham.

Maruf, hails from a highly respected Syed family in Kalaborpur (Syed Mir Bari) in Nabiganj Upazila of Habiganj district. In 1986, Maruf moved to the UK at the age of 10 with his parents and siblings to settle in Oldham. Upon arrival in the UK, he faced many challenges, least of all the language barrier together with racism which was rife in the 1980s. Despite these challenges, Maruf did not allow these difficulties to hinder his educational aspirations. After completing his secondary school and College, Maruf graduated from Huddersfield University reading Business & Finance BA(Hons). Subsequently he completed numerous Post-graduate Diplomas and Management Training Programmes to complement his degree.

Maruf was intrinsically involved in coaching and managing a Junior Football Team consisting of mainly Bangladeshi boys in Oldham. The primary objective of setting up the team was to engage with a growing number of young boys who were disillusioned and risked jeopardising their future by mixing with the wrong crowd. The success of this project led Maruf to set up a voluntary organisation called SPARC (Shahjalal Physical Activeness & Recreational Club) in 2018. SPARC now has many volunteers working with young people and facilitating various sports and activities for young people in deprived parts of Oldham. Accordingly, Maruf is a highly inspiring and motivating figure for many of these Children who have benefited from the work and dedication provided by him.

Over the last 25 years, Maruf Ali has undertaken numer-

ous voluntary roles including working for National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO). This organisation aims to reduce crime by supporting people in finding alternatives to crime, for example, by resettling es-offenders and providing education and advice in communities. Linked to these experiences, Maruf is a member of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) whose role is to act as a 'critical friend' to the Police. The IAG recommends how policing services may be, or are being, perceived by communities and how they can be improved.

Prior to taking his current role at a Secondary School, Maruf worked as a Personal Advisor for a Careers Advisory Service, helping young people aged 13-19 to participate effectively in appropriate learning - whether in school, Further Education College, training providers or other community settings. Maruf was instrumental in raising the aspirations of these young people so that they reached their full potential.

Maruf is a Trustee of a local Community Centre and a local Mosque where he plays a key role in shaping the development of these establishments by formulating and implementing key Strategies and Policies. He was also a Governor of a local Primary School, where he played a decisive role in improving the performance of a School which was sub-standard and during his tenure, the School's Ofsted inspection grade was raised to 'Good'.

Maruf is a very family orientated person and lives with his wife and two children.



**Javed Alom**

**Sector:**  
*Entrepreneur*



At 34 years old, Javed Alom is an entrepreneur who has made a remarkable impact in the U.K.'s property management sector. Originally from Bangladesh, Javed came to the U.K. as an international student from the American International University-Bangladesh with nothing but his goals and an unshakable determination to succeed.

Starting from scratch, he worked day and night in physically demanding jobs to save the money he needed to launch his property ventures. With those savings, Javed secured his first property, which he sublet to kick-start his short-term rentals business. He used the income from that first property to expand, acquiring additional properties one at a time.

Through relentless hard work, strategic risk-taking, and a refusal to let failure define him—even in the face of challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic—he has built a thriving property portfolio.

From his early days in the U.K., Javed has demonstrated a strong work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit, quickly identifying opportunities within the property market and boldly pursuing them.

His leadership and business acumen have allowed him to establish a successful portfolio that reflects his deep understanding of market trends, as well as his ability to navigate challenges with resilience and creativity.

This ethical approach to business has helped him build a strong network of professionals and clients who trust and respect him, further contributing to the growth of his ventures. Despite the many personal sacrifices he and his wife made to grow the business, their efforts paid off. Within few years of starting his business, Javed and his wife were able to buy their own home in London. Together, they are raising their daughter, Naia, who remains a constant source of motivation and

inspiration. In addition to his professional success, Javed is deeply committed to philanthropy and believes in the importance of giving back, not only to his home country but also to his community in the U.K. He regularly supports charitable initiatives in Bangladesh. Recently, he raised money for flood victims in Bangladesh and ensured the funds reached the people they were intended for by personally delivering it to those who need it most.

Javed views his success not just as a personal achievement but as a platform to make a broader impact, both in the U.K. and in Bangladesh.

Despite being the only member of his immediate family living in the U.K., with the rest of his family in the USA, Javed has embraced his journey with unwavering determination. His motto, "keep going," embodies the relentless drive that has seen him overcome countless obstacles on his journey.

In addition to his business success, Javed serves as a role model for others, inspiring them to push beyond their comfort zones and embrace opportunities with confidence. He provides mentorship and free advice to aspiring entrepreneurs and other mentees, and he is committed to creating job opportunities within his community and continuing with his philanthropic endeavours.

He continues to set ambitious goals and is committed to expanding his influence within the sector, all while remaining dedicated to his family and his roots as a Bangladeshi-British individual. His journey from humble beginnings to becoming a major player in the property management industry is a testament to what can be achieved through hard work, boldness, and an unwavering belief in one's ability to create their own path to success.



SmrityAzad is a dedicated cultural activist, theatre artist, reciter, presenter and media personality who has been deeply involved in promoting Bangladeshi arts and culture for over 29 years in the UK. Her Father, the Late Dhali Abdur Rashid, was a Freedom Fighter in the 1971 war, which shaped her upbringing and patriotism for her country. Smrity immersed herself in cultural performances, theatre, music, and recitations, as well as being active in various political movements, including Charon Sangskritik Kendro in Dhaka. This nurtured her life-long connection to her country.

After frequently travelling to London, Smrity moved permanently in 1995, immediately recognising the necessity of creating spaces that would allow members of the Bangladeshi diaspora to celebrate their heritage. Smrity continued her involvement in the arts, combining her cultural and political roots with the contemporary creative world she encountered in the UK. As a theatre artist, she performs and assists in directing plays that resonate with the experiences of the Bangladeshi community, giving voice to stories that often went unheard. Her skills as a reciter are particularly renowned, and she has become well-known for her ability to bring Bangladeshi poetry and literature to life. Her recitations have been featured in both community events and larger cultural festivals. Smrity continued her political activism in the UK and became an advocate for human rights, bringing to light injustices that have been overlooked on an international scale. Thus, Smrity holds titles in many organisations, including Vice President of Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee UK and Deputy General Secretary of Somnilito Sahitya Sangskritik Parishad UK. Smrity has also been actively campaigning for the Labour Party in the UK and has been elected as GC Delegate and Women's Officer for Blackwall and Cubitt town. Smrity's efforts in London led to the founding of Docklands Theatre & Performing Arts in 2012, with the support of her

husband, Engr Mithu Azad, she serves as the Chairperson. The theatre was established with a clear mission: to provide a platform for creative individuals with Bangladeshi culture at the heart, particularly among the youth. With Mithu being a Light and Sound Engineer, the couple combined their experience and used stage drama as the primary means of cultural expression. Their two children, Protthoy Sheikh and Priyoty Sheikh have also followed in their parents' footsteps and are actively working in the Bangladeshi community to promote the arts since an early age and have been recognised for their work. Docklands Theatre has become a thriving space where art meets activism, drawing artists and audiences from various cultural backgrounds.

As part of her ongoing mission, Smrity has travelled globally alongside her organisation, participating in cultural festivals and workshops. She has been active in her work with various charities and collaborative projects, including Rescue Aid Trust's Feed 5000 initiative. Alongside Channel S, she helped in distributing aid to affected communities across Bangladesh during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a media personality, she has used her platform to speak on issues of cultural integration, the importance of arts in social cohesion, and the need for creative spaces in multicultural societies. She participates in television, radio, and online platforms, and was a radio presenter for Betar Bangla and Sunrise Radio. Her media connections have allowed her to bring Bangladeshi arts and politics to a wider audience internationally.

Throughout her career, Smrity Azad has demonstrated a profound commitment to using the arts as a tool for education, empowerment, social change, and to unite people across borders and generations.



**Smrity Azad**

**Sector:**  
*Culture*

Nasima Begum was born in London and is one of seven siblings. Her father was a businessman primarily working in Suffolk so the family moved there in 2002. Nasima was one of the brightest of her peers, consistently achieving top grades and she went on to study Biomedicine at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, Norfolk.

After she met and married her husband Meheraj Alam, who is a businessman in Lowestoft, Suffolk, Nasima moved there. They have been blessed with two daughters, Amelia and Hannah. Nasima and Meheraj have been running the successful Indian Restaurant business Lowestoft Tandoori for nearly 12 years which has won several awards and recognition over the years, consistently being ranked highly across all review sites.

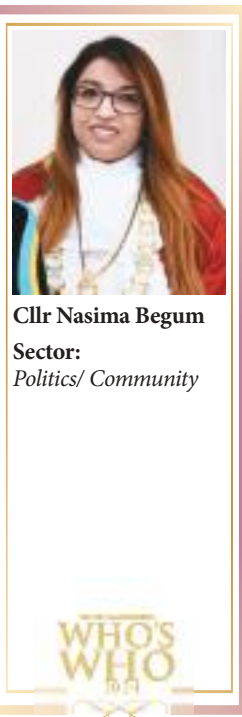
Nasima's interest in politics comes from her father who was a politician in Bangladesh for 15 years before he passed away. Her father contributed immensely to the area he was overseeing by improving infrastructure for the area, building schools, hospitals and bridges and ensuring that every resident had access to sanitary facilities and electricity. Nasima first joined a political party in 2015 so that she could follow in her father's footsteps and bring about positive change to her community.

Lowestoft Town council was formed in 2017 and this is when Nasima was first elected as a councillor. She would go on to be a councillor for one term and then

take a break while raising her two children. She then returned to the council in April 2021 and was elected as Deputy Mayor the following month. Nasima was Deputy Mayor for 3 years and was elected as Mayor at the May 2024 Annual General Meeting of Lowestoft Town Council.

The best part of being a councillor for Nasima is interacting with residents and being able to support them with their needs. The sense of fulfilment in having a positive impact on people's lives cannot be beaten.

Nasima is a proud recipient of MotheRed funding which is a project that encourages and supports mums with the selection process of becoming a parliamentary candidate. Successful applicants were chosen by a group of ambassadors including Cherie Blair and Shami Chakrabarti. Nasima has also graduated for the Jo Cox Women In Leadership programme.



**Cllr Nasima Begum**

**Sector:**  
*Politics/ Community*



**Dr Farhana Malik Campbell-Barr**

**Sector:**  
*Dentistry*



Dr Farhana studied Dentistry at Guy's Hospital (Kings College, London) and later pursued a Masters in Orthodontics (University of Warwick). She is a Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons (Ireland), and the Faculty of Dentistry, Royal College of Surgeons (England).

Dr Farhana's late Father, Haji Abdul Malik was from Jamalpur and Birmingham, and her Mother is from Fenchuganj. She is the niece of Ahmed Us Samad Chowdhury, JP and Chairman of Channel S, also the late Mahmud Us Samad Chowdhury, Member of Parliament for Sylhet, and Zia Us Samad Chowdhury JP, MBE.

Throughout her career, she has been involved in numerous charitable initiatives, including the construction of water wells for entire villages in Bangladesh with Muslim Aid, supporting Islamic Relief projects in Bangladesh, and the National Heart Foundation Hospital Sylhet. She has been involved with the reconstruction of the Mosque in her Father's village, Jamalpur and also supported Great Ormond Street Hospital's leukemia research. Additionally, she equipped an entire Dental Surgery with specialist equipment in war-torn Baghdad for patient use.

Dr Farhana has been a Finalist at the UK Dentistry

Awards for Best Practice and Best Patient Care for five consecutive years, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024. She was honoured to attend the Queen's Garden Party in 2019 in recognition of her charitable work. Furthermore, she has been invited by Lord Blunkett, House of Lords, to represent Successful UK Small Businesses, joining the Leaders Council of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. She is also on the Practitioner Group Committee for the BOS British Orthodontic Society representing her profession.

Dr Farhana exemplifies the qualities of a dedicated professional who strives for clinical excellence and has a profound commitment to improving the lives of others. Her achievements in Dentistry, backed by academic qualifications and industry recognition, are a testament to her commitment to others. She embodies a passion and expertise in her profession, and dedication for her country of origin, Bangladesh. She is also the first Bangladeshi Dentist to have a Finalist Award winning, UK based Orthodontic Practice, and hopes others will consider Dentistry as a rewarding career.



**Rafiqul Haider**

**Sector:**  
*Business/ Community*



Rafiqul Haider, a prominent figure in the Bangladeshi community, was born in Narayanganj, Dhaka, but his roots trace back to Kulaura, Moulvibazar, Bangladesh. After completing his education under Dhaka University, Haider embarked on a remarkable career path. Haider's family history is marked by notable achievements. His father, Asaddar Ali, served in the British army during World War II, and after the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947, he joined the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) as an Accounts officer his mother, Alam Ara Begum, dedicated her life to being a homemaker. Haider's elder brother, Mr. Jalal Uddin Haider, was a freedom fighter who tragically lost his life in the 1971 Bangladesh liberation war.

Mr. Haider is a highly respected business and community figure. He is a partner at Mohammad Shah & CO LLP, one of the oldest chartered accountancy firms in London, where he has been working since 1995. Haider specializes in VAT, Tax, and investigation cases, and has made remarkable contributions to the community through his expertise in these sectors. Additionally, he serves as the Finance Director of the Asian Catering Federation, where he is closely involved with the prestigious Asian Curry Awards and other activities of curry industry. Haider's entrepreneurial spirit has led him to become a successful investor in both Bangladesh and England, with over 20 years of experience in the restaurant and housing sectors. Prior to his move to the UK, Haider was employed by the Bangladesh government's Social Service depart-

ment. His dedication to the community extends beyond his professional endeavors. He holds the position of Chief Treasurer for the Global Jalalabad Association, Treasurer of the South London Bangladesh Welfare Association, and Treasurer of the Darul Amaan Masjid Management Committee in South London.

Haider's involvement in politics is equally noteworthy. He serves as the Treasurer of the Labour Party's area committee, and he is a life member of several prominent organizations, including the Beani Bazar Cancer and general Hospital, Bangladesh the Bangladesh Welfare Association of Croydon, the Jalalabad Association (UK), the Zokiganj Education Trust, and the Friends of National Heart Foundation Sylhet registered in the UK. Haider is also actively working with The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and The Sreepur Village Dhaka Bangladesh.

Haider's family is also highly accomplished. His wife, Sofia Haider, works as an administrator at a school in London. His son, who graduated from the University of Greenwich with a degree in Computer Science, is employed in the IT sector in London, while his daughter has completed her Law degree from City University.

Rafiqul Haider's remarkable journey and his unwavering dedication to the Bangladeshi community have had a profound positive impact. He remains grateful to his parents, friends, and family for their steadfast support, and he continues to work tirelessly to help and inspire others through his diverse endeavors.



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**Mohammed  
Quamrul Hassan**

**Sector:**  
*Law*



Mr. Mohammed Quamrul Hassan, known as MQ Hassan, is a highly experienced and reputable Barrister and Solicitor, who is the founding Principal Solicitor of MQ Hassan Solicitors which is one of the UK's leading law firms. He is a prominent figure in the industry. He is being called as a "Living Legend" of Bangladesh Community in legal arena. With over 30 years of legal experience across both the UK and Bangladesh, Mr. Hassan's distinguished career is a testament to his vast expertise and deep commitment to the practice of law.

Mr. Hassan was born into an elite family in Jashore, Bangladesh. Where his father, the late Advocate Mohammed Abul Hossain, was a highly respected lawyer at the Jashore District Bar and his legacy continues to inspire his past surroundings and Mr Hassan to this day. His brother-in-law, Ahsanul Karim, is a Senior Advocate at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh which is widely regarded as one of the country's top legal organisation.

From a very early age, Mr. Hassan aspired to become a lawyer which deeply resonated with his father's esteemed reputation for integrity, diligence, and dedication to justice. His father's exemplary career set a high standard in the legal profession, shaping Mr. Hassan's ambition and passion for law.

From his early school days, Mr. Hassan's intelligence and merit were evident, reflecting the values he inherited from his family. He consistently excelled academically, achieving first-division results in both his SSC and HSC examinations in Bangladesh, demonstrating his strong academic discipline and commitment to academic achievements. He went on to earn his LLB (Hons) and LLM from the prestigious University of Dhaka, graduating with distinction. In 2005, Mr. Hassan furthered his legal education in the UK, obtaining another LLB (Hons) from Wolverhampton University. This achievement broadened his understanding of international law and enhanced his expertise across various legal jurisdictions.

In April 1993, Mr. Hassan embarked on his professional legal career after being admitted as an Advocate on the Roll of the Bangladesh Bar Council. By 1995, he was practicing before the High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. During this period, he became a respected member of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association.

After relocating to the UK, Mr. Hassan continued to expand his impressive legal credentials. In 2005, he was accredited as a Level 2 Senior Caseworker by the Law Society, showcasing his expertise in immigration and asylum law. Later he achieved two prestigious milestones: being admitted as a Solicitor of England and Wales and called to the Bar of England and Wales by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn.

Throughout his career, Mr. Hassan has worked with several prominent UK law firms and chambers, including Silvers Solicitors (City firm),

Noden & Co Solicitors (City firm), GMG Law Solicitors, Patrick Solicitors, Jacob Solicitors and Srinivasan's Solicitors. He notably serving as Head of the Immigration Department at both Silvers Solicitors and Patrick Solicitors.

Mr. Hassan took the bold step of founding his own practice, MQ Hassan Solicitors, in January 2012. Since its inception, the firm has gained recognition for its client-centred approach and high-quality legal services, particularly in immigration, asylum, family law, civil litigation and commercial conveyancing all while offering affordable fees compared to other law firms.

Beyond his legal practice, Mr. Hassan has demonstrated a profound commitment to social service. His passion for giving back to the community is evident in his active involvement with various organisations and his regular television appearances, where he offers free legal advice to the general public. Through live TV programs on NTV Europe, TV ONE, and London Bangla Voice, Mr. Hassan provides legal guidance in both English and Bengali, ensuring that his expertise is accessible to a wide audience. His contributions to the Bangladeshi community have been recognised with several prestigious awards, including the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' from Anirban Sangsad in 2022, an award from NTV Europe in 2023 for his decade-long dedication to community service and recognition from TV ONE and Bangladesh Law Association UK. Mr Hassan, due to his hard work and sincere contribution towards 'The Society of British Bangladeshi Solicitors' by giving free legal advice through their legal clinic to the Bangladeshi community.

Mr Hassan was elected with highest votes and served twice as the "Senior Vice President" of the Society of British Bangladeshi Solicitors. Elected as President of the Bangladesh Law Association UK. Furthermore, he is the Joint Secretary of the Dhaka University Alumni Association in the UK and the Convenor of the Greater Jashore Association in the UK.

Mr. Hassan's law firm, MQ Hassan Solicitors, actively provides work experience opportunities for students from local schools offering them invaluable exposure to the legal profession. Many of those who have trained under Mr. Hassan praise his mentorship, highlighting the practical knowledge and insights they gained under his guidance, which have greatly contributed to their career development.

The journey of Mr. Hassan is a shining example of the British Bangladeshi dream. As a first-generation immigrant, he has achieved professional success through hard work, dedication and a relentless pursuit of justice. Despite his achievements, Mr. Hassan has never forgotten his roots, consistently giving back to both the UK and Bangladeshi communities through his legal expertise and public service.



**Meherun Hamid**

**Sector:**  
*Education*



Meherun Hamid is a highly respected British-Bangladeshi Muslim headteacher with over two decades of experience in education. A trailblazer from the start, she began her teaching career in 2000 in the borough of Westminster, at a time when very few Bangladeshi, hijab-wearing Muslim women were represented in the profession. Over the past 12 years, she has served as a headteacher, driving her school in both academic and creative achievements. In addition to her leadership in education, Meherun is also building a successful coaching business, working as a Performance and Life Coach to empower others.

Meherun is also member of a Trust leading an exciting project to expand her school to include secondary education, ensuring students can continue their academic and creative journeys into their teenage years.' Born to Bangladeshi parents in the UK, Meherun's passion for education stems from her own experiences and a deep belief in its transformative power. She pursued a degree in Accounts & Economics, followed by a Postgraduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) and began her career in mainstream schools before moving to the independent sector.

Throughout her career, she has championed the importance of a balanced education that nurtures both academic excellence and creative potential. Under her leadership, the school has flourished, improving op-

portunities offered while also fostering students' creativity.

Meherun's leadership extends beyond the classroom. Alongside her headship, she has been building her coaching business as a Performance and Life Coach, helping individuals unlock their potential and achieve their personal and professional goals. With a focus on personal development, resilience, and performance, her coaching has already had a significant impact on a wide range of clients, from fellow educational leaders to professionals from various sectors. She brings the same passion and dedication to coaching as she does to education, empowering people to reach new levels of success and fulfilment in their lives.

Currently, Meherun is also leading an exciting project to expand her school to include secondary education, ensuring students can continue their academic and creative journeys into their teenage years. This expansion reflects her vision for a comprehensive and supportive educational experience that prepares students for future success.

With her unique blend of educational leadership and coaching expertise, Meherun continues to inspire others. Her work as both a headteacher and a coach demonstrates her unwavering commitment to helping people, whether students or adults, unlock their full potential and achieve their goals.

Md Mosaraf Hossen was born in Chittagong, Bangladesh, and raised by his father, who had spent nearly four decades serving his country as a mechanical engineer. His father, Md Aktaruzzaman, worked persistently for the Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX). While engineering ran in the family's veins, Mosaraf's heartbeat took a different rhythm.

His natural curiosity drove him to seek a Computer Science degree at the University of Science and Technology Chittagong (USTC). His thirst for learning did not stop there. During his university years, Mosaraf launched Mentor, a tuition institution where he taught computer and communication technologies to over 3,000 students. Seeking new horizons led him to make the daring decision to leave Bangladesh and complete his higher studies in the UK. It was not that easy. He arrived in the UK as an international student at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA), where he studied Global Master of Business and Management. He accepted the new country and challenged himself with the same perseverance and vision that had guided him since childhood. While adjusting to a new culture and a difficult proven system, the flame lit a new dream. He rapidly saw a gap in the UK recruitment industry, particularly among the South Asian community. Determined to answer this need, he founded Qamla Ltd., a recruitment service with a purpose beyond profit. His goal is to help Bangladeshis and other members of the South Asian community find meaningful work. Qamla thrived under his leadership, providing over 4,000 ca-

reer opportunities for those who would otherwise struggle to navigate the UK's challenging work market. He kept pushing himself, receiving a degree from the University of Oxford in 2024 for completing the renowned Oxford Executive Leadership Programme. This accomplishment was more than just a feather in his cap; it exemplified his lifelong dedication to learning, growing, and leading by example. However, Hossen believes that success encompasses more than just numbers and prizes. It's about humans. His dedication to his community runs deep. "Our goal," he regularly says, "is not just recruitment; it's empowerment." Through Qamla, he has assisted many people in finding work while also developing confidence, skills, and a sense of belonging in their new country. His long-term goal is clear: he wants Qamla to be the world's leading recruitment platform, a hub where talent and opportunity come together from all over the world.

Mosaraf's remarkable story is one of perseverance, aspiration, and camaraderie—from a young man teaching ICT in Bangladesh to the CEO of a prosperous company with offices in the UK. His latest acceptance into the British Bangladeshi Who's Who Award 2024 is a deserving acknowledgment of his dedication and hard work. Instead of seeing it as just one unique accomplishment, Mosaraf sees it as a representation of the inspiration and collective support he has received from peers, mentors, and community members throughout the years.



**Md Mosaraf Hossen**

**Sector:**  
*Business/Recruitment*



Shah Hussain, originally from Sylhet, Bangladesh, moved to the UK in 1978 and pursued his education in Burnley, attending Gawthorpe High School and Burnley College. He later earned a BA(Hons) from the University of Hull and a Post Graduate Diploma in Careers Guidance from Huddersfield University. Since graduating, Shah has worked in various roles within local government and is currently part of a Community Mental Health Team. His career is marked by a deep commitment to community activism, beginning with his involvement in youth and community development.

One of Shah's significant contributions to his community was his advocacy for the establishment of Burnley Borough's first purpose-built Mosque and Islamic Centre. Despite facing considerable opposition, Shah campaigned and spoke passionately at the meetings and various events, his efforts were instrumental in the project's approval. Over the years, Shah has held various roles as both an officer and volunteer in community groups, ensuring that the needs of local residents are addressed.

Shah has also been deeply involved in UK mainstream politics. He served as the Secretary for the Burnley Constituency Labour Party (CLP) for many years. However, he resigned from this position in November 2023 due to disagreements with the Labour leadership over their stance on Palestine. Shah's political career

includes his election as a councillor for the Daneshouse and Stoneyholme Ward in 2007, a position he has held with increasing majorities in subsequent elections. Notably, he was the first person from a Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) background to serve on the council's Executive and is currently serving as the first Mayor of Burnley from Bangladeshi origin for the 2024-2025 municipal year.

Shah expresses deep gratitude to the residents of his ward for their continued support, finding immense satisfaction in directly helping people and influencing positive changes in their lives. He takes pride in living in Burnley with his family and feels privileged to represent the borough as its first citizen. As Mayor, Shah enjoys visiting various community organizations, championing their work, and raising funds for local charities. He remains actively engaged with his constituents, regularly conducting ward walks to address their concerns and report issues.

In his personal life, Shah enjoys cycling through the picturesque Lancashire countryside and moors, traveling, watching football and cricket, and spending quality time with family and friends. His lifelong dedication to community service and his ongoing commitment to the people of Burnley reflect his passion for making a meaningful impact on the lives of those around him.



**Cllr Shah Hussain**

**Sector:**  
*Politics/Community*





**Cllr Mohammad Amirul Islam**

**Sector:**  
*IT/Politics*



Mohammad Amirul Islam, often referred to by his middle name "Amirul," was born in Senbagh, Noakhali, Bangladesh, and relocated to London in 2005. He completed his Secondary School Certificate (SSC) at Bangladesh Bank Adarsha High School in Faridabad, Dhaka, and pursued his Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) at Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College, Dhaka. He subsequently attended the University of Pune, India, where he earned both a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Computer Science.

Since moving to the United Kingdom, Mohammad Islam has resided in the London Borough of Enfield. He obtained a Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree from American Liberty University and an MBA from the University of Roehampton, London. He also pursued doctoral studies at Queen's University Belfast. Throughout his professional career, Mohammad Islam has held various roles, including positions as a cybersecurity consultant, software test engineer, and lead team consultant. His career has seen collaborations with prominent companies such as Capgemini, CAP HPI, and Land Rover. Additionally, he has been actively involved in community service in the UK, serving as a union representative for USDAW and engaging with the student union at the University of Roehampton. He was the founding chairman of the Roehampton Entrepreneur Society, successfully leading the society during his tenure.

Mohammad Islam has also been actively involved in numerous charitable organizations both in the UK and Bangladesh. He is the founding chairman of Nexzen Society in Enfield, a charitable organization focused on youth development. From 2019 to 2023, he served as the director

and treasurer for the Haringey Law Centre. He is an executive member of the Bangladesh Welfare Association of Enfield and serves on the advisory committee of Jalalia Jamme Masjeed in Enfield. In addition, he is the chairman of the SAEF Foundation, a respected NGO based in Dhaka.

Politically, Mohammad Islam has been aligned with the Labour Party since casting his first vote in the UK. He formally joined the party in 2016, providing strong representation for the BAME community in Enfield. During his tenure, he has held various positions within the Edmonton Constituency Labour Party, including BAME Officer and Vice President. He stood in the local council election for Highfield Ward in 2018 and was elected as a councillor for Ponders End Ward in May 2022, where he has lived for most of his life. He has served on the Planning Committee and as Chair of the Regeneration and Economic Development Scrutiny Committee. In May 2023, he was elected Deputy Mayor of Enfield, and in May 2024, he became the first Bangladesh-born Mayor of the London Borough of Enfield. His wife,

Rokshana Afroze, and his daughter, Daneem Amirul, are his consorts for the mayoral year.

As an entrepreneur, Mohammad Islam is the director of YUME International Ltd, a reputable dental equipment importer in Bangladesh. He also has partnerships with several restaurants and student recruitment services in Bangladesh. Passionate about travel, Mohammad Islam has visited 41 countries to date.



**Hadi Khalisadar**

**Sector:**  
*Law*



Hadi completed his LLB in English and European Law in 1997 and was called to the Bar in 2002 after completing his Bar Vocational Course (a member of Lincoln's Inn). He has since qualified as a solicitor holding dual qualification both as a solicitor and a barrister. He was an employed barrister for the Ministry of Justice (Her Majesty's Courts and Tribunal Service) for well over two decades. His role involved providing legal advice to judges and magistrates both in and out of court, including delivering training to lawyers, magistrates and District Judges (Magistrates' Court) on various aspects of civil and criminal law. As an Assistant to the Justice' Clerk (Legal Adviser), duties included performing quasi-judicial functions using delegated powers in both civil and criminal jurisdiction. Since 2020 Hadi have been working part-time as a consultant solicitor for Aqua Law Solicitors dealing with private clients in both civil and criminal jurisdiction. As a Consultant he provides specialist advice to clients on matters of criminal law (including but not limited to road traffic law), landlord and tenant disputes, wills, trusts and probate and on general commercial litigation. He regularly attends court for clients as a

solicitor advocate ensuring there is continuity.

Hadi was instrumental in setting up a mental health diversion team, consistent with the recommendations in The Bradley Report in 2009. He is familiar

with the provisions under the Mental Health Act 1983 and continue to work with agencies and bodies both inside and outside of the court setting to help direct people for specialist support. Working closely with tri-borough commissioners, mental health nurses and consultant psychiatrist, Hadi chaired the working group for identifying and diverting people away from the Criminal Justice System and into hospitals for medical care.

Having left the Ministry of Justice in January 2024, he now works full-time as a lawyer for Aqua Law Solicitors dealing with private clients only. As a specialist Road Traffic Lawyer, he deals with all types of road traffic prosecution assisting clients to avoid being disqualified or having their licence endorsed with penalty points. Only recently, he assisted a client who was convicted in the magistrates' court for using a mobile phone whilst driving by appealing to the Crown Court and overturning the conviction.

The vast majority of his time is now spent dealing with landlord and tenant disputes, including complex contractual relationships where it is almost always necessary to commence court proceedings.

Monsur Ahmed Khan is a highly experienced educator with a career spanning 35 years, dedicated to fostering young minds and promoting educational growth. Born on December 16, 1959, in Pattan Tilla, Fenchugonj, Sylhet, Bangladesh, he grew up in a family deeply committed to education. His father, the late Intazir Khan, was a highly respected educationalist and a Headteacher/Rector who played a key role in promoting education and was a founding member in establishing several prominent educational institutions in the region.

Monsur Khan's educational journey began at Kasim Ali Model High School, where he completed his SSC in 1975. He then pursued his HSC at (MC) Government College, followed by a B.Com and M.Com from Madan Mohan College under the University of Chittagong and Jagannath University College. His dedication to education was further demonstrated through his involvement with the Rotary movement, including serving as a Rotarector under the Ramna South Rotary Club. The club also hosted the "Last Call '84" conference for District 328 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

In 1984, Mr. Khan travelled to England for a Rotary International convention in Birmingham, which led to an opportunity to study for a business diploma at the London School of Foreign Trade. He continued his studies with CSS (PECU) at Salford College of Technology. His qualifications and background in education eventually led him to a role as a bilingual instructor in a primary school in the UK. This position allowed him to pursue and complete a PGCE at the University of Manchester in 1993, marking the start of his long and fulfilling career in education.

Mr. Khan has been actively involved in various social volunteering activities, including local community organizations, mosques, and the British Bangladeshi Civil Society. He served for 14 years on the Board of Governors at Ashton Sixth Form College, Tameside, working on different committees to enhance

the learning environment. He also served for 12 years as an executive board member/director at the Tameside Race Equality & Diversity Centre, working on equal opportunities and collaborating with various fringe service groups, such as the Kick Racism Out campaign, and organizing cultural fusion events.

He is currently involved with The Christie, Manchester, the world's leading cancer hospital, and has contributed to the development of charitable organizations in Bangladesh, including helping to establish mosques, madrasahs, a cancer hospital, and other charitable facilities. He is also serving as the General Secretary of the Friends of the National Heart Foundation Hospital Sylhet, UK, supporting a fully functioning institution for heart-related concerns and treatments for the destitute in Bangladesh.

For 22 years, Mr. Khan taught in various primary schools in Tameside. In 2012, after a brief health-related hiatus, he returned to education by establishing the "Milkyway Pre-School Playgroup" alongside his wonderful wife, Meherun Nessa Khan. He has also facilitated training for many childcare practitioners and contributed to the sector with quality staff.

Throughout his career, Monsur Ahmed Khan has been dedicated to inclusivity and community service. His work aims to ensure equitable educational opportunities for all children and their parents. He has a beautiful family of four highly educated children, all of whom are successful in their own professions. Since 1984, Mr. Khan has had the opportunity and capacity to serve the wider communities in many ways in England, positively impacting thousands of students now working in various professions with pride. Monsur Ahmed Khan continues to follow in his father's footsteps, highlighting his commitment to education, community involvement, and cultural preservation, impacting many lives in both the UK and Bangladesh.



**Monsur Ahmed Khan**

**Sector:**  
*Education*



Muzahid Khan DL's life is a shining example of compassion, innovation, and a strong commitment to making a difference. From his humble beginnings in war-torn Bangladesh to his role as Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Muzahid has dedicated himself to helping others and creating positive change wherever he goes.

His parents, especially his mother and late father, taught him the values of empathy and service early on, shaping his worldview and inspiring him to give back. These values are at the heart of his book, *The Gift of Giving*, which was released in May 2021. The book shares his belief that generosity has the power to transform lives and encourages readers to embrace giving as a way to enrich their own lives and the lives of others.

As a social business and innovation professional, he uses his creativity and strategic thinking to develop solutions that bring positive change to society. He's also a certified NLP coach, helping others achieve success in their personal and professional lives by unlocking their potential and overcoming challenges.

His work in local government gave him valuable insights into urban renewal, showing that even in tough situations, there are always opportunities for growth. But his impact goes beyond his professional roles—he volunteers his time on the boards of several charitable organisations, including Maggie's Cancer Centre and the Amana Foundation, as well leading on the medical facility built in his home village of Singerkas, Biswanath providing free healthcare for the poor, opening its door in 2016.

Muzahid's dedication hasn't gone unnoticed. In 1998, he was honoured by (late) Queen Elizabeth II as a young achiever, and in 2000, former Prime Minister Tony Blair recognised his exceptional community service. These awards highlight his tireless work to make the world a better place and his influence both locally and globally.

One of his greatest achievements is his appointment as Deputy Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, recognising his leadership and charitable work. Muzahid is a passionate advocate for Oldham, the town where he now lives, and supports local businesses and communities through his work with organisations like Asian Business Leaders and Upturn Social Enterprise.

In addition to his work and charity, Muzahid finds joy and purpose in cycling. He organises charity bike rides, both in the UK and Bangladesh, to raise funds and awareness for important causes.

Muzahid Khan DL's story is one of service, leadership, and a lifelong dedication to making the world a better place. His journey from a young boy with big dreams to a respected leader shows the power of kindness, hard work, and the belief that everyone has something to give. Through his actions, writing, and leadership, Muzahid continues to inspire others to embrace the power of giving and make a lasting impact on the world.



**Muzahid Khan DL**

**Sector:**  
*Government/  
Community*





**Cllr Ayesha Khanom**

**Sector:**  
*Politics/ Charity*

WHO'S WHO  
in

With over two decades of dedicated experience in youth and community services, she has cultivated a robust career focused on supporting children and young people aged 0 to 25. For the past ten years, Cllr Ayesha has served in various capacities within Milton Keynes Council's Youth and Community Services, and has been part of the Local Authority for 21 years. Her qualifications include a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Social Science, a degree in Social Welfare Practice, and a Joint National Committee (JNC) qualification in Youth and Community Development. Currently, she is employed as a Mental Health Specialist with CNWL CAMHS.

Throughout her career, she has taken on leadership roles, managing and supervising teams in the absence of senior staff. She has also contributed to academia as a lecturer at the University of Bedfordshire, focusing on contemporary social issues. Additionally, Cllr Ayesha served as a practice educator, guiding students in their learning and development. Her involvement in the recruitment process for the National Youth Agency has allowed her to influence course design and delivery at the university level.

Her work emphasizes collaboration with diverse communities to promote inclusion, tackle deprivation, and enhance access to essential services. She has experience in research, report writing, and community profiling, and has partnered with clinical commissioning groups to raise awareness of COVID-19 safety within the BAME community. Her role in a steering group comprising female leaders from the BAME community has enabled her to organize initiatives addressing perinatal mental health, social inclusion, and other pressing issues.

She has participated in numerous local and national projects aimed at fostering positive change, such as contributing to the construction of a school and a place of worship for a remote village in Bangladesh.

Her commitment to community service extends to my involvement with various charities, including the MK NHS Maternity Liaison Committee, MKBA Women's Network, and the Islamic Arts, Heritage and Culture. As a board member of the Equality Council UK and an advisory board member for Thames Valley Police, she actively promotes community cohesion and organize events that address social challenges.

She is passionate about the development of her town and community, consistently seeking innovative ideas to enhance better living environment. Her belief in collaborative, multi-agency efforts has been reinforced by her service as a local Parish Councillor for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford, and She has recently been elected as a city councillor for Bletchley Park.

Having lived in Bletchley for over 40 years, she possesses a deep understanding of the wider community. This background has motivated Ayesha to effect change across various levels, extending beyond her own Bangladeshi community, which has provided her with valuable insights.

She is driven by a strong desire to assist communities, often finding it difficult to decline opportunities to help. As a 'people person,' she thrives on engaging with individuals from all walks of life. She believes that she can achieve beyond the goals set for herself and remain open to diverse career opportunities. She considers herself a resilient individual capable of influencing positive choices for her community. While she faced challenges, these experiences have only deepened her and broadened her understanding more.

Cllr Ayesha enjoys travelling, spending quality time with her family, learning new languages, reading, and appreciating nature.



**Cllr Samata Khatoon**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*

WHO'S WHO  
in

Samata Khatoon is a Labour Councillor for St Pancras & Somers Town Ward. Prior to becoming a Councillor in 2010 Samata worked in Camden as a Senior Youth Worker and a Family Support Worker for Islington. She is a mother of three children, who have all attended Camden Schools. She has held various roles as a Councillor since 2010 as Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Committee, Deputy Whip, Cabinet Adviser for Tenants Voice, and Chair for the cross-party Exclusion Panel. She was also involved in the development of policies aimed at encouraging young girls to engage in sports activities in Camden.

Samata has held several voluntary roles in the Borough including a Trustee of New Horizon Youth Centre. Trustee of St Pancras Welfare Trust, Parent Governor at Edith Neville Primary School, Treasurer at Bangla Shur and Women's Officer at The Chunarughat Association. She is currently a Governor at the Working Men's College.

While raising three children and serving as a councillor, Samata returned to adult education where she has just completed a BA Hons in Leadership and Management and plans to take on a teaching role in Adult Education. In her spare time, she is also a director for an online business.

Samata has chosen to support two local charities

during her mayoral year: Scene & Heard and New Horizon Youth Centre.

During her mayoral year, her foremost goal is to ensure that every young person has the opportunity to grow and achieve their ambitions, regardless of their background. She is particularly focused on supporting young people who are at risk of homelessness





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**Dr Rifat H Mazumder**

**Sector:**  
*Medicine*



Dr. Rifat H Mazumder is a name that reverberates with diligence, enthusiasm, and unique expertise in the medical community. As a young and talented Consultant Rheumatologist and Acute Physician, he has made remarkable strides in the fields of Rheumatology and Medicine, distinguishing himself as a key player in patient care, medical education, and clinical research.

Born in Habigonj, Bangladesh, Dr Mazumder studied at Motijheel Ideal School and Dhaka College. His academic journey began with MBBS from Faridpur Medical College. He worked for the National Arm Forces Hospital in KSA and Ministry of Health Brunei. He completed MRCP (Member of the Royal College of Physicians) London in 2014.

Emigrating to the United Kingdom in 2016, Dr Mazumder worked at Mid Essex Hospital as a Clinical Fellow. His outstanding accomplishments and intense passion for autoimmune musculoskeletal disorders led him to achieve a rare opportunity to secure a place in highly competitive National Training Programme in Rheumatology and Internal Medicine in the esteemed East of England Deanery. His attainment inspired many international medical graduates to embrace and accept the challenges of formal specialized training leading to a UK-trained medical consultant. He was trained at Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. He was one the best trainees of his time and achieved all the required competencies well ahead of the designated time frame and honoured with a certificate of completion of training six months early.

Dr Mazumder accomplished an MSc in Rheumatology from the University of South Wales. He has a Fellowship in Medical Leadership and Management from the King's College London. In his current role as a consultant rheumatologist and Acute Physician at Nottingham University Hospital, Dr. Mazumder has spearheaded numerous initiatives to enhance patient care. Integration of colour Doppler vascular ultrasound in a GCA Fast Track Clinic not only aids in making a quick diagnosis and

management of this life-threatening condition but also saves a considerable amount of NHS Funds. In his dual role as an Acute Physician, Dr. Mazumder is known for his adeptness in handling high-pressure situations with calm precision and his ability to explain complex medical conditions in a way that is accessible and reassuring to his patients

During covid-19 pandemic his dedication, and ability to swiftly diagnose and treat acutely unwell patients- saved countless lives. Always keen on recompensing to the community, Dr. Mazumder is actively involved in many outreach programs, television talk shows, and newspaper articles- aimed at increasing public awareness. To determine the prevalence of rheumatic diseases within the British Bangladeshi population, he has initiated free health screening events held at community hubs. It provides comprehensive screenings for autoimmune arthritis to make it possible for many community members to receive early diagnoses and prompt treatment, significantly improving their long-term health outcomes. Understanding the financial barriers faced by many Bangladeshi students, Dr. Mazumder established a fund specifically aimed at providing financial assistance to those in need. This fund covers tuition fees, textbooks, and other essential educational resources.

Dr. Mazumder's contributions to medical research are equally noteworthy. He has published many papers in prestigious medical journals. He is actively involved in training the next generation of physicians, serving as a GMC-approved Educational Supervisor for the Medicine and Rheumatology Trainees. He is an examiner of MRCP exam. He wrote a chapter for the upcoming 5th edition of the Oxford Textbook of Rheumatology. His outstanding contributions to Rheumatology and Acute Medicine, merged with his benevolent aptitude for patient care, made him a deserving recipient of the Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (FRCP) London.



**Rowshon Ara Chowdhury Malik**

**Sector:**  
*Education/ Community*



Rowshon Malik came from a reputable family from Fenchuganj, Sylhet. They were 12 brothers and sisters. Her father was late Delwar Hussain Chowdhury. He was a social activist and he dedicated his whole life for the betterment of his local community. All of her brothers were involved in voluntary social work. Amongst her brothers the eldest brother is Zia Us Samad Chowdhury MBE, late Mahmud Us Samad MP and Ahmed Us Samad JP.

She came to UK in 1966 with her late Husband Mr. Abdul Malik and immediately after her Arrival she started studying and helping women in the deprived area of Birmingham.

Interpreting for women for social services, education, housing, health. She learnt helping people From her father.

She raised 4 children while working for Adult Education and doing voluntary work.

She joined Birmingham Adult Education services and managed to start ESOL classes all over Birmingham. She worked for the local government in Education for 35 years. She believes in "Lifelong learning "and education starts from the" cradle to the grave" and she is a motivator for the community people to educate themselves and have a better life.

Rowshon Malik studied in 3 Universities and had the

highest qualification in teaching adults in ESOL.

Her next mission was to set up a centre to train and educate women. Herself and 3 other Friends, with the fiancé from economic development unit, they set up a training centre in 1997 in Small Heath, Birmingham called, Bangladesh women employment resource centre. She was the Executive management committee member and a treasurer. The centre is still up and Running and she attends meetings virtually.

She received a medal from Birmingham City Council and an appreciation award for her Community work from Channel 5 TV. She has endless certificates for long and short courses including C & G advice, guidance and support. She is often invited to talk shows in various TV Channels.

She is very passionate about Bangladesh and wants to see the less privileged people to have roof over their heads and have 3 times meal every day.

Afruz Miah, 51, originally from Bangladesh, arrived in the UK at the age of five in 1978 with his mother and younger brother. He was educated in Oldham and started working in his father's business, and by the age of 19 he had his own catering business which he ran very successfully for 6 years. After getting married at the age of 25 he went back to night school and university while working full time as a teaching assistant. Eventually, he qualified as a maths teacher and taught for 20 years.

During the Covid pandemic he carried out his first fundraising campaign for a local school and raised over £12,000. Dubbed the 'Running Man', he has inspired people all over the UK and abroad with his impressive fundraising challenges.

In the last few years Afruz has raised a staggering £2 million for various causes by performing feats of long-distance running. He also ran from Oldham to London while fasting twice. He has been awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) from the Queen and was one of only 2000 guests invited to King Charles Coronation.

Currently, Afruz is running 10km every day (200 days completed), and the plan is to run for the whole year. The total distance Afruz plans to run is the distance from UK to Gaza. He aims to raise funds and awareness of the conflict taking place in Palestine. He is employed as the Northwest fundraising man-

ager for Global Relief Trust (grtuk.org). He has worked and continues to work with numerous local, national and international charities. He also aims to support local communities and businesses by promoting them on his social media platforms. Previously, he has served as a school governor at a number of local schools. Afruz also has a passion for football.

His future plans are to complete the eight major marathons in 2025 and to run from Dhaka to Sylhet. He is already working with the Sylhet Running Club as he plans to run in the first Sylhet annual marathon that is taking place in October 2024.



**Afruz Miah**

**Sector:**  
*Charity / Community*



Adnan, from the village of Haydor Pur Boro Bari in Bathgow Union, Chhatak, Sunamgonj, has become a successful businessman. His educational journey led him to complete a Master in Finance and Property Development at the prestigious City University of London. This academic foundation paved the way for his thriving entrepreneurial career.

Adnan ventured into the frozen products distribution industry by establishing his first company, \*Le China Ltd\*. Building on the success of this venture, he then expanded his family business, \*3A Boss Ltd\*, which operates in diverse sectors. Most recently, he has entered the real estate development industry, founding a construction company called \*Property First\*, following a significant land acquisition.

Adnan's passion for football traces back to his school days at Chingford Foundation and Bancroft School, where he often led his school teams in matches. His athleticism, teamwork, and leadership on the field have translated into his professional life.

In addition to his business endeavors, Adnan is involved in community activities. He holds the position of Education Secretary for the Chhatak community and is actively engaged in charitable work, supporting various causes.

His father, Mohammad Rafique M. Hayder, is also a prominent figure, serving as Chairman of Banglatown Group and President of the BBCCI (British Bangladeshi Chamber of Commerce & Industry), further highlighting Adnan's strong family legacy of leadership and community service.

Adnan's journey to becoming a business leader in the UK is an inspiring testament to hard work, dedication, and a commitment to giving back to his community.



**Mohammad M Adnan Miah**  
**Real Estate**





**Rushna Miah**

**Sector:**  
*Community*

Rushna Miah has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to community development throughout her distinguished career, spanning multiple sectors. With 17 years as a Housing Allocations Officer at St Albans District Council, she built a solid foundation for her work as a Community Development Officer at Community Development Action Herts (CDA Herts) and her current role as a Rural Housing Enabler. As Director of HAWA Multicultural Services CIC, Rushna champions the needs of underserved communities, advocating for positive change and social equity.

