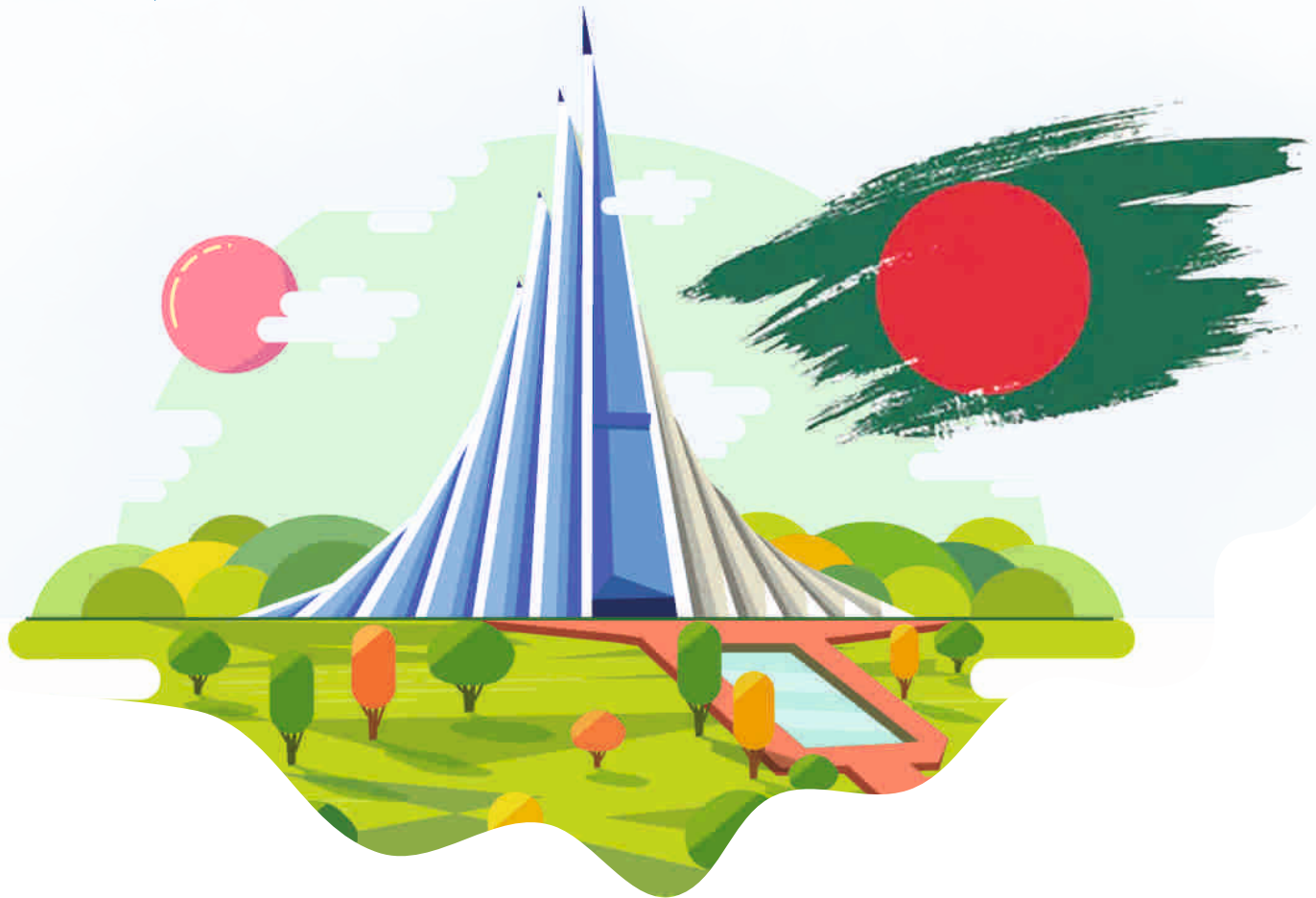




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# CONTENTS

BBB AWARDS 2019  
**CONTENTS**

## 05 MESSAGES

*Special thoughts from dignitaries and organisers*

Chairman Mishbaur Rahman  
H.M. The Queen  
Prime Minister Rt Hon Boris Johnson  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina  
Minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun MP  
High Commissioner Saida Muna Tasneem  
Mayor Andy Street  
Managing Director Ranju Miah