At CDA Herts, Rushna led the Community Resilience Empowerment and Diversity Project, focusing on reducing inequalities affecting ethnically diverse communities. This initiative underscores her deep commitment to fostering inclusivity and social justice. Under her visionary leadership at HAWA, she has spearheaded transformative programs, including the Saheli Women's Day Centre, which supports women from diverse backgrounds. With initiatives such as a women-only gym, fitness sessions, and an innovative social prescribing service, Rushna has greatly improved health, well-being, and social connectivity in the community. HAWA also provides crucial support to asylum seekers and refugees, offering mental health and wellness services.

In addition to her leadership roles, Rushna is a quali-

fied life coach, trained in Islamic psychology, and a certified interpreter. She recently earned a first-class honours degree in leadership and management, reflecting her dedication to personal growth and professional excellence.

Her remarkable contributions have earned her numerous accolades, including the Queen's Award in 2022, the Points of Light Award 2023, recognition from Rishi Sunak, the Women Entrepreneur of the Year 2023 at the Bengal's Pride Awards, and the High Sheriff's Award in 2024 for HAWA MCS. These honours highlight her leadership and service to the community.

As a mother of four and grandmother of two, Rushna embodies resilience and strength. Balancing personal and professional commitments, she continues to make a profound impact on society. Through her work at CDA Herts and HAWA MCS, Rushna Miah stands as an innovative leader committed to fostering diversity and empowerment within ethnically diverse communities.

Her holistic approach, groundbreaking initiatives, and exceptional achievements make her a highly deserving candidate for this prestigious honour.



**Snigdha Kundu Misty**

**Sector:**  
*Business/ Education*

An accomplished businesswoman, Snigdha Kundu Misty, an education advocate with a rich academic background and a proven track record in entrepreneurship. Brings over 12 years of experience in both education and business, combining a passion for learning with a strategic approach to business

growth. As the founder and CEO of Glowomen C.I.C, GW Institute and Adore Homes, she successfully leveraged her educational expertise to create innovative solutions in the real estate industry, driving significant business growth and making a positive impact in the community. Her dual expertise in education and business allows me to lead with insight, integrity, and a commitment to excellence.

Snigdha is qualified in Management, Accounting, Leadership skills and International Relationship ,she completed her education in BA(Hons) in Business

Management from the University of Sunderland, London, Higher Secondary school Certificate from City College.

She successfully operates as a CEO of Glowomen C.I.C and GW Institute for the Spearheaded the design and implementation of innovative curriculums for her educational institutions, focusing on women educational development and reveal the way of career development and continuous arrangement of workshop and training program for the Bangladeshi local community and different council resident's skill development. Besides, She is working in the Education Sector, Study Path Limited, one of the most renowned Education consulting firms in London as a Senior Education & Career Consultant which works with the professionals and Diplomats around the world As well as founded and grew Adore Homes into a leading real estate firm, specializing in residential and commercial property

development, private property management. Under my leadership, the company expanded its portfolio remarkable. Founded and led Glowomen CIC, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting underprivileged communities and dedicatedly distribution of sanitary napkin from our own manufacturing site, named as NAREE brand, to all over the Bangladesh and parallelly UK also. Arranging a Sanitary Napkin Awareness Program involves several key steps to educate and empower individuals, particularly women and girls, about menstrual health, the importance of using sanitary napkins, and breaking the stigma around menstruation.

She is the core Founder of a Mediaproducton firm Named PANKHA in Bangladesh which creates creative content on-different criteria of business and trade patterns, social awareness, women right etc. Recently she has written a book on parenting In Bangla language named and published in Bangladesh to create a pregnancy consciousness among. male people that they have huge responsibility to during that period and it is very important for child and mother.

She has become a politician and as an active member of Labour party in area of Barking & Dagenham Borough, campaigned and attended most of the programmes of our party and working hard for Labour party to win this nationalelection.

Her dedication and future plan are centred on supporting community development, and leading programs that address the diverse needs of women, students, homeless people, less facilized communities and vulnerable populations and make a wonderful world for all nations.

Moin Quadri is the current Mayor of the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, having taken office in May 2024. His tenure as Mayor is built upon a solid foundation of public service, marked by over a decade of dedication to local governance.

Mayor Quadri's political career began in 2014 when he was elected as a councillor. During his time on the council, he has served in various leadership roles, including Chair of the Pension Committee, Licensing Regulatory Committee, and Safer and Stronger Select Committee. These positions have allowed him to influence significant policy decisions and demonstrate his commitment to public service and community development.

In addition to his political endeavors, Mayor Quadri is a seasoned professional in the Financial Technology (FinTech) sector. His career as a FinTech Sales Consultant includes working with some of the world's leading financial technology companies, where he has utilized his expertise to drive sales and foster innovation. This dual career in politics and finance provides him with a unique perspective on the intersection of public policy and technological advancement.

Mayor Quadri is an alumnus of the University of East London (UEL), where he earned a degree in

Marketing. During his time at UEL, he was actively involved in student leadership, serving as an elected political officer and founding the Labour Student Society. These roles reflect his early dedication to public service and leadership.

Beyond his professional and political accomplishments, Mayor Quadri has been involved in various charitable activities. He has served as Director of Translation and Interpretation Services, a charity dedicated to providing essential language services to diverse communities, and has been an active school governor, contributing to the strategic direction and governance of local educational institutions.



**Cllr Moin Quadri**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*

WHO'S  
WHO  
in  
the  
UK

Md Yahhia Qurashi son of Jalal Uddin Ahmed Qurashi and Syeda Jushna Khanom born in shais-tanagar, Habiganj, Bangladesh.

He arrived in the UK in 2004 and resides in Oldham, Manchester with his wife Mahfuza Qurashi, who is an interior designer. He graduated BA honors from University of Salford and they have three children.

Eldest daughter - Zafna Sneha Qurashi studying nursing in University of Manchester. Youngest daughter - Ayesha Qurashi doing GCSE this year in Radclyffe High School and their youngest son - Mikael Qurashi who is 2 years old.

Md Yahhia Qurashi completed his BA honors in business management from University of Huddersfield and his HSC in Bangladesh.

He is the chairman of a charity organization called Qurashi Foundation. He is also involved in other charity organizations called My Coldhurst and Inspired Minds.

He is the CEO of online TV, TV21 and has been the owner of Qurashi restaurant since 2014. His hobbies are travelling, reading books and gardening.



**Md Yahhia Qurashi**

**Sector:**  
*Catering/ Philanthropy*

WHO'S  
WHO  
in  
the  
UK



**Rehana Khanam  
Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Community/ Writer*



Rehana Khanam Rahman came to the UK in the 70s from Sylhet. Since then, she has been working for the enrichment and social development of our community and inspiring people to have a better life through education. She is a retired lecturer, taught at Tower Hamlets College (now known as City College Tower Hamlets) for 27 years. Before she started teaching at Tower Hamlets College, she had been involved in many valuable services to the community for Inner London Education Authority. Her life is full of colours; she worked at Whitechapel Art Gallery, London Summer University, and established and ran a mother tongue project to serve the Bangladeshi community in the East End of London. She is a writer who has a number of published non-fiction books. She has travelled many countries and writes travel books. She produced a documentary on the life and times of William Shakespeare in Bengali. She was awarded by Channel 5 in 2010 and conferred with the King's Honour: Medal of the Order of the British Empire (BEM) in 2024.

Rehana Khanam Rahman studied at Government Girls High School, Sylhet, Women's College and MC College, Sylhet and in the UK, she studied at the University of Greenwich, Institute of Education, University of London and SOAS, University of London. Currently, she is a research student at the University

of Greenwich. Although she is retired, she has been serving the community in many different ways, such as being an advisor of a literary society and is one of the board of directors of a garden and environment group. Rehana Rahman has been working relentlessly to contribute to make the world a better place to live in. She is a mother of three daughters and one son and she is a grandmother of six. Her children are serving humankind in different fields nationally and internationally including the medical field. She loves nature, reading, travelling, visiting places of interest, museums, galleries and botanical gardens.



**Mohammed Razon**

**Sector:**  
*Business & Community*



Mohammed Razon, son of late Abdur Rob and Rafiqunnesa, born in Habiganj, Bangladesh. He arrived in the UK 2006 and resides in Oldham, Manchester with his wife Nasrin Rahman, who has 1 daughter, Anisa Rahman.

In 2007, he started his own business phone hub along with a banqueting hall Royal Sultan in Oldham. Mohammed Razon has completed his degree in sociology from MC University College Bangladesh in 2005. He is passionate about the community, so he regularly supports the local sports team. For enhancing his community work, he joined the conservative party and contested local elections twice. His hobbies are playing football and going on holidays.

G10



**Kamal Rob**

**Sector:**

*Entrepreneur/  
Philanthropist*



Kamal Rob is not only a visionary educator but also an entrepreneur and philanthropist with deep roots in community service. His journey began in 2015 when he recognized the untapped potential of adults who felt excluded from educational opportunities. Determined to create change, Rob made it his mission to help parents, the unemployed, and others return to education and enhance their career prospects. His dedication culminated in the founding of ASTML, an educational institution in Oldham, which he established in partnership with a reputable college. ASTML has since helped hundreds of students achieve their dreams of earning degrees in business management.

Beyond education, Rob's entrepreneurial spirit has driven him to make a broader impact on his community. In 2017, he co-founded MyColdhurt, a local community support group. Through MyColdhurt, Rob and his team have launched several initiatives, including alleyway clean-ups, community BBQs, and free weekly sports sessions that have benefited over 150 children. This ongoing effort reflects his commitment to improving the quality of life for those around him.

Rob's entrepreneurial reach also extends into the restaurant industry. He co-founded two local restaurants, which serve as more than just places to dine—they are hubs for charity work. Through these establishments, he launched the FeedAMillion project, an ambitious initiative aimed at providing one

million meals to people in need, both locally and internationally. To date, Rob and his team have successfully fed over 50,000 people, and they continue to work tirelessly toward their goal.

His philanthropic work doesn't stop at the local level. Rob is deeply connected to his home country, Bangladesh, where he has co-founded an educational institution in Sylhet and Jagannathpur. This educational institute is focused on providing affordable education to those who seek to improve their lives through employment opportunities. Rob also engages in numerous charitable projects in Bangladesh, regularly organizing efforts to feed and clothe the needy.

Kamal Rob's multifaceted career as an educator, entrepreneur, and philanthropist exemplifies his commitment to bettering the lives of others. Whether through education, community service, or global charity, his work is a testament to the power of vision and dedication. His ongoing efforts continue to inspire and uplift countless individuals, reinforcing his role as a true leader in both his community and beyond.

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## BRITISH BANGLADESHI

# WHO'S WHO 2024



BRITISH BANGLADESHI

WHO'S  
WHO  
2024

EXISTING ENTRIES  
2024



**Abdul Ahad**

**Sector:**  
*Philanthropist*

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 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 a reality.

Jaipur came to an end in 2018 and Ahad received the Paul Harris Fellowship award of appreciation by Rotary International.

As the former owner of the famous Jaipur Restaurant in Milton Keynes, 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 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, he is equally as

successful in other fields –one of which is fundraising for charities.

Two of 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. Ahad is a major supporter and contributor to the project during the last twelve years, raising over £30,000 through the Annual Charity Dinner.

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.



**Emon Ahmed**

**Sector:**  
*Law/ Real Estate*

Emon Ahmed is an international lawyer who specialises in corporate, banking and finance law. Emon is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the board to the Ackroyd Legal Group.

In his early years, Emon was a commercial Director at Stirling Ackroyd. Emon started at Stirling Ackroyd at a young age and developed his career within the investment and development sector.

Having advised corporate clients for over 10 years Emon was promoted to the position of Managing Director and expanded the company's operations on an international scale.

In 2015, Emon and his late business partner Mr James Goff, founded Ackroyd Legal, a city law firm specialising in real estate, litigation, corporate and finance law. Today the group, having acquired 15 large solicitor's practices throughout the UK, some of which have been established over 300 years, has over 220 lawyers and is regarded as one of the fastest growing law firms nationally. Ackroyd's international offices include operations in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, and Singapore.

The group has a stellar reputation within the industry, for advising major asset funds and international finance houses.

Emon is also chairman of EA Capital. The company

is a Swiss private equity fund based in Geneva with an appetite for undertaking asset management and investing in start-up companies that are early in the development stage – often with pre profit – with high growth potential. The company typically invests into a project with majority stake, undertakes an active role helping to define all elements of the target's strategy, to mature and eventually identify possible routes of exit. Today EA capital has diversified its interests to reduce risk, by investing in a portfolio made up of retail, commercial finance, real estate, and tech companies.

Emon has come from a long lineage of mature business, his family have been in real estate and hospitality since 1951. Emon's grandfather, the late Mr Israf Ali, established his first real estate business in September 1951, which still stands today, as the backbone of the group's success. In 1978 Emon's father, Mr Shab Uddin established the famous Tower Tandoori restaurant of Tower bridge, which is now in its 45th year of trade, having recently gone through extensive refurbishment. It continues to grow and flourish.



Award Winner 2023



Md Gulam Robbani Ahmed was born in 1967, in the village of Donpur, Sunamgonj District in Bangladesh. He completed his SSC at Aidad High School and followed this with HSC at Government College, Sylhet. Gulam migrated to London in 1986 and pursued the study of History and Politics.

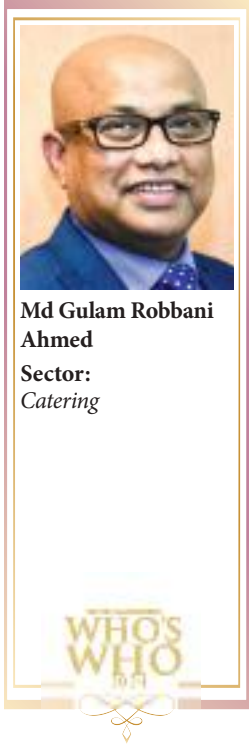
Once his studies were completed Gulam joined his father in his business pursuits, their family businesses of two restaurants and two takeaways.

He has always been a keen advocate of Bangladeshi politics, since being a college student till this day. His fascination with Bangladesh's socioeconomic status has led him to develop a career in politics.

He loves working in the catering industry and is the Senior Vice President of the Bangladeshi Caterer's Association.

He has remained active in charity organisations and stays involved with their events. Gulams aim is to help the deprived people in Bangladesh and provide better opportunities for them. To him it is imperative that we all try to improve Bangladesh for our future generations to come.

Gulam is the eldest of three brothers and one sister. He now resides in Brighton with his mother, wife and two children.



**Md Gulam Robbani Ahmed**

**Sector:**  
*Catering*

Ohid Ahmed is the Cllr for Lansbury and the Cabinet Minister for Safer Communities. He was the former-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 Games 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 member 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.



**A M Ohid Ahmed**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



**Bashir Ahmed**

**Sector:**  
*Business*



Bashir Ahmed, ( B.Com) is a prominent figure within the Bangladeshi business diaspora in the UK and Europe. He has actively worked with the UK and Bangladesh Government and other private sectors financial organizations to assist the Bangladeshi business community. Ahmed was former Deputy-Director General, London regional president and the former President of British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry of United Kingdom (2019-2021) and is actively involved in trade and commerce related issues in Europe and Bangladesh.

Mr Ahmed was founder Chairman & Managing Director of Kohinoor of India Holding Group in Netherlands since 1981 was owning the largest chain of Indian- Bangladeshi Restaurants and was owning the famous awards winning Indian restaurant the Kasturi restaurant and Catering at Aldgate, London since 2001.

Mr Ahmed has a hotel management background and wide range of investments in Europe, U.K. and in Bangladesh, including aviation, property, food processing and financial institution. He is the Founder Chairman of Rock Asset management Limited of Bangladesh and Current Chairman of Pan Europe Ventures Limited and Prospect Gaze Limited a successful consultancy and procurement company and was franchise of multi- store ownership of famous

multi-national brand of Quiznos sub in UK and has investment in many other institutions, properties and has an eye for innovative ideas and breakthrough projects.



**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 di-

verged into IT, Journalism & Teaching. His youngest brother Imad Ahmed graduated from Oxford University with a BA Hons and an MPhil.

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**Mesba Ahmed**

**Sector:**

*Sports/Community Relations*



Award Winner 2014

**WHO'S WHO**  
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 who 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 takes great pleasure in helping people, 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 highlight of his 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, Boris Jonson, Prince Harry, David Cameron, David Beckham, Ed Miliband, George Clooney, Laxmi Mittal, Bill Gates and The Queen .

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



**Mohammed Belal Ahmed**

**Sector:**

*Media*

**WHO'S WHO**  
2014

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.

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 completed 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 somosa's, paratha and vegetables. In addition, two further seafood processing companies have been taken over in Bangladesh and the group now boasts its own fleet of deep sea shrimp trawlers equipped with on board freezing facilities, as well as its own hatchery where high quality shrimp can be farmed for export to the world.

In 2001, 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.



**Iqbal Ahmed OBE**

**Sector:**  
*Business*



Award Winner 2012



Maswood Ahmed MBA, MSc, MA, CQSW, DipSW, PTA, AASW, RSW is the Chief Executive Officer of INSPIREAMILLION (IAM), Mass Film Productions (MFP), and the Bismillah Investment Group (BIG) and Director of INT Social Work. Maswood is an international business development expert, trainer and consultant, helping clients strategise, expand and improve their businesses internationally. He is also a renowned independent International Social work expert in family courts and the High Court throughout England and Wales. He is a cultural and parenting expert with over 35 years' experience in the social work sector, a Public Speaker, Community Activist and an Imam. He is a campaigner on social justice and crime reduction especially on DV, Knife crime and child abuse.

Maswood's work has been featured in HM Government's Green Paper, 'Every Child Matters' and has won the 'Outstanding Directorate Achievement Award' as a leader in local Government, the 'Leadership Award for Services to Black and Minority Ethnic Communities in the UK' for contributions to community work and a guest, at the invite of the late HM Queen, at Buckingham Palace for his voluntary services in the community.

Maswood was a Trustee and Director of the British Association for Adoption and Fostering (BAAF) (2008–2019), Chairperson of BAAF's Black and Minority Ethnic Perspectives Policy Advisory Committee (BMEPAC) and currently serves as a Director of CoramBAAF.

He has been involved with the Muslim Council of Britain

(MCB) since its inauguration in 1997. He has provided media coverage of important events and, more formally, as an elected member of the National Council (2013–). Since 2018, as an Office Bearer, he has been part of the Executive Committee, Chair of the Education Affairs Committee (2018–2021), and Assistant Secretary-General of the MCB (2018–2021; 2023–).

Maswood Ahmed has been a volunteer with IQRA International since its early days and serves as the charity's Chairman (2022–), specialising in providing aid, relief and empowering lives worldwide with innovative projects and responding to international disasters.

Maswood Ahmed has been a member of the National Working Group on Child Abuse Linked to Faith or Belief (CALFB) at the Department for Education (DfE) and has given evidence to the National Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

Substantial expertise in the broadcast media and film production industries, having travelled worldwide to produce interviews with heads of state, business leaders, politicians, senior military officers, academics, clerics and activists.

Maswood is the founder and coordinator of [www.Stop-knifecrime.uk](http://www.Stop-knifecrime.uk). He has appeared on national broadcast media, including the BBC, ITV, and Sky News and is a regular public speaker at events, conferences, and universities.



**Maswood Ahmed**

**Sector:**  
*Business / Philanthropy*





**Mustofa Ahmed Lucky**  
**Sector:**  
*Entrepreneur*

Mustofa Ahmed Lucky is a highly accomplished entrepreneur hailing from East London. With a diverse portfolio of business interests spanning property, sports technology, freight, and remittance services, he has made a significant impact on both the business world and the community.

Lucky embarked on his entrepreneurial journey in the year 2000 and has since established multiple successful enterprises, contributing to job creation in the local East London community. One of his early ventures was in the digital printing and photography industry, where his pioneering efforts with emerging technology garnered substantial attention and recognition.

In the remittance industry, he has served tens of thousands of remitters across the UK and facilitated remittances exceeding £500 million to destinations like Bangladesh and other countries through his money transfer services.

As the sports technology sector evolved into a burgeoning industry in 2000, Lucky identified an untapped market in East London. He established a popular gadget buy-sell-exchange store, catering to the needs of young sports gadget enthusiasts. This venture not only provided affordable gaming gadgets to the local youth but also offered competitive prices

for selling or exchanging their devices.

Lucky has consistently expanded his property portfolio, encompassing both residential and commercial properties. His remarkable success in this sector is a testament to his business acumen, strategic vision, tireless work ethic, and effective teamwork.

Despite his remarkable success and reputation in the business sector, Lucky remains deeply committed to giving back to the community. He serves as a director of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industries (BBCI) and actively participates in numerous national and international charitable initiatives. His philanthropic efforts focus on poverty alleviation, education, women's empowerment, and support for individuals with disabilities.

Mustofa Ahmed Lucky is not only a successful entrepreneur but also a dedicated philanthropist and community leader. His passion for innovation, commitment to community welfare, and business acumen continue to inspire and uplift those around him.



**Mehruz Ahmed**  
**Sector:**  
*Politics /Charity*

Mehruz Ahmed works as CEO for a Charitable Organisation. He takes a keen interest in Older Peoples issues particularly loneliness and isolation. He has launched a number of innovative projects to prevent loneliness and isolation. He is also a Director of a Consultancy firm.

Previously he has worked in the Banking and Finance Sector and in the Civil Service in Whitehall.

Mehruz is the Chairman of Conservatives Friends of Bangladesh (an organisation set up in 2006 to promote the culture, successes and values of British Bangladeshis, and to build positive links between British Bangladeshis and the Conservative Party) and a long-standing member of the Conservative Party. In his capacity as Chairman, he advises Conservative Parliamentarians and HQ officials on issues related to the British Bangladeshi Community. He has held numerous positions in the Conservative Party both nationally and locally and is a passionate campaigner.

Mehruz made political history by becoming the first ever British Bangladeshi Conservative Councillor in 108 years by winning an outstanding victory against the opposition in Westminster City Council in July 2008. In May 2009, Mehruz was quickly promoted to Deputy Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Services.

Mehruz successfully led Project Shapla since 2011. Project Shapla is an International Social Action Project of Conservative Friends of Bangladesh. Mehruz has been leading a team of 30 delegates consisting of Conservative Party volunteers and Conservative MPs/MEPs to Bangladesh, where the project partnered with local and international charities and worked in a range of areas including health, education, governance and sport in

Sylhet and Dhaka.

The social action project in Bangladesh gave the delegates an opportunity to learn about international development, build a relationship and to leave a lasting legacy in Bangladesh. Through the work Project Shapla it has strengthened relationships further between the Conservative Party, British Bangladeshi Community and Bangladeshi.

Last year, Mehruz secured a visit of Conservative MPs and Conservative Party volunteers to the Rohingya refugee camps in Cox's Bazaar as part of their social action - Project Shapla. The Conservative MPs and delegates were the first to visit the refugees and accompanied by UNHCR and Bangladesh Government officials & MPs. The visit was the strongest piece of work that put the Conservative MPs in a position to call a debate in the House of Commons on the crisis and ensured the international aid and support to both charities on the ground and Bangladesh Government was increased. The MPs and delegates continue to raise this issue in Parliament and with the Government.

Outside the world of politics, Mehruz's passion continues for the communities he serves. Mehruz has been involved with voluntary and public sector for over 25 years as Trustee of Marylebone Bangladesh Society and London Tigers. He has served as a school & local authority governor for a number of primary, secondary and adult educational bodies and continues to take a keen interest in Education and International Development.





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 Commers.

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- Bhorgram High School.

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



**Mosleh Uddin Ahmed**

**Sector:**  
*Media*





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**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, Horsham, 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 Immigrant 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.



**Barrister Nazir Ahmed**

**FRSA**

**Sector:**

*Politics/ Law*



Award Winner 2019



Barrister Nazir Ahmed - a renowned lawyer, politician, writer and analyst - is one of the well known and well respected personalities in the UK's and Europe's Bangladeshi Diaspora community. He was born in the Village of: Bahara Dubag, Post Office and Union: Doulot Pur, Biswanath, Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Nazir obtained his LLB (Hons) degree from Queen Mary, University of London. Later on, he completed Master of Laws (LLM) from the same University. He was called to the Bar (Barrister-at-Law) by the Lincoln's Inn in 1999. He was also later admitted as a Solicitor in the Supreme Court of England and Wales and enrolled as an Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He is currently a Member of the Dhaka Bar and the Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Association. Nazir has skills and experience in international arbitration. He is a Fellow (FCIArb - the highest grade) of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb). He has advance management skills, qualification and experience. He was awarded Fellowship (FCMI - the higher grade) by the Chartered Management Institute (CMI). Nazir also has expertise on environmental health and safety law. He achieved the highest grade (FRSPH) of the Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH). Barrister Nazir Ahmed is currently the Principal/Head of his reputed legal practice named 'Lincoln's Chambers Solicitors.'

Nazir is active in British politics. He was the Branch Secretary and GC Delegate of the Labour Party for five years and the Vice Chair of a Constituency Labour Party (CLP) for three years. He was elected as a Councillor from Little Ilford Ward of Newham Council for the first time with one of the highest number of votes (he got one of the highest votes among all British-Bangladeshi Councillors elected in the UK last year). He was then elected twice for the two consecutive terms as

the Deputy Chair (Deputy Speaker) of the Newham Council. Alongside his studies, politics and professional responsibilities, Nazir has been involved with many local, national and international standard organizations. He has been working for the community for the last three decades. He was awarded the Nationwide's "Community Award for Voluntary Endeavour." Apart from this, he has acted in the past as an Election Commissioner/Chief Election Commissioner in elections of more than three dozen reputable community, voluntary and social organisations including British-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BBCCI) and British-Bangladeshi Caterers Association (BBCA).

Nazir often takes part in national and international seminars and symposiums. He has so far presented more than couple of dozen keynote papers in those seminars and symposiums at national and international levels on issues concerning national and international matters. He often wrote research based analytical articles on current, legal, social and constitutional issues in the Sub-Editorial Section of various national English dailies. He has already authored and published five books. For his creative activities and contribution, he was awarded Fellowship (FRSA) by the Royal Society of Arts (RSA). He is an Associate Fellow of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies (SALS), UK.

Nazir was an Independent Custody Visitor of London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and the Queen Mary University's Alumni Ambassador for Bangladesh.

Nazir has already visited around 50 countries of the world for various purposes. His utmost desire is to serve the community, local people and the country.

Cllr. Parvez Ahmed is a former 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. In addition to his Ward Councillor responsibilities, Cllr Ahmed has served on the London Borough of Brent's Executive Committee, Licensing Committee as well as on a number of other committees. 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 Sky Channel 5 in recognition for many years of hard work in the community. He completed his education in Bangladesh before moving to the UK.

Cllr Ahmed received the award for Labour Councillor of the Year 2017 at the SME4 Labour awards in December 2017.

In 2021, Cllr Ahmed was awarded the Freedom of the City of London in recognition of his services to the community. Cllr Ahmed is also the inaugural President of the British Bangladeshi First Citizens Alliance.

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 Bangladeshi Caterers Association where he has served as a Management National Executive Committee Member, Deputy Secretary General and Secretary General since the 1980's. Cllr Ahmed is also the Chairman of New Generation 2000, and was formerly a Director at the North West London Chamber of Commerce. In 2006, 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.

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.

A successful businessman and entrepreneur, Shahed has always been ambitious and knew what he wanted from a very young age. He was born in a very well known village called Sreedhora in Beanibazar, Sylhet, Bangladesh. He started his real estate business at a very early age. In early 90's he formed his first real estate business Relax Property before moving his property business in Bangladesh. He formed Shahjalal Developer Limited and currently he is serving as the chairman of this organisation. He is also the owner of the Shahjalal Tower in Sylhet, Bangladesh.

Known for his ambitions, Mr. Shahed Ahmed didn't stop there. He expanded his portfolio of businesses and got involved with catering industry too. He was one of the director of famous names like Little Venice of Windsor and Tazza Restaurant before founding the famous Grand Rasoi, an event management and catering company. It wouldn't be wrong to say that Grand Rasoi has bought a breath of fresh air within our event management industry. Today, Grand Rasoi is a household name in the community and Mr. Shahed Ahmed is the CEO of Grand Rasoi.

Alongside his businesses Mr. Ahmed has always been involved with various social and charitable or-

ganisations. 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, Bangladesh Centre, Brent Bengali Community Centre, Bangabandhu Centenary Foundation Brent, Sylhet Sador Education Trust and Iqra International. He is a Life Member of Cambridge Mosque Trust as well as 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 and he still continues to do so. 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, Balangonj College and Jalalabad Association.

During the 2020 COVID pandemic, Cllr Ahmed as a volunteer and strategic advisor helped set up a COVID Testing and Vaccination Centre at the Central Mosque of Brent which has served thousands of residents since its inception.

Cllr Ahmed has played a leading role in a number of projects both in the UK and abroad. During 2020/21, he led on a project around the creation of the Bangabandhu Centenary Peace Grove in Gladstone Park, Brent, which included the planting of 100 trees of different varieties as a commemoration to the 100th Birth Anniversary of the Father of the Nation of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

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



**Cllr Parvez Ahmed**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



**Award Winner 2016**



ganisations. He is currently serving as a vice president of Beanibazar Welfare Trust UK and a life member of the historical Bangladesh Centre London. Previously he has served as the founding president of the Beanibazar Pouro Unnoyon Shongstha UK and general secretary of Sreedhora Welfare Trust UK. He is also a member of Jalalabad Association UK, Beanibazar Jonokollan Shomitte UK and many more charitable and social organisation.

Mr. Shahed Ahmed is also known for his political and sporting involvement. He is a central committee member of Jatiyo Party and an honorary member of Beanibazar Sporting Club UK.

Mr Shahed Ahmed currently lives in Redbridge with his wife and children.



**Shahed Ahmed**

**Sector:**  
*Business & Catering*





**Shaleh Ahmed**

**Sector:**  
*Media/ Community*



Shaleh is a dedicated professional with a diverse background, originally hailing from the picturesque region of Moulvi Bazar Zilla, Juri Upo Zilla, Bangladesh. His journey led him to the United Kingdom in 2001, where he embarked on a path of personal and professional growth.

One of his notable achievements is his academic success, culminating in the completion of an MSc in Business Management from Gloucestershire University. This academic foundation has equipped me with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in various aspects of his life.

His career in journalism began in 2001 when he started working at Daily Bangladesh, to provide valuable insights and content. Simultaneously, he expanded his reach by joining Weekly Janomat and Weekly Bangla Post from 2002 and 2003, respectively. Through these platforms, he has been privileged to share his perspectives and engage with diverse readership.

However, his commitment to making a positive impact extends beyond journalism. In his capacity as the Founder of the Jury Welfare Association UK, he has worked tirelessly to support the welfare and well-being of the community.

Furthermore, Shaleh's dedication to community service led me to the London Bangla Press Club, where he has served as an executive member since 2010. he is now serving as a Treasurer for London

Bangla Press Club.

In this role, he has taken on various responsibilities, he also served as Event and Facility Secretary and Treasurer, demonstrating my leadership and organizational skills.

Shaleh is passionate about contributing to the betterment of society and fostering connections within the community. His journey from Bangladesh to the UK has shaped my perspective and drive, and he looks forward to continuing my endeavours in both journalism and community service, leaving a lasting positive impact wherever he goes.



**Shayella Ahmed**

**Sector:**  
*Health Care / Community*



Shayella Ahmed was born in Bangladesh and moved to Abu Dhabi at the age of six months. She spent her childhood and her early teen years growing up in the U.A.E. where her father worked as an engineer for a power station that provided water and electricity. She spent a few years in Bangladesh in her late teens and studied in Bangladesh.

After finishing her H.S.C. in Bangladesh, she married and moved to London. Shayella focused on being a mother to her 3 young daughters and a homemaker. Whilst raising her children, she had an aspiration to further her studies and return to education. With her husband's support, Shayella was able to achieve her goal in attaining higher education and completed an undergraduate degree in Business Management at Queen Mary University London - all whilst simultaneously raising 3 young children.

After graduating, Shayella briefly worked at LCH Clearnet, initially determined to build a career in finance. Shayella also played a major role in supporting her husband in his business ventures and contributing fundamental decisions. However, Shayella realised she wanted a career that was more fulfilling and wanted a job role where she could directly help and work with people. That sense of fulfilment was met in her current job role in the NHS as

a District Nurse Coordinator. Following COVID lockdowns, Shayella realised the importance of feeling connected to her community. Shayella's involvement in the Beautiful Ladies Group as co-founder has led her to form genuine friendships with like-minded women within the Bengali community.

It has also allowed her to advocate for causes she deeply cares about, such as women empowerment and erasing the feeling of isolation many stay-at-home and working mothers in the bengali community deal with. Shayella wishes to continue expanding her reach to women in the community and create spaces for women to meet and connect.



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**Thufayel Ahmed**

**Sector:**

*Entrepreneur.*



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 Eye 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 Sarwar, stage wedding exhibitions in various venues across London and the

Midlands. Today the Asiana Bridal Shows are a firm date in the wedding industry's calendar.

Thufayel is the CEO of The Ariana Group. In 2013, Thufayel opened Ariana Banqueting Hall in North London, In 2015, he opened his second venue, Ariana Gardens in Essex. In 2018 Thufayel launched Sultan Caterers in East London, an event management and catering company. And in 2022 launched The Madani Venue in Whitechapel, East London.

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 three daughters. Ariana is his youngest child.

His hobbies and interests are in sports, particularly football, which he still plays aged 56. 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.



**Cllr Syeda Saima Ahmed**

**Sector:**

*Politics*



Cllr Syeda Saima Ahmed is a British-Bangladeshi politician, policy analyst, broadcast journalist and theatre director based in London with a strong youth leadership background.

Saima is the Councillor and the appointed Women's Champion for the London Borough of Redbridge. Some of her other roles as a politician include- Chair of the People's Scrutiny Committee, the Deputy Whip of the Redbridge Labour Group, Chair of her local ward branch and previously been the women's officer for the Ilford South Constituency Labour Party (CLP).

Saima has been working in the local government for more than 14 years across London and continues to work closely with the local community championing inclusion and celebrating diversity.

Following her BA and MA degrees in English Literature from the University of Dhaka, Saima obtained her second master's degree in Public Policy from King's College London with a focus on foreign policy decision making, post-colonialism and risk governance. Her paper on the impact of All Women Peace Keeping Policy: Breaking Stereotypes was chosen for presentation at the 24th World Congress of Political Science. Her recent work as one of the au-

thors of the Labour Foreign Policy Group soft power policy paper to the British Council APPG was significantly cited in its final inquiry report titled Opportunities for Global Britain.

Saima has more than 27 years of experience in Youth Leadership and Volunteerism. She has received international recognition for her work serving as the United Nations Youth Spokesperson on Millennium Development Goals appointed by the United Nations Sports for Development and Peace and the then secretary general Kofi Anan.



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, 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.



**Dr Mohammed Nurul Alam**

**Sector:**  
*Accountancy*



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.



**Md Shahidul Alam (Ratan)**

**Sector:**  
*Sports*



Award Winner 2016





**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 (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.



**Cllr Junab Ali**

**Sector:**

*Business & Politics*



Former Mayor, Councillor Junab Ali came to the U.K in 1978. He started his first business when he was 18 years old while he was still studying for his 'A' levels. By the age of 21 he owned several restaurants.

He has been a Swindon Borough Councillor for over 10 years since May 2008 and now the First British Bangladeshi, first Asian and Muslim Mayor in Swindon and Wiltshire. Re-elected 2012, 2014 and 2018.

He is the Executive Committee Member of South Swindon CLP Since 2008. He was the Chief Whip of Labour Group (Swindon Borough Council) May 2009- May 2011, Parliamentary Candidate for Devizes CLP 2010, Member of Wiltshire Police Authority 2012, Shadow Cabinet member (Swindon Borough Council) May 2011-2014, European Parliamentary Candidate for South West England 2014.

He was also the only British Bangladeshi in the U.K, Deputy Leader Swindon Labour Group (Swindon Borough Council) June 2014- May 2017, Vice-Chair Police Crime Panel Swindon and Wiltshire since June 2016, Treasure South Swindon CPL since Oc-

tober 2016, Parish Councillor for newly created Parish of Central Swindon South since May 2017, Deputy Mayor May 2017.

Councillor Junab Ali is married with 3 children.

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.



**Kamru Ali**

**Sector:**  
*Property & Finance*



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, 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 Shoeburyness. Ali had created a recipe for success and his businesses continued to thrive. The Raj had risen from the ashes and became

popular in the locality and to this day it is still providing in the local people of Shoeburyness with quality Bengali cuisine.

Following the success of The Raj, Ali chose to move closer to London. Ali's London based ventures included, The Spice Tandoori in Plaistow. He has also entered 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.



**Mazhar Ali**

**Sector:**  
*Catering/Hospitality*





**Mohammed Mohed Ali (Mithu)**

**Sector:**  
*Community Relation, Business*



M Mohed Ali (Mithu) is from a respectable family. His father is Mr Montaz Ali. Mothers name Late Mrs Jarina Bibi and his grand father late Md Ismail Ali (Sharrong). His grand mothers name late Mrs Asia Khatun. The whole family's permanent address is in Bangladesh. Village Kamar Gow (Sharrong Bari) Post. Burunga Bazar P.S Osmani Nogar Balagonj Sylhet. Also present address in Bangladesh. Rushna Cottage School Road Goala Bazar Osmani Nogar Balagonj Sylhet Bangladesh.

M Mohed Ali (Mithu) has been an integral part of the Bangladeshi Community in the City of Sheffield and London. Since 2004 he has been President UK Sheffield Awami League, as well as Founder Of UK Sheffield City Awami League. Now from 29th January 2011 he has become the Executive Member of United Kingdom Awami League, Central Committee.

In 2016 he has been elected as Chairman for the Unity for Universe Human Rights of Bangladesh Foundation, for United Kingdom branch, for the Bangladesh Central Committee he has become the Vice Chairman.

Moreover his commitments to the community include him being Elected Vice Charmin Of Probashi Balagonj Osmani Nogar Adesha Upozilla Sommittee. M Mohed Ali (Mithu) is Founder and Vice President of KUWAIT- BANGLADESH Chamber Of Commerce & INDUSTRY Executive Committee 2010-2013. Also he is member of Bangladesh Welfare Association.

He is also Trustee of Probashi Balagonj Osmani Nogar Education Trust. He is also a member of Bangladesh-British Chamber Of Commerce.

From 16th March 2011 Mr Ali has become a member of The Sylhet Chambers of Commerce & Industry. Mr Ali is also as a convener for UK and joint convener for Bangladesh International Expatriates Welfare Society.

He is also a Life Member of Goala Bazar Gono Patagor and also a life member of Goala Bazar High School. Also Masjid Samaj Bangladesh life member and convener for United Kingdom and a joint convener in Bangladesh. He is also the Vice President of

the central committee of British Development Council in UK as well the President of Development Council For Bangladeshis In UK, Sheffield City Branch 2010. 28th May 2013 he became the chairman of the advisory committee Probashi Burunga Union Development and Welfare Trust as well as the founder.

31st of May 2015. Mr Ali was elected as Vice Chairman for the Baitul Mukarram Masjid in Sheffield, as well as being the trustee of the mosque.

He helped build an Academic Babbon & Goala Bazar High School. He has also donated to build a gate for the Kamar Gow government Primary School and is also a life member of Burunga Adesha High School. He has also distributed funds to many other causes. He is also a Life Member of Goala Bazar Brahmon Gram Shahjola Shineer Madersa, also he has helped in the 2004 Big Flood in Bangladesh he donated 15 Lacs Taka in his local Osmani Nogar Balagonj, Upozilla in Fourteen unions from his own funds. He has also heavily donated to build a gate for the No.1 Lamakazi Union Office in Biswanath Upozila Sylhet. He is also a member of Bright Future Trust in UK.

M Mohed Ali (Mithu) is married to Mrs Rabiya Begum. They have two sons and two daughters who are: Rushna Ali who is in her final year of studying Law at Sheffield Hallam University, M Ibrahim Ali who studies Aerospace Engineering at Sheffield Hallam University, Fathima Ali who is in her final year of A-levels, M Ahnam Ali who is his final year of GCSE's. They are all in education and reside in the family home in Sheffield. M Mohed Ali (Mithu) still works hard for the community. This is reality.

M Mohed Ali's education was started in England but then finished in Bangladesh. He is a chef by profession and is one of the top 10 chefs in the UK. He is born to Haji Montaz Ali in the village Kamargow, Sharrong Bari, no. 6 Burunga Union Osmani Nogar Sylhet.

M Mohed Ali (Mithu) is still the Present President UK Sheffield Awami League.



**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 ambitions. 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.

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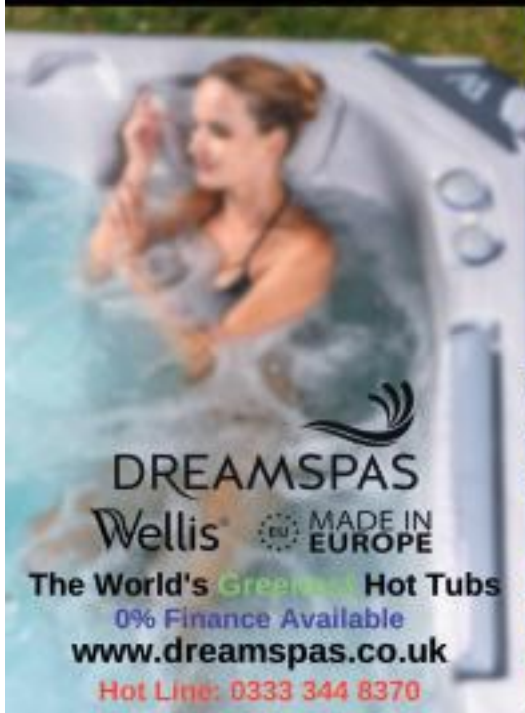
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**Munsur Ali**

**Sector:**  
*Film*



Award Winner 2015



Munsur Ali is the first person of Bangladeshi heritage to be serving in the historic and financial capital, the City of London Corporation. He is also a film Producer / Director, who graduated with a BA (Hons) in Film and TV Production in 2004 where he set up his first film production company.

He has worked with international stars including Anupam Kher, Asia Argento, Bollywood superstars, Karishma Kapoor, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Rani Mukherjee to 50 Cent and JAGGED Edge.

He produced the landmark feature film 'Shongram' which released nationwide in 2019 (struggle). It is a romantic 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 was premiered in London's Leicester Square.

He is currently the Deputy Chairman for Culture, Heritage and Libraries at the City of London where he lit up the iconic Tower Bridge on the 16th of December 2021 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh's independence.

Mr Ali is an Avid speaker on various platforms from the BBC to universities on topics around identity, culture and equality.

Mr Ali is working on his forthcoming films and projects as he embarks on his new venture which is a large film studio and film distribution brand under Moringa Studios and Moringa Entertainment.



**Nadia Ali**

**Sector:**  
*Media*



Nadia Ali is an acclaimed and award-winning international broadcaster, renowned for her extensive experience in television, radio, and journalism. For over a decade, she captivated audiences with her show on BBC Asian Network as a celebrated advocate for global Bengali artists and music.

Driven by her passion, Nadia hosted a cultural short film about Bangladesh and helped orchestrate and host the groundbreaking BBC Asian Network live music sessions in Dhaka for the very first time. These sessions featured A-list artists from Bangladesh and the UK, all broadcasted on BBC iPlayer. Nadia's journalistic prowess has also shone brightly, with her reports being featured on BBC News, World News, and BBC Two.

Her journey began in 2005, dedicating six years to hosting a dynamic children's live TV show every Saturday. Nadia's pioneering spirit led her to co-host the groundbreaking international reality TV show in Bangladesh, "Forgotten Roots," leaving an indelible mark on the industry. Her influence extended to hosting the Boishakhi Mela, a UK festival drawing over 30,000 attendees, for seven years.

Beyond television, Nadia has graced prestigious award ceremonies and talent shows worldwide, in-

cluding the Yash Raj Films Aaja Nachle Search, the prestigious IFFA Awards 2014, Asian Wedding Exhibition, India Fashion Week, Channel S Awards, British Bangladeshi Who's Who Awards, British Bangladesh Lifestyle Awards, and more.

Apart from her broadcasting achievements, Nadia holds qualifications as a Barrister and Lecturer. She also serves as the Director of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs. Nadia is frequently invited as a motivational guest speaker at events like the prestigious WAW festival in Dhaka, Women's Hour on radio, and in various schools and colleges. She has actively participated in campaigns for the NHS and Government Home Office projects addressing domestic violence. These experiences inspired her to establish an enterprise committed to empowering young individuals and women from diverse backgrounds through personalised mentoring, coaching, and comprehensive training programmes.

Nadia Ali's journey epitomises unwavering commitment to excellence and advocacy, establishing her as a true luminary in her field and a beacon of inspiration for empowerment.

Cllr Nasim Ali OBE was the Mayor of Camden 2022-23 and had another historic year leading the proclamation of King Charles III after the sad death of the late Queen.

He is the Mayor of Camden, for the second and third time and has had an outstanding political career.

Councillor Ali was appointed Mayor of Camden, first time, 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 and first Muslim Mayor of Camden; the first Bangladeshi Executive Member; the first Bangladeshi Leader of the Council and the Labour Group; the first Mayor to have a child in office. Councillor Ali is proud to say that his first son, Rio Ali, has secured a place at Oxford University. 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 first Mayoral year Councillor Ali met the Queen and most members of the Royal family.

His most memorable moment was meeting Nelson Mandela. 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, Osmani Nogar, Sylhet, Bangladesh and came to the UK aged 7. He is married to Lina Choudhury and has three boys, Rio, Zachariah and Noah Ali, from his first marriage. His early initiatives in-

cluded 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 is a Board member of the St Andrew's Holborn Charities, St Pancras Thanet St Trust, Governor of Camden and Islington NHS Trust and Vice Chair of Camden Community Centre's Consortium (C4). In the past he has been 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 is also the Chair of the Camden Mela Committee. In 2021 the Camden Mela celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Independence of Bangladesh at the renowned British Library. In the past it has been held in Regents Park and the prestigious British Museum too.

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 Chief Executive of the King's Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association.



**Cllr Nasim Ali OBE**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*

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, 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 Dashghar 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 Bishwanath, 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.



**Monir Ali**

**Sector:**  
*Business*



**Mohammed Monchab Ali JP**

**Sector:**  
*Catering & Community Relations*



Mohammed Monchab Ali JP was born in 1953 and educated in Bangladesh. He is a community activist, businessman, and a philanthropist living in UK since 1982. He came from a farming family and broke the traditional rank.

He is the eldest son among seven brothers and two sisters. His primary education started in his home by his father and he went to Kamar Gao Government Model Primary School then went to Moinpur High School gaining his Secondary School Certificate (SSC) in 1972. He continued his undergraduate study Intermediate of Commerce (I.Com) at the Modon Mohan College, then he went to Sylhet Polytechnic Institute. He completed his Diploma-in Mechanical Engineering in the year 1979.