## 15 BBB AWARDS TEAM

## 16 PREVIOUS WINNERS

*Winners from previous BBB Awards*

Award Winners 2015  
Award Winners 2017

## 19 GALLERY

*Activities and events from Desh Foundation UK*

Desh Foundation UK Activities  
BBB Awards 2015  
BBB Awards 2017  
Press Launch 2019  
Roadshows

## 27 JUDGES

## 29 NOMINEES

Award Categories  
Nominee Profiles

## 46 OBITUARY

Rois Miah



“ *Many came here from Bangladesh in the 70s & 80s and in that short space of time we have seen how many British Bangladeshis have risen to the top of their field.* ”  
Former Prime Minister Rt. Hon David Cameron  
BBB Awards 2015

“ *I hope these Awards, which celebrate the entrepreneurial spirit of the British Bangladeshi community, inspire more people to take up the opportunity to start and grow their own business.* ”  
Former Prime Minister Rt. Hon Theresa May  
BBB Awards 2017

“ *Bangladesh would not be where it is today without the outstanding effort, skill and courage made by the British Bangladeshis.* ”  
Hon. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina  
BBB Awards 2017



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The New Bingley Hall, Birmingham



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60% of young offenders have a form of speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)  
(Source: ICAN)

British Bangladeshi population disproportionately impacted by SLCN  
(Source: Bercow Parliamentary Report)

50% of children in socially disadvantaged areas start school with a language delay  
(Source: The Communication Trust)

**Shermeena Rabbi**

Founder & Consultant Speech & Language Therapist

### Contact us for more information:

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Web: [www.unlockinglanguage.co.uk](http://www.unlockinglanguage.co.uk)  
E-mail: [info@unlockinglanguage.co.uk](mailto:info@unlockinglanguage.co.uk)

## MISHBAUR RAHMAN

Chairman & Founder  
Desh Foundation UK & BBB Awards



Dear Guests,

**It is my great pleasure to present to you the “Third British Bangladeshi Business Awards 2019”, organised by Desh Foundation UK.** Our event today is special for a number of different reasons. First of all this is the 3rd bi-annual Bangladeshi Business Awards. It is also the 10th anniversary of Desh Foundation UK, an organisation that I am extremely proud of.

As the Chairman, I would like to thank all the distinguished guests, business leaders, entrepreneurs, political figures, community people, media personnel and sponsors who made the last two British Bangladeshi Business Awards such an enormous success. We would also like to thank our guests who have travelled across the world to be with us today.

**We have been getting stronger and stronger since our first Awards back in 2015. The British Bangladeshi Business Awards have become a very special feature in the British Bangladeshi diasporas calendar.** The BBB Awards are well known among the Bangladeshi Community for bringing the best of our businesses, organisations and people together to celebrate our great achievements. I am proud to say that my team members, family, colleagues and sponsors have enabled me to live up to my promise and allow me to serve this great community with goodwill through their continuous support.

The first event back in 2015 was made even more special to the British Bangladeshi community by the presence of the former British Prime Minister Rt. Hon. David Cameron. His valued comments made a tremendous impact and encouraged British Bangladeshi businesses across the UK and inspired the Bangladeshi community to contribute more to British society. It also encouraged us at BBB Awards to make our future events even more special as we know how important this event is to British Bangladeshi people. A total of 28 awards were given that night to some of the best businesses, organisations and individuals.

The second BBB Awards in 2017 were also well received and was a huge success. The BBB Awards 2017 were attended by representatives from 10 Downing Street and also representatives of the Bangladesh Prime Minister. We gave out 22 awards that night to some of the greatest achievers in our community. We strive to make each future event better than the last.

I have been fortunate to work on projects such as the BBB Awards alongside other events with Desh Foundation UK over the last 10 years

which recognises the hard work and success of the British Bangladeshi businesses, entrepreneurs and the communities in Britain and Bangladesh. The BBB Awards always intends to highlight the success of businesses and individuals by facilitating the high achievers in their respective industries and to provide a platform for the next generation of entrepreneurs to dream and innovate.

There are a number of British Bangladeshi business communities who are involved in Catering, Finance, Law, Politics, Media, NRB investments, Community Projects and Innovative endeavours.

Their credibility over the decades has changed the standpoint view of those with Bangladeshi heritage and origin in today's Britain. For the last 10 years, Desh Foundation UK has organised platforms alongside BBB Awards to recognise 100+ British Bangladeshi businesses, organisations and individuals. Desh Foundation UK have been cultivating their talents and will continue to bring them into the limelight through such events.

**I would like to congratulate all of the winners at today's event who have shown exemplary commitment in their field of work.** I would also like to congratulate all the nominees who have shown commitment to their field of trade and wish them luck for the future. We were fortunate to receive an overwhelming number of nominations and we hope, in time, everyone will win accolades for their hard work.

I, as Chairman, along with my entire team, would like to pass along a heartfelt and warm thanks to all our well-wishers, stakeholders and sponsors whether it be internal or external for the immense support and encouragement they gave for us for the Third British Bangladeshi Business Awards 2019. We would also like to thank the British Bangladeshi community for being the backbone of Desh Foundation UK over the past 10 years. Let's seek prayer from the Almighty for huge success this year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mishbaur Rahman'.

**Mishbaur Rahman**

Founder Chairman of Desh Foundation UK &  
Chairman of British Bangladeshi Business Awards



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

H. M. THE QUEEN

I have been asked to thank you for your kind letter of greetings to The Queen on behalf of all those associated with Desh Foundation UK, sent on the occasion of the Third British Bangladeshi Business Awards which are being held on the 10th October at New Bingley Hall.

Her Majesty appreciated your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, has asked me to send her warm good wishes to all concerned for a most successful event.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Poppy Whitworth'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Poppy Whitworth**  
Loyal Greetings Officer

**“ Her Majesty appreciated your thoughtfulness in writing as you did and, in return, has asked me to send her warm good wishes to all concerned for a most successful event. ”**



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Rt Hon BORIS JOHNSON MP

Prime Minister

I am really delighted that the Desh Foundatioun UK are celebrating “The Third British Bangladeshi Business Awards 2019” and the contribution of the Bangladeshi community make to the UK Economy.

My vision is for everyone in this country, irrespective of their backgrounds, to have the opportunities, aspiration and motivation to use their talent to be enterprising and events such as these have a major role to play in helping us achieve this.

I congratulate all the winners and nominees for their contribution to British business life and also congratulate the organisers for providing a good platform for talented British Bangladeshi entrepreneurs from different parts of the UK.

I wish you all have a successful and wonderful evening.

Yours sincerely

**Boris Johnson**  
Prime Minister of United Kingdom,  
Great Britain & Northern Ireland

“*My vision is for everyone in this country, irrespective of their backgrounds, to have the opportunities, aspiration and motivation to use their talent to be enterprising and events such as these have a major role to play in helping us achieve this.*”



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Sheikh Hasina

Prime Minister

I am happy to know that the Desh Foundation UK is going to organize the 3rd British Bangladeshi Business Awards 2019 on 10th October. On this occasion, I extend my congratulations to all the award winners.

Being imbued with the spirit of the independence struggle, the Awami League government has persistently been working to develop the country. We have been accomplishing the unfinished work of Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. We have achieved expected developments in every sector during the last 10 and a half years. Bangladesh is cited as a 'Role Model' of socio-economic development in the world with unprecedented progress in the social sector.

The Desh Foundation UK has brought British and Bangladeshi Businesses under one platform. The organization has been giving recognition to the British Bangladeshi Businesses for their hard work and successes in the foreign soil. I believe, the platform created by the Desh Foundation UK for British Bangladeshi Businesses to extend their business to Bangladesh in terms of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) will encourage the young and budding entrepreneurs to invest in Bangladesh and take the advantage of the incentives provided by our government.

I would like to invite all potential British Bangladeshi Business people or Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRB) to invest in Bangladesh.

I wish the 3rd British Bangladeshi Business Awards 2019 a grand success.

Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabhandu  
May Bangladesh Live Forever.