Mohammed volunteered at Somota Junior High School and served as a founding Headmaster and Secretary in 1980 and played a important role to establish the School. He then left this school to pursue his professional career and join Karim Pipe Mill at the Bangladesh port city of Chittagong as an apprentice engineer. Within less than two years he raises up to shift in-charge there.

He left Karim Pipe Mill to further his study and came to the UK in 1982. but due to financial support and hardship he abandoned his aspiration for higher education and started working in the catering industry. He got married on same year in 1982 and settled in UK.

He established a scholarship programme at the Somota High School in the year 1994 for those students who passed their SSC in first division. The Somota High School is now a well established High School and College and the student population more than 1600+

He first established his business with partnership in the year 1985 but continued his philanthropic work to support his

local schools and support disadvantages students to pursue their higher education. His four youngest brothers also continue their studies with their aspiration for higher education. He joined Bangladesh Catering Association (BCA) and served as a regional coordinator North West of England. He later became the Senior Vice President of the BCA. His business in partnership called Bengal Dynasty Restaurant won various national business awards.

He serves as a national Chairperson of the Greater Sylhet Development & Welfare Council in the UK, for two terms and regional chairperson and general secretary for the Chester and North Wales region.

In addition to business ventures he is also very active in numerous socio-cultural projects having set up: MAM Education & Welfare Trust to support the needy in Bangladesh, as well as Chairperson Chester & North Wales Bangladeshi Youth Association, Chairperson Flintshire Muslim Cultural Society, Chairperson Shorisha Para Hobipur Primary School Trust UK, Chief Charity Coordinator Grater Sylhet Development & Welfare Council in UK, Chairperson Chester Shah Jalal Jame Mosque & Islamic Centre.

On the business front, he is the proprietor of Shaninco Catering Supplies, MAM properties UK, Former Member of the Bangladesh Catering Association, Founding Member of British Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce, Former Member of the Chester Ellesmere Port and North Wales Chambers of Commerce, Former Member of Restaurant Association of Great Britain and Former Member of the Federation of Small Business in UK.

He is appointed as the first British Bangladeshi honorary Magistrate at the Chester Ellesmere Port Bench in 2002.

He has been recognised by the Channel 5 television in 2011 for his community work.



**Raja Ali**

**Sector:**  
*Business & Education*



The CEO of the IBD Partnership Group, Raja Ali, worked in a prestigious international law firm where he was responsible for corporate clients based in the USA, Australia and Hong Kong. He was then appointed Consultant to a Coca-Cola franchise holder, along with a top 4 international consulting firm, to help write their business model and to implement the recommendations.

He was responsible for the financial negotiations and identifying new opportunities in the South East Asian market for the business. In addition, Raja was involved with a private venture capital initiative to look at renewable energy and was a consultant to the group that bid for the first textile park for a national government to help supply the demand for clothing in the western world.

Raja is now the CEO of numerous international companies and also consultant to many organisations worldwide. Raja has also served a 2-year term as a Special Envoy to Bangladesh. He also has vast experience in dealing with multi-billion Euro projects funded by the European Union in 25 countries.

In addition, he is a senior consultant for the Asian Catering Federation (ACF), Federation of Bangladeshi

Caterers (FoBC) and UK Curry Connect (UKCC). Raja is the Chairman of the Portsmouth Bangladesh Business Association (PBBA), and he also served as the policy lead of South Central England for the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB)

His hobbies include flying a 4-seater PA 28 Warrior aeroplane, and he has been learning the art of Krav Maga for nearly 10 years.



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 Ali been re-elected again in 2024. At present her role is a Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Minister for Building Safety and Homelessness).

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 leadership

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 Futureversity, 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



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.



**Shakur Ali**

**Sector:**  
*Catering and Community*





**Dr Siraj Ali**

**Sector:**

*Catering*



Award Winner 2011



Dr. Muhammad Siraj Ali (Hon) is a pioneering force behind the introduction of Indian Cuisine in the Essex region. In his successful 47-year career, he introduced Indian food to Thurrock, and has used his success and experiences to broaden cultural understanding and raise millions of pounds for charities in Bangladesh and the UK.

His passion to build bridges between cultures and communities has seen him become an ambassador for multi-cultural integration and charity work.

Since 1995, Siraj has raised over £3 million for charity, with his charitable efforts having even seen his dishes flown to 150 UN troops in the Congo.

Dr Ali's successful restaurant was chosen by MPs to cater for the first ever Bangladesh Festival of Food and Culture at the House of Commons in 2001.

In 2008, Siraj Ali was named an honoured friend of the University of Buckingham Scholarship for advising Author David Urch on writing his international book, Crescent and the Delta: The Bangladesh Story.

In the same year, Dr Ali won the British Bangladeshi Who's Who 'Outstanding Contribution' Award.

In 2009, Siraj was winner of the Channel S Awards 2009 'Contribution to the Community Award for Greater London and the South East of England', for his long standing contribution to the British Bangladeshi Community.

In 2011, Siraj was winner of the British Bangladeshi Who's Who 'Outstanding Contribution' Award, receiving a crest from The Mayor of London Borough of Tower Hamlets for outstanding achievement in community work.

In 2015, Siraj was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by Currylife magazine for contribution to the catering and hospitality industry.

In 2016 he was given a UK Honorary Award for outstanding services and contributions from Umor Pur Union Welfare & Development Organisation awarded by the First Secretary Mr Sayem Ahmed, Bangladesh High Commissioner in London.

In 2018, Siraj was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Essex for his distinguished career, joining Rt Hon John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, Speaker of Jatyo Sangshad, (Bangladesh Parliament), former UK Prime Minister Harold Wilson and former President of Chile, Her Excellency Michelle Bachelet, whose achievements are recognised by academics.

In Bangladesh, Dr Ali is a Director of the Metro Hotel and Conference Centre, Founder and Proprietor of the Crescent Hospital, Mairabazaar, now City School, Chairman of the Interim period Mediator Committee and Treasurer of the Balagonj Education Trust -later a Trustee, Co-Founder and Sponsor of Balagonj Sixth Form College and the Osmani Nogar Girls College, Co-Founder, Trustee, Secretary, of the Haji Soyed Ali Memorial Trust, Co- Sponsor of the Haji Soyed Ali Memorial Trust Anwarul Uloom Jamia Academy and Haji Soyed Ali Primary School, and Co-Founder of the Haji Soyed Ali Memorial trust Anwarul Uloom Jamia Hostel for Orphans.

Siraj Ali is also the Owner and Chairman of the Al Siraj Plaza, a multipurpose building in Goalabazaar Sylhet which includes the 10000 sq foot Siraj - Ul -Uloom ' for Quran and Hadith Research Centre and Library, the 3rd centre of its kind in Bangladesh.

In Essex, Siraj is the Founder Chairman of both the Thurrock Bangladesh Welfare Association and the Thurrock Islamic Educational Cultural Centre, Former General Secretary and founder member of the Essex Jamme Masjid in Southend on Sea, as well as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the Essex Bangladesh Welfare Association (Essex) and former Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Catering Association Essex region.



**Tariq Ali**

**Sector:**

*Civil Service & Entrepreneur*



Tariq began his career at the age of 18 as an Officer of the Court specialising in Civil Litigation. He was subsequently headhunted by the then Director-General of the Ministry of Justice, Sir Paul Jenkins QC and was promoted to MoJ Headquarters in the Legal Advice and Litigation Division.

Tariq worked closely with Government Lawyers on numerous high profile cases as well as work involving the development of the Data Protection Act, the Human Rights Act and drafting responses to Parliamentary Questions. Tariq was later appointed to the Secretariat to the Criminal Procedure Rule Committee chaired by the Lord Chief Justice - the highest Judge in the UK.

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.

After serving over 10 years in Central Government, in 2012 Tariq went on to set up businesses in the Medical, Legal and Insurance sectors in Harley Street and Kensington respectively.

From 2018 Tariq entered the Health and Beauty industry and has launched several trademarked brands

and products that are available in Europe, the Middle East and Asia. The company has its headquarters in London's Regent Street and has association with Holland & Barrett.

Tariq also has several business interests in Bangladesh and has offices in Dhaka. In 2019 Tariq was part of a Trade Delegation to Bangladesh representing the UK. In 2021 Tariq was invited by the Prime Ministers Office of Bangladesh to an International Summit in Dhaka. Tariq has advised private companies on advancing into modern health technologies in Bangladesh. Tariq has also advised on strategies for bilateral trade in new industries to diversify and capitalise on Bangladesh's current economic growth and development including to the Mayor of Sylhet and the Bangladesh High Commissioner.

In 2021 Tariq was appointed to Secretary General of UKBCCI London region - a Chamber of Commerce chaired by Mr Iqbal Ahmed OBE.

Tariq is involved with various charities and has his own charity, the Tariq Ali Foundation, which helps underprivileged people in Bangladesh with relief aid, food distribution and education.

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**Cllr Abdul Amin**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*

Originally from Sunamgonj, Bangladesh, Abdul Amin emigrated to the UK in the late 70's along with his parents and five siblings. They lived in one of the most deprived areas of Birmingham, Handsworth. After completing his secondary school studies, Abdul moved to Swindon and set up a family business in Lechlade, Gloucestershire. Since then, they have continued to expand and set up further businesses in Swindon and the surrounding towns.

Having grown up in council estate, Abdul experienced and witnessed the life of struggling families and realised that community change is necessary to improve lives. His upbringing motivated him to pursue politics and he was first elected as a councillor for Walcot and Park North, Swindon in 2012 during local elections. This ward is one of the most deprived wards in the Borough and is comprised of many diverse communities. Abdul has thoroughly enjoyed his work as a councillor and helping members of his ward with various individual and community-level issues.

He has also enjoyed serving in a number of committees during his time as a councillor, including: Chairing the Wiltshire's Diverse Communities Independent Advisory Group for Wiltshire Police – this helps to highlight and address issues regarding, for example, recruitment and retention of

ethnic minority staff within the force. This, in turn, helps to better understand the local communities that are served. School governor for a local primary school – ensuring the children receive a good quality education by scrutinising aspects of the school, including budgets and recruitment.

Also the Swindon's Rotary Club – Rotary is a world-wide organisation where members work together to better the local community and these can be through charitable events, Planning and Licensing, Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and the Wiltshire Police and Crime Panel.

Abdul is very grateful to have been appointed as the Mayor of Swindon for 2022/23. One of the aspects of the Mayoral role which he is very excited about is supporting various charities. He has decided to support STEP which is a local mental health charity helping children in Swindon. His second charity is the Zam Zam Trust which helps disadvantaged families in the Sylhet region of Bangladesh.

Abdul has met some fantastic people through his roles, and he is keen to meet more people during his term as the Mayor of Swindon. He is keen to bring together the various diverse communities of Swindon and work together with the Deputy Mayor to raise money for his chosen charities.



**Rupi Amin**

**Sector:**  
*Media*

Rupi Amin was born in Khulna, Bangladesh to Md Shamsul Huq and Maksuda Huq and arrived in the UK in 2003.

Rupi has been serving Channel S as a News editor and senior news presenter since 2017. Before joining Channel S she has been working at Bangla TV UK (the first Bangla TV channel outside Bangladesh) as news room editor during 2003 to 2012.

Rupi is the Founder Chairman of Soptosur Music School an independent Bangla music school based in Kent and worked as a music teacher at Uditchi School of Performing arts UK.

She worked at Surma Centre Camden as a music teacher during 2004 to 2007 and performed music in numerous program in the UK and the Europe. Rupi successfully completed Dartford Boishakhi Mela by her leadership.

Rupi is the Founder Chairman of Soptosur Music School, Vice Chairman of Udichi School of Performing Arts UK, Ex Executive member of London Bangle Press club (2 Terms).

Rupi completed her Masters in Islamic History from Eden University College – Dhaka, her Bachelor of Arts from Eden University College – Dhaka then

worked as a staff news Presenter at ATN Bangla Dhaka Bangladesh (2000-2002), Listed Vocal Artist of BTV and Bangladesh Beter, Program present of Somokalim Orthoniti of BTV in 2001, Program Presenter "Nabin Baron" a talent hunt program of ATN Bangla.

She had released a solo audio album in 1999 Rupi resides in Bexleyheath, Kent with her husband Dr Aminul Islam and they have 2 Daughters: Nabiha Amin and Namira Amin.

M Sayed Altab, the eldest son of Late Haji Md. Rajab Ali, born in Jalal Pur, Sunam Gonj, Bangladesh. Mr Altab came over to the UK in 1977 where he continued with his education. He completed a diploma in Business Studies, Altab established himself as a successful entrepreneur, taking on various ventures in the form of catering outlets and corner stores in North Wales.

Currently, Altab is primarily focusing on his holiday lettings and property development ventures in the UK and in Bangladesh to diversify his portfolio of investments. Over the years, 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.

Altab is the Governor of Hireal School, Founder Member of Life Aid Trust and as well as being a Director of many businesses he also runs holiday homes in Anglesey and Snowdonia.

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 ex chairman of Bangor Islamic Centre (BIC) and has invested an extensive amount of his time and efforts to the multicultural community of Bangor.

Altab is the Vice Chairman of GSC (Greater Sylhet Council) of Chester North Wales Region. He has achieved Honory Doctorate from United States Of America International University on Doctorate in Business Management.

Altab is married with seven children. His ambition 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.



**M Sayed Altab**

**Sector:**  
*Property & Community*



Award Winner 2019

**WHO'S WHO**  
U.K

Propa Rezwana Anwar is a British Bangladeshi television presenter, published book co-author and recent King's College London graduate, now working in Westminster.

Daughter of Dr Zaki Rezwana Anwar FRSA, Propa's media career began from a young age, in her case with participation in children's programmes on Bangla TV. Thereafter, she performed on 'It's Our Day' - a popular bilingual children's programme on Channel 5 (Sky 777). Appearances ranged from singing and reciting poetry, to reading children's news ('Chhotto Khobor') and even creating her own brand of bilingual satirical stand-up comedy. Aged 10, she passed multi-stage auditions to sing solo at Royal Albert Hall. Passion for engaging audiences was nurtured when with utmost love and enthusiasm she began presenting 'It's Our Day' herself as a teenager - the very show she enjoyed performing on as a child.

Propa now additionally hosts 'Sunday Show' on Channel 5, this TV show for adults featuring trajectories of inspiring British Bangladeshis. Propa was honoured as BBPI Jamdani Network's youngest member, to meet His Majesty King Charles III and present Queen Consort Camilla with a Jamdani sari on behalf of British Bangladeshis. Despite being London born and raised, Propa sat A Level Bangla exams early, and does all she can to promote Bangla culture. She hosts numerous high profile national interfaith events too, both as Vice Chair of Barnet Multi Faith Forum with Barnet Coun-

cil's support and as Head of Events for London's Interfaith Youth Council.

An alumna of the country's top performing girls' state school (Henrietta Barnett School) in her gap year Propa initiated the social media strategy for the country's top performing boys' state school (Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet). Next during her degree at King's College London, she was one of the youngest Faculty Education Committee members in the Faculty of Social Science & Public Policy; Propa got the Economic and Social Research Council funded opportunity to co-write a book (ISBN 978-1-8382998-1-1) with researchers about making education experiences meaningful. Here she credits her mother, late father Dr Udoy Syeed Anwar and school teacher Charlotte Humphreys for instilling within her a love for academia.

Notably, Propa successfully tutored tens of young students 1:1, who passed their 11+ exams and now attend a range of well-performing schools. Propa is Governor at Summerside Primary School and spoke as British youth representative at the Transforming Education Summit 2022, at United Nations' HQ in New York. She is currently partnering with Microsoft to encourage children to learn to code by co-organising school trips and workshops.



**Propa Rezwana Anwar**

**Sector:**  
*Media / Education*

**WHO'S WHO**  
U.K



**Dr Zaki Rezwana Anwar**

**Sector:**  
*Medicine / Media*



Award Winner 2018



One of the most prominent and inspirational British Bangladeshi women, Dr Zaki Rezwana Anwar FRSA is a personality known for multi-faceted attributes such as medical and philanthropic contribution, coupled with her 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 a course on news casting 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 5. Internationally the longest serving female Bangladeshi newscaster, her unparalleled mark in the newscasting world was recognised with Eastwood Awards' title: 'Best Female Newscaster'. With classical vocal training from Ustad Akhtar Sadmani, she also won the 'Notun Kuri' national singing contest and currently judges TV ONE's youth poetry competition.. Channels including All India Radio, Voice of America and BBC 2 interviewed her. She mentors for the Catering Circle Show, for The Diana Award and for Common Purpose in association with the British Council.

After her MBBS degree from Dhaka, her Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene was with British Council Scholarship. Following her Maternal & Child Health MSc at UCL with Danish Government Fellowship, she was selected Commonwealth Scholar for her PhD. Dr Anwar's Tangail project with iodine deficient pregnant mothers and infants (funded by Glaxo-SmithKline) inspired a documentary on BBC 2 in collaboration with ICH (UK) and ICDDR. Princess Margaret selected this among leading 3 medical research projects that year. Dr Anwar improved maternal mortality rates as founding member of 'Action for Safe Motherhood' working with the Brazilian Government, and campaigned against FGM with Gambian NGOs. She was invited Guest Speaker for INGOs including

UNESCO, WHO and Asian Nutrition Congress. She presented with the British Paediatric Association, at Centre for International Child Health, University of Warwick, University of Bristol and King's College London. Royal Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene, British Medical Journal, Lancet and European Journal of Clinical Nutrition published her work. Having donated all her organs herself, she has inspired many others of diverse backgrounds to do the same.

Her enterprises stem further than medicine and media alone. As GSC's Women & Cultural Affairs Secretary she tours the UK, teaching hard-to-reach women first aid. With her 'Widow Project' initiative, 500 destitute widows saw avenues to financial independence. She established a Rotaract Club's Medicine Bank and as Shandhani's President, initiated blood donation campaigns. She is in London Bangla Press Club; she advises Cancer Research UK; she supports Centre for Rehabilitation of the Paralysed and anti-rape movements. iQra International recognised her work for disabled children. From embryonic stages, she trailblazed for Dual Citizenship Act amendments, negotiating with the Law Minister to protect rights of British Bangladeshis. She was honoured with the Mayor's Civic Award and the British Bangladeshi Who's Who Award, as well as Canary Wharf Group's Award for Philanthropy - for tireless services to British Bangladeshis.

Cultivating her unique blend of medical and international media expertise, through many televised interactive video presentations and deeply analytical newspaper columns. Backed by religious scholars, she fought fiercely to dispel Covid-19 myths at the nexus of medical science and religion. She instigated a grassroots movement convincing thousands of initially reluctant viewers to get vaccinated, saving a staggering number of lives during the pandemic. For such contributions, she was bestowed with the Bengal's Pride Award at the House of Commons, the London Bangla Press Club Award, and The London Faith & Belief Award - supported by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London's Council on Faith.



**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.

Kazi Arif (MARLA, MNAEA, CIHM) is a Property Consultant & Valuer, and is the Managing Director & Founder of the multi-award winning company Prime Estate Agents. He moved to the U.K in 1996 to continue with his studies; completing his DMS, MBA, DBA at university in the U.K. He has since gained many esteemed professional property qualifications, including recently he achieved a Real Estate Economics & Finance Certificate Course at London School of Economics (LSE).

Kazi is a successful entrepreneur and TV personality, but he is also widely loved in the community. This year he was awarded 2022 Voice for Newham awards – in recognition of outstanding contribution to the community during COVID-19. Not long after, he was awarded a 2022 Tower Hamlets Civic Awards - Benefitting the community through success in business and community involvement, which he considers one of his finest honours so far. In 2019, he was awarded the UK BCCI Awards - Contribution to the Industry - Property Industry & Community, and in 2017 Kazi Arif was recognised for his outstanding contribution to media and the local community by being presented the British Bangladeshi, Who's Who outstanding achievement in Property, Media and the Community award.

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. With over 18 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 did not expand rapidly overnight, but Kazi never faltered from his belief that consistently de-

living outstanding service would not go unnoticed. His hard work did pay off; so much so that Prime Estate Agents has grown significantly, and has had to relocate to a much larger office in Brick Lane (opposite Brick Lane mosque) London, E1. 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 shortlisted for The Negotiator Awards 2017, London Agency of the Year, and Property Wire Awards 'Best Letting Agents in London.'

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 since 2014 which is currently live on NTV (Sky 780) every Monday from 8pm to 9pm, The Property Show with Kazi Arif, which can also be found on Facebook or Youtube. During the show, Kazi gives free advice and upto-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, sometimes he will even take those appointments in his office. Kazi is now a pioneer in the property talk show industry within his own community. The show has been running for nearly 8 years now.

Celebrating their 15th anniversary this year, Prime Estate Agents (Member of ARLA, NAEA) are one of the most established independent estate agencies in London. None of this could have been possible without Kazi Arif's unique vision and unwavering hard work throughout the process.



**Kazi Arif (MBA, DBA)**

**Sector:**  
*Property Business /  
Media / Community  
Relations*

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.

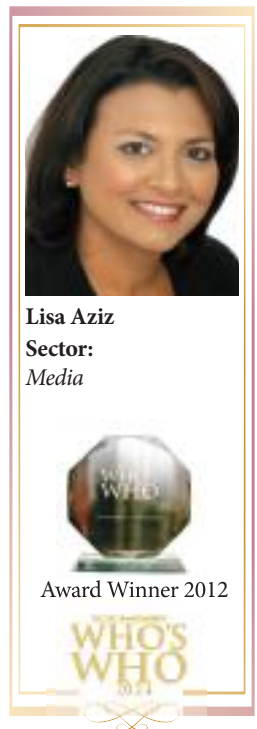
Lisa got her big break when headhunted to join tv-am as a senior reporter and was then made main newscaster shortly afterwards.

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.



**Lisa Aziz**

**Sector:**  
*Media*



**Cllr Raushan Ara**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*

WHO'S WHO  
2024

Born in Singair Dhaka, and moved to the United Kingdom with her family, in 1977. She attended New Parks Girls' School, and then Sixth-form college in Leicester.

After she left college she married her husband, Rezaur ,and moved to London and joined the Civil Service.

With her family she moved to Ramsgate in 1988 and they started their own business, in partnership with her father. The Ramsgate Tandoori has, in the last thirty years, become central to the local community, as a meeting place and community centre. So much more than just a restaurant!

Whilst running the business, she studied for a degree in business and law, obtaining a 2:1, at the University of Kent at Canterbury. She graduated from the Jo Cox leadership programme, in 2019.

She has been active in the community, fundraising for local, as well as international, charities, homelessness, environmental issues, local schools, mental health charities, Ramsgate sea cadets, litterpicking, and revitalising the Ramsgate town centre.

She started her own charity in 1998, called the Rams-Bangla Womens' Development Association, a micro-credit charity, registered in the UK, as well as in Bangladesh, which financially empowers women, helping them to become independent, but also in-

cludes donating and distributing blankets and food, during the winter months, thus helping families in need. She has fund-raised for flood victims, the Rana garments factory disaster, the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and the Nepalese earthquake victims.

She stood in the Town, District, County and National elections for the Labour party. Although was not elected to parliament, she raised the share of the Labour vote by over eight thousand.

Thanet District Council used to be a hotbed for UKIP support, with Nigel Farage standing for Parliament here twice. In the 2019 election, she won her District Council and Town Council seats with the highest percentage of votes and the biggest majority of any other candidate in the entire district. In addition to this she was also elected to be the first Bangladeshi Muslim Mayor of Ramsgate and the first Muslim Mayor in the whole of Kent.

In her spare time, she enjoys physical fitness, cooking, music, dancing, travelling and swimming.

With her husband she has two sons Raivi and Junayd,



**Shamim Azad**

**Sector:**  
*Arts, Culture & Education*



Award Winner 2009

WHO'S WHO  
2024

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 Whitmore 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.





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**Suhail Ibne Aziz**

**Sector:**  
*Consultancy/ Public Service.*



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 at 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 experience 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”,



**Shamimur Rahman Bashar**

**Sector:**  
*Design, Build & Glazing*



Shamimur was born in the United Kingdom in 1968 and was educated in Bangladesh at Shahjalal Jamia Islamia School and later at university in the United Kingdom. After his education in the late 80's he worked for Toynbee Translation Project in Tower Hamlets. While working he had also studied Insurance law and was awarded by Lloyds of London for his achievements.

He then purchased his own home and decided to carry out some renovation work and replace the windows and doors at the property. While these works were ongoing he had an interest in the double glazing industry and had made communication with the double glazing firm. He had a chance to acquire the double glazing by the time the installations were complete he had bought the company, at that time he was one of the first Bangladeshi Managing Director of a Double Glazing Company in the whole of the UK. After taking over he expanded his knowledge in manufacturing and marketing and utilised these skills in moving forward and have invested in a bespoke showroom offering the services. Shamimur's company is Iconic Glazing Limited. His services include designing and developing properties for clients. Simultaneously he also started to invest in properties. Shamimur strongly believe in giving back to the com-

munity. For many years he has been supporting an orphanage called S.B Orphanage Trust in Bangladesh. Shamimur is a corporate member of the UKBCCI.

Shamimur enjoys travelling and had a chance to go to Umrah and Hajj many times and recently has travelled to Kenya and had a great Safari experience.

Shamimur is married with four children, 3 sons and 1 daughter. Elder sons are in full time employment, 1 is a civil engineer and the other is a computer software engineer. His daughter is at university and the younger son is at a secondary grammar school.

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

**WHO'S WHO**  
OF THE

Abu Rufian Bablu was born in Molikshari, Moulvibazar, Bangladesh in 1973.

He is the eldest son of Alhaj Badruz Zaman and Shamsun Nahar Begum. Abu and his family moved to the UK in 1976 to join his father.

After graduation from University Abu began managing the family business which led to him establishing a successful Property Company in addition to running several prosperous Indian restaurants. He reacted to the demands of his clients through the Property Company and implemented Portfolio managements and finance raising through his ARii Property Group.

He became aware of the difficulties with merchant services while working in restaurants, so he looked into becoming a merchant service provider. This led him to establish Rosenburg financial services, which is a global partner of aquirring.com.

Abu is an all round business man and has also taken shares in a health care provider and an accounting practice.

Abu is married to Momena Akthar and they have two daughters and a Son.



**Abu Rufian Bablu**

**Sector:**  
*Property & Business*

**WHO'S WHO**  
OF THE



**Apsana Begum MP**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



Award Winner 2023



Apsana Begum is the Labour Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse. She was elected in December 2019 with a majority of 28,904, increasing Labour's majority in the constituency. She is now second time Member of Parliament for Poplar and Limehouse.

Apsana is the fourth British Bangladeshi to be elected to the UK Parliament and the first hijab-wearing UK Member of Parliament. She delivered her parliamentary maiden speech during a debate about International Women's Day, paying tribute to the rich history of women's struggles for social justice in East London and pledged to serve the East End constituency in the traditions of socialism solidarity and internationalism. Apsana is a member of the Socialist Campaign Group of Labour MPs Prior to her election, Apsana read Politics at Queen Mary University of London and completed a postgraduate diploma in law and community leadership at the School of Oriental and African Studies.

She was a trustee of Women's Inclusive Team, a Somali women-led charity supporting of residents faced with unemployment, school exclusion and those in need of pre-school support Apsana worked at Tower Hamlets Council, Tower Hamlets Homes, Queen Mary University of London and the NHS in a number of roles, including as a diversity and inclusion practitioner, contributing to strategies to make the local workforce more reflective of the community. Before her election, she was a prominent anti-austerity campaigner, campaigning for public ownership, retention and democratic control. She campaigned for public nurseries and services for community languages, special educational needs and disabled children in Tower Hamlets. Since her election, Apsana has continued to champion these causes in Parliament vocally advocating for public ownership and progressive taxation.

Apsana has vehemently opposed legislation seeking to curb human rights democratic freedoms and civil liberties including the Nationality and Borders Act, advocating for unjust immigration law to be repealed and for an amnesty, recourse to public funds and work permit rights to be provided to undocumented migrants. She has also been outspoken on the is-

issues of islamophobia, against NHS privatisation and climate injustices impacting Bangladesh and Somalia.

In 2022, Apsana led a historic Parliamentary debate to commemorate UNESCO International Mother Languages Day, paying tribute to the Bengali university students martyred whilst trying to preserve

the Bangla language in 1952. Apsana Spoke in Sylheti, which was the first time it was spoken in the UK Parliament. Apsana is a member of the Education Committee where she advocates around the issues of child poverty, free higher education and opposing academisation and the Prevent duty. She is the Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group of Domestic Abuse and Violence and played a role in the passage of the Domestic Abuse Act through Parliament. Apsana has spoken out about her own experiences of domestic abuse and violence.

In July 2021 was cleared of criminal allegations made against her, which she described as being vexatious and having malicious intent. In Poplar and in Limehouse, Apsana has stood shoulder to shoulder with local workers going on strike for better pay and working conditions including those employed by Tower Hamlets Council, Barts NHS Trust and Uber. During the Covid-19 pandemic, she raised the pandemic's disproportionate impact upon the Bangladeshi community - including those working on the frontline in the catering, private car hire and care sectors - with the Prime Minister and called on the government to prioritise vaccine rollout to ethnic minority communities.

Apsana Begum was born and raised in in Poplar and Limehouse. She is the fifth daughter of the late Manir Uddin Ahmed, former civic mayor of Tower Hamlets and former councillor for Shadwell ward in her constituency. She has credited her late father's guidance for her political activism, describing him in Parliament as having been a "forward-thinking community organiser".

Apsana was awarded MP of the Year for Young People 2022 by the Patchwork Foundation at a ceremony held at the House of Commons.



**Cllr Rita Begum**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



Rita Begum was elected as a Councillor for Maida Vale ward Westminster City Council in May 2014, taking a Conservative seat which they held for 20 years and she was the only labour candidate who got elected. Serving as a shadow cabinet member for environment, Sports and Community from 2014 to May 2022, Since May 2022 she elected as a Councillor for Kilburn ward in Brent Council.

In May 2018, Rita made history by taking all three seats in her ward for doing tireless work, Her achievement locally included securing the 20mph speed limit pilot, gaining funding for a local cycle hire station and upgrading the toilets and baby changing facilities in Paddington Recreational ground. Cllr Rita is a local mum who has lived in Westminster for the whole of her adult life, having been a pupil at Wilberforce Primary school & St Augustine's Secondary school. Cllr Rita has worked in community engagement for 20 years at both the Stowe youth Club and the A2 Dominion Housing Group. She has a special interest in child and youth development and, amongst her range of public duties, she is a member of the Council's Policy & Scrutiny Committee for Children & Sport.

She is also a Board Director for the Paddington Youth Enterprises Ltd - a social enterprise company promoting employment & business enterprise opportunities for youth. Cllr has also helped set up Queens Park Football Academy established in 2016 which trains young children age 5 to 16 years old coming from disadvantage background free of charge football and other school youth activities and is also

involved with Age UK Westminster (the older people charity) & Queens Park Bangladesh Association. Queens Park Community council first ever parish council in London established in 2014. First time in Westminster City council celebrated 46th Independence Day of Bangladesh with his Excellence high commission of Bangladesh and many well-known community activists on April 2017 as a result of Cllr Begum taking initiative to organise this event. Also helps with promoting ward budget and setting up local events which people can participate in, healthy lifestyle, health & well-being workshop, mental health training and trip to country side.

Rita has an excellent reputation in fundraising, social organisation, charities and event organisation. In August 2018 travelled to Bangladesh to help with Shahjalal Welfare trust with their Qurbani project and donated water well in a remote village of Singkapon in Moulvi Bazar. Cllr Rita already works tirelessly for her Bangladeshi community as well as people coming from diverse background to advocate their voice where ever required. Also serves in several community organisations. Cllrs favourite pastimes include following local and national politics, table tennis, gardening as well as eating out. Very passionate about national & international aid work. She is a well-rounded Councillor striving for the success of Westminster residents and the people within.

Since a young age, Rumana Begum was an enthusiastic STEM student who always had a passion for science. She graduated from Queen Mary University of London in late summer of 2012 with a Bachelor of Engineering (with Honours).

Rumana's journey into becoming a professional Quantity Surveyor was a little different than expected. She was working full time for a year in a different industry, yet in a corporate environment. However, she had a great manager and support network, that allowed her to continue to seek her dream profession and goals. During that time, she started her Masters course in Quantity Surveying at Kingston University London. On her first month of this course, Rumana attended a career's fair held at the university ground. She networked with Skanska UK as well as other companies and representatives who were at the fair. Rumana offered to take a week off her full-time job at the time to simply shadow a Senior Project Surveyor working for Skanska. The Managing Director of Skanska heard of this news and invited Rumana for an interview. He was very impressed with Rumana's tenaciousness, hard work-ethic and the fact that she took annual leave from her full-time employment to gain work experience at Skanska UK. He offered her a position in the company as an Assistant Quantity Surveyor there and then, including a scholarship for her Masters degree.

Since 2014, Rumana has worked on some great iconic projects such as the Battersea Powerstation and had opportunities to work with a number of UK's Tier 1 Construction Companies. She is now a Senior Commercial Manager and has recently moved to Saudia Arabia with WSP to work on a mega project launched by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques of Saudi Arabia.

Rumana has been working since the age of 17, it was her young days in retail that helped her develop her confidence and strong interpersonal skills. She was taught to find a balance between her job, personal life and academic life since a young age.

Rumana hopes to promote the construction industry to young females, specifically aspiring young females of the BAME community to come on board and have a positive impact on the skyline of the world.



**Rumana Begum**

**Sector:**  
*Construction*



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 en-

vironment, 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.



**Ruqsana Begum**

**Sector:**  
*Sports*





**Yesmin Begum**

**Sector:**  
*Community Relations  
and Social Work*



Yesmin Begum is a distinguished individual recognized as a Community Connector for her unwavering passion for empowering diverse communities. With a profound understanding of varied cultural backgrounds and a steadfast commitment to inclusivity, Yesmin excels in promoting a sense of belonging for all.

Yesmin's educational journey reflects her commitment to continuous learning and excellence. She holds a BA in Global Business Management from the University of Suffolk. Her dedication to professional development is further demonstrated by her numerous certifications, including the Good Clinical Practice (GCP) Certificate from the National Institute of Healthcare and Research, and a Level 4 Certificate in Community Leadership and Organizing from Newman University, Birmingham.

Her remarkable achievements have not gone unnoticed. In 2024, Yesmin was honoured with the Tower Hamlets Civic Award, and she has been a finalist for prestigious recognitions such as the Rotary Stratford Community Hero Award of the Year. Additionally, she received the Community Coronation Champions Award in 2023, underscoring her exceptional dedication and service to her community.

Yesmin's professional and voluntary experiences are extensive and diverse. She has served as a Panel Judge for the NHS Innovation Accelerator and facilitated numerous research focus groups funded by or-

ganizations like Macmillan Cancer Support. Her roles have ranged from ESOL teacher to Peer Researcher, and from Event Coordinator to Advisory Group Member for various health and social action initiatives. She has been actively involved in tackling healthcare inequalities, advancing public and patient involvement in research, and advocating for women's health.

Her affiliations span several sectors, including health, social action, and academia. Yesmin is a board member of NHS Innovation, Research & Life Sciences and Strategy (IRLSS), an elected Council Public Governor for East London NHS Foundation Trust, and a Core20PLUS5 Ambassador. She is also a certified community leader and social activist with Women1000UK by Citizen's UK, and an active member of the Unfair Debt Group, advocating for a fairer debt system.

Overall, Yesmin Begum's life and career are a testament to her dedication to community empowerment, social justice, and continuous personal and professional growth. Her work continues to inspire and impact many, making her a valued leader and asset to her community.



**Saidur Rahman Bipul**

**Sector:**  
*Catering*



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



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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.

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.



### Laboni Barua

**Sector:**  
*Music*



Laboni Barua was blessed to be born in an environment where music was profoundly esteemed by her family. Her guru Shantimoy Chakrabarty was an added inspiration, and he taught her the basic grammar of music. The journey that she started from the exotic tourist-city Bandarban once exceeded its boundary. She then began growing up with the blessings of a number of music scholars incorporating 4 years course in the Bangladesh Shilpokola Academy; though, she had been undertaking classical music lessons from Ustad Surbondhu Ashok Chowdhury for 10 years until she flew to London in 2008.

During her time in Bangladesh, she was enlisted as an A-grade artist of Bangladesh Betar as well as a regular performer in Bangladesh Television (BTV).

In 2005, Laboni took part in the widely-acclaimed TV competition 'Tarokader Taroka' on ATN Bangla, Bangladesh and earned the 30th position as a young star.

Along with the vibrant music career, Ms Barua attained an Honours degree in Physics from Chittagong University, Bangladesh in 2008.

Soon after Laboni came into the UK, she won the 'Boishakhi Star Awards'. Then, in 2011, her debut album 'Meghla Chele' was released by Leser Vision,

Dhaka, and it was widely applauded by her audience—she was tagged as the 'Versatile Singer' by the British Bangladeshi weekly newspaper 'Desh' and 'Surma'.

Nowadays, Laboni mostly sings modern and folk songs, though she has simultaneously expedient mastery in Nazrul's songs and semi-classics.

The preeminent British-Bangladeshi singer Laboni has been entertaining her Bengali and Hindi speaking audience with a dulcet tone in the prestigious British venues like Rich Mix, Harrow Arts Center, Nehru Center, Bharatiya Bidya Bhaban, Croydon Fairfield Hall, and so on. She also performs songs in front of large crowds that includes different festivals, some of which are—Boishakhi Mela (Festival), Southhall Mela, Camden Boishakhi Mela, Luton Mela, and so forth.

One of the greatest achievements in her music career was to take part in the 'Hundred Years of Tagore Album' by the 'Nriyakala the Rhythm Dance Heritage' as the only Bangladeshi decent singer amongst the other two Indian and Pakistani singers, and it was launched in the House of Commons in 2014.



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.

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.



Amirul Choudhury is a high-profile entrepreneur with businesses in various sectors. Since his last profile was updated a few years back he has gone from strength to strength, focussing on his construction and development business. He is the Chief Executive of Everard Construction Management Ltd – a company with a proven track record, and specialising in complex property development and restoration work. Projects have included the renovation and development of the Bangladesh Centre in London's Notting Hill, a Grade II listed building owned by a charitable trust and an iconic building for the Bangladeshi community

He is now the Managing Editor and co-owner of Janomot, the longest established weekly newspaper of the Bangladeshi community in the UK, and a leading online news portal.

Mr Choudhury began his entrepreneurial journey in 1994 as co-founder of ChyTel Communications. The company quickly established a leading presence in the mobile phone market for the Bangladeshi community as well as other ethnic groups previously ignored in the growth of mobile telephony. His experience of working with large corporations like EE (originally one2one) and Nokia (then the lead-

ing handset manufacturer) gave him the foundations to be a sound businessman. Over the span of 26 years in business we have seen Mr Choudhury in the community as a very credible businessman who has made major charitable contributions both in the UK and in Bangladesh.

His major philanthropic work of recent times is to be part of RDF Global, a charity dedicated to maternity care in rural Bangladesh. He was asked by the late founder, Mr Shamsujjaman Choudhury, to help build their flagship maternity clinic and he willingly contributed to this important project. He remains humble about his success, but we now have a fully operational maternity clinic in the heart of Jagannathpur, where he was born.

Amirul Choudhury is a household name in our community. During his business career he has stood by the Bangladeshi community in the UK and continues to do so. He has made significant and generous contributions to support the community, financially and with advice and support.





**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 initially worked on strategy and policy issues before taking up his posting as High Commissioner to Bangladesh in May 2004.

Mr Choudhury completed his assignment as High Commissioner to Bangladesh in May 2008 and 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.



**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.

Dr Ferdousi Choudhury is a Clinical Psychologist & Senior Eating Disorder Therapist with the East London Foundation Trust Community Eating Disorder Service. Prior to this she was 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. She has always 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, 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 bilingual therapeutic work, and pursued an interest in developing and implementing culturally appropriate parenting pro-

grammes 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 traumas such as domestic violence, emotional, physical and sexual 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 was a successful restaurateur with a number of businesses in Scotland, and both parents were leading members of the Bangladeshi community in Scotland. Her brothers are Sir Akhlaq Choudhury, High Court Judge, and Zia Choudhury, UN Resident Coordinator and Representative of the UN Secretary General in the Republic of Botswana.

Ferdousi now lives in London with her husband, Kawsar, and their four children.



**Dr Ferdousi Choudhury**

**Sector:**  
*Clinical Psychologist*

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 Accountancy 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*



**Foysoyl Hussain Choudhury MBE MSP**

**Sector:**  
*Politics / Business*



Award Winner 2023



Foysoyl Hussain Choudhury MBE MSP is a Scottish Labour politician, currently a Member of the Scottish Parliament for the Lothians since May 2021, Shadow Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development. He was the first Bangladeshi elected as a Member of the Scottish Parliament and the first male Bangladeshi-born parliamentarian in the UK. He is from Badardi, Habigonj. 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.

He moved to Edinburgh over 40 years ago and studied before taking over the family business in hospitality. He quickly expanded the business before becoming a successful entrepreneur with interests in catering, hospitality, finance and real estate across Scotland. Even before getting into politics, he worked with politicians and various councils to improve community relations in Scotland. Since being elected as a Member of the Scottish Parliament, Foysoyl has had a very busy 2 years. He has been regularly meeting various organisations, community groups in the Lothian region and from

across Scotland and, engaging with business in the Scottish Parliament. He has been helping his constituents with various issues such as housing, education, and health. In the past year, he has been helping constituents and community groups across the region with the rise in energy costs.

In the Chamber, Foysoyl has raised parliamentary questions on various topics, including housing, climate justice, Scottish education, racism and refugee crisis. Foysoyl is also the Convenor of the Cross-Party Group (CPG) on Bangladesh at the Scottish Parliament; with the aim of promoting and enhancing understanding between Scotland and Bangladesh at cultural, social, academic, political and economic levels. Over the summer, during the Festival of Politics 2023, the CPG on Bangladesh hosted a panel event on climate change and justice ahead of COP28 with a lens on low-lying nations such as Bangladesh.

Foysoyl believes passionately in the Equality for all the citizens of Scotland and is an active member of civic society, playing a lead-

ing 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, good race and inter faith relations in Scotland. He has served ELREC in

different capacities, as a Trustee, Company Secretary, Vice Chair and he currently holds the post of Chair.

Foysoyl is also one of the founders of Edinburgh Mela. Since its formation in 1997, the Edinburgh Mela grew to be one of the biggest events in the Edinburgh Festivals Programme. Edinburgh Mela sought to embrace all diverse communities and cultures, providing a showcase for local and international artists.

Foysoyl 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.

Foysoyl 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.

Early this year, Foysoyl hosted a networking dinner event on behalf of the Asian Catering Federation (ACF) to help build stronger relationship with Scotland's communities, Parliamentarians, businesses and the catering circle. But also, as an opportunity to discuss issues faced by restaurant owners and catering businesses due to the cost-of-living crisis in Scotland and across the UK.

Foysoyl is heavily involved in fundraising campaigns 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 recognition of his services to the community, Foysoyl was awarded an MBE in Her Majesty's New Year's Honours list 2004.



**Jahed Choudhury**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



Jahed Choudhury was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh before coming to London in 1986. Jahed passed his SSC from Ram Sundar High School in Biswanath, Sylhet and studied HSC at M.C College, Sylhet.

Jahed has lived his entire adult life in Tower Hamlets, graduating from South Bank university with a degree in chemical engineering. After graduating, Jahed worked as an IT consultant and now currently works as a freelance web designer with a key interest in AI development.

Jahed has been an avid community activist for the entirety of his adult life. As a young man, he worked in youth development as a general secretary of Youth Force UK from 1993-1994. Jahed has since served his community as chair of the Teviot British Bangladeshi Association (TBBA) from 2011-2018.

Jahed has maintained a keen and long-held interest in mainstream politics in the UK and is the founder treasurer of Tower Hamlets political party, Aspire. He has since been elected as a councillor for the Lansbury ward in 2022, he was the former Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. He is very grateful to the residents of Lansbury ward for giving him the chance to serve them as their councillor, believing that the most rewarding part of his job is directly

helping people with problems they face, being involved in processes that can positively impact lives.

Jahed holds a deep love for the borough of Tower Hamlets and is proud to live there with his entire family. He feels that it is privilege to represent the great borough as a first citizen. Jahed thoroughly enjoys his role as Speaker of Tower Hamlets, visiting a variety of community organisations and championing their work. He holds regular advice surgery as a councillor with his ward colleagues where they meet local people regularly and treasures visiting them personally for direct conversation and change.

Jahed supports important charity work as well as taking opportunity to uplift the youth. He is proud to support two wonderful charities which care for and support the most vulnerable in the community: St Joshep Hospice and Eden Care Project. He is also a very proud father of five children and grandad to three beautiful princesses: Amelia, Ayah, and Alayna. When he is not doing any community work or politics, he enjoys reading, travelling, playing snooker, watching football and cricket, and most importantly, spending time with his three granddaughters.



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**K M Abu Taher Choudhury**

**Sector:**  
*Media & 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 Chattrra 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. Also he was the Chief Editor of the weekly Bangla Post, Editor of the weekly London Bangla, Chairman of the weekly Bangla Mirror's Advisory Board. He is an Advisory editor of the online portal londonbdnews24.com. Additionally, he is the President of the UK Bangla press Club and Bangladesh Journalist Association UK. 'community heartbeat', Mr Choudhury, was an elected ex-Chairperson and General Secretary of the Greater Sylhet Council in UK for two consecutive terms, and is currently a patron. He is the Secretary of Voice for Justice UK and holds presidential posts at

Renaissance Sahitya Mojlish UK and Connecting Community Trust Uk. Mr Choudhury is also the Chairman of the Cancer Patients Poor Help Fund. 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 no 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 12 years. He has been working as an employee of the Tower Hamlets Council as Tutor for the past 26 years. 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 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.



**Karim Chowdhury**

**Sector:**  
*Private Banking*



Karim, a proud British Bangladeshi, is a multi-award-winning Director in Private Banking for SG Kleinwort Hambros and a true role model for the next generation. Born and raised in Angel Islington (North London), Karim has made significant contributions to the private banking and wealth management industry over the past 14 years.

With a Master of Science (Msc) in Investment Fund Management and a Diploma for Financial Advisers (DipFA) from the London Institute of Banking and Finance, Karim's expertise in investments and financing solutions is unparalleled. As a chartered fellow of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment, he has gained recognition for his exceptional skills and knowledge.

While his professional achievements are remarkable, Karim takes immense pride in his GCSE in Bengali, a testament to his cultural heritage.

His parents, who migrated from Bangladesh to the UK in the 1970s, instilled in him a strong work ethic and values that have shaped his success.

He himself has two young sons and their mother is also a British Bangladeshi. She is a chartered accountant.

Karim's career has taken him across four different countries, including the Jersey, Channel Islands and Bermuda. Working for prestigious wealth management companies and private banks worldwide, he has garnered a reputation for his exceptional client advice and deep understanding of the industry.

Beyond his professional achievements, Karim is a com-

passionate leader dedicated to making a positive impact. He actively engages in charity work and has recently built multiple water wells in Bangladesh, providing safe drinking water to those in need.