**Sheikh Hasina**  
Prime Minister, Government of  
People's Republic of Bangladesh

“**The Desh Foundation UK has brought British and Bangladeshi Businesses under one platform.**

**The organization has been giving recognition to British Bangladeshi Businesses for their hard work and successes in the foreign soil.**”



## Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun MP

Minister Of Industries

It gives me immense pleasure to note that the Desh Foundation UK, a platform of British Bangladeshi community is organising the 3rd British Bangladeshi Business Awards 2019. It is really a praiseworthy venture and I appreciate the organisers for their brilliant efforts to hold this event.

Bangladesh has attained unprecedented success in her socio-economic spheres for more than a decade as the Awami League-led government under the pragmatic leadership of Prime Minister Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina took various initiatives in this regard. The World Bank's evaluation of Bangladesh as a 'Lower-Middle Income' country and the United Nations evaluation as a 'Developing' state have added two distinctive feathers to the crown of our success.

United Kingdom is one of the time-tested friends as well as the development partners of Bangladesh. Both the countries have been maintaining excellent bilateral relations since our independence. British companies are playing a very significant role in the process of industrialisation and economic development of Bangladesh. Similarly, British Bangladeshi business people are also contributing a lot in the growth and development of the UK. I am confident that such type of noble initiative will encourage the British Bangladeshi business people to contribute more and more for the development of both UK and Bangladesh.

I wish the 3rd BBB Awards 2019 a great success!

**Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun M.P**  
Minister Of Industries  
Government Of People's Republic of Bangladesh

“**United Kingdom is one of the time-tested friends as well as the development partners of Bangladesh. Both the countries have been maintaining excellent bilateral relations since our independence.**”



Saida Muna Tasneem

High Commissioner

I am pleased to learn that Desh Foundation UK is going to organise 'Third British Bangladeshi Business Awards 2019' on 10th October 2019 in Birmingham.

It is commendable that Desh Foundation UK has stepped up to bring British and Bangladeshi businesses under one platform and recognize people in businesses for their hard work and achievements. This event, I believe, is a noble effort and will inspire businesses to grow further.

Bangladesh is making rapid progress under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Its economy is now the fastest growing amongst Asia-Pacific countries, and it offers lucrative investment opportunities. I look forward to seeing more Desh Foundation UK initiatives that will showcase the shining stories of Bangladesh's growth and achievements. I will also urge British Businessmen and Non-Resident Bangladeshis to come forward to invest in the thriving economy of Bangladesh.

I congratulate all the award winners and wish the 'Third British Bangladeshi Business Awards 2019' a great success.

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

“ *It is commendable that Desh Foundation UK has stepped up to bring British and Bangladeshi businesses under one platform and recognize people in businesses for their hard work & achievements.* ”



Andy Street

Mayor of the West Midlands

Congratulations to all nominees and award winners this evening at the 3rd British Bangladeshi Business Awards. From traditionally establishing our famous curry industry, the Bangladeshi community in the West Midlands are now excelling in all walks of life, as entrepreneurs, professionals and academics. Today's awards give us the opportunity to recognise and acknowledge just how far the Bangladeshi population in the West Midlands has come.

It is an extra special occasion this evening as it is also the 10th anniversary of the Desh Foundation UK, who have been a champion of the Bangladeshi diaspora this past decade. As the Bangladeshi population grows in the West Midlands, I am sure the Desh Foundation will continue to support more and more people in developing their vision and giving back to their local community.

I am looking forward to attending this evening and presenting an award. I feel honoured to represent the most diverse and youthful place in Europe and it is a privilege to celebrate the success of the community tonight.

A handwritten signature of Andy Street in black ink on a white background.

**Andy Street**  
Mayor of the West Midlands

“*From traditionally establishing our famous curry industry, the Bangladeshi community in the West Midlands are now excelling in all walks of life, as entrepreneurs, professionals and academics.*”



## RANJU MIAH

Managing Director  
Desh Foundation UK & BBB Awards

As the Managing Director of BBB Awards, it is my great pleasure and honour to extend my greetings and welcome you all to the 3rd British Bangladeshi Business Awards and gala dinner 2019.

Once again, we are delighted to recognise and honour the achievements of our Bangladeshi community for their remarkable success and hard work.

BBB Awards continue to seek talented individuals in our community and promote them as role models and inspiration to others, in particular to the younger generation of British Bangladeshis.

We are proud to see many British Bangladeshi's are deeply embedded and flourishing within all aspects of the professional and business industry. They are the innovators, entrepreneurs, and job providers that create opportunities and wealth not just here in Britain, but across the globe. BBB Awards is first and foremost a celebration of the hard work, dedication, and business successes of the Bangladeshi community. We hope that tonight will provide the examples and encouragement that energises future generations, helping them capitalise on the opportunities around them and realise their potential in the business world.

This year once again, we have received a tremendous response with such a large number of excellent nominations to choose from. Shortlisting nominations and selecting award winners was an incredibly challenging duty for our judges.

To the nominees, these awards are an applause and acknowledgement of your significant achievements. To the winners, I hope these awards provide the recognition that your resolute efforts and enterprise deserve. I wish the very best of luck and future successes for you all. I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate each and every one of the winners and nominees.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to all our sponsors and well-wishers for the generosity they have shown. My special gratitude goes to the BBB Awards team members for their hard work and dedication, without whom these awards would not be possible.

I hope you all have a wonderful and memorable evening and thank you for joining us in **“Celebrating the best of British Bangladeshis”**.

**Ranju Miah**  
Managing Director of Desh Foundation UK &  
British Bangladeshi Business Awards 2019



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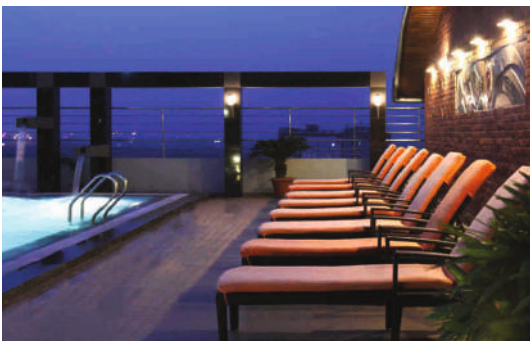
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## TEAM BBB AWARDS 2019



**Bahar Uddin**  
Event Manager



**Baz Alam**  
Head of Production



**Mohammed Ishtiak  
Gani (Onik)**  
Head of Operations



**Juma Begum**  
Assistant Co-ordinator



**Syed Sadek Ahmed**  
Press Consultant



**Abdul Rokib**  
IT Consultant



**Rafsan Rahman**  
Admin Team

## TEAM MEMBERS

Kamal Ahmed ● Sham Uddin ● Foyez Ahmed ● Sadiq Miah ● Arzoo Miah  
James ● Ms Happy ● Hamza ● Abdulla Al Mamun ● Syeda Rahman  
Tahera Chowdhury ● Faizaan Rahman ● Tanjia Zaman ● Tahiyah Zaman  
Anwar Khan ● Khalid Ahmed ● Gulap Miah ● Shorob Ahmed ● Dishan ● Prottoy

**BBB Awards 2019 would like to specially thank the following individuals for providing invaluable support and advice in organising this great event & dinner:**

### Contributors

Paul Stuart Scully MP ● Anne Main MP ● Adrian Bailey MP ● Eleanor Smith MP  
Wali Taser Uddin MBE ● Hafiz Alam Bakhsh ● Shahagir Bakh Faruk ● Tipu Rahman  
Bashir Ahmed ● Mahtab Miah ● Syed Rahman ● Naz Islam ● Najma Begum  
Mohammed Shah Newaz