His efforts have not gone unnoticed. Karim has received numerous awards and accolades, including an invite to the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace by His Majesty the King and being named in the Spears 500 publication as a recommended HNW (High Net Worth) Wealth Manager for 2024. He has also been recognized as an influential figure in the Diversity Equity and Inclusion space, appearing in the Empower Top 100 Executive Role Model list 2023 and the EqualityX 2023 Top 100 Influential Muslim in the UK.

Karim's commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion extends beyond his professional endeavours. He has played instrumental roles in Diversity Equity & Inclusion initiatives, such as being a founding member and deputy chair of the Unity network at Schroders Personal Wealth and was involved in establishing Bank of Butterfields' first DE&I network as a Council member.

Not only does Karim excel in his career, but he also dedicates time to mentorship. He actively mentors students from disadvantaged backgrounds at London Metropolitan University and the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investments, providing them with valuable work experience, CV support and networking opportunities encouraging them to pursue a career in financial services.

Mamun Chowdhury is a highly successful British businessman with over 25 years experience in the design and manufacturing of high-end outerwear. He is from Moynabad, Chunarughat, Habigonj. Having completed his education in Bangladesh, After a short period in the Middle East, Mamun arrived in Britain in December 1991. Hailing from Bangladesh, Chowdhury's father and grandfather were businessmen, and he was raised on a diet of deals and negotiations. But the 1971 Independence War destroyed the family businesses and the Chowdhurys lost everything and, in 1991, Mamun came to England hoping to build a business here. 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. An inspirational man, audaciously attempted at selling shirts from his suitcase to Marks & Spencer in 1992. But that experience cemented Chowdhury's determination to make it. He was inspired by the story of Michael Marks and Thomas Spencer. Mamun Chowdhury saw an opportunity to manufacture outerwear, designed with a high level of customer involvement, and selling wholesale to trade targeting the sub-couture market. Queen's Award winner London Tradition was born. Quality and skilled craftsmanship rooted in London's heritage and culture are the label's defining features," says Mamun Chowdhury, citing state-of-the-art equipment and technology.

"Our dedication to detail is relentless and unwavering." Multiple quality checks throughout the manufacturing process ensure consistency. The brand is also proud to offer a fair working environment for its employees. Today, London Tradition is particularly popular in the Japanese market, and the brand has grown largely by word-of-mouth. Winning the Queen's Award made a significant difference bringing a huge amount of publicity and interest from new customers. The company's future looks exciting, including a new high-end fashion label, Churchill of London, and an ecommerce website aimed at the retail market. He has a clear strategy to grow organically in existing markets and enter into new ones." No suitcase required. Mamun envisions his Company to be the leading luxury heritage outerwear brand in the world and very popular in the Japanese and European market including 17 other countries .

In addition he was awarded again for International trade by her Majesty the Queen on 2020.

He has since established 4 Education center in his village completely for free, the Jahanara Chowdhury Academy, the Mofij uddin chowdhury dakhil madrasha ,the Jahanara chowdhury women college and the Mamun Chowdhury Ethim khana

Which are computerized and compolsery English and science .

He has also provided 40 computers and more than 500 students benefit.



**Mamun Choudhury**

**Sector:**

*Manufacturing/  
Fashion*



Award Winner 2014

**WHO'S WHO**  
in

In a complex world where decisions often gets 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 Price Waterhouse Coopers (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 corporate reporting, foreign exchange management and internal control, working

with the then Governors of Bangladesh Bank, Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed and Dr Sallehuddin Ahmed.

In 2006 he returned to the UK with his wife Nasima, daughter Nazma and sons Shaheenur, Shajahan and Shafuil.

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 to Car Supermarket to Hospitals to Property. Professionally, he is senior partner of, probably, 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 a member of many British Bangladeshi organisation including as a Vice President of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



**Dr Sanawar Choudhury**

*BA(Hons), FCA, PhD (Exon)*

**Sector:**

*Finance & Community  
Relations*



Award Winner 2017

**WHO'S WHO**  
in



**Shafiqur Rahman Choudhury**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



Shafiqur Rahman Choudhury was the MP of Biswanath-Balaganj-Osmaninogor elected in 2008 and 2023. 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 problems regarding the visa system of the Bangladeshis

with British passport, travel tax, problems regarding Biman and Sonali Bank. He formed the Probashi Action Committee as a protest against the harassment of the non-residents in Bangladesh. The Committee arranged a protest in Hyde Park and in front of the Bangladesh Mission.

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



**Ayesha Chowdhury**

**Sector:**  
*Business, Politics & Social Work*



Ayesha Chowdhury is a Labour Co-operative Party politician who has strong ties to local communities and businesses.

Ayesha Chowdhury arrived in Britain with her parents at the age of 16. Besides learning English, she found herself taking a course in construction at Newham Community College and completed her BTEC National Diploma in 1993. She was helping her father with his community work and teaching GCSE Bangla Language in Plashet School from 1990 (when she arrived to the UK).

With her father's encouragement, she changed her subjects to study Access to Youth community and social work.

Enrolling at Goldsmiths College, University of London, to study youth, community and social work, eventually obtaining a Master's Degree in Applied Anthropology, Youth & Community Work.

Beside her studies, she has always worked as a youth worker, neighbourhood officer and/or social worker in different local authorities, including Newham, Tower Hamlets, Camden, Victoria and Westminster.

Ayesha 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 changes were to be attempted. As a result of this, she became involved with politics.

She was elected as the first Bangladeshi female councillors in Newham in 2002, and was one of the youngest. She was elected five consecutive times in the same ward, and was privileged to serve the same constituents for 20 years until 2022.

Over the 20 years, she has managed to influence and chair many policy forums, scrutiny commissions, and has served as lead councillor as well as the Mayor's Adviser.

She was the founder-secretary of Beckton Bangladesh Welfare Association as well as Bangladeshi Students Forum in 1993.

She was involved with many community and voluntary organisations, not only Bangladeshi but Chinese, Lithuanian, and Afro Caribbean organisations too.

She's always keen to improve the life of those who are disadvantaged in society.

Ayesha Chowdhury is a successful businesswoman. She is a property developer and also Director of London Green Management Company Ltd. 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, Newham Community Police Forum and School Organisation Committee.

Other past and present commitments include being committee member of Beckon Community Forum, Building Schools for Future and Mayoral Advisor. Amongst her most prestigious voluntary association she has been a committee member for Community Cohesion and Child Poverty, two integral issues which society faces in the present climate.

During pandemic, she was chairman of Healthy and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission.

Her interests include Human Rights, politics, sports, as well as environmental and social issues. She is fluent in several languages.

Aysha is married with two children.



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 well-known for his decades of experience as a restaurateur. Mr. Chowdhury is also in the property business both in the UK and in Bangladesh. He is also the co-owner and chairman of Kushiara Composite Knit Industries- a 100% export orientated enterprise earning vital foreign currency for Bangladesh.

In 1988 as the Head of the Bangladesh Association (Bristol, Bath & West) and Community Integration in mind, Mr. Chowdhury founded the Bangladesh Women's Group in Bristol and then in 1990 founded the Bangladesh House. This building is used as a drop in centre to get advice and information on housing, welfare etc. In 1993 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.

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 President

of Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce; he was Founder Chairman of Britain Bangladesh Friendship Society; Senior Vice President of National Heart foundation, Sylhet; Chief Patron of The All European Bangladesh Association; Chief Advisor of Bangladesh Female Academy; Chief Advisor of Jalalabad Association UK; Senior Advisor UK Probashi Kallan Porishod 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.

In 2020, he expanded his work on Shahjalal Jame Mosque (Bristol) and established the 'Khadija Centre' for Women, the first centre for women worshippers outside London.

In October 2021, Mr Chowdhury received the prestigious Freedom of the City of London at a ceremony at Guildhall in London. This rare honour is given to those who have been making extraordinary contributions in various fields.

In 2022, Mr Chowdhury became Chief Advisor to the British-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BBCCI). He was also included as 200 Most Influential Global Business Icons by Business America.

In January 2021, Mr Chowdhury was given the task to raise funds for the construction of the 6th Floor of Heart Foundation Hospital, Sylhet. Target amount was £150,000. He inaugurated the construction work on 1st January 2022 and to date £181,000 had been raised.



**Ahmed Us Samad Chowdhury JP,**

**Sector:**  
*Media, Charity & Business*



Cllr 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 was a host for Betar Bangla Radio programme "Open Talk" and also she hosted "Women's Voice" – a programme on Bangla TV, where she brought issues relating to British Bangladeshi community in the UK, especially issues that affects 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 lable 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. She is the Councillor for Bridge Ward.

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



**Cllr Syeda Choudhury**

**Sector:**  
*Politics & Social Work*





**Amin Babor Chowdhury**

**Sector:**  
*Education & Charity*



Award Winner 2022



**Amin Babor Chowdhury**, originally from Kulaura, Sylhet, Bangladesh, arrived in the UK in 2007. He has since become an established public figure in the North West of England through his passion, dedication and work ethic, to develop and enhance community relations within the diverse cultural groups of Greater Manchester.

He has established himself in the journalism, education and charity sectors to promote community cohesion and advance prospects for many groups.

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

Through sheer determination and optimism, Amin 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 many of his projects.

Amin is married with three young children and lives in Oldham. He seeks to advance, celebrate and promote his chosen causes however he can. He set up One Community UK (OCUK) in 2012, which has charitable aims through which he organises community events and was able to establish the Oldham Education Awards (OEA) in 2012.

OEA unifies the whole town in celebration of the academic achievements of students in the borough. Around 250 young people have received an OEA. Because of his contributions, Amin was invited to become an Ambassador and Board member at the Oldham Academy North School.

He is heavily involved in fundraising and promotional activities for charities, including Dr Kershaw's Hospice, Kingfisher Special School, Tameside Rotary, Local Mayor's Fund, Just Help Foundation, Global Relief Trust and 1Care charity,

which works to improve health care and education in rural Bangladesh. He also supports The Prince's Trust because of the life-changing work it does with vulnerable young people.

In 2021, he organised the first hundred-mile walk during Ramadan in aid of charity and raised funds for various charities. In 2022, he also managed a 100-mile (walk/run) challenge during Ramadan to raise funds for three different charities. More recently, he also organised a charity dinner in aid of the relief efforts in Bangladesh.

In 2013, he endeavoured to unite all the people of the United Kingdom 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 (BEA) in London. His aim now is to keep raising the profile of BEA and bring the event to every part of the UK, and continue to inspire people in the pursuit of education.

In 2018 he was also invited to become a governor of Kingfisher school which is a special needs school for pupils aged 2-19, aiming to meet the needs of pupils with severe and complex physical and/or learning difficulties.

Amin is also passionate about Cricket. He created links and opportunities between community cricket clubs and mainstream organisations such as Lancashire Cricket Club/Foundation. In the 2019 Cricket, world cup Amin volunteered for the International Cricket Council (ICC). In 2021, he played an important role in supporting the COVID vaccination programme for the Royal Voluntary Service. He also worked as an honorary steward at the 2022 Commonwealth games in Birmingham.



**Shabbir Ahmed Choudhury**

**Sector:**  
*Hospitality Business*



One of the most successful Bangladeshi Businessman living in the UK. Oxford and Sylhet based entrepreneur and philanthropist, Shabbir Ahmed Choudhury was born in 1963 to a renowned Businessman's family in Sylhet City. Where Mr Choudhury started his education (SSC) from Sylhet Cadet College (Formally Residential Model School & College) and ended up to obtain Masters in Marketing from University of Dhaka. Mr Choudhury was a Sports personality in his early years and played for Sylhet district as well as Club competition.

He established and ran a sports club called Town Club in First division football league. Before Mr Choudhury moved to the UK in 1988 he was involved within his family's business such as Construction, Manufacturing, Retail and Export/Import. In 1990 he opened his first restaurant business in Oxford then few more in different cities. He also run Two Property Development and Managing Companies based in Oxford. At the same time he is involved in many family inherited businesses in Bangladesh. He is also an active member of Bangladesh Caterers Association and at present as Vice President and involved in many more community activities.

Shabbir Choudhury has over 20 years of experience within the education management sector. In 2002 along with others established first A Level College in Sylhet,

also built and developed another school & college in Sylhet. As the Chairman of the managing board he has contributed proactively to the success of the school & college to its current position.

Mr Choudhury is the sponsor shareholder of NRB Bank LTD and the vice chairman of NRB Bank Securities LTD.

He is also an active sponsor director of Sylhet Women's Medical College & Hospital established in 2005.

He built and established a Four-star standard Hotel Mira Garden in Mirabazar, Sylhet which is successfully running for the last Four years.

He is the director and former chairman of SR Capital LTD established in 2006 and sponsor director of Delta Pharma LTD.

Mr Choudhury also managing partner of Thames Surma Development Company and M/S Shabbir Brothers.

Mr Shabbir Choudhury is also involved in many charitable organisations especially ZamZam Charitable Trust UK and ZamZam Bangladesh, where he is an Executive Director and the Chairman of ZamZam Paradise Garden (An School & Orphanage). He is also the Chairman of Al-Hajj Shafiqul Hoque Choudhury Foundation, which involves in many philanthropic work and education scholarship programme.

He is married to Tamim Choudhury a Secondary Science Teacher and blessed with a Son and Daughter.

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**Henna Chowdhury**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



Award Winner 2022



**Henna Chowdhury** was born in Sylhet Bangladesh in 1975. She settled in Worthing, West Sussex at the age of 10 with her mother, younger sister and older brother. Henna attended the Girls High School in Worthing where she excelled and achieved excellent exam results despite only learning English on her arrival in Britain a few short years earlier.

Following her education, Henna enjoyed a short but productive career in the Civil Service before marrying and devoting her time to raising a young and boisterous family. Councillor Chowdhury has always had a keen interest in the community and is especially concerned with equality of opportunity and equal rights for all.

Whilst raising her family she was involved as an advocate for youth and child support and acted as a community interpreter for a number of organisations involved in domestic violence.

Mrs Chowdhury has worked for local charities supporting BME women in their struggle to overcome racial and intra-community prejudice, domestic violence and lack of educational provision. Henna has worked for charities and local businesses along the entire south coastal strip providing educational courses and training in health and hygiene, business funding as well as organising community events and charity fundraising with a special emphasis on Women's Rights and Equality.

In 2010 Henna had a complete change of direction and was a presenter on Bangla TV, where she hosted a music channel show broadcast to the UK and Europe.

With her keen sense of social justice and fairness for all, Henna felt the need to do more, to lead the way for ethnic

minorities, especially Bengali, women, showing them that they have a voice and an important part to play in a successful, modern British multicultural, multi-ethnic society and as such she joined the Labour Party in 2017 where she is currently BAME Officer.

In late 2018 Henna was adopted to fight the safe Conservative ward of Gaisford in the 2019 Worthing Borough Council Elections, a ward which had been in Conservative control for over 50 years. Despite the party's poor showing nationally Henna won the ward with a landslide victory, achieving a swing to Labour of 13% made Henna the first female Muslim councillor in the history not only of Worthing but of West Sussex and was reported Worldwide. A fact she is immensely proud of as it is an encouragement for women with no background in politics or business to come forward, to make a difference and to have a voice.

Henna was elected onto both the licensing committee and the overview and scrutiny committees of Worthing Council.

Henna made further history in her local town of Worthing by becoming the First Labour Mayor when the Labour Party made history by taking control of the local Council during the May 2022 Local Elections. Making her achievements somewhat unique: the 1st Female Muslim Borough Councillor; 1st Female Muslim County Councillor; and 1st Female Muslim Mayor under the 1st Labour Administration for the Borough of Worthing

Henna is married to Milad and has three daughters, Fariha, Mariya and Tasnim.



**Cllr Abu Talha Chowdhury**

**Sector:**  
*Government & Community*



**Abu Talha Chowdhury** is the eldest of 8 children. His father is a prominent community leader and journalist, K M Abu Taher Choudhury, who comes from a Moulana family in Shingkapon, Moulvibazar. His mother, Shamsun Nahar is a retired teacher who comes from Palpur, Chattak.

Talha is a newly elected Councillor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. He is serving the Council as the Cabinet Member for Safer Communities. Talha was born in Tower Hamlets in 1990, making him one of the youngest councillors in the local authority. His father kept him involved in community activities from a young age. This inspired him to get involved in the third sector at the age of 14, with his first experience focused on a gang mediation project at a local youth club. Later he led 3 youth clubs in Shadwell and Bethnal Green; running youth provisions, anti-knife crime projects, elderly exercise classes, lunch clubs, mentoring and more.

His work has been recognised nationally and he was awarded the Community Activism Award by the Community Leadership Foundation in cooperation with SOAS University in 2017.

He has been fortunate enough to work internationally in Ethiopia, Bosnia, Egypt, Somaliland, the Middle East in either diplomatic postings on behalf of

the government or large NGOs, however he has now firmly set his sights and energy on contributing to the welfare and prosperity of Tower Hamlets.

Talha studied International Relations, Law and Community Leadership at Westminster, SOAS and Oxford University, all in pursuit to understand the issues we face and solutions we can create to make a better world.

He is currently the Senior Quality & Supply Chain Manager for Canary Wharf Group, responsible for overseeing the standards in quality, environment and health & safety for the company. He also manages the company's procurement department as well as Co-Chair the company's Diversity and Inclusion network. He is one of a few senior managers from Bangladeshi origin and is climbing the ranks very quickly.

He has demonstrated the right experience of community, charity, business and government to be an influential figure in the community.

**Salim Chowdhury** resides in Harrow. He is the eldest son of late Al Haj Abdul Motin Chowdhury & Hafsa Chowdhury. Salim Studied Management and is an Entrepreneur with 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 with a large portfolio. He started his first partnership business at the age of seventeen. He also served as a police officer for the metropolitan police. Salim is a founder & Vice Chairman of the Conservative friends of Bangladesh as well as being a member the Conservative Muslim Forum.

Salim is well connected with the Conservative party and various organisations affiliated to the party. He is also a councillor for Harrow Council. Aside from his association with politics, Salim remains closely connected with local and community based initiatives. In May 2023 Salim has been appointed as Deputy Mayor of Harrow, his currently serving as a Mayor of Harrow. 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 former President of the British Bangladeshi Caterers Association (BBCA) and formerly Secretary General. Salim is also the Joint Secretary & Trustee of Shah-jalal Islamic Centre & Life Member of London

Bangla Press Club. Permanent member of Bangladesh Centre, life Member of Harrow Bengali Association 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. Salim Chowdhury Foundation was established in 2005 (fully funded by Salim) 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 the Founder Director of Wamburger Group, Jasmine Dale Nurseries and Salim Chowdhury Foundation.

Salim is married to Jasmine (a teacher) and they are blessed with three children Al-Imaan, Jaariyah & Sabriyah



**Cllr Salim Chowdhury**

Sector:  
Politics & Business

Award Winner 2022

Councillor Jasmin Chowdhury has worked in the spheres of public health and social justice for over two decades with a strong passion for equality, human rights and social justice. Her professional career with the NHS, academia as well as the charity sector has been dedicated to reaching out to otherwise excluded individuals and communities and tackling inequalities. Jasmin has dedicated her working life in developing the most effective and sustainable way to bring about positive changes in our communities and society as a whole.

Jasmin has won two national awards for her work and was also shortlisted for a UK parliamentary selection in 2013. Actively involved in social justice campaigns. Rooted in to the values of fairness and equality, she is particularly interested in empowering communities, feminism and development of women in all spheres of life and beyond geographical boundaries.

As a senior practitioner with Public Health Wales, Jasmin has led initiatives to give every child the best start in life as well as addressing vaccine inequity in Wales. While involving and engaging with communities at a grass-route level to bring about positive and sustainable societal changes, she has also con-

tributed to the development of some of the groundbreaking legislation including the first legislation in UK on Ending Violence Against Women & Girls.

Described as a passionate, inspiring and driven individual by colleagues, Jasmin has reached out and supported many vulnerable groups and individuals both through her professional as well as voluntary roles. Sharing both personal and professional experiences as well as leadership skills has helped her to inspire and support those who often struggle to find a voice.

As an active campaigner for climate and social justice Jasmin often chairs and speaks at conferences and events on these issues. While publications of her work in public health, the awards and public life has helped to raise profile of the issues and campaigns, she thinks the most rewarding part for her has been the transition in the lives of the individuals and communities she has supported and also the impacts of her work in policy and decision making at local, national and international level.

Jasmin was elected as a Councillor for County Council of the City and County of Cardiff in May 2022.



**Cllr Jasmin Chowdhury**

Sector:  
Politics



**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 him to join the Conservative party in Maidstone where he actively campaigned on behalf of their 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 secretary general of BCA . 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.



**Sadia Afroz Chowdhury**

**Sector:**  
*Singer*



Sadia Afroz Chowdhury is an accomplished and professional singer and Music teacher originally from Bangladesh. Having started her first music lesson from her mother Munawara Begum Sadia found herself deep-rooted relation with music over the years. Sadia is a trained classical singer who is grown up and progressed her musical journey through different renowned mentors. Sadia is a very famous and well-known singer in the Asian community in the UK and Europe for her Versatile singing and Unique Melodious Voice.

Sadia started taking training Indian Classical Music at an early age while she was in Bangladesh gradually from Utad Shunil Dhor, Ustad Gopal Datta, Ustad Sanjib Dey and currently taking Training from Pandit Chiranjibi Chakroborty. She is a band member of South Indian Tamil Musical group RG Academy of Music & Orchestra where she is taking training of Carnatic music.

Sadia took part in many competitions in Bangladesh and awarded nationally for her Patriotic songs and Nazrul Shangkit. She is an enlisted A grade singer in Bangladesh Television and Betar. She has been performing since the age of ten and has performed in numerous theatres, auditoriums as well as many prestigious stages like Rich Mix, Harrow Arts center, Nehru Centre (solo performance),Croydon Fair Field Hall (RG Academy Orchestra), Bangladesh

High Commission, Red Bridge Town Hall (Int. Art Festival), South Hall Park (South hall Mela), Wavers' Field, Victoria Park (London Bangladeshi Boishakhi Mela), Cadogan Hall, The Broadway Theatre in Catford, Cardiff Millennium Theatre and many more.

She is also working as an executive director of NAZRUL PARISHAD and this Charity organization is working to introduce the creation of National poet of Bangladesh KAZI NAZRUL ISLAM among the next generation. Also, Sadia is working hard with the young generation to teach them music and introduce our own culture in British Bangladeshi Community.

Unlike Traditional Classical singers, Sadia believes to blend modern songs with Classical fusion. Her tonal quality, presentation, the ability of Pitch and together with her mesmerizing voice creates magic. Sadia has done a music video and recorded many songs for UK TV Channels.

Alongside Sadia's musical career she is a qualified professional accountant and worked as an external auditor.

Sadia an accomplished London based singer is delighted to hear the strong lines of her singing brought alive by a quality of songs.

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, aiding 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.



**Monsoor Chowdhury**

**Sector:**  
*Accountant/  
Entrepreneur*



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 Com-

mission 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. 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.



**China Chowdhury**

**Sector:**  
*Arts & Culture*





**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 Honorable Society of Lincoln's Inn.

He has been involved with the media since 1991 with Dainik Janata and he worked with Daily Star as University correspondent and contributor. He was the senior reporter of recently defunct Daily Bangladesh in UK and also contributed in various weeklies in UK including Bangla Mirror. He contributed in al-

most 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.



**Shamim Choudhury**

**Sector:**  
*Media*



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 political 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





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**Abul Kalam Chowdhury**

**Sector:**

*Legal*



Mohammed Abul Kalam Chowdhury is a renowned lawyer in the Bangladeshi community as well as a popular media personality in the contemporary period known for his distinctive legal advice and highly anticipated political talk shows on the Bengali TV Channels.

He is the principal Solicitor of KC Solicitors; a practice committed to providing outstanding, accessible and bespoke legal service for the community. Having the expertise on a wide range of legal disciplines including, Immigration and Human Rights, Civil Litigation, Family Litigation, Criminal Defence and welfare benefits he is dedicated to serve the community people in London and nationally. Prior to that, he worked as a principal advisor at UK Immigration Services.

Born in Sylhet to his father late Ayub Ali Chowdhury and mother Mrs Sufia Chowdhury, he is the fifth of eight children.

He completed his secondary and higher secondary education at Beanibazar, followed by a Bachelor Degree from MC College Sylhet. After migrating to the United Kingdom for higher education, he completed his LLB (Hon's) degree from Wolverhampton University in 2002 followed by the Bar Vocational Course in 2003 from University of Northumbria.

He was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 2003. During 2010 he also qualified as a solicitor in England and Wales.

From his student life in Bangladesh, Abul Kalam Chowdhury got involved with student politics and became a front-line activist who worked for the rights and justice for the

general student. Moreover, the leadership ability and keen advocacy has encouraged Mr Chowdhury to get involved with several social and political activities in the UK which enables him to provide his support and assistance to the British-Bangladeshi citizens.

He was the first directly elected general secretary of the Society of British-Bangladeshi Solicitors and later became the Vice President at the Society of British Bangladeshi Solicitors. Besides that, he has used his various experiences to contribute to the British-Bangladeshi community as a Co-Ordinator of Centre for British Bangladeshi Policy Dialogue (CBPD). The organisation is tirelessly working to uphold the British-Bangladeshi Rights in Bangladesh as well as in the UK.

In addition, he holds the position of Information and Research Secretary of the UK Awami League which sees him liaise with the Bangladesh Government and the UK Bangladeshi community to ascertain and fulfil their demands and needs. At the same time he is a columnist and social media activist who make his best effort to raise the awareness of Bangladeshi people in standing up for their welfare and legal rights as well as fulfilling their duties as British citizens.

He is happily married to Salma Chowdhury and blessed with three children.



**Shahagir Bakth Faruk**

*MSc.*

**Sector:**

*Business & Community Relations*



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

Faruk is also the first Bangladeshi trainer who provides food hygiene training, health and safety training and HACCP training for all sorts of food handlers in a diverse range of premises. He is also an accredited trainer of the internationally recognised Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH), Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH), Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) and Welcome Host. He is an author of the book called "Food Hygiene".

Apart from entrepreneurship, Faruk has made a considerable political contribution to the mainstream of British politics. He is involved with the Conservative party, having been the local Conservative Association Chairman for five consecutive years.

During his leadership he arranged visits in his local

constituency from many leading Conservative figures.

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

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

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

Nelson Mandela said: "there is no passion to be found in playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living." This ultimately sums up thriving personality Mahee Ferdhaus Jalil, who's played a huge pivotal role in the British Bangladeshi community for the last 15 years. He is one of the biggest successes to date is establishing Channel S - the first free-to-air British Bangladeshi satellite Television Channel.

Born in Moulvibazar, Bangladesh, Mahee came to the UK in 1988 as a teenager. Like many of our British Bangladeshi champions, his early days in Britain were endured by hard struggles. Mahee however embraced these challenges with utter determination and focus. He was known for 'dreaming big' and wanted to make his visions a reality.

In 1994, after obtaining training and experience, he set up one of the largest asset management companies in the UK called 'Prestige Auto Group'. The company saw steady growth and became a household name amongst British Asians.

Mahee's greatest success to date however was the establishment of Channel S. He started dreaming of a fully functional Television Channel in the UK in 2002. Mahee wanted a television channel which

would engage communities directly, highlight issues which matter the most in the lives of British Bangladeshis, empower communities with the power of information, and create awareness amongst the community about their rights, opportunities as well as responsibilities. Mahee went onto creating a professional, passionate and experienced team.

Finally on 16th December 2004, Channel S started its official broadcast. Mahee saw a dream which eventually became a platform for all British Bangladeshis, inspired a generation in achieving their goals, took our community back to their roots, and reminded our younger generation of their history and heritage.

Mahee's vision of launching the Channel was no more a community channel - it became international through a partnership with humanitarian organisation - through generous community donations. He believes we can't take money with us, so invests in the community and good causes.

A passionate entrepreneur, Mahee is also successfully running his various other business interests - from property development to Law and IT. He enjoys mentoring young business enthusiasts so that they are able to settle a life capable of living.



**Mahee Ferdhaus Jalil**

**Sector:**  
Media/ Business



Award Winner 2019



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 grafito 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.



**Abdul Md Fakruzzaman**

**Sector:**  
Arts & Culture





**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.



**Bidhan Goswami**

**Sector:**  
*Consultancy and Community Development*



Bidhan Goswami is a British-Bangladeshi immigration and third sector consultant based in London with a strong leadership background. He completed his school education in Nawabganj Pilot High School before embarking on Higher Secondary education at Dhaka College. Following his BA(Hons) and MA degrees in English Literature from the University of Dhaka, Bidhan obtained his specialist legal degree from the University of Westminster.

Mr Goswami is the principal and managing director of his company. Community Legal and Educational Services, a community-based immigration firm, is working in Tower Hamlets. Tower Communicom Ltd, another management and consultancy company, has also been working on developing charities and community organisations.

Bidhan has served on numerous charitable organisations including London North East Community Foundation, Bangladesh Welfare Association UK (established in 1964), Kendrio Shaheed Minar Committee UK (established in 1999), Brick Lane Jamme Masjid Trust London (established in 1976), Training and Development Consortium (established in 1995), Community Empowerment Project, Probashi Action Committee, Westminster Bangladeshi Welfare Trust and many others. He was directly involved in many campaigns including the protest against the harassment of non-residents in Bangladesh. He has continued being involved with capacity building activities mainly for Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities for last three decades. Mr Goswami played

an important role in setting up many charitable organisations including its policies and procedures. He has been helping and guiding the community groups to run and operate their activities smoothly. He also worked with Istituto Marangoni (university) as a visiting lecturer. He is one of the main contacts in the East End of London and has been helping the university graduates of Europe, USA and Japan those who are interested on further studies and research in the UK migration.

Mr Goswami writes for periodicals. He has contributed to many dailies and weeklies including Daily Observer, The New Nation, Daily Ittefaq, Weekly Robbar, Weekly Akhon-E-Samay, Weekly Janamot and others. He also worked as Joint Editor of the renowned British Bangladeshi Newspaper Sylheta Dak. He also writes in various journals and publications. He is an avid speaker on various platforms from TV Channels to universities to topics around migration, culture, equality, and community issues.

Mr Goswami has dedicated a lot of his time to charitable initiatives and community organisations. He has established himself in the Third Sector to promote community cohesion and advance prospects for community groups. He is the founder of Jagannath Hall Alumni Association in Great Britain and a co-founder of the Dhaka University Club in the UK. He is married and lives in London.

London based Abdus Hamid started his career as an Accountant and subsequently moved into the field of Technology working for a large firm of Wealth Managers in the City Of London.

He currently works as a Cyber Security Analyst helping to secure the companies network and has forged a successful career operating in the financial services industry over the last 20 years.

Being a passionate advocate of technology and having established himself as a highly skilled Analyst in the field of Cyber Security, he now advises small business and institutions on aspects of Cyber Security. He also runs a Network Solution Company offering consultancy to businesses and institutions across the UK.

Abdus is also the founder Deputy Chairman of Conservative Friends of Bangladesh (CFOB) having been involved in its inception since 2006. CFOB is a member-led organisation that upholds the values of the British Bangladeshi community and champions their similarities with the beliefs of the Conservative Party.

From its humble beginnings in 2006, CFOB now boasts members spanning from across the UK. The organisations was given permission by the Conservative Party to take a delegation of MP's and volunteers to Bangladesh in order to carry out social action

work in for the first time in 2011.

Since then CFOB has visited Bangladesh countless times helping various charities. Our last visit in 2017 allowed us to take several MPs and volunteers into the camps of Cox Bazaar where Rohingya refugees are currently living in squalid conditions. Because of our direct intervention, UKAID has so far donated over £50 million to Bangladesh for the Rohingya refugees. CFOB continues to lobby the government in UK for the safe return of Rohingya refugees back to Myanmar. Abdus was also the first British Bangladeshi Chairman of a Conservative Association in the UK and served as the Chairman of Ilford South Conservative Association.

Outside of business and politics Abdus is also involved with various charities nationally and acts as trustees for various charities such as London Tigers.



**Abdus Hamid**

**Sector:**

*Technology/Business/  
Politics*



# BRITISH BANGLADESHI WHO'S WHO 2024



**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.



**Saeed Haque**

**Sector:**  
*Financial Services &  
Wealth Management*



Saeed Haque was born and raised in North London. He graduated in Economics in the early 2000s where he started a career in Financial Services and Banking. Throughout the earlier years, he had worked for various banks and financial institutions across the world with postings in Germany, Dubai, Singapore, and UK Financial Districts. With his knowledge and experience in wealth management and private banking, in 2018 he co-founded a wealth management company in Dubai at the heart of Dubai International Financial Centre (DFIC) and a consultancy company for HNW and UHNW clients. Around early 2020, Saeed Haque returned to the UK during the Covid-19 Pandemic, where he identified opportunities in merchant card processing and FX services.

This led him to create Rosenburg Financial Services in the UK to help service businesses across the world. Over the past few, he has diversified his interests into the Property sector and the Accountancy/Legal Industry. Saeed Haque is known for his philanthropic contributions in Bangladesh, where he is following his family's tradition of promoting economic growth and prosperity for the poorest regions. He has an interest in a madrasa and school assisting 600 disadvantaged orphans and children to gain education to higher secondary level.



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**Syed Samadul Haque**

**Sector:**  
*Media*



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

Adventure and carrying out new ideas is part of Samadul Haque's character. In 1973 while he was a Secretary of Dhaka College Student Union, travelled 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, 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.



**Md Rajib Hasan**

**Sector:**  
*Media*



Md Rajib Hasan is a Software Engineer, Digital entrepreneur, Journalist, and Writer. He is currently holding the position of Senior Web Developer of Tech Loge. He has started his career as a software engineer from Bangladesh.

Rajib is a Managing director of British Bangladeshi Renowned Newspaper Weekly Bangla News in London and UKBDNEWS.com before he became Head of News of NTV Europe. He has subsequently started his career as a journalist.

He studied Bsc in Computer Science and Engineering and Masters Degree on MBA from Cardiff Metropolitan University, with His strong media and tech background, he likes to keep active advises Startups on Marketing and Digital communication strategies.

He has published the first Novel on 2016 Book Fair in Bangladesh. Titled "Otopor Robot ", it is based on Romance and Robotics development in the UK and his 2nd Novel Published on 2017. Titled "Otopor Mowmita ", it is based on Romance and USA Silicon valley tech lifestyle.

Rajib Hasan also working as an executive director of Meena Bazar to promote Community cohesion and Create a pathway between local businesses and

women to promote social enterprising and supporting women to become an entrepreneur.

He is working hard with the digital entrepreneur to teach how to generate income from home-based.

Rajib has also now started helping online expertise people to receive accredited training and help them to find home-based income way. He is a founder member of UK Bangla Press Club.

Rajib Hasan was Born in Barura Upazila in Cumilla son of Jalil Ahmed and Rena Noor. He is married to Jannatul Niyem Tamanna and is blessed with a beautiful Daughter Fatima Hasan Tahira .



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 Student League and played an active role during the mass upsurge against the 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 West-

minster.

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 of Camden Police Consultative Committee, and Director of Paddington Church's Housing Association.

He is also the founder and current chairman of the Consortium of Bengali Associations (CBA). He was a Civic Ambassador to the London 2012 Olympic Games Forum. Mr. Hasan's profile has been recorded in the Asian "Who's Who" International and in many other publications. Mr. Hasan is currently employed as Chief Executive of APASENTH, a leading social care organisation in the UK working for the people with special needs for over last three decades and APASENTH International, a newly formed CIO. Mr. Hasan is currently leading a ground breaking project in Bangladesh with the aim to raise awareness and educate people with special needs on safe working and daily living practices through the provision of a range of support services.



**Mahmud Hasan MBE**

**Sector:**

*Community Development and Social Care*



**Award Winner 2015**



Abdul is a Senior Government Lawyer and successful social entrepreneur.

As a senior Legal Advisor to Government, Abdul advises departments on a range of commercial matters including Government procurement, commercial disputes, and complex contractual negotiations. Abdul often advises Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and The Secretary of State on matters of national importance. Most notably, Abdul advised the Government in setting up the NHS Nightingale Hospital as part of the Government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Abdul has also conducted litigation on behalf of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Defence, Department for Work and Pensions and other Government Departments.

Abdul's commitment to public service is not simply restricted to his legal career. Aside from his work as a Government Lawyer, Abdul has founded several community organisations, sports clubs, social enterprises, and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with the aim of tackling social, educational, and health inequalities faced by many underrepresented communities in London. Most notably, Abdul is the Founder and Managing Director of the "SB Education Group", a leading education provider offering educational and mentoring support services to young people, and "The Future Focus Network" an award-winning NGO that provides employment and training services to the BAME community. He is also the Founder and Chair of the "London Excelsior Sports Club". Since 2012, these organisations have collectively supported thousands of young people across London and Essex and have been recognised nationally as a positive force for good in the community. During the height of the Covid 19 pan-

demie, more than 300 young people received vital support services including, online supplementary classes to support schools, some received laptops and equipment to help tackle digital exclusion, mental health support services, as well as careers advice. In 2021, Abdul's flagship organisation, "The Future Focus Network" was nominated for "Community Group of the Year" by the prestigious Rotary Club and was nominated as a grant and award body on behalf of The Jack Petchey Foundation.

Because of his extensive work with the BAME community, Abdul was appointed to the Metropolitan Police Encounter Panel in 2022, (East Area - Basic Command Unit) whose task is to monitor and scrutinise police interactions with members of the public. The scrutiny of policing practices via these Panel aims to help improve public trust and confidence in the Met.

Aside from his community work in the UK, Abdul is one of the founding members and Directors of Newlife Medical Services (PVT) Ltd, a primary healthcare clinic in Sylhet, that aims to make world class healthcare services available and accessible to the poor people of rural Bangladesh. To date, the clinic has served thousands of people in Sylhet through medical camps, GP clinics, surgeries, (including cataract operations), telemedicine and ambulance services. Newlife Medical Services is set to launch it's phase three programme which will provide greater capacity for more serious operations, with the aim of becoming a fully established community hospital.



**Abdul M. Hamid**

**Sector:**

*Law/Business/Community*





**Aman Haider**

**Sector:**  
*Business*



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 Madrashes.

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 reputa-

tion for quality & reliability.

Mr Aman Haider studied in Dhaka City College and has completed his BA in Jagonath 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.



**Parveen Hassan**

**Sector:**  
*Politics / Civil Service*



Parveen Hassan is on the Conservative Parliamentary Approved Candidates list for 2022.

Parveen Hassan is the founder of Conservative Women's Hub, an online platform, dedicated to debate and engage Conservative women entering public life. Parveen Hassan is the West Midlands Conservative Women's Organisation (CWO) Deputy Chairman 2017-2020. She is the former Chairman of Birmingham Heartlands Conservative Women's Organisation 2011-2014. In 2016, Parveen was Head of Communications for the Conservative Friends of Bangladesh (CFOB) responsible for communications, marketing, engagement and media. Since 2017, Parveen is Vice Chairman of the Conservative Friends of Bangladesh. Recently visited Bangladesh to see first hand the Rohingya Refugee Crisis with parliamentarians as part of the delegation.

Parveen's experience in the world of politics covers political and leadership campaigning, a seasoned, grass roots campaigner within the Conservative Party, local and regional elections, the West Midlands NO2AV referendum, Team 2015, Conservative City Seats Initiative 2015 and extensively campaigned for the Mayoral campaign 2017. Parveen first came active in the world of politics, following the former Prime Minister, David Cameron's vision to attract diverse women from all backgrounds to enter the party and play a part for the country as public servants. She continues to support more women to enter the political sphere for the voluntary party.

Parveen Hassan's career outside the world of politics remains on delivering criminal justice. A dedicated civil servant for over 25 years with expertise in the legal sector, specialising in prosecution policies and inclusion within HMG.

She has served on various charity boards as a trustee and director, supporting diverse communities addressing violence against women. Currently, she is board member for Tell Mama, West Midlands.

Recognised for her dedication to public service on equalities and women, Parveen Hassan won best female employee of the year at the British Asian Hafta Awards 2009; finalist of the AAA Gold Award for Women of the Year, Asian Achievers Awards 2009. She won the NBCPA Award and LCJB Award for community engagement, and public confidence. Parveen Hassan was selected on the BBC 100 Women List of aspiring global leaders in 2013 striving to make the world a better place for women with real life experiences.

Parveen Hassan appeared on BBC News channels on an international platform, debates through social media with unheard voices on women's achievements, barriers and development.

Following a series of interviews on Brit Asia TV on successful Asian women and for mainstream media on the role of Muslim women in the UK. She's been a contributor in the Bangladeshi press raising the profile of women in education, employment and political engagement, continuously campaigning to heighten awareness for the prominent role Bangladeshi women can play in society and their vital economic contributions. In 2018,

Parveen Hassan won the Women Economic Forum, Exceptional Women of Excellence Award for political empowerment for women engagement projects.

She is married to a Senior British Civil Servant with two children, and lives in the West Midlands.

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 now president of BBCCI. 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*

WHOS WHO  
in

Cllr Abdul Harid, Former Civic Mayor of the Carlisle city council He has made history by becoming the first Bengali Mayor during the 150yrs. He also triumphantly won the May 2022 Historic Cumberland Council election and proudly has been elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Council. He has made history by becoming the first & only Asian City Councillor in Cumbria also the first and only Asian Councillor to be elected on the new Historic Cumberland Council replacing three existing councils.

He has won 4 successful elections this is his 4th term in office. Councillor Harid diverted his business skills and experiences and set up a family tech software developing business known as RobeX Technologies, specialising in digital platforms. Clients and projects include multibillion dollar global retailers, investment management platform in UK and worldwide. Councillor M A Harid was born in Kamal Bazar Sylhet. Born to Late Alhaj Yakub Ali and Mrs Khyrun Nessa, Cllr Harid came to the UK with his parents in 1972. M A Harid resided in Oldham where his brothers and sisters were born. In 1993 Cllr Harid moved to Carlisle where he established his own business.

He had three restaurants in that area. Moreover, in 2000 he worked very closely with the City Council and arranged the first curry competition in Cum-

bria. Cllr Harid's restaurants have won numerous awards including the first Curry Chef of the year competition to be held. After joining the Labour party in 1993, Cllr Harid was nominated to stand in the City elections and he became the first Asian Council candidate to stand for election. In 2007 Cllr Harid was elected as a Councillor defeating a BNP candidate in the process and becoming Cumbria's first and only Asian Councillor. In 2008 a thirty minute documentary was made by Border TV highlighting Cllr Harid's first year as Councillor.

Cllr Harid was nominated in 2009 for the Channel S Award and in 2013 he was awarded Channel S Community award for contributions to the community. He has worked relentlessly with numerous community initiatives and charities. He helped build the first and only Mosque in Cumbria and serves on the management committee for the local Community centre and is also a Trustee. He is a governor of Bishop Harvey Goodwin School for a role he has been serving for over 15 years. Cllr Harid is married to Nasima Akther who has a BA degree. The couple have three children.



**Cllr Mohammed Abdul Harid BA (Hons)**

**Sector:**  
*Business/Politics*

WHOS WHO  
in



**Mohammad Habeebullah OBE JP**

**Sector:**  
*Philanthropy*



Award Winner 2018



Mohammad Habeebullah OBE JP born in Noakhali, Bangladesh is an educationalist, published author, social science researcher and philanthropist. 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. Recently Mohammad was involved in setting up a faith based Primary and Secondary school in Manchester with £35m of DfE funding. Currently he is leading an initiative in Rochdale to set up a Faith based Secondary School from Central Government funding.

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. 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 (1) technology based education, training and employment creation through an IT training centre and Faith based co-education Secondary school and (2) provides primary healthcare and social services to rural communities through a health clinic.

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. Successful projects in this field include partnership projects with Rochdale Connexion Trust, British Muslim Heritage Centre and North West University Consortium Schools project for Young Journalist of the Year.

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 BAME communities in the UK. The Al-Habeeb Scholars have been very successful at securing employment with high profile media organisations including the BBC, BMTV and The Independent (2) First Generation Scheme, the first of its kind in the UK, supports students from all communities whose family have never attended university. The other two initiatives of the Foundation are (1) Technical Degree Award Scheme with Bolton University and (2) Degree Award Scheme with British Education Awards.



**Cllr Atiquel Hoque**

**Sector:**  
*Catering/Politics*



Councillor Atiquel Hoque is the son of Lumranul Hoque. Born in Siramishi Jagannathpur, Cllr Hoque came to the UK in 1986 and attended Danford School and proceeded to Tower Hamlets College where he completed his education in business studies.

In 1997 Cllr Atiquel Hoque opened his first business at the tender age of 21, which was the chutneys Indian Takeaway in Salisbury, Wiltshire. However, from the opening of his first catering establishment, Cllr Hoque has gone from strength to strength and managed to open several more established eateries such as Chutney Restaurant in Shalisbury, Tandoori Nights in Amesbury and Hox Brasserie. Cllr Hoque has always had a passion for food and has recently opened a Thai restaurant in Salisbury. Cllr Hoque is also involved with a number of charitable organisations in Salisbury.

Since then he has tirelessly shown his determination and won the heart of his constituents and fellow colleagues which awarded him a very important role within the cabinet as Portfolio Holder for Art, Heritage and Tourism.

He is the Vice chairman of the south west Bangladeshi Caterers Association, joint cashier of the Muslim As-

sociation of Salisbury. Cllr Hoque became the first Conservative Bangladeshi Muslim elected Councillor and also the first Bangladeshi muslim former Mayor of the City of Salisbury.

Cllr Hoque's long term plans are to set up a charity fund in his grandparent's name. Furthermore, he seeks to build a mosque and madrasa and settle near these institutes when he finally retires. Cllr Hoque is married with 5 children.



Abdus Samad's

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**Emdadul Hoque (Tipu)**

**Sector:**

*IT Business*



Tipu is the eldest son of Al Haj Md. Redwanul Hoque (deceased) and Mrs Rufia Begum from Sreeramshi Degir par, Dist. Sunamgonj.

Tipu is the founder, owner and Managing Director of Unisoft Solutions Ltd developing and supplying EPOS and online ordering software in East London.

Born in Bangladesh, Tipu whilst studying for a BA Education at MC College Sylhet, came to the UK in 1989 to join his father, a well respected and successful restaurateur and founder of Sonar Bangla Restaurant at 46 Hanbury Street which became a crucial forum supporting the Bangladesh Independence Movement in 1971, and international political organiser for the Jatiya Janata Party.

Tipu continued his studies in London in English, Computing and MCSE (Microsoft Certified System Engineering). In 1998, merging his IT knowledge and restaurant experience running his father's restaurant and own restaurant, Tipu and his nephew developed a prototype EPOS software for restaurant and takeaway businesses. After using the software in-house, further customisation and development, the software was sold to restaurants and takeaways to provide technology based ordering solutions.

Despite early restaurant business culture resistance to change, fear of technology and financial constraints, Tipu remained steadfast in his passion and aspiration in foreseeing EPOS as an essential business tool for all restaurants/takeaways, however small, which it has become today.

Tipu established Unisoft Solutions Ltd in 2003, which is a thriving supplier of specialist EPOS/Online ordering soft-

ware to more than a thousand restaurant/takeaway businesses with a local, national and international customer base. Tipu's drive, persistence and firm belief to run a successful business with integrity, professionalism and openness to advice and not mere material gain, has contributed to Unisoft's longevity, ability to change and advance and testament to his self-belief, work ethic and strong religious faith.

Tipu and the Unisoft teams willingness to embrace and adapt the latest technology and trends has allowed it to remain flexible and dynamic in supplying customised online food ordering via website, mobile devices and apps with the latest e-payment methods. Crucial in helping independent restaurants overcome the challenge of competing with major chains, and allowing Unisoft and their customers' to stay ahead of the revolution of online ordering curve.

Running the business from the site of the original family restaurant business, Unisoft staff is stationed locally and remotely in Europe, North America and Asia. Tipu has stayed close to his roots and remains well-grounded. He acknowledges and appreciates the support of his family, especially his father and long-term colleagues and friends including his brother Amlak; Asfar, Nisar, Abu and Gary. Tipu also recognises the continued loyal customer support since 1998 achieved by a genuine commitment to putting customers' first. Apart from family and business, Tipu actively supports community voluntary organisations in the UK and Bangladesh. Tipu has one younger brother Amlak and two sisters Salma and Halima.

A dedicated family man, Tipu is married to Mrs Rumena Jamjam Chowdhury living together with their son E. Hoque Mahdi, daughter Mahira Asma Hoque and Tipu's mother.



**Dr Md Ziaul Haque**  
**MBBS, DO, FRCS**

**Sector:**

*Medicine/  
Ophthalmology*



Dr Md Ziaul Haque MBBS, DO, FRCS (Ophthalmology) came to London in 2001. He was born at Mathbaria in Barishal just a few years before the National Victory Day. Dr Haque studied at Mathbaria Upazila School and was the first boy in the class with government scholarships. After completing his SSC with high marks he was admitted in to Dhaka College.

He studied medicine at Sir Salimullah Medical College in Dhaka. After obtaining MBBS degree he got a scholarship from Science and Technology department of the Ministry of Bangladesh and started his journey in ophthalmology at MAI Institute of Ophthalmology and Islamia Eye Hospital, Dhaka under the direct supervision of Prof M Mustafizur Rahman. He passed his BCS exam to get Govt job and at the same time got Diploma degree in Ophthalmology in Bangladesh. He worked in the biggest eye hospital in Bangladesh and then joined in the government hospital where he worked for about 3 years before moving to London.

While in Bangladesh he regularly took part in many health programs on Bangladesh Radio and cultural programmes on Bangladesh Television. He had approximately 70 publications on different top daily newspapers in Bangladesh on Eye problems.

He was involved in a research survey on Glaucoma in Bangladesh which was published in the British Journal of Ophthalmology where he was the team leader of the survey team in the field.

He is involved and leading many charitable, social and professional organisations in the UK, such as the Bangladesh Medical Association in the U.K as the General Secretary for last 4 years. Dr Haque is also the President of Barishal Division Association in the U.K. He has been serving as the Chairman of RFC for Chs Tv for the last 4 years, the Chairman of Global Aid Trust as well as leading Orphans Shelter Foundation as the Vice Chairman and running 5 orphanages in Bangladesh.

He is also the Chairman of Watch International, UK. He is widely viewed on a health Program on Channel S for about 14 years. He was running another health program on NTV before that.

He goes to Bangladesh every year with a team from the U.K. to do cataract operations for the poor rural people to give their sight back free of costs under Global Aid Trust UK.

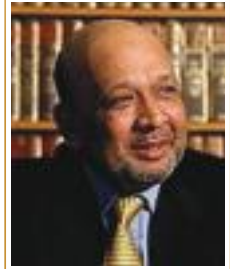
Ajmalul Hossain QC practices law since he was enrolled at the Bar of England and Wales back in 1978. He is the very first and only Queen's Counsel in England of Bangladeshi origin and a Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He regularly practices in both England and Bangladeshi jurisdiction.

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 arbi-

trations 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.



**Ajmalul Hossain QC**

**Sector:**  
*Legal (Barrister)*



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 cre-

ate 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. Recently she received freedom of London award.



**Subrina Hossain**

**Sector:**  
*Media*





**Dr. Hasanat M. Husain MBE**

**Sector:**  
*Academia*



Award Winner 2009



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'.



**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 IC SL) he was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn and is now a Barrister-at-Law (Non-practising).

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

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

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).



Born in 1967, Md. Delwar Hussain is from Khasha in Beanibazar, Bangladesh. Delwar finished his education in Bangladesh and arrived in the UK in 1996, since then he has been actively involved with many social and charitable organisations.

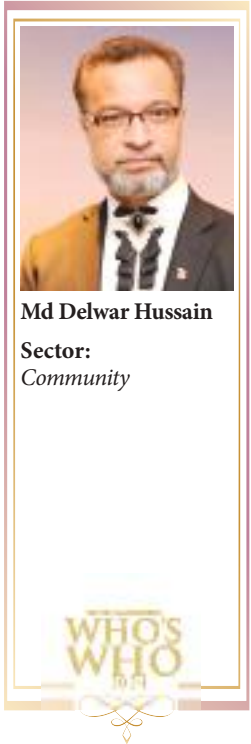
Delwar is currently serving as the general secretary of historical Bangladesh Centre London. It is worth mentioning that Bangladesh Centre is the largest community based hub in our community and has a long history starting from being the first High Commission Bangladesh in UK to being a temporary residents of many well known Bangladeshi personals.

Previously, Delwar served as the president (2018-2020) and general secretary (2011-2018) of a very well known community based charity organisation Beanibazar Welfare Trust UK. He is also actively involved with media and broadcasting. He is a life member of London Bangla Press Club and director of online based TV Chanel Map TV. Mr Hussain is an executive member of Jalabad Association UK and trustee of Brihottor Sylhet Education Trust UK. He is also life member of Beanibazar Pouro Unnoyon Shongstha UK and donor member of a very well known charitable organisation in Bangladesh – AGAPE Bangladesh. Delwar's involvement in community activities is very well known to everyone.

Md. Delwar Hussain is also well known for his sports and political involvement both here in UK and Bangladesh.

In Bangladesh, he served as a joint convener of a mainstream political student wing for several years. He is currently a member of the British Labour Party and previously served as the chair of Stepney Green ward in London borough of Tower Hamlets. He also served as a sports director of Abahoni Krira Chakra Limited in Bangladesh and currently one of the honorary member of Beanibazar Sporting Club UK.

Delwar currently lives in Tower Hamlets with his family. He is married with Reshna Hussain and together they have one daughter Saima Hussain and one son Fahim Hussain.



**Md Delwar Hussain**

**Sector:**  
*Community*

Dilwar Hussain from Baur Bagh, Beanibazar, Sylhet is a successful businessman and community activist. After finishing his education at University of Roehampton, he started his journey to be a successful businessman in the catering industry from a very young age, his 1st business was in 1990 when he opened Rikshaw Restaurant in Covent Garden then by mid 90's he took over the well known Joy Bangla in Romford and successfully continued in his ventures. Currently he is the owner of Raj of India in Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

Outside of his business prowess, Dilwar plays an important role in community activities both in the UK and in his homeland of Bangladesh. He is currently the General Secretary of Beanibazar Welfare Trust UK helping people in his homeland of Bangladesh. Dilwar's involvement with community initiatives expands further. He is a vice president of Beanibazar Thana Jonokollan Shomitee UK, Assistant Treasurer of Jalabad Association UK. He is also the vice president of Ilford Bangladesh welfare Association and Assistant Organising Secretary of Bangladesh Caterers Association (BCA). He is one of the founder and former general secretary of Baurbagh Development Committee. He is also a permanent member of Bangladesh Centre London and serving as Joint Treasurer of Greater Sylhet development and Wel-

fare Council in UK.

Mr. Hussain is passionate, in particular, about education and is dedicated to numerous fundraising endeavours. Being in the school governing body what was once better known as ILEA gave him thorough knowledge and opportunity in the educational development and success that followed in LBTH. He alongside his brothers founded a primary school in his village in Bangladesh. He is a trustee and executive committee member of Brihottor Sylhet Education Trust UK and an honorary member of Beanibazar Sporting Club UK.

His wealth of experience and dedication to the community can also be evidenced through some of his past roles in various community and charitable organisations. His campaign for Tenants and Leaseholders rights gave him a natural platform on housing matters which subsequently paved the way for the biggest regeneration project on the Ocean Estate in Stepney, which was awarded £56.6 million under labour's flagship New Deal for Communities initiative and officially launched by the then prime minister Tony Blair.

Mr. Dilwar Hussain currently lives in Ilford, Redbridge with his family.



**Dilwar Hussain**

**Sector:**  
*Catering & Community*



**Forhad Hussain Tipu**

**Sector:**  
*Catering & Charity*



Forhad was born in Bangladesh in a village called Dasura, located in Beanibazar, Sylhet. Forhad is the second child of Mr Lobibur Rahman and Mrs Morium Begum. Forhad is married to Amina Aktar and has four daughters called Nishat Hussain, Nazia Hussain, Nazeefah Hussain and Norah Hussain. Forhad started his primary Education in Dasura Senior Madrasah in Bangladesh and later at PC High school in Barlekha, Moulvibazar where He completed SSC in 1995 and completed in HSC at Barlekha Degree College in 1997. While studying Economics honours in MC College, Sylhet, Bangladesh in 1998 Forhad travelled to the UK with his family on his 18th birthday. Soon after his arrival to UK Forhad continued with his education at Tower Hamlets College, Later Ethames Business School and from Sunderland University successfully completed BA (Hons) Business & Management Degree. Forhad dreams always to be a businessman. Forhad has taken over his older brother Aktar Hussain's business and opened up his First Business "Spice Zone" a Bangladeshi Takeaway in Halstead, Essex in July 2001 which has been so successful Since then Forhad has opened up another four Spice Zone branches along with his brother. Alongside takeaway food businesses, the property industry is also high on Forhad's business empire through the successful running of their takeaway chain and property business. Forhad is very actively involved in many community and charitable organ-

isations. Forhad is the Co-founder, Trustee and Marketing Director of Bangladesh's first cancer Hospital "Beanibazar Cancer & General Hospital". He has served as Chief Treasurer of Britain's oldest Organisation Beanibazar Jonokollayan Samity UK. Forhad is also a Founding member of Beanibazar Sporting Club UK, Tilpara Welfare & Education Trust UK and community organisation 'Ilford Community Initiative. He is a current General Secretary of Beanibazar Welfare Trust UK.

Forhad's involvement with the curry industry also brought him to be a leading figure in the prominent Bangladesh Caterers Association UK. He is a General Secretary of Bangladesh Caterers Association Essex Region and Press & Publication Secretary of BCA, UK Central Committee. Forhad is Also an Executive member of Community's famous television show Catering Circle on Channel S. Forhad currently resides in Essex and loves to lead a simple lifestyle. Forhad is keen on helping people and has a wide range of interests including meeting new people, learning new things and travelling to explore the world.



**Sayed Saiful Hussain**

**Sector:**  
*Community/ Media*



Sayed Saiful Hussain (also known as Iqbal Bahar) has been a community activist for the last 28 years working to represent the Bangladeshi culture through media and entertainment. From his early childhood, Sayed has always enjoyed making others laugh. He has always had a special talent for entertaining so he participated in media class at school. Sayed furthered his passion for entertainment after he came to England from Bangladesh in 1992 by appearing on multiple Bangladeshi media channels including NTV, ATN, Channel S and Channel I. He quickly gained popularity in the Bangladeshi community becoming a well known actor, model, presenter and singer. His work in the TV industry has helped to showcase Bengali culture to others as well as instil pride in Bengalis for their country. Not only does he support the Bengali culture, he also aims to inspire others of the South Asian community.

One hobby that Sayed loves is singing. He has released music on YouTube and hopes to release more in the future. Moreover, he was employed by Kings College London to work as a music teacher for the Third Age Project allowing him to share his love of music to students.

Sayed has performed in many impressive settings like the Royal Albert Hall where he was invited to sing.

He has also acted in the famous 'New Home' and 'Polashi Teke Dhanmondi' plays written by the late Abdul Gaffar Chowdhury working alongside many famous film actors such as: Abul Hayath, Bipasha Hayath, Syed Hassan Iman, Laila Hassan and Pijush Bandapoddai. He performed these plays in several locations including the Logan Hall in London, the Elizabeth Hall in Oldham and a hall in Birmingham. His talent led to him receiving many awards including an award for the 'Best TV Advert Personality' given by Ekty Shahed Ali Upohar and the 'Best Actor Award' given by Rahmat Ali from Darpon Magazine. In addition to this, the Bengali Sunrise Radio host, Misbha Jamal, presented Sayed with the title of 'Best Presenter'. An achievement that Sayed is very proud of is the award given by Camden's former mayor, Abdul Khadir, for his work as a community activist. But above all, the greatest prize the actor, singer, model and presenter has ever received is the love that has been bestowed from the multicultural society. Overall, Sayed Saiful Hussain has had an immense positive impact on the Bangladeshi community through his work in the media and entertainment industry. He is extremely grateful to his parents, friends and family for their support. He continues to work hard for Bangladeshis and hopes to help and inspire others with his work.

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**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.



**Hussain Rahim**

**Sector:**  
*Accountancy, Government, Community*



Hussain was born in Bath, UK, and attended school in Somerset. His cultural and educational journey took him to Bangladesh, specifically Sylhet, where he embraced Islamic studies and Bangladeshi culture at Sylhet Khajanchibari International School and British Bangladesh International School. He completed his GCE O' Levels at the British Council in Dhaka before returning to the UK for his A' Levels at Beechen Cliff School, Bath. Hussain pursued higher education at the University of Greenwich, earning a BA (Hons) in Accounting & Finance, followed by a Global Executive MBA. He is a qualified financial accountant, registered with the Institute of Financial Accounts (IFA).

Hussain is the eldest son of the late Abdul Mohammed Rahim, a successful entrepreneur in the restaurant industry with establishments in various locations, including Asha Newcastle, Asha Bridgewater Somerset, Bilaash Tandoori Frome Somerset, Balti House Bath, Jafong Bath, and Raj Barri Maastricht in the Netherlands. His family's roots trace back to Bishwanath, Sylhet, and originally from Shibgonj, Sylhet, with a 200-year history linked to the Late Emam Uddin Zamindar.

Hussain has a strong commitment to giving back to the community. His past roles include serving as a treasurer for a charity that provides cultural opportunities for individuals with learning disabilities. He was a business advisor for the EY UK Foundation, helping young people from low-income backgrounds gain work experience and develop employability skills. He is the Finance Director for a Deaf & Hearing Charity in Warwickshire, where he supports leadership training for the deaf community. Additionally, Hus-

sain serves as a school governor for Kineton Green Primary School in Solihull.

Hussain's career began in the UK Civil Service, where he worked with the Ministry of Defence, Royal Army, Office of Fair Trading, HM Prison Service, and Ministry of Justice. His exemplary service earned him the International Association of Bookkeepers Award. Hussain later joined Ernst & Young (EY), one of the Big 4 accounting firms, as a Director. In this role, he acted as a trusted finance business partner to the UK government, public sector entities, and international private sector clients, including the NHS. He is leading at Partner level in management consultancy firm in London, Dubai, and Dhaka, promoting the entry of young Bangladeshi professionals into the accountancy sector.

Hussain is the Network Lead for the Global Islamic Chamber of Trade & Commerce (GICTC) Accounting & Finance Professional Services. His influence and contributions to the field have been recognised, as he was featured among the Top 10 Influential Muslims for Financial & Professional Services by EqualityX.

Hussain's journey highlights his dedication to professional excellence, community service, and fostering opportunities for others, particularly within the Bangladeshi community.

Abdul Hye is an award-winning businessman, community activist and international philanthropist from Cambridge. Born in the village of Dusthopur, Jagonnathpur in Sunamgonj, Bangladesh in 1967.

Abdul Hye left school aged 16 without any qualifications. By the time he was 23 he opened his first restaurant. Success didn't come easy but with hard work and perseverance he has now owned several successful businesses over the past 30 years. The success of these businesses has meant he has been able to help the most needy and vulnerable in society in both UK and Bangladesh. Abdul spends a substantial amount of his time helping others in a voluntary capacity or raising funds for charity.

The global pandemic has had a devastating impact on everyone across the globe and non-more so than the most vulnerable in our society. Abdul has been involved in many initiatives to help the hardest hit in Cambridge. Abdul established partnerships with many local organisations including Cambridge United Community Trust, Cambridge Sustainable Food, Abbey People, Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum and other local food hubs including Cambridge Food Poverty Alliance, Jimmy's Shelter, Shah Jalal Hub and Fill Your Foodbank. His restaurant Pipasha started the "donate a meal scheme". Abdul is the Convener of BCA Cambridgeshire pro-

viding education and training for local business owners, sharing good practice and organising networking events. One of their recent achievements is co-ordinating a campaign to help 15 mosques throughout Great Britain that struggled financially during the pandemic. BCA Cambridgeshire worked together with all their members and a total of over £124,000 was raised for the 15 mosques.

Since its inception in 2010, Abdul has held various roles at Bangladesh Welfare and Cultural Association. BWCA provides various cultural activities, sports, promoting good health, language lessons in Bengali and organise the annual Mela with Cambridge City Council.

Since 2013 Abdul has been a trustee of Dusthopur Development Project a UK based charity supporting his birthplace in Bangladesh with education, welfare facilities, infrastructure, medicine, food and clothing. In the past 9 years Abdul has helped raise over £50,000 for the project.

Abdul is a life member and volunteer at the Cambridge Central Mosque, Europe's first eco-friendly mosque and the first purpose-built mosque within the city of Cambridge. He has been involved since inception from securing the land and construction to the on-going fundraising efforts. To date more than £23 million has been raised for the mosque.



**Abdul Hye**

**Sector:**  
*Businessman and Philanthropist*

Hafsa Islam is a community organiser, writer, poet, and author.

She has been celebrated for her acclaimed writings, thoughts and spoken word performances.

The creative content producer is a former broadcaster at Relaks Radio and has worked with the team to help create a diverse team and make the station one of the most popular digital media groups in the community.

Hafsa is also a TV presenter at Iqra Bangla and LB24. As a charity volunteer and grassroots organiser she leads the Eastern Connection community kitchen which is providing food and warmth to the homeless as well as people in the community who are struggling to make ends meet.

To this end she has enlisted the involvement of prominent people from the community to join her on a shared journey to highlight the ill effects of poverty on the wellbeing of people.

Hafsa is a seasoned education campaigner and she is currently planning several grassroots educational programmes in rural Tangail, Bangladesh, aiming to make learning appealing to the people, and to help them take full advantage of the exciting educational opportunities she has planned in order to help shape

their futures.

As an influential mentor Hafsa has always been a firm advocate of women's empowerment and remains an authority and a person of influence for both the young and old. She also host and annual womens event called Meena Bazaar in London which invites women to showcase their talents and products.

Hafsa enjoys writing poems in Bengali and English, reading, socialising and travelling.



**Hafsa Islam**

**Sector:**  
*Media*



**Barrister Monirul Islam (Monju)**

**Sector:**  
*Law*



Barrister Monirul Islam (Monju) was born in Charjania, Nangolkot, comilla, Bangladesh. He is the son of Mr Mobarak Ali and late Safia Begum. Though his full name is Md Monirul Islam, he is well known as Barrister Monju.

Barrister Islam started his school life at his village school and passed secondary from Luxmipudia High school, Nangolkot, comilla in 1992. He completed his higher Secondary (HSC) from Notre Dame College Dhaka in 1994. After successful completion of HSC he completed LLB (Hons) and LLM from the University of Chittagong, Bangladesh respectively in 1999 and 2001.

With view to becoming a Barrister he came to the United Kingdom in February 2003. He completed further LLB(Hons) from the University of London and Bar Vocational Course (BVC) from the university of the West of England, Bristol (UWE) respectively in 2009 and 2011. After completing BVC he had his call to the Bar and became a Barrister from the Honourable Society of Grays Inn in July 2011. Barrister Monirul Islam qualified as a Solicitor of supreme court of England and Wales in February 2014. Mr Islam also studied International Banking and Finance Law at University of West London and International business Law from the University of Gloucestershire.

Mr Islam is currently working as principal of Law Valley. As a solicitor he has been working for the community over the years and became part of many successful cases. Apart from his profession, he has been working for the community since long time. He is very much interested in politics since his boyhood. He was Organising secretary of Awami Ainjibi Porishad UK. Currently he is the chair of Labour Party Stepney Green ward and actively working for the local community.

Mr Islam is a very popular Television personality. He has been taking part in different TV live talk show specially based on contemporary politics and social issues since 2009. He has participated more than 400 TV show in the UK and in Bangladesh. He also runs a legal advising program on Iqra Bangla TV UK called 'Law & Order'. He is founding secretary of Comilla Association UK and he is the founder of Student Welfare Scholarship fund, Luxmipudia, Comilla. Moreover, Mr Islam is taking part in may other charitable, social and community activities.

He is married to Mrs Mymuna Akhter (Muna) who is a Sociology graduate and he is father of 3 children. He loves reading and travelling.



**Muhammad Nazrul Islam**

**Sector:**  
*Catering/Finance*



Muhammad Nazrul Islam embarked on his journey at the age of seven when he and his parents relocated from Bangladesh to Luton. It was in 1994, at the age of twenty, that he ventured into the world of entrepreneurship, marking the inception of a remarkable career.

His first foray into the business world led to the establishment of his maiden tandoori restaurant in Leicester, a courageous endeavour that proved to be a resounding success. The initial triumph of this venture ignited his entrepreneurial spirit, leading to the establishment of subsequent successes. Muhammad expanded his culinary empire, giving rise to Indian Paradise, Tandoori Knights, and the Raj restaurant, each a testament to his culinary prowess and entrepreneurial ambition.

However, his ambitions extended beyond the realm of gastronomy. He diversified his interests and acquired The Royal Hexham Hotel in Hexham, a strategic asset thriving in the heart of Hexham's vibrant tourist district.

Driven by a passion for financial acumen, Muhammad transitioned into the role of a mortgage advisor, completing the CEAMAP and subsequently founding his own enterprise, Halal Home Finance. His expertise garnered nationwide acclaim, drawing clients from all corners of the United Kingdom.

Halal Home Finance's support of numerous successful ventures further solidified its reputation, earning recognition even from Bangla TV.

Continuing his remarkable journey, Muhammad forged a path into the realm of real estate with N.A Properties, an endeavor that continues to thrive and prosper. In addition to this, he ventured into the property arena once again, assuming the role of CEO at Luton Exclusive, a successful company specializing in commercial properties. Also, he serves as the director of City Corner in Sylhet.

Beyond his professional pursuits, Muhammad Nazrul Islam is a man of diverse interests. He finds solace in his love for travel, an avid football enthusiast, a dedicated gym-goer, and an adventurous connoisseur of global cuisines, making the most of his time dining out and exploring new flavors.

Shamsul Islam Shelim started his early education from his local village school known as Amkuna Primary School. His high school education started from Dhakadakshin High School. He then came to the UK with his parents in 1977 and continued his education at Robert Montefiore High School. From there he went on to study at East London College and, later, High Wycombe College.

Shamsul Islam Shelim is the elected Councillor for the Eton & Castle Ward of the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead since 2015. He is also the President of British Bangladeshi Caterers Association (BBCA). He is a permanent member of Bangladesh Centre (Notting Hill Gate) and had held various posts in that organisation in the past. He is also the president of Windsor International Club.

Shamsul Islam Shelim is actively tackling Homelessness in his borough, while abroad he is the founder of Mother & Child Trust in Bangladesh, Trustee of Golapgonj Education Trust and is a Vice Chairman of Sylhet Heart Foundation UK Committee. In addition, Shelim is actively involved with the Conservative Friends of Bangladesh focusing on educational and environmental projects.

His first business in the UK started with setting up Carterton Tandoori in 1985, followed by another

business the same year called Viceroy of Windsor. In addition to these he has been involved with other businesses in Henley-on-Thames, Ascot and Slough.

Outside UK he has many financial interests in Bangladesh including Windsor Hotel & Resorts Limited, Monica Enterprise Limited, Aljalal Water, Double Glazing Limited.

Married to Salma Ferdose, Councillor Shelim has four children. The eldest works at Novacyt, after graduating from the University of Leicester and Queen Mary respectively. His second child is an aspiring Human Rights Barrister currently undergoing training at the Bar. His youngest son has just graduated Mathematical Engineering at Bristol, while his daughter is about to begin her GCSE's.



**Councillor Shamsul Islam Shelim**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*

Cllr Jyotsna Islam a strong advocate for women in the Bengali community, former Mayor for London Borough of Redbridge. Currently she is the Vice-Chairman of Ilford North CLP, working mother of two; she is a dedicated professional in every aspect of her life. Daughter of Mrs Mohibun Nahar Chowdhury and late Mr. Abdur Rahman (Monnaf Miah), a highly successful restaurateur and business entrepreneur in UK and Bangladesh. Cllr Jyotsna Islam born in Neasden, London Borough of Brent in the late 1960s, following her father's footsteps as a community activist, especially during the Bangladesh independence movement; lobbying, campaigning, and raising funds to aid Bangladeshis. Offered shelter, food and labour to Bangladeshi immigrants who wanted to work and study in the United Kingdom.

Cllr Islam went to Bangladesh with her family at the age of 9yrs, completed her degree in Science and returned to UK for further education in 1986, where she completed her MBA in public services. Benefiting from being immersed in two very distinct cultures, Cllr Islam adopted both languages and lifestyles during her upbringing. Coming from the small town of Moulvibazar, she was an athlete and represented her town at district and regional levels. In 1981, she attended Bongoboban at the invitation of late President Ziaur Rahman, to receive a certificate of recognition of becoming district-level champion.

In 1986, Cllr Islam joined the Bengali Workers Action Group, one of the largest Bengali voluntary or-

ganisations in Camden, where she started her career in devoting herself in community work. In 1989, she joined local government as an unqualified social worker and continued to thrive. She is by trade a registered social worker specialised in adults, led numerous frontline social care teams and held strategic and managerial responsibilities throughout her career for various local authorities.

Apart from her professional career both Cllr Jyotsna Islam and her husband, Cllr Sham Islam, dedicate themselves to community work, recognition of Bengali community and created a platform for members of the community to share their talents and perform at Redbridge Boishakhi Mela and other community events. Also hosted self funded Bengali TV programme to raise awareness to access social care and other services known as 'Social Benefit & Updates'. In 2018 alongside Cllr Sham Islam, they both became elected councillors for the London Borough of Redbridge and are currently serving their second term. Cllr Jyotsna Islam is Chair for Planning Committee and member of Health Scrutiny Committee. She is also board of Trustee for Apasen and ICON College, amongst other community groups. Also Chairperson for Cinebuzz Films media production house and Cinebuzz Times Magazine company, which aims to promote Bangladesh and its heritage globally.



**Cllr. Jyotsna Islam**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



**Dr Momotaj Gafur Islam**

**Sector:**  
*Healthcare (Psychology)*



Dr Momotaj Gafur Islam is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist. She was one of a very few from a Bangladeshi background in the UK, and is pleased to see the numbers are gradually increasing more recently. She is an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, a member of the Association of Clinical Psychologists, and an accredited member of the British Association of Behavioural & Cognitive Psychotherapists.

The bulk of her career was spent working within the NHS since 1994, mainly in community mental health teams within numerous psychiatric hospitals in London. Alongside this, she has been teaching and training post-graduate psychology students, at a number of universities. She currently runs her own private practice ([www.drmpsihology.co.uk](http://www.drmpsihology.co.uk)), providing a range of psychological services including: assessment and therapy for individuals and couples, specialising in cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT); assessment and diagnosis for autism; supervision for trained psychologists; expert witness work for legal proceedings; delivering seminars and talks at careers conventions and other public events.

As Chief Psychologist at Cerina, a company which develops digital healthcare in the mental health field, Dr Islam has written the content for and helped develop a mobile application for the treatment of anxiety disorders. This has achieved medical grade approval from Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

With a personal and professional interest in the under-

standing of an Islamic perspective on psychology and psychotherapy, Dr Islam has undertaken specialist training, and works with clients from their cultural and faith-based perspectives, using Islamically-informed approaches where relevant. She is currently working within a team in Wandsworth setting up a hub for providing family therapy specifically for the Muslim community.

Dr Islam is a Trustee of Brent Wandsworth and Westminster Mind, which develops and delivers mental health services within these boroughs. For many years, she has been promoting mental health awareness, aimed at reducing the stigma of mental illness persistent in most communities, including the Bangladeshi one. She has appeared on a number of TV and radio programmes, such as a series of episodes of 'Women Today' on TV One. She is also committed to, and has actively been involved in, a number of other charitable causes, including a London foodbank and events raising awareness and funds for women's causes and poverty relief in Bangladesh.

Her work was recognised by the Asian Women of Achievement Awards in 2017 when she was nominated and shortlisted in the Professionals category. Dr Islam comes from a family of teachers in Sylhet. She grew up in London where she completed her education and training and developed her career whilst married and raising a family.



**Ify Islam**

**Sector:**  
*Finance*



Ify 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, Ify was a Managing Director at Citigroup, London from 2004-2007 where he was Head of Macro Strategy and Hedge Fund Research. From 1997-2004 Ify spent 8 years at Deutsche Bank Securities in London and New York, latterly as Managing Director and Chief US Strategist. Ify 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.





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**Mr Mujibul Islam**

**Sector:**

*TV, media & advertising*



Mujibul Islam is a talented and successful business and media entrepreneur, 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.



**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 Afruz 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.

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 Pata-

gar 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 Euro-bangla 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.



**Mohammed Abdul Munim Jahedi**

**Sector:**  
*Media*

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.



**Polly Islam**

**Sector:**  
*Community Relations*



**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 Comitee Secretary .

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BRITISH BANGLADESHI  
**WHO'S  
WHO**  
2024

Thamina Kabir is the principal of Thamina Solicitors. She was born in Bangladesh in the village of Ichakhali in Mirasarai, 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

University, London. She is a member of both the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb) and Young International Arbitration Group -LCIA. She is the press secretary of the Society of British Bangladeshi Solicitors ("the SBBS"). She has also served the community as a co-opted governor of Barclay Primary School from 2013 to 2016. Ms Kabir was also the first Bangladeshi woman to participate in the international beauty contest "Mrs Universe" in 2013 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, Ms Kabir is married to Md Ashraf Islam. She is a mother of three children. She has a keen interest in Charity and Sports. She is the founder member of Chakosha Foundation in Bangladesh. Her law firm is also the sponsor of Thamina Solicitors Cricket Club. Her hobbies are current affairs, travelling and networking.



**Thamina Kabir**

**Sector:**  
*Legal*

Mohammed Jubair joined the leading British Bangladeshi TV station Channel S on in 2006, and is currently the Chief Reporter at the station. He is the co-producer of the CHS flagship live programme 'Reality With Mahee'.

Jubair is the former General Secretary of London Bangla Press Club having worked in several voluntary roles over a 12 year period. Jubair was initially elected as Treasurer and Assistant Secretary twice and former General Secretary twice. Now he is President of London Bangla Press Club.

He was the one of the main drivers for establishing the club's own office as a Secretary in 2018.

He played an active role on all the major initiatives taken by the club including 170k fundraising.

Prior to coming to the UK, Jubair started as a journalist in Daily Jalalabad, Sylhet. He undertook his journalism training in 1996 at the Press Institute of Dhaka and started his Professional career thereafter. He participated on the training programme led by AFP and journalists from Reuters. Later trained with the BBC Academy and The Guardian Master Class in London. He also participated in various training led by Channel 4 and BBC.

Before joining Channel S he was the executive Editor for Weekly Euro Bangla. While in Bangladesh he was the staff Reporter in the most popular newspaper in Sylhet

'Daily Sylheter Dak', Executive Editor at Village Digest and Sylhet correspondent of Notun Din, UK. Also, he was feature writer/ Freelance Reporter on different periods for Daily Banglabazar Paper, Daily Prothom Alo, Manabzamin and Shoili.

Along with journalism, Jubair is the Director of a Media and PR company Media Dot Ltd. He also worked as the media advisor to the Tower Hamlets Executive Mayor. He wrote a popular book based on rural life and reality named 'Gau Gerame Ghure Ghure'. He is the editor and joint editor on several publications.

As a Reporter Mohammed Jubair exclusively covered Gordon Brown as Prime Minister. Covered events with Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron, Theresa May, Prince Charles and Camilla, and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Jubair has interviewed prominent people including the Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina, Boris Johnson as the Mayor of London, UK and many more. He received an award from Canary Wharf Group Plc in recognition of his leadership of the Press Club and contribution to society. He also received Sunrise today Media Awards and Eastwood awards for 'Best TV news reporter category'.

October 2022 Mohammed Jubair been appointed as a Tower Hamlets Mayor's Strategic Advisor (BAME).



**Mohammed Jubair**

**Sector:**  
*Media/ Journalist*



**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 Chatgari 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.



**Dr Kal Karim**

**Sector:**  
*Academia*



A British born Muslim of Sylheti heritage, Dr Karim is an internationally recognised academic having made a significant contribution to his academic field through publications, patents and conferences. He is a Fellow of Higher Education Academy (HEA) and has a PhD in Organic Chemistry. He has a passion for teaching and committed to exemplary pastoral support of students and promoting the interests of students and to provide the highest quality learning experience in higher education. Dr Karim have worked with industry, academia and numerous stakeholders building partnerships and mutually beneficial collaborations supporting high quality multidisciplinary research and research-led teaching. For nearly 20 years Dr Karim has provided students support that has inspired their learning with an education that embeds transferrable skills and prepares them for progression to fulfilling careers.

Dr Karim leads research activity in the computational design of smart polymers based on a technique called Molecular Imprinting. He has over 50+ publications and patents in high ranking journals, over 30+ conference proceedings, plenary/invited speaker on numerous international conferences and managed projects. His current innovative work at Leicester Biotechnology Group involves the use of nanoparticles and polymers in drug discovery, food security, environment and in clinical applications. His teaching has been formally recognised by The HEA in recognition of his research-led teaching and learning support of students in higher education. He teaches both at undergraduate and postgraduate level and project supervises BSc, MChem and PhD students with projects that reflect and enhance career prospects in relevant employment.

Dr Karim is responsible for implementation of employability across the entire chemistry programme ensuring skills and career planning are embedded within the curriculum so that his students are the stand out choice for employers. As Plagiarism and Ethics officer, he ensure students comply with university senate regulations on academic integrity and responsible for reviewing and giving guidance on the student application process for ethical approval.

With academic colleagues several of his patents have recently been exploited to form a spin-out company MIP Diagnostics (2015) where he is one of the founder members focussing on nanoparticles for diagnostics and therapeutic applications. At Cranfield University (1998- 2013) he was a Business Fellow foster relationships with industry acting as a key contact for industrialists keen to work with Cranfield Health. He was responsible for international collaborations with India and China specifically for student recruitment and research collaboration. He is a Director of Perfect Publishers Ltd (since 2005).

Awards/Nominations/Other roles include: Winner of Services to Science & Engineering at the British Muslim Awards (2017), shortlisted for Science and Engineering, for the Fazlur Rahman Khan Award For Excellence in Engineering, Science or Technology, The Muslim News (2018), University of Leicester: Students Union Superstar Awards (2017-18), Nominated for the Discovering Excellence President's Award (2018), Visiting Professor, Hengyang Normal and Jiangsu University, China. Independent Member, Ethics Standards Committee, Cambridgeshire Police Authority (2007), Winner of Business-University Collaboration Awards for the East of England (2005). Dr Karim has appeared on Channel S and IQRA Bangla TV discussing education.

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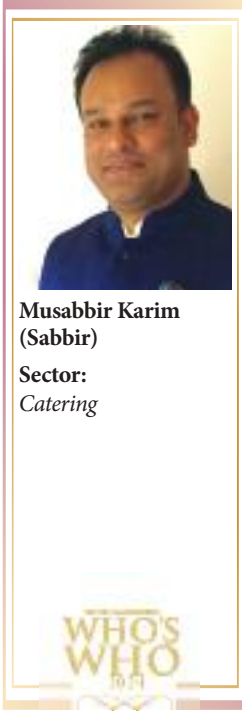
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**Musabbir Karim (Sabbir)**

**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.



**Rubel Khan**

**Sector:**  
*Music and Arts*

Rubel Khan is currently a business development manager at General Catering Supplies Ltd and Five Star Food Products Ltd and an active community figure.

Rubel Khan was born in Paschimbhag, Azmiriganj, Habiganj in 1969. He is the first son of late Mohiuddin Ahmed Khan and Shiri Ahmed Khan. During his school years, Rubel was involved in various national organisations. As a student he was chief of youth Red Cross (later Red Crescent) for Habiganj district and was later nominated to national field parade commander. He also participated in several national camping events held in Dhaka.

From an early age, Rubel discovered his passion for music and drama. In 1988, Rubel was an enlisted singer for Radio Bangladesh Sylhet and soon after regularly performed on Bangladesh Television (BTV). With regards to acting, he was a founding member of Jibon Sanket Habiganj in 1986. At university he continued this trend, founding theatre group Chakrobakh and performing in many famous venues including Guide House and Mahila Samiti, Dhaka. Furthermore, he was a member of Bangladesh Betar Television Shilpi Sangsad. He was also involved in modelling, most notably for the Nasir Biri poster national marketing campaign. He graduated in 1992 from the University of Dhaka.

In 1996, Rubel married Happy Ahmed Khan and ar-

rived in the UK in 1997. Following his arrival, he continued pursuing music, performing at numerous functions across the country and in 2002 he released his own music album ‘Sheamol Boron Khonna’. He was heavily involved with the British Bangladeshi media, presenting his own radio show ‘Sylhet amar Sylhet’ at Betar Bangla, inviting and interviewing many Bangladeshi media personalities and promoting Sylheti music and culture. He also modelled for many commercial TV adverts for British Bangladeshi channels.

Rubel is a father of three children Rahul, Nabil and Purni. They were actively involved in Karate, all achieving black belt level. They have all completed internationally for England and have won numerous competitions. Amongst their best results, Rahul was a 2x karate world champion, Nabil a 3x world silver medallist and Purni a world bronze medallist. They have all won English national championships. Rahul and Nabil are currently studying medicine at the University of Cambridge and Purni is due to start studying medicine this upcoming year at St. George’s, University of London. Following his children’s achievements, Mr Khan regularly attends TV talk shows to encourage education and sport participation for the next generation of British Bangladeshis.



Former Mayor Humayun Kabir comes from Islam Pur, Jagannath Pur, Sunamganj but lived in Shapla Bagh in Sylhet and moved in UK after the independence of Bangladesh in 1972 with his parents former Headmaster Late Abdul Gafur BA-BT, and mother late Rukeya Begum Gafur.

He moved to Croydon and opened his first catering business in 1977. Now serving as Mayor of Croydon for 2019-20 he looks forward to working for the benefit of our wonderful community.

After studying his Bachelor of Education degree, he began a new career with Tower Hamlets Council - as a parent advocate & family support services manager. This incredibly fulfilling role has made supporting children with disabilities, and their families, a cause very close to his heart.

He has been actively involved in local politics for 17 years and served as a councillor since 2010 (representing Bensham Manor Ward). He previously served as a deputy cabinet member for economy & jobs, and for finance & treasury, plus he was vice chair of the planning committee for several years.

He first became involved in community work through what is now called the Croydon Bangladesh Welfare Association - which he was president for two terms. He was a founding member of the Asian Resource Centre and was part of the steering committee that helped to develop Shahjalal Mosque.

Whilst Mr Kabir was busy with his profession, community activities and family life in UK he maintained a strong link and relationship with Bangladesh. He was elected in 1994 as president of Sylhet Gonodabi Parishad UK which lobbied Bangladesh government with many issues that Probashi Bangladeshis were facing at that time. There were 3 different demands were prioritised to BD government and they were: to upgrade Sylhet airport to an international airport, to upgrade Sylhet district to a division, to have voting right of Bangladeshis as dual citizen. Mayor Kabir was a leading community leader to achieve these rights.

Furthermore, in order to raise social, economical and educational standard of Bangladeshis that he left behind mayor Kabir has taken up chairmanship of Aralia Bazar Education Trust, trusteeship in Jagannathpur British Bangla Education Trust UK (JBET), Secretaryship of Patli Union Welfare Trust (PUWT), Donor Membership with Jagannathpur Unnoyon Shongstha UK (JUSS), and an honorary advisor to British Bangladeshi Society Croydon (BBSC). Mayor Kabir remained active in Bangladesh whilst serving his hometown the London Borough of Croydon. Away from politics, he enjoys travelling and playing badminton.

He is married to Mayoress Rahena Chowdhury Kabir with three children, daughters Kuhinoor and Sumaiya, one son Mistaun and a daughter-in-law Mazedra.



**Cllr Humayun Kabir**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*

Md. Shamsuddin Khan was born in 1935 in Matiura, under the Bianibazaar Upazilla in Sylhet. He is the second son of late Haji Taj Khan and Tayamunnessa Khanom. Mr Khan primarily worked at an English restaurant when he arrived in the UK in 1955, aged 20. It was in 1958 when he started his first business when he opened a restaurant, which he called Moharani. This restaurant is situated in Clapham Common, is one of the most famous and old restaurants in the UK. Two other branches of the Moharani restaurant have been opened ever since, one located in Clapham North and one in Camden Town. Mr. Khan is one of the owners of a large grocery store named Kushiera 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 became 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 & Politics*



**Monzo ara khaton (Moni)**

**Sector:**

*Community relation and social work.*

Monzo ara khaton (Moni) was born in Bangladesh. She has been completed her bachelor and masters of social science in government and politics from the Shanto Mariam University of Creative Technology at Dhaka, Bangladesh. In 2011 She did her PGD in business management (level -7) London Churchill College. She did lots of training courses like fashion design, air hostage training, news presentation and radio announcement, PTTLS teacher's training course.(level3)UK etc. She was a director of Ideal Co-operative society and Grand-mother Co-operative society of Bangladesh, and also worked as a teacher of mass child and adult education project. Long time she used to working with independent women's project UK and Bangladesh. She works as vice president of all European Bangladesh Association and president of east London Women's branch.

In 2018 Monzo has been awarded for her involvement, performance and hard working in the community of London tiger poplar HARCA. Her independent women's project donated lots of equipment for villagers and homeless poor people in Bangladesh however she is also a problem solver.

She established herself as a famous fashion designer and entrepreneur. She owns an exclusive fashion house in Bangladesh and a fashion design training center in UK. She teaches a boutique, tailoring, sewing, cutting, alterations etc. She works as volunteer for switching event which involves recycling and exchange clothes for the local community for free and which takes place

at Brownfield cabin in poplar E14.

She organises fashion shows, cloth fashion fare, picnic ,boat tour etc in every year from "Aberfeldy Big Local" She is involved with Udichi Shilpi Gosthi in UK. In 2020, during the Corona virus. She gained fame by making masks for the needy people in the society and Ppe for doctors and nurses through Society Link. MAH Online presented on London TV on the topic "Healthy Body Healthy Mind" and received an award from ion TV for her own "women healthy body healthy mind" organization. Participated in NTV "Cooking Queen" competition and received award as six finalists. She is appointed as director of "Good governance in Bangladesh" organization, London branch. serving as culoden primary school councilor for 6 years. She graduated from London College of Fashion with a degree in Fashion Design. She has her own "Fashion Creation" studio. She was elected in 2022 as a councillor for the Bow East ward of the Aspire Party in Tower Hamlets, London. In 2023 Received 'Volunteer and Wellwisher Recognition' by IQRA International, a London-based International charity organization.

2023 As the cost of living crisis continues to hit the UK hard. On International Women's Day, Save the Children charity becomes 'Cost of Living Champion' across the UK. and published in Stylist magazine. She wrote poems, short stories and various topics on society and nature.

Monzo ara Khaton (Moni) is married to Md Ashrafal Islam and they have two children, Bishway Zishan and Maria Zaara.



**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 re-

ceived 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.

Internationally recognised award-winning celebrity chef and entrepreneur Oli Khan has been cooking up a storm in the UK over the last three decades. Oli's versatility is legendary and has won him 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. 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, he has established a charity organisation Oli's foundation and he is one of the leading personalities of the Asian community.

He was crowned 'Curry King' by the media since 2003. The British hospitality sectors popular magazine *Luxury Hospitality* has recognised Oli as "King of British Curry" alongside running his own successful businesses; Oli is an active member of his local and National community organisation. Oli has the Guinness World Record title for the World Largest Onion Bhaji weighed 175.48 kg (386 lb 13.8 oz) one-piece bhaji, that was made in February 2020. His emergency response for NHS staff, Care homes and vulnerable peoples in the community during the unprecedented Pandemic COVID-19. He distributed over 15,000 (fifteen thousand) free hot meals to NHS staff, key workers, the homeless, bin workers, care homes, fire, police, ambulance services, Post Office, GP, and to isolated elderly and disabled peoples. To date he served complementary food to over 22 NHS hospitals in England namely NHS Lister Hospital, QE2 Hospital, Great Ormond Street, Royal Free, Whittington Health NHS Trust, Royal Brompton, Harefield, and many mores.

Along with other achievements Oli has been recognised by Her Majesty the Queen with an MBE 'Member of the Order of the

British Empire' given for an outstanding achievement or service to the Hospitality industry and charity in the UK and Abroad during COVID-19. HM Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire given Oli the title for Hero of Hertfordshire 2020. He also received "Pride of Stevenage" Awards in 2020. NHS Recognised Oli at his "Best Volunteer" service to the Vaccine centre in Luton as "Being a Vital part of team Inspired" and "Goes extra miles" Rotary International has presented Oli Khan with "Paul Harris Fellowship" PHF in March 2022. Oli was the former secretary general and former Senior Vice President and at current serving President of the Bangladeshi Caterers Association UK, 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 various work and achievements have appeared in British and worldwide mainstream print and electronic media such as BBC, SKY News, 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, Daily Mirror, Daily Star, The Telegraph, The Sun, The Global Post, USA Today, EL-Pais, *Luxury Hospitality* and many mores. Oli was a keynote speaker at the Barking & Dagenham College national apprenticeship week 2014, and keynote speech at the London Excel for the Takeaway/Restaurant Innovation expo 2013/ 2014/2015/2016/2017, also presenting as a guest lecturer on business strategies at the university of Lincoln 2022. Oli has been newly elected as a president for Bangladesh Caterers Association (BCA).

Oli lives with his wife and son.



**Oli Khan FRSA**

**Sector:**  
*Catering*



Award Winner 2017



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 organisa-

tion 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.



**Ayub Khan**

**Sector:**  
*Health & Social Care*





**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 Alhaj Mrs Syeda Khanom.

Barrister Kalam started his education life in Azad Bakh 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 career and qualified as a Barrister and called to the Bar of England & Wales. He is member of the Honourable Society of Lincolns Inn. Barrister 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. Barrister Kalam married to 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.



**Jamal Ahmed Khan**

**Sector:**  
*Community & Politics*



Jamal Ahmed Khan was born in Shiraj Pur, Upozila, Osmani Nagar, Sylhet in Bangladesh. He is the youngest son of Shohid Nurul Haque Khan a renowned freedom fighter who fought in March-April 1971 in Sher Pur and Shadi pur, Sylhet and was subsequently killed by the Hanader Bahini. His mother is Late Mrs Rizia Khanom.