### Special Contributor

Shamim Hussain

# PREVIOUS WINNERS BBB AWARDS 2015

BBB AWARDS 2019  
PREVIOUS WINNERS

- Personality of the Year  
**Imam Uddin Ahmad**  
Urban Link (Walsall)
- 
- Leader of the Year  
**Ahbabur Rahman**  
The Original Dilraj (Sheffield)
- 
- Supermarket of the Year  
**Rafique Hayder**  
Bangla Town Cash & Carry (London)
- 
- Professional Service  
**Barrister Monwar Hossain**  
Chambers of MM Hossain (London)
- 
- Entrepreneur of the Year  
**Fareed Nabir**  
LetBritain (London)
- 
- Special Award Winner of  
Entrepreneur Achievement  
**Shofiqul Hoque**  
Sylhet Spice (Birmingham)
- 
- Community Excellence  
**Majidul Choudhury**  
Café Tamarinds (Coventry)
- 
- Lifetime Business Achievement Award  
**Alhaj Monojir Ali**  
Ammar Property Service (London)
- 
- Best NRB Investor  
**Musleh Ahmed**  
Dhaka Regency Hotel (London/Dhaka)
- 
- Outstanding Achievement in Travel & Tourism  
**Mohabur Choudhury**  
ZamZam Travels Ltd (Birmingham)
- 
- Financial Service  
**MA Mukit Miah**  
Simple & Smart Group (Birmingham)
- 
- Outstanding Achievement in the Curry Industry  
**Ibrahim Ali**  
Usha Restaurant (Burnley)
- 
- Best Business Male Entrepreneur  
**Mamun Choudhury**  
The Windsor Tiffin (Hinckley)
- 
- Best Business Woman Entrepreneur  
**Farzana Hossain Neela**  
Neela's Homes Ltd (London)

- Excellent Achievement in the  
Education Institution  
**Mo & Wahid Rahman**  
Provident Training (Oldham)
- 
- Special Award Winner of Woman  
of the Future Entrepreneur  
**Shermeena Rabbi**  
Unlocking Language Ltd (London)
- 
- Special Award Winner  
of Media Personality  
**Hafiz Alam Bakhsh**  
ATN Bangla (London)
- 
- International Trade  
**Monir Ahmed**  
JMG Cargo (London)
- 
- Catering Supplier of the Year  
**Ashikur Rahman Talukdar**  
Mishtidesh (Birmingham)
- 
- Best Charity Organisation  
**Apasenth Ltd**  
(London)
- 
- Entrepreneur Achievement  
**Nazinur Rahim**  
Fakruddin Global (London)
- 
- Excellence in Customer Service  
**Maten Rohman**  
Dhalchini (Northumberland)
- 
- Rising Star of the Year  
**Enamul Hoque**  
Nasib Consultancy / Sterling Energy (Birmingham)
- 
- Special Honorary Green Award in Agricultural  
Revolution through Media Advocacy  
**Shykh Seraj** (Bangladesh)
- 
- Special Female Entrepreneur Award Winner  
**Hasina Rathre Choudhury**  
Bengal Lounge (North Lincolnshire)
- 
- Special Award Winner of  
NRB Investor in Travel and Tourism  
**Captain Tasbirul Ahmed Choudhury**  
United Airways (Bangladesh)
- 
- Special Award Winner of Community Excellence  
**Gulam Anis Choudhury**  
Zest Restaurant (Edinburgh)

# PREVIOUS WINNERS **BBB AWARDS 2017**

BBB AWARDS 2019  
**PREVIOUS WINNERS**

Professional Services Award

**Nasir Ali Shah**

Mohammad Shah & Co

NRB Investor of the Year

**Syed Akamot Ali Rubel**

Dhaka Premier Hotel

Personality of the Year

**Syedur Rahman**

The New Business of the Year

**Al Din Skincare**

The Best Bangladeshi  
Restaurant of the Year  
**The Original Dilraj Restaurant**

The Innovation Award

**Sheikh Aliur Rahman**

London Tea Exchange

Excellence in Catering Services

**Karim Miah (Shamim)**

Special Achievement  
in Entrepreneurship

**Md Harun Miah**

Kushiara Group

Real Estate Investor of the Year

**Al Falah Group**

Financial Services Award

**Alif and Co**

Excellence in Community Services

**Zakir Khan**

Canary Wharf Group

Catering Supplier of the Year (Food)

**Pride of Asia**

Emerging Industrialist of the Year

**M Zakir Husain**

ZHK Plastics

Best Entrepreneur (Female)

**Shermeena Rabbi**

Unlocking Language Limited

Best Bangladeshi  
Takeaway of the Year

**Shabna Tandoori**

Restaurateur of the Year

**Dulal Ahmed**

Voujon (Chingford)