Jamal Ahmed Khan, a business man who is a Joint Secretary of the UK Jubo League. He is the Founder Chair of the NEKH Welfare Foundation an international charity working for the welfare of the community in the UK and abroad. Jamal has served as their trustee since it was founded in 2005.

He was the Founder Secretary of the Bijoy Youth Group a locally based charity working for the local disadvantaged community. He was an Elected Assistant Secretary of the Balagonj, Osmani Nogar Education Trust.

Jamal worked to develop relationships in the Borough of Tower Hamlets to assist the public getting help with housing, domestic violence advice and helping with gaining citizenship. This was a free to use service.

Jamal's community work is still helping people now such as the ASHA, the Asian Social and Humanitarian Association based in the Borough of Newham

of which he was a Founding Member.

He was awarded NWT community leadership award for his invaluable contribution to the community. He has also been invited to the Queens' Royal Garden party at Buckingham palace.

Jamal is very keen in sports and funds kits for local sports organisations. He is the Founder Organiser and the Treasurer of the Bangladeshi Cricket Association in the UK.

Jamal is married to Jasmin Khan and they have two children, their son Samia and daughter Tamanna.

Jamals hobbies include travelling, reading, cricket and dining with friends.



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**Mashuk Ahmed Khan**

**Sector:**

*Law*



Mashuk Ahmed Khan ("Ahmed-Khan") is the eldest son of Mohammed Matiur Rahman Khan and Begum Jamila Khan of an academically enriched respectable Muslim family of landed gentry and successful entrepreneurship, of village Gangajal, Zakigonj, of district Sylhet.

Ahmed-Khan is an unassuming, spatiotemporally adaptable, vivacious individual, avid to his continued self development. Following his MA and a PG Diploma in Human Resource Management ("HRM"), he completed an M.Phil research on International HRM titled "Export Orientated Industrialisation and the Exploitation of Labour in the Developing Economies". Thereafter he reassigned his academic interest in Law with sustained enthusiasm and achieved a Master of Laws degree ("LL.M") with merit from the World-class Birkbeck College of the University of London. He lately achieved another LL.M by thesis on Professional Legal Practice from the reputable BPP University – complementing his PG Diploma in legal practice. He is committed to legal research on International Human Rights, apropos the virtues, protections, abuse, and myths, surrounding its universal ideologies espoused by the nation states. He formerly scrutinised the US government policies on incarceration, capital punishment and death-row phenomenon in light of European Court of Human Rights' decision in Soering v United Kingdom [1989]. His current undertaking involves critical evaluation of Post-Brexit impact on human rights in UK, and its government's controversial deportation of asylum seekers to Rwanda, contravening UK's fundamental obligations with requisite standards of "legality and appropriateness" being unmet, under the Refugee Convention.

Ahmed-Khan is a legal academic and an advocate of Human Rights. He specialises in Human Rights, Family, Employment, and Advanced Commercial Property laws. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development, and The University of Oxford Philosophical Society. He is a keen reader on Marx, Rousseau, Bentham, Mills, Hobbes and Locke and also a political critique, columnist, a Rotarian, and an author endowed with literary skills. He has written numerous articles on political affairs and governance of his native Bangladesh, including "Our Independence Hitherto Confined in Po-

litical Wilderness" (Bangla Mirror, 11/01/2013), depicting a momentous account of Bangladesh's morbid political antecedents and its fetid political environment. His patriotic poems "In the love of my nation" and "My heart cries for the fallen" composed in retrospect to Bangladesh liberation war and its post independence political crises were published in Bangla Mirror, London; Sylhet Madan Mohan University College Literary Council's publication "Katha Lata"; and in Sylhet Mobile Pataghar's narrative publication "Chayalap".

His recent Bangla Mirror publications include: Israel's Wars on Gaza and the Rise of Dahiya Doctrine; Zelensky's War: who is at fault; The Russia-West Stand-off Mimicking 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis; Modi's Hinduvta Riddling the Indian Constitution and, Bangladesh and the COVID-19.

Ahmed-Khan is married to Shamim Ara Begum (Rose) and blessed with a son and two daughters namely: Mustafa, Nabila and Farzana. All three children had the privilege of attending private schools from day one of their schooling lives unto the sixth forms. The son is a Litigation Executive for the NHS and married to Nafisa Islam – a school teacher. The eldest daughter is graduated in Accounting and Finance and married to Mihaz Bokht – a Chartered Certified Accountant. The youngest daughter achieved a first class honours degree in Accounting and Finance and qualified as a Chartered Certified Accountant following completion of her ACCA in 2017. Ahmed-Khan is overjoyed with three lovely grandchildren namely Raniya and Ilyas Khan, and Aizah Bokht.

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)), and domiciled in the UK and USA.

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 include reading books, watching documentaries, listening Tagore Songs, Urdu Ghazals, Mozart, and Pavarotti.



**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.

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.

Mr Khan's office based 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.



**Helal Uddin Khan**

**Sector:**

*Travel & Hospitality*



Jahangir Khan is business man and property owner. He has a varying portfolio of business involvements.

Jahangir was born in 1966 in Beanibazar, Sylhet. His late father Nurul Islam Khan was involved in the 1971 Bangladesh independence movement in the UK. His late uncle Akadas Sirajul Islam was a well known writer who was actively involved in Bangladesh politics as well as being a prominent figure in the 1971 independence movement. His late uncle was editor of the weekly news paper "Muktobangla" in Karimganj, Assam, as well as being a significant organiser of the Liberation war. Jahangir Khan shares his father and uncle's passion for politics.

Their political involvements resulted in their family home being burnt and seized by the Pakistani army who later auctioned it off. The family home successfully repurchased off the army later in the future.

At the age of 18 in 1985 Jahangir came to the UK. He joined the City of London College where he studied Information Technology.

Currently, he resides in Redbridge with his wife who is an early years nursery nurse. He has three children. His eldest daughter is a Secondary School English Teacher, his second daughter is a Doctor and his son has completed a degree in Mathematics.

Jahangir has a passion for the arts with a special joy for poetry. He is well travelled and has visited several different countries across the globe.

His life and travels have inspired him to write his own poetry. His collection of poems that he has worked on have now been published under the title "Probashir Atwakotha". This collection of poetry can also be heard on the Youtube channel - Probashirkotha. The poems have been recited by Kolkatha's well known reciter Debasis Basu. They have also been studio recorded into songs by Kolkatha's renowned composer and singer, Soumyen Adhikari.

Jahangir Khan is an active member of his community. He takes a keen interest in community events and developments. Mr Khan is the Chairman of Bangladesh Probashi Kallyan Parishad, and he is involved with many other organisations such as: Bangladesh Centre, Greater Sylhet Council UK, British Bangladeshi Catering Association, Beanibazar Welfare Trust UK, Life Member London Bangla Press Club, Bangladesh Human Rights UK, Bangoabandhu Parishad UK, Voice for Newham, NRB Cultural Forum, also involved with British and Bangladesh politics.

Jahangir Khan's charitable work also deserves mention. He has been involved with charitable organisations and trusts. He is involved in the gathering funds and organising the building of homes for homeless people in Bangladesh. He has organised the fundraising of some 110 tube wells, which were donated to the poor in his home village of Beanibazar and a further significant number of tube wells were donated to Nobiganj in Bangladesh. Furthermore he has provided less fortunate village schools and colleges in Bangladesh with amenities.



**Jahangir Khan**

**Sector:**

*Property*





**Islam Khan**

**Sector:**  
*Legal (Barrister)*



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.



**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 Jogonath 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 lan-

guage 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 Motijeel 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.



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*

Former 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*



**Dr Zakir Khan**

**Sector:**  
*Community Relations  
& Corporate*



Award Winner 2012



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

In 2010 Zakir was the Conservative PPC for Bethnal Green and Bow, securing an increase in the Conservative vote in this highly marginal and politically charged seat. Zakir has a deep and wide understanding of Bangladesh, and in particular has experience of helping set up new charitable initiatives on the ground. He has a good relationship with all the political parties in Bangladesh and good links in such fields as sport, media, business, education, manufacturing, and universities.

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

He was also elected Vice Chair for Youth Connections another youth campaign group that was collectively formed by all major youth groups in Tower Hamlets. Zakir was elected by the community to represent them as a Board Member of the Connecting Communities SRB 5, and Cityside Regeneration in Spitalfields, He is the current Vice Chair of the Osmani Centre User's Forum, He was a Director of The Adab Trust. This is a new initiative established to increase employment prospects for inner city young black and minority ethnic people and specifically those from Asian and Muslim backgrounds. He was also an ambassador for

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

In the 2010 General Election he was selected as Conservative Party Parliamentary Candidate for Bethnal Green and Bow in Tower Hamlets, securing a 2% increase in the Conservative vote despite only being selected in late March 2010. Since formally joining the Party in 2006, Zakir has been actively working to promote the Conservative party within the Bangladeshi UK community. In Jan 2010 he organised a delegation to Bangladesh led by Mark Field MP.

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

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



**Yawar Khan**

**Sector:**  
*Catering*



Yawar Khan is a Successful Pioneering Restaurateur, the Founder & Chair of Asian Catering Federation and Asian Curry Awards and the Vice President of the European Small Business Alliance (ESBA) .

Mr Yawar Khan has been a successful restaurateur since the establishment of his first restaurant - the Akash Tandoori in Wallington, Sutton over 43 years ago in 1978. He is one of the early pioneers of the now thriving Curry industry in Britain.

When the UK Government introduced limitations on visa awards to overseas workers in 2008 Yawar Khan rose to the challenge and founded the Federation of Bangladeshi Caterers - an organisation committed to providing support and advice and to the promotion of the cuisine, interests and activities of more than 12,000 British Bangladeshi restaurants in the UK at that time. With 8 out of 10 Indian restaurants in the UK owned by Bangladeshis, these restaurants formed the backbone of the British Curry Industry.

Some three years later in 2011, as a response to the growing demands of a burgeoning wider Asian population in the UK (there are more than 4.5 million Asians living in Britain), Yawar Khan took a lead in founding the Asian Catering Federation in an attempt to forge collaboration and cooperation between the different umbrella groups - the Bangladeshi Caterers Federation; the Chinese Takeaway Association and the Malaysian Restaurant Association and to provide a united front in terms of support and advice to the needs of restaurateurs serving cuisine from across the Asia spectrum. These included Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Burma, China,

the Philippines , Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, The Middle East, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam. The Federation led a robust campaign to galvanise parliamentary members to support the designation of Bangladeshi workers as a 'shortage occupation' in order to make it easier to obtain special work permits. This eventually led to the establishment of an All Party Parliamentary Group in 2014. Yawar Khan then capped these remarkable achievements by establishing the much celebrated annual Asian Curry Awards (now in its 12th year) .

Yawar Khan is currently Vice President of the European Small Business Alliance (ESBA) representing and advocating on behalf of over one million small businesses across 36 European countries in the European parliament in Brussels. Yawar Khan continues to find time to commit to charitable work during the Covid Pandemic which shut down of the hospitality industry over a two year period - as government restrictions were introduced, Yawar Khan and his fellow director's encouraged critical support of food provision to hospital and emergency workers from among his federation members.

Yawar Khan also participates every year in fund-raising projects in association with the Mayor and Municipality of Sutton - raising thousands of pounds for the South Western Thames Kidney Fund, Cancer Research UK and other charities such as the Asian Trust. For over forty years he has maintained continual support to humanitarian organisations in his country of origin - Bangladesh, working closely with charities such as the Beanibazar Cancer and General Hospital.

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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.



**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 Ad-Maxim 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.

Born in Charar Paar Sylhet, to her parents late Minu Khan and late Shamsun Nessa Khanom. Shuva came to East London in 1974 with her husband Md Abdul Matin, originally from Chowki Dekhi, Sylhet.

Her first encounter with the community was at St Hilda's Community Centre in East London in 1975, where she took her son there for a check up and realised so many Bangladeshis could not communicate in English properly. Shuva always had a passion to help people, she then started working voluntarily for the community as a translator.

As years went by Shuva realised her vision for life was to help the community and that is exactly what she did. She helped families struggling with housing, marriage problems and financial issues with her own money and used her home as a shelter regardless of their race or religion.

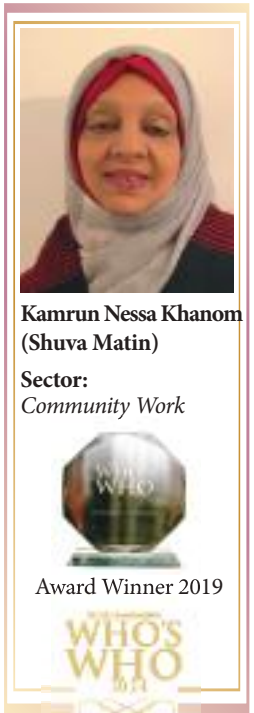
In 1996 Shuva started her own charity in Bangladesh called Shonali Shopno which she funds by holding dinner parties and supplying food to other organisations. She uses the money to provide sewing machines and rickshaws for families in Bangladesh who need a kick start in life. In 1999 her charity started paying for cataract operations in Bangladesh and has helped many people regain their sight.

In 2011 she registered her UK charity Golden Dreams and continued to use her cooking skills to raise funds to provide medical/maternity help in Bangladesh. She also pays for up to 200 circumcisions per year.

Shuva has won numerous awards in the UK and Bangladesh including the Hason Raja Shommanona and Gunijon Shommanona.

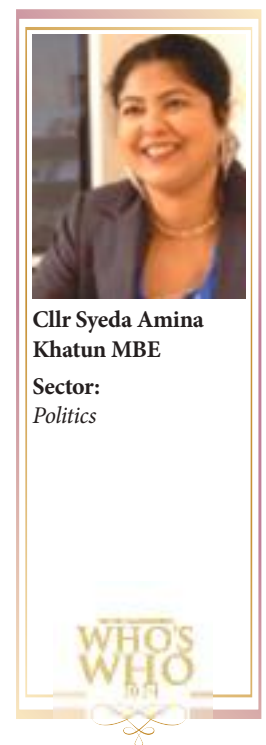
In her youth Shuva was an activist for the Awami League (mukti judha) helping freedom fighters during the liberation war. She was encouraged by her uncle's Fokrul Islam and Anwar Uddin Gama.

Last year she was awarded a Leadership and Community award by SOAS. Shuva's hobbies are cooking, socialising and teaching others how to cook. She has 4 Children all married. Eldest son Md Tanbir works as a Metropolitan Police officer, Sania is a business woman, Sadia is a IT systems developer and youngest daughter Radia is a college Enrolment Student Support Officer.



Cllr Syeda Amina Khatun MBE is the Deputy Leader of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, and currently serving as a Mayor of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and Chief Executive Officer of Bangladeshi Women's Association Limited and also 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.





**Sapnara Khatun**

**Sector:**  
*Legal*



Award Winner 2010



Sapnara Khatun 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 Sapnara Khatun 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.

Sapnara Khatun 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.

In 2018 she was awarded the degree of doctor of laws, *Honoris causa*, by Royal Holloway (University

of London. She was appointed by the lord chief justice as a Diversity community Relations Judge and a judicial Role Model.

Sapnara Khatun 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.



**Minhaj Kibriyah**

**Sector:**  
*Media*



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 "Kibriyah 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."

Mohammed Abul Lais is a successful businessman, outstanding community organiser and well-known philanthropist in Berkshire. Born in 1960 Mohammed Abul Lais came to the UK when he was only 15 from the village Amria of Durgapasha Union of Shanti Gonj Tana under Sunamgonj 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 sadly passed away in a tragic road accident in the UK in 1994. His mother is Mrs Badrun Nessa was school teacher back in Bangladesh.

On arrival in the UK he started serving in restaurants and at the same time continued his studies. He did O' Level and A' level in Accountancy and also completed B-tech National diploma. Mohammed Abul Lais has been in the restaurant industry for many years. Owning his first restaurant at the age of 18 called the Curry Garden.

He then established 2 more branches after, The Curry Garden, Tadley and The Curry Garden Reading. He was also involved in a partnership of 'Rajdoot Restaurant' in Cirencester, with a very close friend of his. In 1991 he set up his wholesale distribution company, Eurasia Food Service. Mohammed Abul Lais also established the first Thai and Bangladeshi restaurant named Blue Cobra which was located in Theale, the west side of Reading. Mohammed Abul Lais is also a philanthropist. He is one of the founders of Basingstoke Islamic Society. Initially he was one of the founders and later on served as president of the society for 3 years. He is also the founding member of Reading Central Jamme Masjid established and run by the Bangladeshis. He is also a member of Basingstoke Chambers & Commerce, Thames valley Chambers of Commerce, Founder

of British Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce UK. He has made special contributions towards the establishment and development of Amria Mosque and Amria Madrassa, in 2016 Mohammed Lais built an academy bhubon in Amria Madrasa Building named after his late Father and his Mother, which was opened by M A Mannan MP, the deputy finance minister of Bangladesh.

During the devastating flood in 1988 and in 1991 he raised funds £1,400 and £11,000 respectively and sent it to Bangladesh through British Red Cross Society. Mohammed Abul Lais and his brother Absar Md. Waess have established a family trust in their father's name. From this trust named "Alhaj AB Mashuk Miah Foundation" quarterly education stipend is regularly being provided to the poor and meritorious students of the Amria Madrasa since 1994.

Mohammad Abul Lais is the trustee of this Foundation while all his brothers and sisters are the members. Mohammed Lais is a founder trustee of Bangladesh female academy in Derai, Mohammed and the President of Shantigonj Upezela Association UK.

Mohammad is married to Nazma Khatun Qureshi, with two daughters and one son. Eldest daughter Shumana Lais obtained Honours degree in Investment Banking and Finance and worked at KPMG as an auditor and also completed ACA. Second daughter Sameera Lais studied Biomedical Science and PGDip and is working in a GP surgery. Son Shumel Lais graduated in Business and he worked for Sachi and Sachi before starting a technology startup which got acquired by a large Indian technology company. He is blessed with 3 grandsons.



**Mohammad Abul Lais**

**Sector:**  
*Business & Community*



Kuduse is a Successful Entrepreneur and Businessman from Dokinshurma, Alampur, Bangladesh. Born to his father Abdus Shohid (Kholia Miah) and mother Hawarun Nessa.

He arrived from Bangladesh in 2001 and with just a few GCSEs and he is now the Director and Owner of DREAMSPAS Limited, Style Shoes Limited, Go Phone Limited and Gems Design & Repair Ltd. DREAMSPAS Limited is one of the fastest growing Hot Tub retailer chains in the Southwest of England. Kuduse is also Founder and CEO of non-profit organization named, Smile Learning Centre, Self-run Charity and Hazi Abdus Shohid Foundation.

Kuduse completed his BNVQ Business at Bristol College, and his English at Bhavic College, Brighton. Moving to Bristol in 2003 Mr. Kuduse started working part time at JD Sports and the Thali Express.

In 2004 Kuduse started working as a salesperson at Phones4U where he gained the skills to implement new sales techniques, Strategic planning and leadership, negotiation and growth attainment.

He was promoted to Manager in Two years after which he left and joined JAG communication in 2007. In 2009, he decided to leave JAG Communications to start his own venture, Mad Mobiles in June 2009 with three employees and achieved turnover £400,000 in his first year. With Success Kuduse opened another 14 stores in the span of 6 years, in 2015, the company turnover was £3.5 million.

Later in 2015 he sold his shares and started another venture Go Phone Ltd, which is already exceeding key operational performance target.

In May 2016 Kuduse has established another firm DREAMSPAS Limited, and opened his first showroom in Bristol, then in March 2019 in Cardiff Wales with a 5000 plus square foot showroom which is the biggest hot tub showroom in the whole Southwest of the United Kingdom. Later in 2020 he established a new hot tub showroom in Swansea Wales and In June 2022 he established another hot tub showroom in Newbury Berkshire. The DREAMSPAS Limited is the largest Hot Tub retailer in Southwest of the United Kingdom. In 2022 DREAMSPAS Limited has achieved the biggest turnover of £4.3 million estimated.

Kuduse moving into 2019 has now establish a further two businesses Style Shoes Limited a fully independent shoe company and Gems Design & Repair Ltd a well-established Jewelry shop in Thornbury, Bristol which has been trading in Thornbury for the past 27 years.

In 2020 he established a UK based non-profit organization in Bangladesh. This non-profit organization provides free training of Education, Computer, sewing to needy and poor people so that they can make a change of their life. Smile Learning Centre also sponsor 1 Primary and 1 High School every year to encourage and educate children by supporting their educational expenses like schooling fees, books, school dress as well as he established a Public Library. Kuduse is also concern about health care of unprivileged people that's why he created Friday Clinic for all.

He openly enjoys fundraising for his Smile Learning Centre, Self-Run charity and Hazi Abdus Shohid Foundation in Bangladesh.



**Muhammed Abdul Kuduse**

**Sector:**  
*Retail/  
Telecommunication*





**Taysir Mahmud**

**Sector:**  
*Media*

Taysir Mahmud is very well known in the British Bangladeshi community as a committed journalist and writer. He is currently the Editor of Weekly Desh, Britain's first nationwide free Bengali newspaper, which has been serving the community for 9 years.

Mr Mahmud is the General Secretary of London Bangla Press Club. In January 2022 he was elected to this position with a huge margin of votes. now General Secretary of London Bangla Press Club for second time.

He presents 'The Newsroom', a weekly popular current affairs Talkshow on UK satellite television channel TVone.

Mr. Mahmud was born in 1973 in Vobani Pur village of the Moulvi Bazar district, Barlekha Upozella, under Shahbaz Pur Union. His father late Alhaz Muhammad Abdul Motlib was a respected person in the area. His mother, the late Mrs Harisun Nessa, was a very kind and generous lady.

Mr. Mahmud passed SSC in 1993 and HSC in 1995 both in first and 2nd divisions. He passed the Kamil (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 ac-

tivities and worked as a staff reporter on the Daily Sylhet Bani newspaper in Sylhet on 1996. He went on to become the Sub-Editor for the newspaper. In 1999 he established Medialine a prominent news agency in Sylhet.

In 2002 Mr. Mahmud joined the Daily Jalalabad as a senior staff reporter and worked there until he came to London. At the same time he was programme compiler in Radio Bangladesh, Sylhet Centre. He was also a general member of the Sylhet Press Club.

He arrived in the UK in 2003. He started his career as News Editor at Weekly Notun Din. In 2007 he was appointed as the Executive Editor of the paper and served in this position until 2014, he joined Weekly Desh, as an Editor.

Mr. Mahmud married Farhana Mahmud in 2006, the daughter of respected community leader Alhaji Atik Miah of Hazipur, Golapgonj. Borira Mahmud is a secondary Science teacher. They are the parents of four children, Jibreel, Sarah, Mikael and Salsabeel. The family resides in London.



**Cllr Bablin Molik**

**Sector:**  
*Politics/Health*

Councillor Bablin Molik was born in Bangladesh and came to Cardiff, UK in 1986 as a 6 years old. She is the Daughter of Parvin Islam Feroze and Mohammed Feroze from Moulvibazar, Bangladesh.

Graduated in BSc Biochemistry and went on to completing her PhD in Eye Biology on Glaucoma at Cardiff University. She is currently the Chief Executive Officer for Sight Cymru (established in 1865 as GWENT Association of Blind), an independent charity supporting people with sight loss in Wales. Alongside pursuing her interest in research and publications, since taking on the chief executive role within the organisation Bablin has grown the profile, reach, value and impact of the organisation.

Her political alignment has been with Liberal Democrats since her first vote .She joined the party as a member in 2007. She has stood in local, MP Bye-election and National Elections for the party. She was elected as local councillor first in 2017 to represent Cyncoed and Lakeside ward, Cardiff and re-elected in 2022. She has been involved with Children and adult services scrutiny committees and has recently chaired Community Adult Services Scrutiny Committee. She was appointed The Right Honourable Lord Mayor of Cardiff on 25th May 2023. She is the first Women of Colour, Muslim and migrant to be appointed as the First citizen of Cardiff.

She is supporting others and has been involved with numerous voluntary roles such as health council, school governorships, friends groups and worked with voluntary organisations around empowering women, addressing health inequalities and racism along with her work within the disability sector. As Lord Mayor she is supporting UCAN Productions, a charity that supports visually impaired children and young people through performing and creative arts.

Bablin enjoys spending time with her family and travelling to experience different cultures and learning about historical inheritance of different nations and communities. Bablin is also involved with a number of Bangladeshi cultural organisations in Cardiff and enjoys South Asian (Bangladeshi, Indian and Pakistani) TV, cinema and cuisine.

She is the youngest of four siblings. Bablin is married to Molik Musaddek Ahmed and they have 2 daughters (19 and 15 years of age). Eldest Daughter Mahek is studying Pharmacy and Midhaa is currently studying for her GCSEs.





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**Ajmal Masroor**

**Sector:**

*Politics and Religion*



Ajmal Masroor was the independent 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.

Ajmal 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".

Ajmal 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 led 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.



**Jahir Miah MIOd  
BEng (Hons)**

**Sector:**

*Finance*



Jahir Miah is a UK-based Financial GURU, International Professional City Trader, Capital Market Researcher, Educator, Philanthropist who has over 23 years of experience in the financial industry, a Research Scientists for EPSRC & some of the biggest Mining companies since 2000.

He is an expert in the area of patterns, price and time analysis as it applies to Capital Markets and an Advisor for several World's Biggest Financial Institutions and held NED positions in different multinational companies. He is founder of several companies across the World including few Multimillion Pound Financial Fund Management and advisory companies which are expanding across the World. Having managed regional teams across Europe, India and Bangladesh, focusing on analytics across both corporate and financial institutions, his experience includes building financial products/tools for investment banks, risk management and analytics, considering key risk drivers including Commodities, Equities, Forex, Hospitality industry, Property Management, Real Estate development etc. He has written extensively for novice traders and his current focus is on developments relating to the financial markets including, but not limited to FX, Commodities, and Alternative Asset Classes and emerging Country's Equities. He provides on demand educational services for investors looking to improve their trading. His current work is in the Blockchain space as a consultant with Oxford University for a variety of companies and Crypto Currencies.

Jahir has a proven track record of making 100% profits

within a week and his maximum profit was more than 4600% within 4 days. He is renowned for his Equity and FX Trading around the World for many years.

Jahir is one of the 11 Engineers who holds the title EUROPEAN ENGINEER in the World and there won't be anymore. He has recommended improvements of different things with his Research for EPSRC including "Improvement of Bullet Proof Vest".

Jahir is an open minded person and likes to share his success with everyone. The objective of his life is to help others, especially needy people to maximise the greater good of humanity as much as possible with his humble efforts.

Jahir gained his education from Bangladesh Air Force Shaheen College, Bangladesh, Salford University, UMIST, University of Manchester and Oxford University.

Jahir holds positions as Chairman and CEO of JJBB Group, Executive Vice Chairman of Miah's Majestic Hotels & Resorts, Hotel Zakaria International, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Howard Johnson, Days Inn (WYNDHAM Hospitality Group) Dhaka, Bangladesh, Executive Vice Chairman Altaf Group, Brothers Brick Fields Limited, Brothers Real Estate Limited, Brothers Shopping Malls Limited, Koli Ceramic Industry Limited, EPSRC - Research Analysts & Advisor, AEA - Research Analysts and Independent Financial Advisor and Consultant.

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.



**Piara Mayenin ( Piya)**

**Sector:**  
*Law/Community*



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

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

Offices in Bangladesh involving extensive liaison and partnership working with the British High Commission in Dhaka in 2000.

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



**Saad Meah**

**Sector:**  
*Legal- (Judiciary)*





**Cllr Mohammed  
Ayas Miah**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



Cllr Ayas Miah is an elected Councillor and the former Speaker of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for the civic year 2018-19. The Speaker is the name of the role that was formerly the Civic Mayor, in Tower Hamlets. As the Speaker Cllr Miah is responsible for the ceremonial duties of the Council and it is the Speaker's function to chair council meetings and to act as an ambassador for the borough, raising the profile of the Council and forging links with the private, public and voluntary sector.

Cllr Miah was elected for the first time in 2014 to St. Dunstan's Ward and then re-elected in 2018. He was the Deputy Speaker last year and before that served as the Cabinet Member for Environment, with responsibility for a portfolio that included (amongst other things) transport, highways, trading standards, parking, licencing, street cleaning and recycling . During his time as a councillor, Cllr Miah has also been a member of various committees, such as Audit, Pensions, General Purposes, Development, Grant Scrutiny, Overview and Scrutiny, Standards Advisory, Human Resources. Cllr Miah currently sits on the Licensing Committee in addition to carrying out his Speaker duties.

Cllr Miah by profession is a Chartered Certified Accountant, with offices in Tower Hamlets where he provides assistance to members of the community on a variety of issues.

Cllr Miah has been actively involved in the Bangladeshi community for over many years, participating in the work and projects of a wide range of organisations; including community organisations, charities and business groups.

The work of the community organisations and charities has included language classes, advice services, education and employment support, and campaigning on issues such as the closing of the local fire station.

Cllr Miah worked with small businesses in the community as the chairperson of the Ocean Business Association, Cllr Miah campaigned for compensation and a right to return with reduced rent for those local businesses that lost revenue whilst the area was undergoing regeneration.

Cllr Miah has received various awards for his community work including one from Channel 5 and the Community Leadership Foundation.

BRITISH BANGLADESHI

WHO'S  
WHO  
2024

Mr Anwar Miah is the son of Late Alhaj Barik Miah who settled in the United Kingdom in 1957 and was the founder of a British investment company.

Anwar was called to the Bar by the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 1998. Anwar is an expert on complex financial arrangements and international public law and he practices law from Great James Street Chambers situated on Old Bailey, Central London. His chambers are a leading established set and 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, Anwar has written numerous articles on current affairs which have been published, speaks at debates and conferences and presents shows and debates on television.

Anwar was also the Labour Party Parliamentary MP Candidate for the General Elections in 2015 and 2017 for the constituency of Welwyn Hatfield in Hertfordshire where he achieved one of the biggest

swings for Labour.

Anwar is married to Sony Sadaf Haroon, who is also a Barrister of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn and heads her own law firm in St Albans Hertfordshire United Kingdom. They have 4 children together; Saarah, Saasha, Mikhaail and Daniyaal.

Anwar's pastimes include travelling, playing tennis, reading classical English literature and studying traditional English architecture.



**Barrister Anwar Miah**

**Sector:**

*Legal / Politics*

WHO'S WHO  
UK

Faruk Miah MBE is an award winning educator and preeminent 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.



**Faruk Miah MBE**

**Sector:**

*Education*

WHO'S WHO  
UK



**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(UKBCCI). 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 helped raise over £100,000 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 Shahjalala 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.



**Jusna Begum Miah**

**Sector:**  
*Legal*



Jusna comes from Village Patkura, Mondoli Bhug, Jagannathpur. Daughter of Late Mr Anis Miah and Mrs Fulsea Khatun.

Jusna Begum Miah is a barrister and Partner at M R Solicitors LLP. She was called to the Bar of England and Wales by the Honourable Society of Lincolns Inn in November 1998.

Ms Miah completed her primary education in Bangladesh, before coming to the UK. She attended Mulberry School for Girls where she obtained seven GCSE's. She attended Tower Hamlets College to do her A' Levels and obtained three A Levels. She then rstudied law at the University of Westminster.

After completing her LLB (Hons) she embarked on the Bar Finals at BPP Law School. After being called she had been providing legal services as a Barrister. She successfully opened up her own Practice in August 1998 called Mian Law Associates and later joined M R Solicitors LLP.

Prior to her legal career, Jusna Begum Miah worked for the NHS as 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 Association, to name a few. Ms Miah has been the 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 so since 1990. served as a delegate on EC, GMC and LGC and also student and Youth officer for the Bethnal Green and Bow Constituency. She was also the Chiari for Whitechapel Ward from 2002 to 2004. In relation to Bangladeshi politics, Jusna held the position of the President of the UK BNP Mohila Dal and has represented the BNP at different platforms.

Jusna is a founding trustee for Bangladesh Female Academy UK and has been the Chair for two consecutive years a post she held from April 2007 – 2009. Jusna is a Trustee for the Brihottor Sylhet Education Trust and the Vice Chair of the Trust. She is also a Member of the International Bar Association.

Jusna Begum Miah makes regular appearances on the various British Bangladeshi television channels such as Channel S and ATN Banglad, including the talk shows and legal advice programmes.

She has also received numerous accolades, including the Channel S award in 2006. Furthermore, Jusna feels very passionate about women empowerment and has worked for charitable organisation.



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**Manik Miah**

**Sector:**

*Catering & Community Relations*

Manik Miah was born in Biswanath , Sylhet , Bangladesh, the son of the late Alhaz Modoris Ali (Mahjom), a renowned businessman and a well known charitable donor.

During Mr Miah's student life he served as General Secretary for Chattra Union from 1967 and became President of the Bangladesh Liberation Movement (Songram Proshiodod Porisod) in Biswanath Thana from 1967 -1971. In 1972 Mr Miah became Vice Chair for the National Awami Party (NAP), and the following year he was also elected as Cultural Secretary for the Students Union in Madan Mohan College.

Mr Miah has over 45 years' experience in catering within the UK. He has had a few restaurants over the years, and has achieved prestigious awards.

Mr Miah is from a family background which had Indian restaurants in the UK prior to the Second World War. The family still own their restaurant in Earls Court London which was started by his uncle, Idris Ali. This background explains how Mr Miah was encouraged to become a restaurateur.

Mr Miah actively enjoys being part of the Ipswich business community, and is very well respected both in business and as a central figure in the wider Bangladeshi community. Mr Miah also actively supports local, national and international charities such as the Norwich Road Association , Founder and President , Senior Vice Chair Bangladesh Catering Association (BCA) , Mem-

ber of the Rotary Club, Ipswich , Member of Ipswich Hospital Users Group , Founder and Chair of the Suffolk Bangladeshi Society , Founder and Trustee of the Bangladeshi Support Centre in Ipswich , regular charitable contributor of Mayors Charities , Fellow and Ambassador of Suffolk New College, former Chair and current Trustee of Bond Street Mosque , Founder member of GSC , Vice Chair and Trustee of the Heart Foundation Hospital, Sylhet , Vice Chair and Trustee of the Bangladesh Centre, Founder and Fundraiser of MMN Foundation, Bangladesh , Chairperson Biswinath Union, Poshid and Founder of Manik Miah Cricket Club in Biswinath for the last 35 years

Mr Miah is also a member of the Labour Party, and heavily involved in the local Labour party matters, and a member and regular contributor to the Ipswich Hospital Diabetic Users Group.

Manik Miah is passionate about his family and the community in which he lives. He intends to vigorously continue his charitable works to support his local and the wider community.

Manik Miah is married with 4 children, Dr Redwan (MBBS), General Practitioner GP in his own practice. Tahmina Miah Economics Honours , Managerial Position in Suffolk County Council, Minhaz Miah Bsc (Hons) Perioperative Practice. Senior Operating Department Practitioner and team leader and younger son Niaz Miah BSc (Hons) in Optometry, Optometrist as well as a Quran Hafiz.



**Rohema Miah**

**Sector:**

*Civil Service*

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.



Tofozzul Miah an entrepreneur and the founder of the award-winning Bayleaf Group and Hiltop Motors, is located in North London. He is well-known for his innovative and forward-thinking mindset in business and plays a key role in his community. Tofozzul migrated from Bangladesh to the UK in the 1970s at the age of 9. From a young age, he aspired to have control over his own destiny and realised that self-employment would provide that opportunity.

From a young age, Tofozzul worked labour-intensive jobs after school and on weekends, including working in the rug trade and at Sunday markets. Although he faced setbacks when he opened his first Asian restaurant, he made the decision to become a chef to acquire the comprehensive skillset required to run a successful establishment. He worked in a Punjabi-owned restaurant for the next three years until an opportunity arose to become a partner in a restaurant in North London. With his newfound kitchen experience, he took another leap and opened his own business, which proved to be considerably profitable. During this time, he worked seven days a week, dedicating 14 to 16 hours each day.

Recognizing the emerging market of food delivery in the 1990s, Tofozzul decided to venture into this new avenue, opening Bayleaf Takeaway in North London. Within the first few years, the establishment garnered numerous awards and accolades and continues to thrive after 27 years. Additionally, he identified a gap in the market for a fine dining Indian restaurant, lead-

ing to the opening of Bayleaf Restaurant in 2013, which has also achieved great success. Currently, it ranks among the top 5 out of 17,500 restaurants on TripAdvisor in the city of London.

Alongside his journey in the catering industry, Tofozzul started buying and selling cars as a hobby in 2006. The impressive returns prompted him to expand operations and purchase a forecourt that could accommodate 20 vehicles. With continued success, he further expanded by acquiring a car showroom in 2009, establishing Hiltop Motors as a quality German car dealership with up to 100 cars in stock. It has been highly successful, generating a turnover of nearly £6 million per year. Recently, Tofozzul embarked on a new and exciting business venture with his three sons, launching the used-car supermarket Car Planet, which stocks over 500 vehicles at their Watford site.

Tofozzul is also a founder-trustee of the Bangladeshi Welfare Society of Barnet, which recently acquired a freehold Masjid worth almost £1 million to serve the growing Muslim community. Additionally, he holds the position of Director and former Secretary General of the British Bangladeshi Caterers Association (BBCA). This organisation is highly recognised in the sector and has provided him with opportunities to make appearances in mainstream media, including the BBC, ITV and Al-Jazeera, as well as participate in discussions with government ministers at No.10 Downing Street regarding policies affecting the catering industry.



**Tofozzul Miah**  
Sector:  
*Catering/Business*



Award Winner 2023



Shamim is a future leader and a proud young British Bangladeshi who has been spearheading real change within Leeds. Raised in one of the poorest postcodes in the UK, Shamim worked hard to overcome barriers, quickly seeking a passion for local politics and youth empowerment. Taking inspiration from Faruk Miah MBE he stood to be the Member of Youth Parliament for Leeds, where he was elected by 180,000 young people of Leeds to represent them in the House of Commons. This inspired an invitation to shadow and be mentored by prominent political figures John Bercow and Matt Hancock. Following this success, Shamim became a young political star and has since taken on several positions, enabling him to make real effective change within Leeds. Shamim was one of the youngest school governors in the UK, taking the position at 19. He has most recently advanced his passion for education, by being appointed as a Trustee of the Cockburn Multi Academy Trust. During this tenure as a Trustee of the five schools, Shamim has helped facilitate improvements in education and soften the impact of covid-19 by making work experience more accessible. This significantly impacted students, who can now learn and experience a sector they are interested in outside of the classroom. His commitment to enhancing the quality of education over the last 6 years was exemplified,

when Cockburn School was judged to be Outstanding by Ofsted – celebrating the schools progress within the Leeds community.

Shamim is a big supporter and advocate of giving back to his roots and community. Alongside members of his family, he co-founded a youth club for British Bangladeshi's called "The Bangla Square Youth Club". This project aims to provide young people within the community access to extracurricular activities to improve their skill sets, culture capital, and experiences as British citizens looking to contribute to the wider society.

Holding a Master's in Law, he is now finalising his qualification as a corporate finance lawyer at a Top 40 Law firm, Shoosmiths. Utilising his network, he regularly hosts work experience days for students who have an interest in pursuing law. Combined with his community work, this has led to him becoming a multi award winner. He was named the British Muslim Young Achiever of the Year, the Yorkshire Young Achiever of the Year and received a Princess Diana Award for his role as a community leader.



**Shamim Miah**  
Sector:  
*Politics/Law*






**Tamanna A Miah**

**Sector:**  
*Media, Charity,  
Research*



Tamanna Miah was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh, then moved to Kent to settle with her parents and four siblings.

Tamanna started her journey in youth, community, volunteering and politics aged 11, and was inspired by her late father, Kamal Jahangir Miah (John) who passed away to COVID-19. He was a renowned community leader involved in multiple organisations including the Bangladesh Welfare Association Royal Tunbridge Wells (BWATW), Bangladesh Catering Association (BCA), the British Bangladesh Catering Association (BBCA), Bangladesh House, Sylhet Sadar Trust and many more.

Her first involvement in charity was volunteering for her father's first charity, BWATW bringing together the younger and older generations to create community cohesion. She then volunteered for local organisations including St Mary's Youth, West Kent Extra, alongside youth politics and was elected as the first Bangladeshi Muslim female as Youth Councillor and Chair of Sevenoaks Youth Council and Kent Youth County Council. She fundraised and campaigned successfully for years to raise £150,000 to establish Sevenoaks Youth Cafe- House in the Basement which helped thousands access help, support, activities, training, employment opportunities and benefit the wider community. She also campaigned successfully for the Kent Freedom Bus pass extension for 16-19yr olds unlimited Kent bus travel and helped secure thousands of petition signatures. Tamanna was the first Bangladeshi Muslim female recognised by the Kenward Trust Youth services for Outstanding Voluntary Community Contribution Award in 2010 educating youths on substance misuse. In 2011 West Kent Extra awarded her for Outstanding Contribution and

Service to Kent Young people. In 2011 she was the first Bangladeshi Muslim female recognised at the Kent TryAngle awards for Overall Winner for Sevenoaks, Dartford and Gravesend, Special Achievement Award for Citizenship, Volunteering and Service to the community. In 2011 and 2012 she received two Diana Awards for Champion Volunteer 2011 & 2012. Alongside her involvement locally and regionally Tamanna vol-

unteered for the British Youth Council (BYC) and was elected as Deputy Member of Youth Parliament representing Kent and the South East and had the once in a lifetime opportunity to sit in the House of Commons benches for debates. She was awarded the Youth Voice Award 2013 from BYC. Tamanna was recruited to be UK Young Ambassador for Europe representing British youths at conferences, conducting UK-wide research, consultations, events, producing a report with findings alongside recommendations to present to EU conferences and high-profile figures and returned with outcomes to action.

Tamanna was the first Bangladeshi Muslim female awarded scholarships to attend Jigsaw Performing Arts school to train in Drama, Dance, Singing and performed in shows and received an award to recognise her 4-year commitment to the Arts.

From 2012- 2017 she studied BA Media and Communications & Politics and Governance at Canterbury Christ Church university and graduated in 2018. She was the first Bangladeshi Muslim female awarded the most volunteer hours of 1000+. Tamanna was a Finalist for the British Red Cross Humanitarian Citizen Awards 2015 for commitment to volunteering and campaigning. She was the first Bangladeshi Muslim female awarded the 1st Young Upstander Award at the National Hate Crime Awards 2016 recognising her racist bullying campaign film work on ITV News.

She also won the Janey Antoniou Award 2016 from Rethink Mental Illness as the first Bangladeshi Muslim female recognising her work in mental health, suicide, BAME and youth communities. Tamanna raised thousands, for years, for Britain's and Bangladesh's homeless and provided food and necessities. She was awarded for raising money as a Friend of RFC for Channel S for Covid-19 Crisis in 2020.

Tamanna is a TEDx Public Speaker, Media Spokesperson, Presenter, Researcher, Campaigner and has worked with over 85+ organisations in the last 19 years.



**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 Bikkhotto" 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.

Former 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.

Former 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 combating 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 leading role in its development. He was responsible for setting up the first community regeneration project, the Spitalfields Small Business Association. His most recent appointments were as a school governor at St Matthias Primary School, Cabinet member for Sports and Culture (LBTH), Chair of the Development Committee (LBTH), Vice Chair of the Strategic Development Committee (LBTH) and most notably Speaker (Civic Mayor) where he was appointed consecutively for two full terms (a first for LBTH).

Former 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.



**Ex-Cllr M.A Mukit MBE**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*

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.retin surgeon.uk.com](http://www.retin surgeon.uk.com)).

He has worked for over 7 years in the international vol-

untary 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.



**Mahi Muqit PhD**

**Sector:**  
*Medicine*

Award Winner 2017



**M A Munim OBE**

**Sector:**  
*Catering*



Award Winner 2019



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

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

Early in 1982, 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, Munim was elected as the President of Bangladesh Caterers Association's South East Region. From 2004-2006 he served as Senior Vice-President of BCA central committee, and in 2007 held the role of Organising Secretary of BCA. He was also the convener of the 2011 Annual Dinner and Awards ceremony, and from 2012-2017 served as the Secretary General of BCA. Currently, elected in 2019, he was the President of Bangladesh Caterers

Association UK. He is also a Advisor of Bangladesh Centre and Senior Vice President of Jalalabad Association UK.

A keen servant to the needy, he 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. Munim is a founder Trustee of Kulaura Yakub Tazul Woman's College. Since its establishment, his younger brother Mr M A Rouf has been serving as the Principal of the college. To meet the immense demands, he and his brother founded and established a very successful and highly praised kindergarten school in Kulaura.

Munim is also socially very 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 was also the founder chairman of the Bangla Supplementary School in Greenwich and the Greenwich Welfare Association. From 2000-2017 he acted as a Director of the Consortium of Bengali Associations (CBA). He is also the current Secretary of Sylhet Bivag Unnayan Parishad. Munim has been an active member of the Labour Party since 1995.



**Cllr Shahanara Naser**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



Councillor Shahanara Naser (Momtha) was born in the village of Amkuna, Golapgonj, Sylhet. She arrived in the United Kingdom in 1977, together with her father, the late Jamshed Ali, her mother, Khaleda Khanom, and four siblings.

She spent her early childhood and primary school years in East London. She relocated to Bangladesh and enrolled in Sylhet's Blue Bird High School, later completing SSC (GCSE) at Sylhet Govt Girls High School. Her academic path led her to 'Sylhet Womens College' to complete her HSC (A level). Returning to the UK, she pursued higher education at Windsor and Maidenhead College. Her passion for healthcare led her to pursue a BSc in 'Health and Social Science' at New Buckingham University.

In 1993, she married Shah Abu Naser, Sajon (teacher), son of Shah Moddosir Ali (Manik Miah), from Noyabondor Jaganathpur. Having dedicated several years to the NHS during the same time as an existing professional translator as well as a health advocate, she found immense joy in becoming a mother to her three children.

Driven by a commitment to positive change, she ventured into politics and achieved success as a Councillor on Luton Borough Council. Shahanara

happened to be inspired to take another step because of her strong sense of Bengali culture, social justice, and equality for all. As an inspiration for various ethnic groups, Shahanara was motivated to move forward. Through her efforts, she has been working closely to enhance the lives of her constituents as well as make a meaningful contribution to the community.

Some examples of her community work include: being involved in the community heritage project, assisting in the organising of Bengali cultural events for children and families through performing, dance, poem recitation, and theatre activities, as well as exhibiting the programmes. The aim was to introduce the younger generation to the rich, vibrant culture through entertaining learning while also promoting mental health and wellbeing for the entire family. Initiating campaigns for increased health care access, conducting health education workshops, leading local clean-up initiatives, and collaborating with community organisations to offer resources for underprivileged families are also part of her responsibilities. These endeavours reflect her dedication to creating a better environment.

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**Mahbub Murshed**

**Sector:**

*Accountancy & Media*



Award Winner 2015



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, multilingual 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.



**Abdul Nashir (Wahab)**

**Sector:**

*Business & Community*



Abdul Nashir (Wahab) is a businessman and community leader from Manchester, U.K. He and his family first came to the U.K. in 1979, where they settled in the North of England. After finishing his studies, Mr Nashir began working in the Indian restaurant industry, eventually opening his own restaurant in 1995. Since then, he has gone on to make his mark in the hospitality industry, opening a string of Indian restaurants all across Greater Manchester, with a large and dedicated clientele. Mr Nashir relishes any opportunity for business development, and has also expanded his portfolio by venturing into the property development industry.