Outstanding Contribution to Media

**Reza Ahmed Faisal**

**Choudhury Shoaib**

Prominent Business  
Leader of the Year

**Abdus Salam**

Outstanding Contribution  
to the Legal Sector

**Taj Uddin Shah**

Taj Solicitors

Best Entrepreneur (Male)

**Iftekar Rahman**

Abbey Mews

Lifetime Achievement Award

**Dr Mohammed Nurul Alam**

Alam & Company

NRB Icon of the Year

**Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman**

Al Haramain Group



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# DESH FOUNDATION UK ACTIVITIES

BBB AWARDS 2019  
GALLERY

BUSINESS SEMINAR, DHAKA



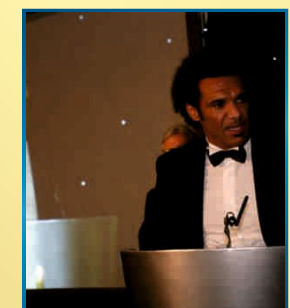
HOUSE OF COMMONS



DELEGATES MEETING  
MINISTERS

BUSINESS & COMMUNITY  
AWARDS 2008

MIDLANDS CURRY AWARDS 2009



# DESH FOUNDATION UK ACTIVITIES

BBB AWARDS 2019  
GALLERY

TRADE DELEGATION MEET & GREET, SYLHET

MEETING THE PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH



# BBBAWARDS 2015

Wednesday 11th March 2015  
The New Bingley Hall, Birmingham

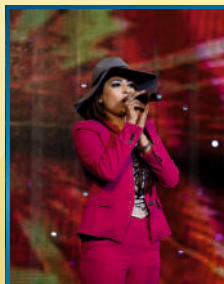
BBB AWARDS 2019  
GALLERY



# BBBAWARDS 2015

Wednesday 11th March 2015  
The New Bingley Hall, Birmingham

BBB AWARDS 2019  
GALLERY



# BBBAWARDS 2017

Sunday 14th May 2017

The New Bingley Hall, Birmingham

BBB AWARDS 2019  
GALLERY

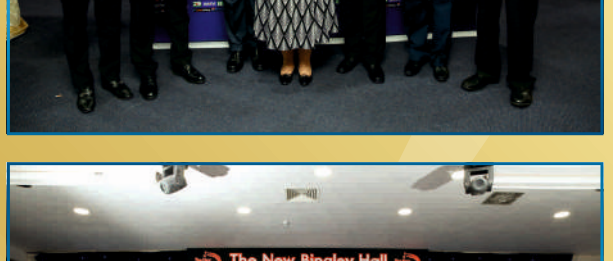


# BBBAWARDS 2017

Sunday 14th May 2017

The New Bingley Hall, Birmingham

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# PRESS LAUNCH 2019

Monday 17th June 2019  
House of Commons, London

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## BIRMINGHAM Thursday 29th August 2019 Birmingham City Council House



# JUDGES

BBB AWARDS 2019  
**JUDGES**



Sir Joseph  
Alan Meale

Sir Joseph Alan Meale is a former British Labour Party politician who was the Member of Parliament (MP) for Mansfield from 1987 to 2017. Meale entered Parliament on 11th June 1987 and made his maiden speech on 3rd July 1987 in the Tourism debate where he commented on the poverty, lack of provision, opportunity and services in the Mansfield community. Meale was a whip from 1992 to 1994 when he became Parliamentary Private Secretary to John Prescott in Prescott's different portfolios until 1998.

Meale served as Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions under John Prescott from January 1998 to January 1999. He became a government whip Council of Europe Delegation in 2007 and acting Leader of the UK Delegation in 2010. He has been the chair of the British Section of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Cyprus Group since 2007.

Meale was knighted by Prince Charles officiating at the ceremony in January, 2012, after the 2011 Birthday Honours list was announced, chosen for his "public and political service"

Arun qualified as a Dental Surgeon (BDS) in 1983 from the Royal Dental Hospital, London. Having specialised in Oral and Maxillo-Facial Surgery, he worked as a surgeon at Good Hope Hospital for twelve years. Simultaneously, he was involved with developing the organisational structure of the Birmingham based family business known as KMS, which trades in the import/export and distribution of motor parts and has a distribution centre in London.