Alongside his business endeavours, Mr Nashir is also the Chairman of the Greater Manchester Bangladesh Association- which is a community-led organisation that presides over thousands of Bangladeshis all across the Greater Manchester region. This is a role that is very close to Mr Nashir's heart as he has truly committed himself to the uplifting and betterment of the British-Bangladeshi community. Indeed, in his own businesses, he always makes a conscious effort to not only champion the culture and food of his country, but also champion his countrymen. Mr. Nashir fosters this community spirit by recruiting local Bangladeshi immigrants and giving them a

chance to showcase their culinary talent whilst helping them to become financially stable.

In his role as a community leader, Mr Nashir also focuses on the preservation and celebration of Bangladeshi culture in the diaspora, by ensuring the continuation of our cultural events and holidays.

In his day-to-day life Mr Nashir juggles the demands of a growing business portfolio with the demands of leading his community. He prides himself on being able to lead his community to being one that is strong, complex, and here to stay.

Abu Nasir is a sports entrepreneur and football business leader who has been involved in football and sports since the age of 7 as a player, coach, and sports business executive at both grassroots and professional level. He is one of the highest profile football executives in the professional game from a South Asian background. A passionate and innovative leader with a strong commercial background of leading, managing and developing high profile multi-agency programmes in the sports industry, and in the public and private sectors, as well as managing a diverse range of businesses which includes a global sports management consultancy, technology, and hospitality sector enterprises. He has managed business turnover of £900m to date and successfully delivered projects and programmes circa £1.5bn.

He was recognised as one of the top 20 Dynamic CEOs of 2022 in the UK by 'The CEO Publication' for his innovative work in football, 'Luton's Most Outstanding Citizen 2022' and 'British Muslim Entrepreneur of the Year 2023'.

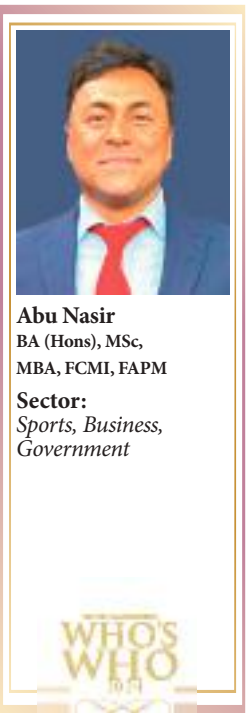
Abu represented Luton Town FC and Liverpool at school-boy and youth level but unable to make the grade at professional level due to serious injuries and had to quit the game at the highest level at the age of 18, however went onto play semi-professionally.

He holds several Board level roles which include: The Football Association National Game Board, Director and Trustee of Sport England, Sports Council Trust, Vice Chair of Sporting Equals BASPA Board, Board Member and Director of London Football Association, Brand Ambassador for Luton, Chairman of Step Forward Luton Business and Investment and has been a Trustee and Non-Executive Director of several high-profile organisations including Liverpool Football Club, Kick it Out, Chair of The Muslim

Sports Council, Chair of Governors at a Luton school, Founder and Chair of Luton Sporting Club since 1992, previously a Council member at Bedfordshire Football Association and is currently an advisor to high profile investors in the United States, Middle East and Asia. He was a policy advisor on regeneration and economic development to previous Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour Government.

He worked for the Premier League in developing the Elite Academy programmes for all 92 English professional clubs and recently part of the team which developed the Saudi Pro League. He is an advisor to US firm Bain & Company, Public Investment Fund of Saudi Arabia, and the Saudi Ministry of Sports as well as the Qatar World Cup Legacy programme and Oman Investment Authority. Abu is also a FA licensed football intermediary, and his sports firm manages players, coaches, and transfer deals.

He is the son of Alhaj Md Sajjadur Rahman (politician, community leader and Awami League President) and Mrs Sadeha Rahman, a former teacher. His family roots are from Dighal Bak, Nabi Gonj area in Bangladesh.



**Abu Nasir**  
BA (Hons), MSc,  
MBA, FCMI, FAPM

**Sector:**  
*Sports, Business,  
Government*

Nazmul Islam Nuru is from the village of Amkuna in Golapjonj, Sylhet, Bangladesh. His father is late Haji Jamshed Ali and mother is Khaleida Khanum.

He 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 in Bangladesh. He has connections in various businesses as well as being involved within the community in numerous charity organisations.

He was formerly President and Vice President of the UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce & Industry (UKBCCI) and was an Independent Director for Shahjalal Islami Bank BD, where he represented 75,000 shareholders. He is also the founder of the renowned Kushiara Islamic Hospital, Asirgonj Golapjonj. He has a portfolio of properties in the UK are under NN Asset Holding and also includes Osmani Housing Prokolpo Airport Road in Sylhet, Bangladesh. He has restaurants which include Viceroy Group Restaurant UK and Grand Eating Ltd. Mr Nuru is the Chairman of Monica Enterprise BD and the Director of Holy City Centre, Zinda Bazar, Sylhet

Mr Nuru's contributions towards the community cannot go unnoticed. He is very recognized within the Bangladeshi Community having previously been a Trustee of Bangladesh Centre and a current member of Bangladesh Catering Association

(BCA). He is also a donor of the Heart Foundation, Sylhet, Jalalabad Eye Hospital and a Member of Red Crescent Society Sylhet and Diabetics Society. He is also donor member of MC Academic College Gulapjonj, Asirgonj High School & College and Shahjalal Academic High School in Sylhet. Mr Nuru is a Founder Trustee of Mother & Child UK. Some of his previous positions held have been the Chairman of Golapjonj Education Trust UK, Treasurer of Greater London Bangladesh Catering Association and a Managing Director of Sylhet Dak Weekly UK. Mr Nuru was also a Member of Management Committee of Bangladesh Welfare Association and of Shohid Minar at Altab Ali Park.

In the UK, he resides in Windsor, Berkshire with his wife Farida Parvin Nuru. They have three daughters and one son who have all graduated from university.



**Nazmul Islam Nuru**

**Sector:**  
*Business*





**Mr Nur-ur Rahman Khandaker Pasha MBE**

**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.



**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 manage-

ment 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.



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-1970s 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 the 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 late Queen Elizabeth nd 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 one son.



**Syed Nahas Pasha**

**Sector:**  
*Media*



Robin Paul is a well-established and respected individual who has made significant contributions in the Bangladeshi community. Originally from Tajpur, Sylhet, he is a man of honesty, self-belief, integrity and has a great vision. His father, the late Ranadhir Paul, was the Assistant Headteacher at Sharpur Azad Bokht High School and later became the reputed Headteacher of Goulabazar High School. His mother, Shikha Rani Paul, was a teacher at Tajpur Primary School.

In 1994, Rabin came to London midway through studying for his BSc at the Sylhet MC College. Despite this, his ambitious nature led him to become involved in business in 2002 and he has since enjoyed continuous success as the Managing Director of General Auto Services – one of the most successful and recognised claims-management companies in the community.

In 2011, Robin became the Public Relations Secretary of the Bangladesh Awami League UK. Furthermore, in 2013, Rabin became one of the Founder Directors of NRB Bank Ltd – one of Bangladesh's first non-resident banks – and has contributed immensely to its success by suggesting and enforcing a range of innovative ideas. This has enabled the bank to provide nonresident Bangladeshis with a stable platform through which they can invest

in Bangladesh in a safer and smarter way.

Having a deep understanding of the importance of education, Robin was the General Secretary and is presently the Chairman of the Balagonj Osmani Nagar Education Trust UK. In addition, he was the General Secretary of the election commission of this organisation. He has donated generously to and is a life member of the Mangalchandi Nishikanta High School, is a founding member of the Balagonj College, and is also a life member of both the Goulabazar Public Library and Balagonj Press Club.

Robin is the Vice Chairman of the Bangladesh Hindu Association and the General Secretary of the London region. He is also the General Secretary of Sanaton Association. Furthermore, he is a donor member of the Kashipara Shiva Temple, Biswanath Seva Ashram, Luknath Temple, Shrimongol and Kadipur Shiv Bari (Kulaura) as well as other religious establishments. He is also one of the donor members of Mogbelpur Osmania Madrasah, Mullapara Dakhil Madrasah and other Islamic learning institutions. Robin is married to Shilpi and they are blessed with three children.



**Robin Paul**

**Sector:**  
*Business*





**Aklakur Rahman**

**Sector:**

*Sports and Athletics*



Award Winner 2022



Aklakur Rahman, better known as Akke Rahman is a British Bengali Mountaineer.

Born in Bangladesh, Jagannathpur, Sylhet he moved to the UK at the age of one. His father moved to the UK shortly after the Second World War and was a British Citizen.

As a child Akke was always very athletic taking part in all forms of sport from an early age. In secondary school he was a member of the basketball and football team and at the age of 13 realised his love for athletics which lead to becoming triple jump champion of Greater Manchester and also ran a 11.5 seconds 100m PB.

After leaving school he went to college and university to study Software Engineering at Huddersfield University, after a year dropped out then went to Oldham Business Management School to study Business Information Technology.

After leaving university he had several jobs, he married Hena Rahman, they have 3 children. Shortly after marriage he opened his Mortgage Company Group 5 where they also handle insurance claims. Currently still a Director at Group 5, however a new passion found him, Mountaineering.

This is where it all began, Akke climbed Snowdon for the first time in 2019, then went on to Climb Mount Ebrus, Europe's Highest Mountain in Russia. He also Climbed Kilimanjaro, highest mountain in Africa and Mont Blanc in the Alps within 7 days,

achieving two mountains in two continents within 7 days. He then went onto climb Elbrus again after a storm halted the 2019 attempt, however this time it was a Record, this attempt was 5 days after recovering from covid and it was accomplished without acclimatisation in less than 24hours.

After Elbrus came Mount Ama Dablam, the crown jewel of the Himalayas. And finally Mount Everest. This Expedition had to be delayed as Akke wanted to spend the first Part of Ramadan with his family and went to base camp two weeks late, however the climb was accomplished in 21days from Base Camp with only one rotation, making him the first British Bangladeshi Muslim to climb Mount Everest.



**Ataur Rahman**

**Sector:**

*Legal/Community Relations*



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 , 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 (Jagonnath College). Moreover, he studied law at Dhaka Law College (LLB) and before coming to the UK in 1990, he was a practising lawyer at the Dhaka Bar since Oct 1987 and has been enrolled with the Bangladesh Supreme Court since 1991.


Ataur Rahman makes regular media appearances on community channels such as Bangla TV, Channel S and previously on Vectone Bangla. He has also been a member of the Greater Sylhet Welfare & Development Council in the UK for 15 years and was the General Secretary from 2002 to 2008. He was also a Founding Assistant General Secretary to the Nottinghamshire Bangladesh Cultural & Welfare Soci-


ety 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.

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**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. 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 , Kadeem Swindon Central Mosque and Islamic centre.

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.

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.



**Aziz-ur Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Catering*



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 begun 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 United 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 Roshoi ghor on Bangla TV. All programmes allow his viewers to learn the craft of Atik's unique cooking.



**Atikur Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Catering/ Media*





**Emdad Rahman MBE**

**Sector:**  
*Journalism and  
Community relations*



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 the late Queen Elizabeth 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 past 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.



**Bobby Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Business*



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 development 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.

Ataur Rahman Kuti was born in the village of Balishasra, Rajnagar in Moulvibazar. His father is the Late Al Haj Mizaz Miah. Mr Rahman Kuti completed his High school education in Rajnagar Porteous High School and continued his further education at Moulvibazar Government College.

He arrived in the UK in 1976 with his parents. From 1981 onwards he started his own career in the Bangladeshi catering industry. He established a chain of restaurants and properties in the UK. Mr Rahman's business interests do not end there, as he is also a Vice Chairman of MRK Developments Ltd, which is the company behind his assets in the property market in Bangladesh. As well as his business activities he is also involved in various organisations in the British Bangladeshi community. Mr Rahman Kuti joined the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry as a Director in 2013, he is now serving as a Finance Director. He is the Founder Vice President and Former President of Rajnagar Welfare Society in the UK.

He is also serving as a President of Bangladesh Association of Greater Reading. Mr Rahman Kuti is passionate about being involved and supporting various charities. He has helped many individuals in his homeland, especially those deprived and poor

intelligent students who were unable to fund their education. Mr Rahman Kuti's interests include travelling and politics. He is currently residing with his family in Reading, Berkshire in the UK.



**Ataur Rahman Kuti**

**Sector:**  
*Business / Charity*



Ibrahim Rahman is a social media and communications professional from Cambridge, working in the higher education and charity sectors.

Ibrahim is a Social Media Coordinator at the University of Cambridge, actively involved in the everyday planning, writing and publishing of content across their social media channels. A key member of the University's Social Media and Audiovisual team since September 2019, he has managed various social media campaigns around student activities, looking at how religious festivals are celebrated or observed at Cambridge, spotlighting South Asian student groups during South Asian Heritage Month, and leading on the University's social media response to A-level results day. Ibrahim currently leads on the direction of the University's Instagram account, which has a following of over 1.2 million.

Away from his day job, Ibrahim volunteers as the Director of Communications for the Karim Foundation, a Cambridge-based charity that provides food, fuel and emergency support for local families and individuals in financial hardship. He has organised and managed online fundraisers such as the annual Cambridge Ramadan Appeal, helping to raise thousands of pounds to support locals most affected by the cost of living crisis. The Karim Foundation was highly commended at the 2022 BBC Make a Difference Awards – one of four finalists shortlisted for the Community

Group Award.

Ibrahim has a wealth of experience across broadcast media and public relations. Shortly after graduating with a BSc (Hons) in Information Security and Forensic Computing from Anglia Ruskin University, he worked as a reporter for BBC Radio Cambridgeshire and assistant producer for Nadia Ali's show on BBC Asian Network. Ibrahim went on to become a production assistant for ITV News at the 2017 Wimbledon Championships before joining ITV News Anglia as a production journalist in 2018, tasked with leading their diversity initiative for the East of England. During 2019-2020, Ibrahim was the first-ever Social Media Officer of Cambridge Central Mosque, playing a crucial role in communications at the height of the pandemic and coordinating the Mosque's successful participation in the 2020 and 2021 Open Cambridge festivals.

Ibrahim was born in December 1990 and is a third-generation British Bangladeshi. He is the eldest of four children to Mohammed Zillur Rahman and Shahida Rahman. Ibrahim's maternal grandparents were among the first people from Sylhet to settle in Cambridge during the late 1950s to early 1960s, while his mother – also an award-winning author of historical novels 'An Ayah's Choice' and 'Lascar' – was born two days before the liberation of Bangladesh in December 1971.



**Ibrahim Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Media*





**Md Lutfur Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Lawyer*



**Award Winner 2022**



**Md Lutfur Rahman** is a qualified Chartered Legal Executive (FCILEx) Lawyer and Commissioner for Oaths. He is an entrepreneur and community activist widely known in the diaspora community in the UK. With his enthusiasm, integrity, and love for the legal profession, he obtained a good name and fame among immigrants and legal practitioners in the UK.

Mr. Rahman was born in 1973 at Osmani Nagar, Sylhet, Bangladesh in a traditional Muslim family. He came to the UK as a Law student in 1996 at the University of London. He successfully completed his Bachelor of Laws with Honours degree from the University of London in 1999. He was called to the bar as a barrister at the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn in 2000.

Based on his 20+ years of Immigration Service experience, he established an innovative Legal and Software service company namely WorkPermitCloud Limited ([www.workpermitcloud.co.uk](http://www.workpermitcloud.co.uk)). Currently, it offers OISC regulated immigration advice on UK Immigration matters.

WorkPermitCloud Limited (WPC) was founded in September 2020 in East London, one year later, Mr Lutfur expanded the office in the city of London, at "The Gherkin" - the first Bangladeshi lawyer to set a foot-print in this prestigious office building. Mr. Lutfur has advised many High Net Worth clients from the Middle East and Asia concerning Entrepreneurs, Investors, Sponsorship Licenses, and Skilled worker visa applications.

He enjoys researching complicated legal issues and tries to use his extensive immigration knowledge and experience to implement a strategy that is arguable and realistic. As a practitioner he brought up common challenges and put recommendations to policy makers. Through delegation and event participation his voice is being heard at House of Commons and Scottish Parliament to relax Immigration rules for Chefs and Hospitality sector staff. Regularly, he engages with major stakeholders to initiate dialogue in important forums. For example - he raised slow UK visa processing for Bangladeshi

applicants to British High Commission in Bangladesh and Bangladesh High Commissioner in the UK. He raised a massive

awareness to ensure sustainability and advancement of curry industry in the UK!

To meet diverse customer demand for Immigration and recruitment needs, Mr Lutfur established a global company in Dubai, namely WPC Global ([www.wpc-global.com](http://www.wpc-global.com)). It offers Immigration services for Europe, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, to help more people to change their lives.

Giving back to society for great social and humanitarian causes is in Mr Lutfur's DNA. This year, WorkPermitCloud supported Mount Everest climb, WPC flag was carried on the peak of Mount Everest, the mission is to give back to humanity and raise funds to help and support destitute women, men and children of Afghanistan, Syria, Rohingya, and other places impacted by war, conflict, disaster and poverty. Moreover, he supported the fundraising campaign of Cambridge Central Mosque as a platinum sponsor. He distributed cash money to the flood victims in Sylhet district and regularly patronises various medical camps with free consultation medication. Mr Lutfur is an associate of East London Mosque.

In his personal life, he is married to Barrister Nahid Sultana Parvin. He has been supported in this journey by his beautiful wife Barrister Nahid Sultana Parvin who was also called to the bar in 2000. Currently she is serving as Chief Operating Officer of WPC.

They have three lovely kids; the elder son Danyaal is currently studying Maths at King's College in the University of Cambridge. This year elder daughter Lamees has obtained the highest grade 9 in GCSE in all subjects. The younger daughter Nuha is studying in year 8 at a leading private school in the UK. As a loving father Mr. Rahman loves to drive and drop his daughters at the school every morning. He has a big passion for networking, sports. He regularly sponsors community cricket and football matches. Apart from legal profession, Mr. Lutfur prides himself on being honest, open and acting with integrity with everyone he speaks to.



**S M Mustafizur Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Finance /Community*



Syed Mohammed Mustafizur Rahman was born in 1958 in LakhaiUpazila, Habiganj, Sylhet. He passed the SSC from Fenchuganj Fertilizer Factory High School in 1973 and HSC from Sylhet MC (Murari Chand) College in 1975. He received his Masters of Commerce (M.Com) in Management from the University of Dhaka in 1979. He joined Bangladesh Bank (the Central bank of Bangladesh) in 1980 and obtained the Banking Diploma from the Institute of Bankers of Bangladesh in 1983. He also got in service training from the Bangladesh Bank Training Academy.

Mustafizur came to the UK in 2001 on Lien for 5 years and later took self-retirement as Deputy Director of Bangladesh Bank in 2006. In the UK he joined the Bangladesh Centre in London as the Chief Executive, where he remains. He has also partaken in meetings at the House of Commons and the Kensington Palace. He is a member of two Committees in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in which Borough the Bangladesh Centre situated. One is Police and Community Consultative Group and the other is Community Relations Advisory Group. Upon invitation he has attended twice (2005 & 2008) at the Garden Party of late Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth-II in the Buckingham Palace.

From school life he was involved with progressive Student Politics and Socio-Cultural Organisations. During the War of Liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. In 1972 he

became the President of Chattra League School Branch and Treasurer of Regional Branch. As a student of class ten in 1972 he participated in the Central Conference of Chattra League in Dhaka Race Course Ground (now SuhruwardyUddan). Whilst at MC College he was elected the Chattra League General Secretary of Intermediate College Hostel Branch.

At Bangladesh Bank he was one of the founders of 'Bangladesh Bank Jalalabad Kallyan Samity Dhaka' and was General Secretary until his arrival in the UK. He was also a member of Bangladesh Bank Club. He elected President of 'Lakhai Thana Samity Dhaka' twice.

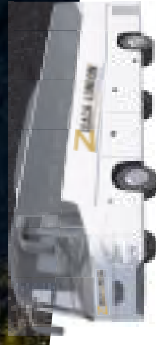
After arrival in the UK he became an Advisor of 'LakhaiUpazila Samity UK', Joint Secretary of Habiganj Samity UK, one of the Founder Members and Vice-Chairman of 'Bangladeshi Council in Europe', an organisation called 'Amra-o-Muktijuddah' for those who indirectly participated in the War of Liberation. He is the main Founder of NGFF School Alumni Association in the UK and President since formation in 2001. He is a member of the Executive Committee of Dhaka University Alumni in the UK. He was a Joint Secretary of 'All European Bangabandhu Porishad' and became Secretary General in July 2008.



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**Mayor Lutfur Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



Award Winner 2011



Mayor Lutfur Rahman became the Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets in May 2022. He previously served as the Borough's first directly elected Mayor from 2010-2015.

Prior to this he served as a Councillor for Spitalfields and Banglatown ward from 2002-2010 and in between becoming a Council leader in 2008.

During his first period as Mayor, Lutfur introduced many pioneering policies, such as providing universal free school meals for primary school children, building more council homes than anywhere in the country, and granting education bursaries to students attending university.

Lutfur grew up in Tower Hamlets, having moved to the Borough at an early age from Bangladesh. He attended Marner Primary School in Bow, the Lawdale Junior School in Bethnal Green and Bow School. He went on to completing his Law Degree at City University and was admitted as a member of the Law Society of England and Wales in 1997.

In his role as Mayor, Lutfur is working to support residents through the cost of living crisis, to build 1,000 social homes a year, make Tower Hamlets a greener and cleaner Borough, and protect vital front line services.



**Mohammed Siddiquier Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Business*



Award Winner 2018



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

At the age of 16, Siddiquier 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) and S&Z a property development company.

In addition, he is a member of several business associations such as one of the Directors of the UK-BCCI 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 lettings.

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.

Siddiquier Rahman enjoys travelling around the world and meeting new people and learning about new cultures. Siddiquier Rahman is married with 4 children.

Muhammed Motiur Rahman khukon was born in a village called Tegoria Upojela Jogonnath Pur Sylhet Bangladesh. Both of his grandparents were Religious teacher Munshi Anwar Muhammed and Nesari Bibi. His father late Muhammed Abdul Jabbar was a school teacher and well known football player and his mother Late Mrs Salema Khanom. He moved to Sylhet Town with his mother in 1963 and lived with his Fufu Mrs Amina Khanom (Bibid-hom), Fufa and Chacha, Syed Nur Uddin, his inspiration. He went to Kishori Mohon Patshala and then Government Pilot High school Sylhet.

He helped Mukti Bahini in the 1971 liberation.

He came to England with his mother and 3 years old sister Shopna to join his father in Wimbledon in 1971.

During the liberation time he went to demonstrations in Hyde park Corner, Trafalgar Square Common Wealth Institute and other places with his father.

He studied O Levels in Putney college and for further education he studied OND and HND in Merton College.

He started his own Business, R and H News Agent (Rahman and Haque), in 15 March 1978 with no capital, no bank Loan and no work experience. He bought his 2nd news agent in 1981. He started an Indian takeaway Salima Tandoori (in his mothers name) in Wimbledon. He bought the Viceroy Indian takeaway in 1988 in Consett, Durham and then bought Moti Jheel Indian takeaway in 1990 in New Castle upon Tyne. He join Allied Dunbur Insurance Company in 1986 as a Financial advisor and moved to GRE as a Field Sales manager in 1987. Motiur has been working with the community all of his adult life.

He joined the Adult Education centre in Merton in 1975, Joint Racial Harassment Unit In 1979 and was the Director

of Bengali promotion LTD 1980.

He hosted two cultural events in Wimbledon theatre and Camden hall and was founder Cultural secretary of Bengali Association of Merton in 1982, founder member of JCC joint council of ethnic minorities Member and Treasurer of MREC Merton Racial Equality Council.

Member of Police consultative committee, Member of Wimbledon Chamber of Commerce, Trustee of MVSC Merton voluntary services council, Trustee of Victim support, Founder EMC Ethnic minority centre, School Governor for 8 years Member of Bangladesh centre 1983, Member of Bangladesh caterers Association 1986, Member of Asian Forum, Member of Greater Sylhet Council, Trustee of Al Falah Islamic Centre, Member of National Heart Foundation Sylhet Trustee of Just help eye Hospital, Founder Chairman of TWA UK Tegoria Welfare Association UK he two Eye Camp in Bangladesh, He raised funds for NHS with Channel S. He raised funds for RFC Ramadan family commitment as an Ambassador (£15004) Member of the Labour party over 28 years, He stood for Council on multiple occasions, He was in a national campaign Video for General election in 1997 went to National Conference on multiple occasions

Motiur married to Fatima Rahman (Shopna). They have three sons Rizwan Rahman Corporate Solicitor and partner. Iftikhar Rahman (Farhan) is a Civil engineer and senior project manager. Yamin Rahman is a Chemistry Graduate working as an Accountant. He is retired is very happy with his life. He is forever grateful to Allah SWT for all his blessings.



**Muhammed Motiur Rahman khukon**

**Sector:**  
*Business/ Charity*



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 Moulvi 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 Moulvi Bazar Zela Red Crescent Society and Jalalabad Hospital for Disabled 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.



**Mahidur Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Community Relations*





**Mahbub Rahman**

**Sector:**

*Journalism/Government*



Award Winner 2023



Mahbub Rahman is a highly esteemed figure in the realm of journalism, celebrated for his unwavering dedication and significant contributions to the field. Currently, he holds the position of Communications Officer for a local government authority in London.

Born in Dhaka, Bangladesh, in 1968, his journey in journalism began during his college years in 1986 when he embarked on a path of crafting articles for various esteemed local and national publications.

In 1987, he embarked on an illustrious career at one of the leading regional daily newspapers, Sylhet Dak, where he held various pivotal positions over the course of a decade. His fervor for investigative journalism guided him to collaborate with the national news agency PROBE. Furthermore, he made notable contributions as a stringer for BBC Bangla service and served as the Sylhet bureau chief of the Bangladesh News Agency (BNA).

Mahbub was also a passionate amateur photographer. He played a leading role in founding the Sylhet Photographic Society (SPS) in March 1992 and, during his six-year leadership journey, served as its first General Secretary, Vice President, and President, elevating SPS into a prominent national organization. Since 1997, even after leaving Bangladesh, he has continued to serve as an advisor to this photographic organization. In 1997, he relocated to the UK with his family and joined the Bengali newsweekly Notun Din. During that time, he also worked for Daily Sangbad, a prominent Bangladeshi newspaper, as a UK correspondent.

In the television arena, he left an indelible mark, playing a pivotal role in the inception of the first Bangla language TV channel in the UK, Bangla TV.

In July 1999, Mahbub shifted his career into the world of television, commencing work for Bangla TV and becoming a key member of the pioneering team that turned the dreams of the Bengali community into reality. His diverse roles encompassed Programme Planner, Programme Manager, and News Editor.

Three years later, he assumed the position of Head of News and Current Affairs for the channel.

Mahbub also took on the role of Editor for the UK's curry industry magazine, Curry Life, up until 2006.

In 2002, he assumed the role of Ethnic Media Advisor (part-time) at one of London's largest social housing associations, where he served for nearly two decades.

In 2003, he joined as a Communications Advisor for the UK's most diverse local authority, Tower Hamlets Council. Upon leaving his housing association position, he committed himself full-time as a Communications Officer for Tower Hamlets Council. Spending almost 20 years in the Local Government Authority's busy press office, he has worked closely with both local and national media, gaining extensive experience in local government communication.

Mahbub has been a dedicated member of numerous professional organizations, including the National Union of Journalists and the Commonwealth Journalist Association (CJA). Serving as the former Assistant General Secretary, Mahbub Rahman played a key role in reorganizing the London Bangla Press Club and served as Vice President of this club for two consecutive terms. His influential roles within the London Bangla Press Club, the Sylhet Press Club, and Sylhet Union of Journalists reflect his unwavering commitment to fostering excellence in journalism.

He also served as a founding member and secretary of the Jalalabad Association UK.

Married to Hasna Rahman, a civil servant who works for the Ministry of Justice, Mahbub acknowledges her sacrifice and contribution, which have enabled him to pursue his career and achievements. The couple has been blessed with two daughters, Mehjaben Rahman and Atiya Rahman.

Through his multifaceted career and steadfast dedication to journalism and community engagement, Mahbub has made exceptional contributions to both the profession and society as a whole.



**Councillor Nazma Rahman**

**Sector:**

*Politics*



Councillor Nazma Rahman, Former Mayor of Camden is a Labour Councillor for West Hampstead Ward, currently serving in her second term. She has lived and worked in Camden her whole life, with her three children.

Nazma has a strong passion for supporting young people and was appointed as school governor as well as a trustee of her local community centres. She is dedicated to listening to residents' concerns and always champions for underrepresented voices to be heard.

After years of voluntary and community work within her ward Nazma became a Councillor. She is a committed and empathic team leader, working to build effective relationships with organisations as she continues to tackle problems with her community.

Outside of her role in the Council, Nazma has a background in International Public Health Nutrition, and has previously worked as a nutrition consultant for health centres and hospitals across Camden. As a mature student, using the Sure Start and Home Start services, she was able to achieve her higher education qualifications and ensure her children had access to free activities outside of school and during the summer holidays.

During her mayoral year she wants to inspire young people to achieve their potential and will raise awareness of opportunities that exist in the borough for all young people in Camden. She has selected Camden Young Foundation as her chosen charity and will work with the charity to raise awareness of the excellent work they are doing in the borough supporting young people and championing critical issues facing the local community.

Nazma's Mayoress for the year will be Ruji Mahmud and her escorts are her two daughters Thaspia Rahman and Mairah Rahman and my son Al-Mahi Rahman.

Muhibur Rahman Muhib MJF, was born in Sylhet, Bangladesh in 1959. Son of the late Mr. Aalhaj Arab Ali and Mrs. Hashira Begum, Muhib grew up in the village of Purushpal, Beani Bazar.

Muhib travelled to the UK in 1972 to start a new chapter in his life. Upon arrival, Muhib enrolled at Robert Montifiore Secondary School, where he furthered his secondary education. Whilst studying, Muhib worked two part time jobs at a local Indian restaurant and a garments factory.

Upon finishing secondary education, Muhib's zeal to become a successful business man was clear. He was determined to make a successful career and improve their family's living standards. This was at a time when many British Bangladeshis were heavily involved in the garments trade.

In 1979, Muhib continued that trend by establishing, with the help of a few business partners, his own garment factory, Modern Embroidery, in Tower Hamlets. The business rapidly became very successful.

Following the success in the garments trade, he ventured into the catering business and in 1982 was a business partner of the Indian restaurant he worked in as a teenager, India Grill, in Tower Hamlets, London. To date, he has carried on his successful business empire and is the owner of a number of restaurants and multiple properties in and around London.

Outside of his business prowess, Muhib plays an important role in community development both in the UK and in his homeland of Bangladesh.

He is currently the President of Jalalabad Association UK and Senior Vice Chair of the Bangladesh Centre London. He was the President of Beani Bazar Welfare Trust and still serving as an Executive Committee member of the Bangladesh Caterers Association UK, a platform representing the Bangladeshi cater-

ing industry in UK. His wealth of experience and dedication to the community can also be evidenced through his past effective and executive role in Bangladesh Welfare Association and Beani Bazar Thana Jonokallyan Samity.

His work with the community does not stop with being aligned with charitable organisations; Muhib has also spent much of his own fortune in supporting good causes. He has previously financed a Bengali Newspaper called Weekly Sylheter Dak where he was a Director and a member of the publishing board.

He is known to inspire education amongst generations of young people. He has spent over £30,000 to build a library in Beani Bazar's Women's College, helping hundreds of women from poor families to have access to much needed books and resources. In memory of his late father, he financed the Madrassa Academy Bhavan in 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.

He is one of the founding members of the Beani Bazar Cancer Hospital Foundation, the first hospital of its kind in Sylhet division, Bangladesh. Having served as Vice President of this organisation, Muhib along with a number of Bangladeshis living in the UK, funded this noble project.

In 2005, he was involved in distributing computers in Beani Bazar in order to enhance the education of local children. More recently, he has taken the initiative to build homes for the freedom fighters of Beani Bazaar.

In 2007, The Lions Club International Foundation awarded Muhib, with its highest 'Melvin Jones Fellowship' MJF Award for his dedication and years of working with communities. He is now a member of the prestigious organisation.

Muhib currently lives with his family including seven children in South Woodford, London.



**Muhibur Rahman Muhib**

**Sector:**  
*Business & Community*

Award Winner 2019



Mohammad Shamsur Rahman Nickel is an Artist but currently uses his artistic abilities to run his own multiple companies. 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. Through his company Print Art For U, has been working in the field of interior design, branding and construction work for a number of educational institutions and restaurants across the country.

He is strongly involved in a charity, helping to raise money to help those with neurodevelopment disorders. His reach extended to the next generation when Altamira Art & Design, another of his companies, worked with local job centres to deliver the government's "kick-start" project last year, and in-turn managed to find work for 2000 young people. More than 2 dozen have worked directly under him to learn graphic design and print work. Due to his efforts, these young people have now been streamlined into careers in the creative industry. Through his business, he maintains close affiliations with Bank of China, the Malaysian Embassy and the Gateway Housing Society.

Within the last 20 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, many Bangladeshi celebrations and he has also had the honour of working with some of the most famous and influential organizations in the Bangladeshi community. These include Channel S, NTV and Boishaki Mela .

Outside of his work life, he is deeply respected by his community for being a model father figure to his children - Nahian, who is studying Mathematics at King's College London, and Nabil - and making immense sacrifices for their futures. He is joined by his wife, Wahida Sultana who is also a graduate from Dhaka University, graduating with a Masters in Mass Communication and Journalism.



**Mohammad Shamsur Rahman Nickel**

**Sector:**  
*Arts and Design*

Award Winner 2022





**Shahida Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Literature*



Award Winner 2017



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 arrived in 1964. Her father was a successful restaurateur. She was born 2 days before East Pakistan became the independent state of Bangladesh.

Shahida is an author, publisher, writer, public speaker and community activist. She writes historical fiction, non-fiction and children's stories, particularly focusing on and raising awareness of South Asian history, culture and heritage. She is the 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: [www.perfectpublishers.co.uk](http://www.perfectpublishers.co.uk)

Lascar, (first edition) was published by Indigo Dreams Publishing in 2012. The second edition was published by Perfect Publishers in 2021, is a work of historical fiction inspired by a paternal ancestor, The highly-acclaimed novel is the story of a lascar (seaman) and is set in the 1860s. It revives the story of these unsung heroes and draws attention to their plight, educating people through the use of fictional characters.

Her second novel 'An Ayah's Choice' was published in March 2022 by Onwe Press. Set in 1900s, it tells the story of an Indian Ayah (nanny) and her journey to freedom and independence.

Shahida has contributed widely to print and online

publications, including Best of British, The Great War and the Feminist and Women's Studies Association and has blogged for the Huffington Post UK as well as to BBC Radio.

She has won numerous civic and cultural awards for her work such as the Channel S 'Special Acknowledgement Award' in 2013, the 'Arts and Cultural Awareness Award' at the British Muslim Awards in 2015. Shahida has been on the judging panel of the Young Muslim Writers Awards. She was shortlisted for the Muslim Women Awards in 2022 in the category 'Community Spirit Award'.

She is the only UK female trustee of the Cambridge Central Mosque which is Cambridge's first purpose-built mosque and Europe's first eco-mosque.

Shahida and her brother Dr. Kal Karim, are trustees of the Karim Foundation which aims to relieve poverty by providing food and support with domestic costs for those in financial hardship. The charity is the only organisation in Cambridge providing food and fuel support to all communities, regardless of their faith and background. The Karim Foundation was a finalist of BBC Radio Cambridgeshire's 'Make a Difference' awards. Shahida is also an advisor to the trustees of the Museum of Cambridge.

Shahida is married to Mohammed Zillur Rahman and has four children; Ibrahim, Imran, Aniq and Aminah.



**Cllr Rohima Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*

Cllr Rohima Rahman is a dedicated and accomplished figure in the Newham political realm. Known for her unwavering commitment to public service and tireless advocacy for the community. Born in Bangladesh, grown up in Newham, alongside her parents and siblings.

In 2006, Cllr Rahmans exceptional contributions and dedication were recognised with the Civic Award for Outstanding Citizen, further highlighting her remarkable commitment to serving the people of Newham. This prestigious honour showcased her unwavering commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of residents.

Cllr Rahmans outstanding community work was acknowledged once again in 2017 when she received an award from the Bangladesh High Commission for her exceptional contributions to the community.

From the beginning of her political journey in 2006, winning the election for Green Street East Ward, Cllr Rahman has consistently worked towards uplifting the community. Her resilience and dedication were particularly evident during challenging times such as the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks when she stood as a strong advocate for the people of Newham.

Throughout her tenure as a school governor for Shaftesbury Primary School from 2006, Cllr Rahman demonstrated her commitment to the education and well-being of the borough young learners. Her valuable contributions to the school governance and strategic decision-making have played a crucial role in shaping the educational experience of countless children.

During the 1990s, Cllr Rahman played a pivotal role in establishing a community development network in the disadvantaged Green Street Neighbourhood. Cllr Rahman has been working in the community voluntary sector for over 30 years and her commitment to championing the rights and empowerment of women and children in Newham multicultural communities is unwavering. Through her tireless work, she has promoted resilience and understanding among disadvantaged women, fostering harmonious co-existence among diverse groups.

In 2023, Cllr Rahman exceptional contributions and esteemed reputation led to her nomination for the prestigious role as a Chair of Council and First Citizen of Newham for the term 2023-2024. This historic moment marks her as the first individual of Bangladeshi origin to assume this esteemed position.

Muhammad Rizwan Rahman was born in the UK to Bangladeshi parents Motiur Rahman Kukon and Fatima Rahman. His residence in Bangladesh is Tegoria Upojela Jogonnath Pur Sylhet, Bangladesh. His father came to England in 1971 with his grandmother as a teenage during the liberation of Bangladesh, he then started his own Business R and H News Agent in march 1978 in Wimbledon.

At the age of 8 Rizwan went to Kings College School in Wimbledon, a top private School in the UK where he completed his GCSEs and A levels. He completed his degree in English Literature at Warwick University in 2003 followed by his GDL and LPC at BPP Law School, London.

Rizwan is a partner in the London Corporate team of CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP. His practice focuses on transactions for financial services businesses. His clients include businesses in the banking, insurance, wealth management and pensions sectors. He also has significant experience advising clients in the real estate sector.

Rizwan advises on domestic and cross-border acquisitions, joint ventures, strategic partnerships, group reorganisations and general corporate matters. He has particular experience in Part VII business transfers and asset backed funding

arrangements for pension schemes.

Rizwan has a great work profile including working for MetLife on the sales of its insurance businesses in Greece and Poland to NN Group. Sanlam on the sale of its life and pensions business to Chesnara and wealth management business to Oaktree, MS Amlin on the sale of its marine pleasure craft book to Aston Lark, Gallagher on the acquisition of Capsicum Re ,Unum Group on its acquisition of Polish financial provider Pramerica, FSMA Part VII banking business transfers for a number of international banks, including RCI Bank.

He also worked in the NatWest Group on the sale of the NatWest, Royal Bank of Scotland and Coutts trust management and administration businesses. Rizwan has worked on Several asset backed funding arrangements for pension schemes and employers, including for Sainsbury's pension scheme trustees. In 2020 Rizwan published "Do asset-backed funding structures need an update?" as a Pensions Expert.



**Rizwan Rahman**

Sector:  
Law



Sajjadur Rahman, 53 years old, lives in Manchester and is the founder of Sajjad Foundation. Since young adulthood, even before moving to this country from Bangladesh, he has been very passionate about charity and helping those around him. For charity fundraising over the recent years, Sajjad has undertaken many tough physical and mental challenges including completing the Great Run Manchester 10km run three years in a row and hiking to the top of the three peaks of the United Kingdom which are Ben Nevis, Mount Snowdon, and Scafell Pike.

He has also encouraged friends and family to participate in these initiatives too for example when a group of his friends walked from Oldham to Bradford which is almost 40 miles, to fundraise for Palestine. As well as fundraising for those in need in Bangladesh, Palestine, Yemen, and more, Sajjad also believes that charity starts at home. He started a local Bangla School for children to learn how to speak, read, and write Bangla, as well as teaching them about the history and culture of the heritage through stories, poems, and songs. The Saturday Bangla School has had numerous visits from local councillors, MPs, and mayors who are just as passionate about the work he is doing and the positive impact it is having on the youth of the community. There are a number of other initiatives in the local area and community that Sajjad has focused on including

monthly litter picking sessions with volunteers in parks and communal open areas, as it is important to look after the environment that our families and children are living in. Additionally, Sajjad will also donate hot meals to food banks, particularly around Eid and Christmas times, and throughout the Covid Pandemic, providing delicious traditional Asian food to key workers like nurses and carers. In regards to the focus on helping those in his home country, Bangladesh, Sajjad puts the money he fundraises towards many good causes such as providing aid to those affected by the floods, helping to build safer homes for poor people, and providing sewing machines to women so that they have a means of making their own livelihood, and building water wells in villages that have limited access.

All of these things leave a lasting impact to so many who are in need. At the core of it all, what motivates Sajjad to keep giving back and helping others is to try to make the world a better place no matter how small the impact may be. He hopes to continue helping others, motivating others to do the same, uplifting the local community, fundraising for those overseas, and bringing a positive impact.



**Sajjadur Rahman**

Sector:  
Charity





**Sheikh Aliur Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Business*



Award Winner 2019



Sheikh Aliur Rahman is the Chief Executive of London Tea Exchange, one of the leading luxury tea merchants in Europe. Prior to joining the London Tea Exchange he worked for a private investment company in the City of London where he worked as an investment analyst. Aliur continues to act as an advisor to a number of high profile clients on investments and special interest projects. 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 and public sector. Aliur currently holds various advisory roles at a regional and national level and remains active in major investment 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 focused his energy in taking over the London Tea Exchange and started the process of collecting rare and premium teas from around the world. Today, London Tea Exchange has one of the largest collections of rare and premium teas in the world and is renowned amongst tea con-

noisseurs and collectors from across the globe. Authentic to the core, yet loyal to a set of powerful values, the company has evolved and carved an enviable niche in the global luxury tea market and has aims to expand into twenty countries by 2021. As news of the London Tea Exchange spreads Aliur has already been recognized by a number of bodies. In 2016 UKBCCI awarded London Tea Exchange with the 'Best Product' category and in 2017 Aliur was awarded 'Entrepreneur of the Year'. The British Bangladeshi Business Awards also recognised Aliur's work and awarded him with the 'Award for Innovation' in the same year. In 2018 Aliur was awarded the Civic Award by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets for his contribution to business and local community.

Aliur is well known for his philanthropic contributions and his investment legacy programmes which focus on leaving a lasting legacy after every major investment. Aliur continues to support a number of leading charities working with young people from deprived backgrounds and communities across the globe.



**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 investment, 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.

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.



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**Syedur Rahman Ranu**

**Sector:**  
Property & Hospitality



Award Winner 2022



Syedur Rahman Ranu was born in the village of Taharlamu, Rajnagar in Moulvibazar. His father is Al Haj Habibur Rahman (Tara Miah). Mr Rahman completed his high school education in Rajnagar Portious High School in Rajnagar and obtained his further education from Moulvibazar Govt. College.

He arrived in the UK in 1977 with his parents. Since 1978 he started his own career in the catering industry. He established 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 Rahman joined as a Director of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry in 1998 since then he was elected as a Deputy Director General, Finance Director, Vice President, Director General and Former President. He is the founder President of Rajnagar Welfare society in the UK, he was involved at the Greater Sylhet Development Council UK and 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 home-

land, 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. He is living with his family in Royal Ascot in Berkshire. Mr Rahmans interests include travelling and politics.



**Mohammad Hafizur Rahman**

**Sector:**  
Catering and Media



Mohammad Hafizur Rahman was born in 1958, in Katia, Jagannatpur, Sylhet. He was educated in Katia Madresha and completed his primary education from Purbo Katia Primary School. His secondary education commenced at Khadimpur High School, where he successfully completed SSC. Mr Rahman's education was completed at Sylhet Varsity College.

After his education, Mr Rahman arrived to the UK in 1983, where he was employed by his brother at his business. Mr Rahman gained much valuable experience whilst working at his brother's restaurant which allowed him to open his own business, in partnership. The business prospered and after some time, he started another venture, in partnership with late Nurul Islam Hussain, a well known figure in the community.

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 Cheltenham Bangladeshi Association; he is also a

chairman of Cheltenham Ethnic Minority Forum and Greater Katia Welfare Trust. Mr Rahman is very passionate about his country and his people. He is active in many projects, helping the less fortunate students of Bangladesh, prosper and build better lives for themselves.

Mr Rahman 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.

Habibur Rahman is a former Member of parliament in Bangladesh and an executive member in Sylhet District Awami League.

He was born and raised in Dorgaw, Kamal bazar, Dakhin Surma, Sylhet, Bangladesh. His current address in Bangladesh is DOHS Banani, Dhaka.

During his student life, he became a prominent politician in Sylhet, Bangladesh and is a member of the Bangladesh Awami League party both in the UK and in Sylhet, Bangladesh. He completed his bachelors degree in Bangladesh.

Mr Rahman migrated to the United Kingdom in 1995. His father late, Alhaj Abdul Gani was in the Bangladesh army and his mother, late Monowara Khanom, was a well known social activist. In his family, including him, there are three brothers and three sisters. He is married to Jusna Begum and together they have three daughters and a son. Following his migration to the UK, he continued his politics for Bangladesh Awami League party and held some important roles within the party. Alongside his political and social identity, he is at present a businessman within the UK and Bangladesh.

In 2021, Mr Habibur Rahman went back to Bangladesh and participated in the parliamentary

by-election where he was elected as the MP for Sylhet, Bangladesh. Through his activities he has become very popular especially amongst the younger generation.

He currently is a lifetime member in Red Crescent Society Sylhet United and is also the president of Monowara Gani Memorial primary school. Furthermore Mr Rahman has established the Megmet Shishka (education) trust in Bangladesh.



**Habibur Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



Zenith Rahman is a renowned and respected social entrepreneur and community activist.

She has been passionately serving multi-cultural communities across the UK since the early 1980's, starting her career at the Montefiore Education Centre.

She gained immense popularity following the establishment of the Bromley-by-Bow Centre alongside Lord Andrew Mawson. The Centre focuses primarily on the development and enhancement of community health, education and business enterprise. The centre has many strategic partnerships with likes of St Paul's Way School, Guinness Trust and Poplar Harca. It's activities have been globally recognised and used as a benchmark for other social organisations and projects. Zenith is still actively involved with the Centre as the Vice President and has been honoured with the title of 'Mother of the Centre'.

Zenith has also worked on various international social and health programmes with NGO's such as VARD and has successfully held knowledge sharing sessions with the worlds largest NGO BRAC on poverty social welfare.

Her work has received many acknowledgments and recognitions in her respected field, such as, the Eu-

ropean Community Hero Award by the Bank of America.

She previously sat on the board for both Toy House Library and Kobi Nazrul Centre. She is a former Labour Councillor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.



**Ex-Cllr Zenith Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*





**Alhaj Md Sajjadur Rahman**

**Sector:**  
*Politics, Community Development*



Alhaj Md Sajjadur Rahman was born in Dighal Bak village, Nabigonj, Habi Gonj District in 1945. He has been married to Begum Sadeha Rahman for the past 55 years and has three sons, Abu Nasir, Shuebur & Maqsoodur and one daughter Tahmina. After completing his studies in Bangladesh he moved to the UK in 1963 and resided in Bradford and Liverpool and was employed by Northern Textile Mills whilst studying at Bradford Technical College and was involved in politics with the Labour Party, Trade Unions and dedicated his time to significant community work. He made an immediate impact and established the Howard Street Jame Masjid and set up the East Pakistan Peoples Association.

He was also a keen football enthusiast and followed Liverpool FC and was only a handful of Asians since the 60's to be involved in the game, attending matches, and running grassroots football. He used this as a toolkit to engage the wider community and enhance social integration.

He returned to Bangladesh for a short period and elected as Dighal Bak Union Awami League President after being involved in the setup of the six point movement with Bangho Bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and later helped the Awami League to victory in the 1970 East Pakistan general election as one of the key strategists of the Awami League, working closely with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Dewan Forid Gazi, Abdur Razak, Abdus Samad Azad, SM Kibria and was the political advisor to Major General M A Rob. He was involved in the liberation movement and was a key member of the Mukhdi Judha Freedom Fighters, putting himself and his family's lives at risk to help start the liberation process which eventually led to the independence of Bangladesh. As a key strategist of the liberation movement, the Awami League hierarchy encouraged him to move back to the UK to help gain support from the West for the independence of Bangladesh, which he helped influence through his involvement in politics in Britain.

He moved to Luton in 1978 and was employed by General Mo-

tors as a production engineer until 1999 after taking early retirement due to ill health. During his time in England, he was involved in community and charity work and helped set up several initiatives including a Bengali School, Sports Clubs, Community & Voluntary Groups and was a member of several organisations as President, Secretary and Treasurer.

He was also a Trustee and a founding member of Bury Park Jame Masjid and Jalalabad Mosque & Islamic Cultural Centre in Luton in which he was President for over two decades. He has been President of Luton Awami League for the past three decades and Chairman of Al Furqan Foundation Trust.

He is currently the Chief Advisor to the Noor-E-Madina Foundation and Chair of a couple of school in Dighal Bak, Nabi Gonj which he founded and financially supported during the past 35 years. He also help developed road and transport within the Nabi Gonj region and flood defence systems for the Kushiara River.

He has dedicated a significant amount of his time to community cohesion and social integration, Islamic affairs, and charity work for which he has helped raise an approximate £10m. He has helped set up a number of projects in Bangladesh and third world countries to tackle inequality and poverty, and established schools, health and employment initiatives and raised substantial amounts of funds for good causes and developed and influenced government policies to tackle deprivation and poverty in various countries. He has received a number of awards over the years including the Channel S Community Award 2006 and is one of the most credible and respected members of the community in the UK and Bangladesh who has made a major impact in the UK and ensuring a strong stepping stone for the future generation of British Bangladeshi's in the UK.



**Mizanur Rahman Mizan**

**Sector:**  
*Philanthropist*



Mizanur was Born in Sylhet Bangladesh. He moved to the UK in 1990 after finishing his degree under the Chittagong University.

Mizanur Rahman Mizan is a well known businessman, community activist and Journalist.

He started charity work since he was a high school student, by giving clothes, food and water to the extreme poor in Syhlet Bangladesh. He is a Former hockey player of the Bangladesh national team as well as he played for two top clubs in Bangladesh called, Dhaka Mohamadan and Dhaka Abahani and was the captain of Dhaka Abahani 1988 . He also is a life time member Sylhet Red crescent.

He started charity work and later on set up his own charity called Just Help Foundation which has been running since 2007.

The charity organisation has helped many people in Bangladesh and the organisation is helping with education, providing clean water, sanitation, rickshaw project and building houses for the poor.

The big example of work was the Shihab cancer Appeal who was 7 years old, Hafiz Iqbal heart surgery 21 years old, Azua Enam who had a hole in his heart and was 2 years old, Borsha who was 5 years old and had heart disease, the Burn victims, the poor families support such as help with the wedding of daughters of widows, Bangladesh Sidr Cyclone which hit the south coast of Bangladesh in 2007, Ag Para mosque, Jollarpar mosque, Burhan Uddin Madrasa.

In all of these projects Mizan managed to raise more than £150k, the biggest project being the Just Help Eye hospital, Gowainghat Syhlet. These include over 700 cataract operations and it is completely free of charge for the poor people.

Mizanur Rahman Mizan the founder and chairman of Just Help foundation has been working as a journalist for the past 21 years, he also is involved with different organisations such as North England Bangladeshi TV Journalist association which he is the president of, chairman of labour friends of Bangladesh (tameside& Greater Manchester) vice chairman of Hyde Jamia Mosque, Bureau Cheif manchester of Channel S, Founder member of Tameside rotary club, NHS trust, interfaith Organisation and also a member of The London Bangla press club as well other respectable organisations. He also played an active role in the community, as a community activist he achieved many recognition from different organisations and was awarded the best community activist award 2008 which was given channel S, Joy tell community award 2015, Burnley Jamia Mosque and Islamic centre lifetime community achievement 2016,Pride in Hyde 2017.

Desh Foundation UK awarded and Mizan the best charity organisation in the UK in 2017, Lifetime sports personality award given by Amana foundation 2016, Hyde Bangladesh welfare association was awarded the best community in 2016 also he has received many recognition from other organisations. Just help foundation has also been active in the UK and has helped with treatment, supporting schools and local clubs to keep young people busy with education and sports so they can have the best future possible.

Every year Mizan runs an A level and GCSE award praising the outstanding students of all culture and backgrounds, he has also set up a youth sports club which has been running successfully for 2 years and the main objective of this club is to keep the youth distracted from drugs and antisocial behaviour by playing sports activities, He also runs his own business called Mizan property Solutions as well as Adnans Restaurant Hyde ,Manchester.

Tipu Rahman made his journey from Bangladesh to the UK some 28 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.

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 is currently serving as a Senior Vice President of the Bangladesh Caterer Association and President of East Midlands Region. In 2015-16 he has successfully presented BCA Chef competition in Northampton College where he was the head of the Chef's Awards Committee, which was covered by the National media such as BBC, ITV and local and National Newspapers.

In 2022, Mr Rahman Has opened a flagship fine dine restaurant TR Lounge in the heart of Gulshan-2, Dhaka, Bangladesh to explore his own creative fusion signature dishes to the food market of Bangladesh.

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 Mizan**

**Sector:**  
*Catering*

**Award Winner 2022**

Mohammed Mamun Rashid was born in Bangladesh and came to London for a better life. Upon his arrival to the UK at the age of 17, he faced many obstacles and struggles - but he embraced the challenges and turned them into opportunities.

Mamun Rashid has always been a very motivated entrepreneur, and this can be highlighted through when he started his own business - a garment and tailor company. This turned out to be a very successful enterprise, as it operated for 22 years. At this point, he decided to enter the world of real estate and property development – this business is still going strong to this day.

In the early 2000s, Mamun's passion turned him towards his local community as he became very socially active in local politics. His love for the community and his people got him very involved with charity, youth work, helping the local mosque and so much more. The support from the people resulted in a local election win, as he was elected as a Councillor in 2006.

Mamun believes in making changes and differences to his local society and also the lives of people in Bangladesh. He inspires others with his stories,

achievements and establishments. He holds a very important role as Chief Treasurer in Bangladesh Centre. He is the President of Beani Bazar Thana Jonokollan Shomiitee UK. He is also the Chair of The Labour Party for the Whitechapel Ward.



**Mohammed Mamun Rashid**

**Sector:** *Politics*



**Bajloor Rashid MBE**

**Sector:**  
*Business and  
Community*



Award Winner 2014



Bajloor Rashid MBE is a renowned British Bangladeshi businessman and philanthropist.

Currently, he is the founding president and co-founder of the UK Bangladesh Catalysts of Commerce and Industry (UKBCCI). This influential business organisation helps promote trade between Bangladesh and the UK. Recently he led a trade delegation to Bangladesh which proved to be very successful and mutually beneficial to both nations.

Born in Moulvi Bazaar in Bangladesh, he came to the UK in 1978. He gained a reputation in the eighties for his entrepreneurial skill in setting up a number of restaurants with his brother.

This dynamism led to him becoming one of the most prominent figures in the history of the Bangladesh Caterers Association (BCA), with him being their president from 2006 to 2012.

Whilst he was the BCA president, he was the driving force behind many memorable events to raise awareness of the issues effecting the curry industry, most memorably a mass demonstration in Trafalgar Square London over immigration rules. This in turn led to a debate in the House of Commons just days later.

To further cement the UKBCCI's role in business today and its desire to inspire and recognise the deep well of talent that exists, Mr Rashid founded and set up the UKBCCI Business & Entrepreneur Excellence Awards in 2016.

In his long and successful business career, Mr Rashid has been either a Director or Chairman of 20 different successful companies. His business portfolio also includes the wholesale business of rice and spice and his real estate company, Atlantic Properties.

His passionate work ethic has led to him receiving a number of awards over the years.

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.

Bajloor Rashid became a Member of the Order of the British Empire in 2012. This was the first time a BCA president had been recognised with an MBE in the New Year's Honours.

As a result of helping communities in the UK and Bangladesh, he was duly recognised by being listed in the Muslim Power 100 in 2018. With a deep concern about environmental issues, Mr Rashid has been at the forefront of many community projects including assisting the plight of communities affected by catastrophic world disasters such as Cyclone Sidr.

Mr Rashid is married and has four grown up children, who are all now in professional careers.



**Shermeena Rabbi**

**Sector:**  
*Healthcare*



Shermeena is a Consultant Speech and Language therapist who has been working over fifteen years. Prior to starting her own practice, she worked for over ten years as a Speech and Language therapist in both the NHS and private sectors building an expertise in communication disorders (speech, language, communication and swallowing deficits). She has worked at some of the most prestigious institutions such as the Royal Marsden and the Wellington Hospital. She was selected to work with royalty and diplomats both in the UK and internationally who have communication difficulties. Her independent practice, Unlocking Language, currently employs twenty-five speech and language therapists. Since its inception in 2013, the practice has grown into one of the largest and successful practices in the UK, with the head office and clinic in Canary Wharf and Harley Street. Her company provides services into schools, rehabilitation units, hospitals, courts and prisons. Shermeena was the first British Bangladeshi to graduate in Speech and Language therapy in the UK.

She champions the rights of people who cannot communicate enabling them to have a voice and has played a fundamental role in raising awareness of special educational needs and reducing the stigma of the disability in the Tower Hamlets community. She has set up partnerships with local charities in

Tower Hamlets. Her innovative approach to therapy and her entrepreneurial flair has seen her team utilise bespoke and effective models of therapy, technology, and developing products to enhance the client outcomes. She has also developed a multidisciplinary fast track Paediatric Assessment Service. Her practice is now commissioned by local authorities and the NHS to implement her therapy methods, a unique development in the healthcare setting. Shermeena is a member of various business clubs.

These efforts and rise to the top of her profession have seen her collect numerous awards, including at the British Bangladeshi Business Awards in 2015 for Woman of the Future Entrepreneur, and 2017 for Best Entrepreneur of the Year Female. She has recently also collected two awards at the Federation of Small Businesses London Awards 2017, for Female Business Owner of the year and Healthcare Business of the Year. She was also recently shortlisted for the prestigious Asian Women of Achievement Awards. One of her passions is to advocate the entrepreneurial spirit of the female British Muslim community. A group that has not received the recognition for its innovation and success historically.

Abdus Salam is a community figure both in Moulvibazar and in London. He is the son of Late Mohammed Samroo, a leading figure in the curry industry and one of the founders of BCA, and Mrs Sayeda Sofia Khanam, a social activist in Moulvibazar.

His passion for cricket began when he was involved within his locality in the Old Hospital Road cricket team. As his love for cricket grew he began playing with Friends Cricket Club from 1982. From 1987, Abdus came to the U.K, where he joined the Bangladesh Youth Cricket team in London, later joining Abahani cricket club, Surrey. His love of sports extended to football and table tennis also.

Abdus Salam continued being directly involved in Cricket both through playing, and philanthropy. He was a founder member and current treasurer for Rajnagar Welfare Society UK. In 2005 he immersed himself further into sharing cricket with the wider community, becoming the first chairman of London Tigers cricket club. Abdus led the Tigers on a tour of Bangladesh in 2011 during the ICC Cricket World Cup.

Abdus Salam is the founder president of the Bangladesh Cricket Supporters Association (BCSA UK). This is the official supporters' group of the Bangladesh cricket team as recognised by the International Cricket Council. The BCSA UK worked in coalition with the ICC during the Champions Trophy 2017 and ICC Cricket World Cup 2019, both of which were held in the UK. The ICC confirmed that the BCSA sold over 10k tickets to Bangladeshi fans during these events.

Abdus Salam helped found Cricket Players Association Moulvibazar (CPAM UK), to encourage the previous generation of the Moulvibazar community now in the UK to reconnect through cricket. He became the first CPAM UK president between 2018-2019. He leads by example, is very active, still playing cricket at the age of 56.

Abdus Salam is a founder of the Bangladesh District Cup Cricket Competition UK, now in its fourth year.

Abdus Salam is involved in a range of philanthropy activities, including in his neighbourhood in Moulvibazar, donating cricket equipment, sponsoring the Moulvibazar U14 district cricket team and guiding newly arrived cricketers in the UK to cricket pathway programmes.

Whenever the ECB want to consult on any issues related to Bangladesh, the media team contact Abdus as he has become a well know voice of Bangladeshi cricket in the UK. He appears regularly on TV as a commentator of Bangladeshi cricket.

In May 2023, the BCSA UK supported Essex Country Cricket Club to organise the Bangladesh vs Ireland matches at Chelmsford, Essex. Due to the influence of Abdus Salam, he was given the prestigious honour as the first official Bell Ringer during the ODI between Ireland and Bangladesh. This recognition has never been given to any Bangladeshi person before and that is why 2023 is the year of achievement for Abdus Salam.

Abdus Salam is married to Naznin Nahar Salam and has three children. Tabia, Sakhawath and Affan.



**Abdus Salam**

**Sector:**  
*Sports*



Award Winner 2023



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, Hack-

ney 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 was 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.



**Shapla Salique**

**Sector:**  
*Music and Arts*





**Shamsuddin Ahmed**  
MBE

**Sector:**  
*Community Activist*



Shamsuddin came to England in 1958 and started to work in a restaurant in Blackpool owned by Malik Bakth, and soon became a managing partner in 1961. He was the youngest restaurant owner in the North West. He later opened another restaurant called Shalimar in Manchester .

Shamsuddin has been involved with the following groups as the Executive Committee Member of the Pakistan Society, Jomitul Muslim Mosque, Founder Member of the East Pakistan Catering Association, East Pakistan Community and Islamic Centre. Council Member of the National Federation of Pakistan Association UK, Member of the 1st co-ordinating forum prior to the liberation movement. During the liberation movement North West HQ was my restaurant at Shalimar.

Founding General Secretary, Bangladesh Society, Welfare and Community Service, Member of the Lions Club International, Committee Member of the Chester Chamber of Trade and the Nantwich Chamber of Trade. He is also the permanent Member of the Habiganj Society, Dhaka. He is also a life member of Jalabad Asso Dhaka, and life member of Bighab Unnion Shantha Dhaki.

He is presently involved with the following groups as the Founding Chair: Chester Bangladeshi and Asian Community Development Project, Vice-Chair of the Cheshire Racial Equality Council. Founding Trustee of Shah Jalal Mosque, Founding Member of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE). Management Committee Member, Chester Citizens Advice Bureau. District Advisory Council, West Cheshire Social Services and West Cheshire County Council Anti Racist Forum.

He is more centred on his community work and makes

time to raise funds for charity projects. He was very involved with the East Pakistan Relief Fund in 1970. The Manchester-based liberation movement action committee started in his restaurant.

He has for many years now worked hard for our young people and their activities, for helping our older community members to improve their English.

For the past 25 years, he has organised very popular Christmas lunches for pensioners, day trips etc and has received a Barclays Community Award as well as a Co Op Award. He also received other awards, the National Community Award from Potrika presented by Former Health Minister Frank Dobson and Former Bangladesh High Commissioner A H Mahmood, long-standing voluntary work, Star Citizen Award, city of Chester, and runner up for the Cheshire and North Wales Millennium Champions Community Awards and BBC Asia Awards.

He played an important part in a Northwest TV broadcast by Nigel Jay from the BBC Northwest, which was a program about local Bangladeshis in Chester.

Shamsuddin has been involved in fundraising for various charities such as local Hospices and Tsunami disasters around the world. Shamsuddin has assisted with many difficult immigration issues/ problems. Shamsuddin won the Muslim community award at the House of Lords present by Lord moisten Leader of the house Lord.

He is currently Honorary President of Cheshire West and Chester Bangladeshi Association.

He is married to Syeda Ayesha Siddika Ahmed with three sons.



**Cllr. Nadia Shah**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



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 resides there with her family.

Nadia started career in banking but also worked for the Black and Minority Ethnic community, particularly for the betterment of the Bangladeshi Community, she has been contributing to the community and working in management within community settings and safeguarding, as well as peer education with young people, in the private statutory and voluntary sector for the past 20 years.

She went on to work on many community projects, predominantly working with women, 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. Nadia became a co- opted trustee for the Surma cen-

tre (the largest organisation working for the Bangladeshi community) and then went on to become an elected director.

Nadia was awarded 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.

Throughout her Mayoral year Nadia has focused on 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.



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.

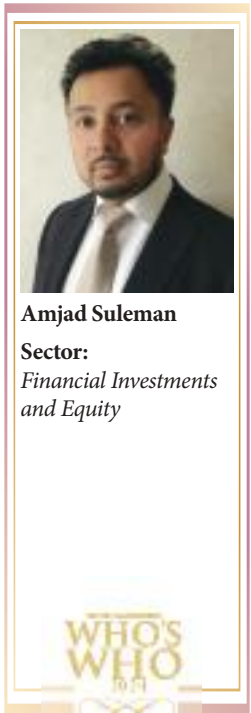
Mr Suleman is an advisor and business associate of a number of international corporations, consulting them on finance and business strategy: ADP (UAE) - Energy and Social Eco projects, AMSIA Green Automobile (China/

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.



**Amjad Suleman**

**Sector:**  
*Financial Investments and Equity*

Cllr Rebaka Sultana, a philanthropic woman of British Bangladeshi origin, resides in East London and is dedicated to promoting social and political welfare, making her a beacon of hope in her community. She has been actively involved in initiatives for social responsibility, women's empowerment and increased participation among ethnic minority women, working tirelessly to combat gender discrimination. She has served on various school governing bodies and engaged directly with ethnic minority families to address educational disparities.

Cllr Rebaka Sultana has exemplified her commitment to community problem-solving and campaigns by joining the Labour Party in local politics. Notably, she made history as the first and only woman from BAME background to be elected to the prestigious seat of Bethnal Green East in the Tower Hamlets Council elections. Since May 2022, she has served as a Councillor for the Bethnal Green East Ward in Tower Hamlets.

In her role as an elected representative, Cllr Rebaka Sultana actively advocates for women's safety and works tirelessly to address various forms of inequality, including domestic violence. Her responsibilities in the council include serving as the Shadow Cabinet Member for Safer Communities and championing women's rights within the borough. She also holds positions in multiple committees and panels as a Councillor, consistently earning praise for her contributions. Moreover, her active involvement in local issues has garnered her widespread acceptance and recognition.

Furthermore, Cllr Rebaka Sultana has dedicated many years to the field of education. With 25 years of experience

in youth mentoring projects, she has established an excellent career and reputation in charities, social event organization, and fundraising. Her charitable endeavors include participating in a trek to Mount Snowdonia, supporting Sylhet Aid, an initiative aimed at assisting vulnerable individuals, addressing inequality, and fostering a more compassionate community.

Cllr Rebaka Sultana hails from a family of seven children, born to Alhaj Mubarak Miah Jagannathpur of Sunamganj in Elashkandi, Chowkidekhi, Sylhet City. Her father was a former treasurer of Bangladesh Welfare Association UK. Her late father-in-law, Alaaddin Chowdhury, was a highly respected figure in Sylhet and held a prominent position in Beanibazar Dubag with advanced degrees. Cllr Rebaka Sultana resides in Chowkidekhi, Ward No. 6 of Sylhet City. Her husband, Ahad Chowdhury Babu, is a well-known journalist.

In her personal life, she is a mother of three children, with two sons currently pursuing higher education. One of her sons, Labib Chowdhury, recently graduated from the prestigious Queen Mary University of London. The second child, Hamim Chowdhury, is actively involved and interested in politics, hoping to follow in his mother's footsteps. The youngest, Liban Chowdhury, currently studies at Swanlea Secondary School.

Championing change, one community at a time, Cllr Rebaka Sultana is the embodiment of philanthropy and empowerment. A force for positive change, she fearlessly tackles the barriers that hinder progress.



**Cllr Rebaka Sultana**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



**Tapan Saha**  
FAIA, FCCA

**Sector:**  
Accountancy



Award Winner 2023



Tapan Saha FCCA, a Chartered Certified Accountant is very well known in the community for his Accounts and Tax expertise and also Charitable activities. He is also associate member of the Association of International Accountants.

During the Covid Period, Tapan has taken initiative of TAX CLINIC, where he and his team members advised and suggested the Bengali community's many businesses and individuals about the Government grants and other supports and loans. He used to join in the regular Television talk show.

Tapan, son of Mr Satya Ranjan Saha & Luxmi Rani Saha finished his HSC from Notre Dame College, one of the best educational institutes in Bangladesh. After the completion of his Honours and Masters in Accountancy from the University of Dhaka, he started to work at a private firm and also the Uttara Bank Limited for a short period. Then he moved to UK for studying ACCA. After qualifying ACCA successfully, he joined in BSS Associates Limited, Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, to gain practical knowledge and experience. He became the practice manager there while he dealt with multi million pound worth of foreign and local clientele.

Tapan then set up his own Accountancy practice with 5 employees initially. For his dedication, hard work and commitment to the clients, practice is growing successfully with 14 staff members. Tapan has extensive knowledge on Real estate tax, Leisure & Hospitality, Catering, Direct and Indirect Taxation, Solicitors Accounts, and the construction industry along with General Accountancy and Taxation. Tapan speaks about current economics and tax affairs on television talk shows here in the UK and Bangladesh.

Tapan, a meritorious student from school life, has shown his leadership quality from childhood. He was 'Class Captain' until he finished school. Then he became elected 'Class Representative' in his batch in Accountancy department in University of Dhaka. He was also elected Transport Secretary of 'Ananda', a bus route of Dhaka University for students resides in Narayanganj.

Rotaract Tapan, joined Rotary Movement in 1993 and was awarded Best 'Club Editor' and 'Club Secretary' in the whole Rotaract club in Bangladesh RI District 3280. He became President of Rotaract Club of Narayanganj in 2000.

He has been involved in many social and charitable organisations in the UK. He is the Organising Secretary of Dhaka University Alumni Association UK and involve with Jagannath Hall Alumni Association UK, Sanaton Association, Hindu Aid UK and The Accountants Club UK. He was the secretary of JHAAUK, when they successfully celebrated the 10th anniversary of that organisation in 2016. He is patron of few cultural organisations.

Tapan's family which consists of, his wife Kalyani Saha, daughter Tropa Saha and son Tapomoy Saha, all three love music and actively involved with three musical institutions and regularly doing performance.

Daughter Tropa Saha has successfully finished her GCSE from "Chelmsford County High School For Girls" a renowned grammar school in the country. Son Tapomoy Saha has secured a place in year 7 in "City of London School", one of the top private school in London.

Tapan loves Travelling, Music, reading History and charitable activities.



**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 India 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 land mark 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.

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 S honoured him for his services to the community.



**Sultan Mahmud Shariff**

**Sector:**  
*Community Relations*



Mr Mohammed Shah Jahan is originally from the picturesque village of Baniachong, Habigonj in Bangladesh. Mr Shah Jahan has carved a remarkable path through his dedication, education and unwavering commitment to these various sectors. His journey from his humble beginnings to becoming a prominent figure in both healthcare and media is a testament to his perseverance and passion.

Education played a pivotal role in shaping Mr Shah Jahan's journey. After completing his BA Honours at Sylhet MC College, he embarked on a quest for knowledge that led him to the University of Manchester and University of Central Lancashire. These institutions not only honed his intellectual prowess, yet also ignited his desire to make a significant impact in the world.

With an unwavering commitment to the healthcare sector, Mr Shah Jahan has dedicated 22 years to the NHS. His role as an NHS employee has showcased his professional expertise and his deep-rooted compassion for public health. He was elected as a NHS Governor which further demonstrated his dedication to serving his community.

For the past three decades, he has been an integral part of the journalism community, working with renowned media outlets such as the Surma Newspaper, Bangla TV and Channel S. From the very humble beginnings of Channel S, he held the position of Bureau Chief, overseeing and shaping news coverage. His commitment to truth, transparency and excellence in reporting has solidified his reputation as a well respected and trusted journalist.

Prior to his successful media career, Mr Shah Jahan showcased his analytical skills as a Research consultant at the British Market Research Bureau. His contributions un-

doubtedly left a mark in the field, exemplifying his versatility and expertise beyond the realms of healthcare and media.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Mr Shah Jahan's commitment to his community and political engagement shine brightly. He is an active participant in local community activities, and demonstrated his commitment to improving the lives of those around him. Additionally, his involvement in Bangladeshi politics as a member of the Awami League showcases his dedication to making a difference on a larger scale.

In his personal life, Mr Shah Jahan finds strength and support from his loving family. He is married to Mrs Sabina Jahan, who serves in the local council education department, and is the proud father of three accomplished children. His son, Shahriyar Jahan is a Global Business Development Manager for a Robotics company, while his daughter-in-law, Dr Farah Farzana, has embraced a career as a GP. His daughter Sadia Jahan, excels as an Employment Advisor, while the youngest member of the family, Tasnia Shah, pursues her dreams as a medical student at the University of Manchester.

Mr Mohammed Shah Jahan's journey is a testament to his unyielding determination, unshakeable values, and his dedication to making a difference. Through his involvement in healthcare, media, and community engagement, he strives to create a profound impact on numerous individuals, leaving some form of positivity on every avenue he pursues.



**Mohammed Shah Jahan**

**Sector:**  
*Media / Health*





**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 news-

paper 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.



**MP Tulip Siddiq**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



Tulip Siddiq is the MP for Hampstead and Kilburn and the former shadow economic secretary to the Treasury. Tulip is currently serving as a Economic Secretary to Treasury and City Minister since 9th July 2024.

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 has completed second Master's in Politics, Policy and Government.

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).

Tulip has her own blog where she writes about both British and Bengali politics.

Fahim Talukder, born as only son to Mahfuja Khatun and notable community activist in Birmingham, Advocate Tofayal Ahmed. He is the eldest grandson of prominent businessman Al Haj Abdul Alim of Osamaninagar, Goalabazar. He was one of the very first few British Bangladeshis to enter prestigious King Edwards Grammar Schools in the 1990s. He then went on to finish his education and teaching qualification at St Anne's College, University of Oxford in 2012. He has been in the field of education for nearly a decade, working his way up to be one of the youngest curriculum leaders in the country at the age of 25.

Headhunted in 2019 Fahim moved to the United Arab Emirates where he has been Head of the Politics Faculty at one of the top ranked private institutions in United Arab Emirates, Dubai English Speaking College. During the pandemic, he was part of a team working with H.EDr. Ahmad Abdulla Humaid Abdulla Belhoul Al Falasi Minister of Education in UAE, providing his expertise in improving the National Curriculum and improving teaching and learning standards.

His experiences also include teaching English Language at the prestigious BRAC University to Bangladesh Civil Service Servants, under the guid-

ance of the late Sir Fazle Hasan Abed. Furthermore, he has worked with the Ministry of Education in Bangladesh with the Institution of Governance Studies. Where he has mentored civil servants of Bangladesh in pursuing their higher students and research activities.

Other notable credits include being appointed Lead Examiner for History and Government & Politics for Pearson International in 2021 and is in the process of launching an educational consultancy providing expertise to students in the MENA region in application for Higher Education in the UK, US, Australia and Canada. He is a philanthropist at heart as Fahim has been part of various charity projects in Bangladesh. As a doting father to his two girls, his passion involves working to improve women empowerment in the field of education.



**Fahim Talukder**

**Sector:**  
*Education*



Saleh Uddin Talukdar from Oldham, came to the UK in 2009 after finishing his LLB honours in Bangladesh. He joined with Jonosheba Bangla newspaper as he was very keen on media and literature. He volunteered to teach Bangla at St Hilda's primary school's teachers who really wanted to understand the language. Most students are from the Bangladeshi community and the teaching staff were not familiar with Bangla. He was a very active member of the children's Centre parents group too. Since 2010 until now he spends a lot of his valuable time doing work that benefits the whole community.

A great community organiser who always looks for opportunities to do something that brings Bangladeshi and British people together. He is the lead organiser of the international mother language celebration in Oldham Shahid Minar. A campaigner of human rights Saleh organised a mass demonstration in 2017 for Rohingya people in front of Oldham Shahid Minar where about four hundred people attended. He was actively part of a fundraising campaign called ORA Oldham Rohingya Appeal that raised over half a million for Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. He received the Oldham mayor applications certificate for his thankless volunteering work. Saleh has an image within the community for his passion for doing amazing activities and working for the whole community.

Saleh organises a carrom competition in the memory of the late Kobi Illias Uddin Ahmed who was famous for his poetry and literature. It was Saleh's thinking of showing respect to the genuine people who left us but made an impact on our lives. Saleh Uddin Talukdar has been a volunteer since 2015 and he does regular litter picking by groups and individually too. He is keep Britain Tidy litter hero ambassador and he is the first British Bangladeshi who was promoted by keep Britain Tidy litter picking campaigns on billboards in different cities and towns.

Saleh is a lead person of a community group called My Coldhurst who has been mentioned in the house of Parliament by the local MP for their litter picking activities in Oldham.

The community group receives a community award from Fusion Award.

Saleh Uddin was part of a very successful fundraising campaign last year and this year too, named Local Ramadan Appeal which does activities during fasting months to raise money for local charities.

Saleh Uddin Talukdar is married with three kids. He works within a successful British company. His wife works as an assistant teacher in a primary school.



**Saleh Uddin Talukdar**

**Sector:**  
*Community relations  
and social work*





**Valerie Ann Taylor**  
**OBE**

**Sector:**  
*Philanthropy*



Award Winner 2023



Valerie Ann Taylor was born on the 8th February 1944, in Bromley, Kent, UK to parents Marie and William Taylor.

Valerie is a Fellow of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (FCSP) and first came to Bangladesh with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) in 1969 to work as a physiotherapist in the Christian Hospital, Chandraghona in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, East Pakistan.

Her stay was interrupted by the War of Independence in 1971. During the war Valerie was evacuated but returned to the country in October 1971, two months before the liberation of Bangladesh. Having grown up living close to the National Spinal Injuries Centre at Stoke Mandeville in England, she was very aware of the need for rehabilitation services for the disabled in Bangladesh.

In 1973 Valerie returned to England to raise funds to establish a rehabilitation centre for paralysed people. She stayed in England for two years before returning in 1975. It took another four years before CRP was able to admit its first patients in 1979. During this time, Valerie worked in the Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital in Dhaka and it was in the grounds of this hospital that CRP had its first premises, two cement

store rooms which were used to treat the first spinally injured patients. Rather like gypsies, having moved to three locations during the first eleven years, CRP then found a permanent home and moved to Savar in mid 1990 where the head office is situated.

Valerie's achievements have been recognized with various accolades. She received the OBE (Order of the British Empire) in 1995 from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth; the Bangladesh Independence Award in 2004; Honorary Doctorate Degree (2010), by York St John University, UK and The ONE Award 2013 by Rotary International. Nirafat Anam Memorial Inclusion Award (NAMI Award) 2015 by The Asian Centre for Inclusive Education (ACIE), In 1998 Valerie was granted Bangladeshi citizenship by the Government of Bangladesh.

Valerie has been legal guardian to two Bangladeshi girls for several years. She continues to live adjacent to the CRP-Savar premises with her younger adopted daughter, Poppy. While Joyti, the elder one works as a computer operator in the CRP office and lives next door.



**Baroness Manzila Uddin**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*



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 of 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 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.

Anwar has been extremely productive with his time away from his playing duties and is now a fully qualified coach working towards his A- Licence which is among the highest qualifications in football Coaching. Anwar spent last season working with the West Ham United Academy as a coach and has been recently appointed as Assistant Manager to non league side Maldon & Tipree.

Having now retired as a player Anwar's full time role

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 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.



**Anwar Uddin**

**Sector:**  
*Sports*



Award Winner 2014



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 – Ovimot. 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. From 2015 to 2022 he worked as a Political Adviser for John Biggs – the Executive Mayor of Tower Hamlets.

Currently he is working for health and social service in Epping Forest.

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*





**Dr Ruab Uddin**

**Sector:**

*Education and  
Community Relations*

WHO'S  
WHO  
2024

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 the University of Manchester Institute of Science & Technology (UMIST) and pursued the post graduate degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Composite & High Performance Polymer Chemistry at Manchester University in 1992. Following on his success in the PhD project originally funded by Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), he was appointed as a research associate at ICI at Wilton Centre, Middlesbrough, Cleveland.

He has a number of publications in science journals. Ruab visited many European states & capital cities to attend science seminars and symposiums to represent his research team. His passion and strong desire to work with the Bangladeshi community had made him change his career from science research into the field of education. Later he joined Tower Hamlets College as a lecturer and then completed his PGCE at Huddersfield University. At present Dr Ruab is teaching science with the responsibility as the Key Stage 3 Science Co-ordinator.

During his college & university years he developed many community organisations projects through LEA & Urban grants to assist the Bangladeshi community. Ruab was one of the founders of Mossley (Manchester) Bangladesh Welfare Centre which promoted the linguistic and socio-cultural

activities in 1980s and early 90s. His long commitments and affiliated work involves with many organisations such as: Greater Sylhet Development & Welfare Council in UK (GSC); Bangladeshi Teachers Association (BTA); Greater Sunamganj Welfare Association; Dokshin Sunamganj Upozilla Association; Friends of Purbo Pagla High School in UK; Dagenham Bangladesh Cultural Association to name but a few.

Dr Ruab also works as a capacity building consultant where he facilitates seminars and training sessions in education, youth & social issues, community development and other related topics. He is a school governor of a primary school and a tertiary college in Dagenham. He is an irregular writer of Bangladeshi news papers and a guest of talk shows of Bengali TV channels. He is a silent supporter of Bongobondhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman & his political philosophy. He was the general secretary of Bangladesh Chatro League MC College Hostel branch; the founder general secretary of Greater Manchester Jubo League and currently the joint secretary of All European Bongobondhu Porishod.

Dr Ruab is the eldest of four siblings (second brother Mohim Uddin, a caterer; third brother Sharif Uddin, a medical doctor and the youngest brother Thaher Uddin, an accountant) who is married to Sofina Uddin and has two sons, Masum and Nasim and a daughter Shabnom. He with his family resides in Becontree in the Borough of Barking and Dagenham.



**Moin Uddin**

**Sector:**

*Hospitality & Catering*

WHO'S  
WHO  
2024

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 Gangana-gar. 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.



Mohammed Shab Uddin is the CEO and Managing Director of the 'Beani Bazar Cancer and General Hospital' and one of its Founding Trustees. BBCGH is notably known as one of the first 'Cancer' focussed charitable projects in the Bangladeshi community. Since 2009, Mr Uddin has dedicated the majority of his time spearheading this Charity from a green field site to a multi story, fully operational general hospital with a dedicated cancer clinic that is open 24 hours a day to the public. The Charity has been able to successfully raise substantial funds with the help of the community and is continuously expanding its services and fulfilling its objectives.

Prior to Mr Uddin's involvement with BBCGH, he has been actively involved with a number of socio-cultural and charitable organisations of Beani Bazar both in the UK and in Bangladesh since a young age. Mr Uddin's UK life began in the early seventies after joining his father who had been here since 1942. Mr Uddin and his father were involved in various retail businesses before establishing the Tower Tandoori Restaurant in the Tower Bridge area. The family were able to successfully establish a mini chain of Indian Restaurants in the late 80s. Today, the Tower Tan-

doori is known as one of London's oldest Tandoori restaurants and celebrates its 40th Anniversary in 2018. The Farncombe Tandoori in Surrey, another restaurant opened by Mr Uddin and his father celebrates its 35th Year in business in 2018.

Mr Uddin's father was one of the first Bangladeshi landlords in the East End; he has also helped Mr Uddin invest in the Property Market in the UK and Bangladesh. Mr Uddin has since been able to expand his property business globally.

Mohammed Shab Uddin married Nilufa Begum in 1985 and they are blessed with three sons and one daughter. Their sons have all completed higher education and are involved in the family property business and catering businesses. Tower Tandoori is well known for being run by the 3rd generation of the family, eldest son Suhel Ahmed. Third son, Russel Ahmed also plays an important role in helping run the family businesses. Stirling Ackroyd Legal; an international property law firm is headed by second son Emon Ahmed, who is also a Corporate Lawyer. Mr Uddin's daughter is currently studying at UCL. All their children are involved in charitable activities and community projects.



**Mohammad Shab Uddin**

**Sector:**  
*Catering / Charity*



Ex-Cllr Uddin was born in Mohammedpur, Osmaninagar, Sylhet, Bangladsh. After completing his primary education he arrived with his parents in the UK at the tender age of 11 years old and started schooling at Hyde High School. He completed A-levels from Clarendon college and Biomedical Sciences Honours degree from Manchester metropolitan university in 2001.

He joined one of the top global pharmaceutical companies in the UK and started his working career. He always had close working with the Bangladeshi community in Hyde and in Royal Tunbridge Wells. He contributed to the local Bangladeshi, Muslim community by setting up Tunbridge Wells Bangladeshi Trust. He was one of the co-founder delivering much needed services for the local community.

Cllr Uddin is elected member of the Tunbridge wells mosque since 2010, serving as general secretary. He was the catalyst for setting up the Tunbridge Wells Mela in 2005- a multicultural event that attracts 5000+ people annually celebrating cultural diversity in Tunbridge Wells.

He started his political career with the conservative party back in 2010, working closely with The Rt. Hon Greg Clark MP for campaign at the general election. In 2015 Cllr Uddin was elected as Borough councillor for Tunbridge Wells representing Southborough

and High Brooms ward and Town councillor for Southborough. He is serving in two committees : finance and governance advisory board and Member of scrutiny and overview. In 2017 he was elected as deputy Mayor and May 2018 was elected as Mayor and Chairman from Southborough Town Council, Kent. The key focus for the town is to deliver the community HUB, bringing Theatre, library, medical centres and the football pavilion and retail units.



**Ex-Cllr Mohammed Zulhash Uddin**

**Sector:**  
*Politics*





**Nobab Uddin**

**Sector:**  
*Media*



Award Winner 2018



Nobab joined Janomot in 1990 and became its Editor in 1997, a position he still holds. Janomot, the oldest ethnic Bengali newsweekly in Britain, was established on 21 February 1969 and has, with Nobab's diligence and dedication, become the leading popular newspaper within the Bangladeshi community in UK and Europe. His commitment to the journalistic integrity has ensured that Janomot continues to earn unparalleled respect across different members of the community. Having studied for his Bachelor of Science in Quantity Surveying Building & Construction, he continued his studies and obtained a Diploma in Construction Management. He started his career working within the construction industry, and continued his career progression in local government working for different local authorities and housing associations. He is currently working for a leading housing association in London at senior management level and is a member of several professional bodies.

Nobab is one of the founder members of the London Bangla Press Club. Established in 1991, it is an important association for Bangladeshi journalists in Britain. In addition to carrying out his role first as Treasurer of the Club, he was President from 2014-16.

Nobab is respected for his voluntary work across various community and charity organisations in London. From 1990 to 1994, he was the General Secretary of the largest Bengali organisation BWAG (Surma Centre) in Camden, North London. Indeed, his role as General Secretary was during a seminal time as the local British Bangladeshi community developed in London and he was instrumental in working with Camden Council to deliver a dedicated building for the Surma Centre.

Nobab 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 is also an Adviser of the 'British Bangladeshi Power & Inspiration 100'. He has loved sport from an early age, representing his school and district at national level in both badminton and athletics in Bangladesh. This keen interest in sports led to him forming the Bengali Sports Council in UK 1988, in support of National Sports Council. He was founder Secretary of this organisation, encouraging and motivating youths to take an active part in sports. The engagement between community and youth centres was instrumental in helping British Bangladeshis integrate into both the wider community during the turbulent 80s in London as well as mainstream British sports culture. He helped create and foster a family atmosphere in this organization, which crucially continues to serve as a social networking space for other British Asian groups as well.

During the early eighties he formed Link Promotions, a cultural and promotional organisation, which has been performing plays and cultural shows in the UK. Since 1982, Nobab has written and successfully staged several plays across the country to critical acclaim. His status as playwright and director has had, perhaps, the most tangible impact within the British Bangladeshi community. His productions appeal directly to Bangladeshis and Nobab is unflinching in reflecting profound social dilemmas and tackling taboo subjects, such as forced marriages and drug use in the British Bangladeshi community.

He has published five books, and edited three, including *The Racist Murder of Altab Ali*, which was important in highlighting the senseless murder of a Bengali East End, garment worker in 1978.

Nobab Uddin is married with two children.



**Mohammed Mustafa Kamal Yakub**

**Sector:**  
*Catering*



Award Winner 2018



Mr. Kamal Yakub as he is commonly known hails from Sylhet and lives in Surrey. He came to the UK as a full time student in 1972 soon after independence of Bangladesh. He passed 'A' Levels in Pure Maths, Applied Maths and Physics from Paddington Technical College London. Later, Mr. Yakub completed a full time 3 year Degree Course at University College London (UCL) and successfully obtained a degree in Engineering in 1977. 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 till to date with different outlets. Mr. Yakub is the current National President of Bangladesh Caterers Association UK Ltd, popularly known as BCA. This organisation has been running for 58 years since inception and is the oldest and largest of its kind.

Mr Yakub 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' and then during the last term Mr. Yakub was the President of BCA Surrey Region. Prior to being elected as the 'National President' of BCA in May 2017 (for a term of 2 years) he had been a Senior Vice President continuously for a few terms in a row. Mr. Yakub held the responsibility as the Convener of BCA's Annual Award & Dinner Committee over the last few years (upto Nov 2016) requiring a substantial amount of activities and experience. During the Presidency of Mr. Mahmadar Rashid, Mr Yakub headed a team to represent BCA to Sheffield Home Office officials where a round table talk was held regarding 'Sector Based

Scheme'. BCA was consulted as stakeholders by the Home Office since the beginning of introducing this pilot scheme. Unfortunately and unfairly the scheme did not continue for countries outside the European Union. BCA is still lobbying for its reintroduction.

During the Presidency of Mr. Bajloor Rashid MBE he was Head of the Action Committee for the historic '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, Mr. Yakub 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. As a person, he is a man of principle and a thorough gentleman and is liked by both the younger and the older generations.

Mr. Yakub is married with 2 sons and a daughter. The eldest son is a civil Engineer who currently works in Saudia Arabia, the daughter is a school teacher and the youngest son is an IT consultant.

Dr. Wali Tasar Uddin MBE DBA was born on April 17, 1952, in Moulvibazar, Bangladesh. He was educated in Moulvibazar before moving to the United Kingdom in 1967, where he began working in restaurants and pursued further education.

President European Bangladesh Federation of Commerce and Industry (EBFCI) Senior VP NRB world. A successful businessman, a community leader, and an outstanding humanitarian admired throughout both Europe and Bangladesh. With his portfolio including the famous Verandah restaurant, Lancers restaurant, and his most recent venture, Britannia Spice restaurant, he has extensive interests in the commercial world.

Over the years, Britannia Spice has won numerous awards: Les Routiers Best Newcomer (2001); Best in Scotland at the British Curry Awards for three consecutive years (2005, 2006, 2007); BIBA Award (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2014); Sunday Times Travel Magazine: Best Indian Restaurant in Scotland (2001); and 2008 Restaurant of the Year in the Irn Bru Curry Awards. 2014 Bangladesh Caterers Association Restaurant of the Year Award and the 2014 Good Curry Guide Exceptional Restaurant of the Year Award.

His contribution to the restaurant sector was recognized in 2006 with BIBA's Industry Personality of the Year award as well as the Asian Jewel Lifetime Achievement award. Wali has also embraced charitable work, taking on prominent roles as the Senior Adviser for BRAC UK, Joint Convener of the British-Bangladeshi Royal Honored Council (BBRHC), Director of Sylhet Central Dental College, Heart Foundation, and advisor of the Scottish Parliament International Development Committee.

Dr. Uddin is also an active director of the Edinburgh and Leith Chambers of Commerce, the Institute of Directors, and Rotary International. He is also a director of the Council of the Foreign Chambers of Commerce in the UK, a founder member and director of Britain in Europe, and he was Chair-

man of the University of East London Business School Advisory Board. The Junior Chamber voted him Young Scot of the Year in 1992. This success in the business world has brought recognition from many sides. In 1984, Dr. Uddin was the first Bangladeshi in Scotland to be made a Justice of the Peace. In 1993, he was appointed as the first Honorary Consul-General of Bangladesh in Scotland, and in 1995, he was made a Member of the British Empire for his services to race relations. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and, in 2003, was included in Debretts' People of Today.

In 2000, he was awarded a Doctorate in Business Administration (Honoris Causa) by Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. Moreover, Dr. Wali was awarded a Doctor of Letters (D. Litt.) in 2007 by Heriot-Watt University and a Doctor of the University (D. University) by Edinburgh Napier University.

He is the chairman of the Council for Bangladeshis in Scotland, the founder of Edinburgh's Central Mosque, and a trustee of the Shahjalal Mosque and Islamic Center. He is also chairman of the Commonwealth Society of Edinburgh and the BanglaScot Foundation. Additionally, he serves Chairman of the Edinburgh Bangladesh Samity and Edinburgh Mela.

Dr. Uddin, was President and DG of the Bangladesh-British Chamber of Commerce, played a significant role in the success of Expo Bangladesh 2005, the UK's first Bangladesh-specific trade show. A hundred companies from Bangladesh were represented alongside UK-based organizations with an interest in Bangladesh's export trade and non-resident Bangladeshi

In Bangladesh, he has working as the Chairman and Chief Coordinator of the Sylhet Women's Medical College and Hospital, a Trustee of the Bangladesh Female Academy, and an advisor to the Atish Dipankar University of Science & Technologies in Dhaka.



**Dr. Wali Tasar Uddin**  
MBE DBA FRSA JP

**Sector:**  
Business



Award Winner 2010



## BRITISH BANGLADESHI

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BRITISH BANGLADESHI  
WHO'S  
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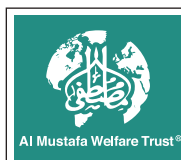


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