Arun is the Managing Director of the largest commercial Asian radio station outside of London. Despite being new to the radio industry, he managed to launch the entire station within a 4-month deadline. He has assisted the health authorities tackle sensitive topics such as the link between 1st cousin marriages and genetic disorders, HIV and drug awareness. His Radio XL has raised over £¼ million for charity over the last 5 years. Arun was Chairman/President of the Institute of Asian Businesses for four years (2007-2011) and has also served as a deputy Lieutenant (DL) for the West Midlands County. Arun's vast experience in business affairs and networking has enabled him to become more than well connected with both business and professional communities – a great asset.



Arun Bajaj



Prof. Martin  
Levermore MBE

Prof Martin Levermore, CEO of Medical Devices Technology International Ltd (MDTi). Martin is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, a Senior Associate of Royal Society of Medicine and a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment. Prof Levermore leads a unique group of businesses that is demonstrating a truly global opportunity towards the delivery of better healthcare outcomes for patients and professionals using innovative medical devices emanating from Clinicians.

Martin's inspirational, ethical and process orientated style of leadership taken from his days in the military as a bomb disposal officer, prior to embarking on a career in international banking, empowered him to take on the challenges to guide a not-for-profit organisation within community regeneration; the blue print of this engagement in social and business regeneration accumulated with him being one of founding fathers establishing for the West Midlands its own Medical Devices Industry network known as Medilink.

Over time, Martin's work has resulted in £15 million of inward investment into the West Midlands and sustained over 300 jobs within the region during the decline in the industrial base within the region.

In May 2018, Martin was Gazetted by the Lord Lieutenant of the West Midlands Mr John Crabtree OBE to act as one of his Deputy Lieutenants for the region.



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- **BEST ENTREPRENEUR (MALE)**  
*An individual or organisation that has demonstrated business acumen and has progressed substantially in business.*
- **BEST ENTREPRENEUR (FEMALE)**  
*An individual or organisation that has demonstrated business acumen and has progressed substantially in business.*
- **FINANCIAL SERVICES AWARD**  
*Financial firm recognised for their achievements and success in business but also providing that extra service to the community.*
- **BEST LEGAL PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**  
*Legal firm recognised for their achievements and success in business but also providing that extra service to the community.*
- **NRB INVESTOR AWARD**  
*An non resident Bangladeshi individual who has been successful in international trade.*
- **RESTAURANT AWARDS**  
*A range of awards to highlight the massive contribution of the Bangladeshi community within the curry industry:*
  - Best Restaurant**
  - Longest Serving Balti House**
  - Restaurateur of the Year**
  - Best Newcomer Restaurant**
  - Best Chef Award**
- **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN TRAVEL AND TOURS**  
*A travel firm or individual recognised for their achievements and successes promoting and servicing customers within the travel industry.*
- **BEST HOSPITALITY AND MANAGEMENT AWARD**  
*Awarded to a business within the hospitality trade displaying high standards of quality and service.*
- **INNOVATION AWARD**  
*Awarded to an individual who has shown innovation to bring new ideas and flair to an existing industry.*
- **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD IN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**  
*An individual or organisation who has shown excellence and development within the construction industry.*
- **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**  
*Achievement award recognising an individual who has performed an outstanding service and accomplishment spanning a career in his/her business or profession.*
- **COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD**  
*An individual or organisation that has strived to improve the local community.*
- **PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**  
*An individual who has achieved exceptionally well in his/her career or business.*
- **PROMINENT BUSINESS LEADER**  
*An individual who has succeeded and established their business and has proven to have a track record of leadership skills.*
- **OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN CATERING**  
*A company who has been providing quality food and service in outside catering for wedding and banqueting events.*
- **BEST CATERING MANUFACTURER AWARD (COMMERCIAL)**  
*A company who has been providing quality commercial equipment for the catering and restaurant trade.*
- **BEST EVENT AND WEDDING ORGANISER**  
*An individual or organisation who has been successfully trading by launching glamorous wedding and events throughout the community in a professional capacity.*
- **EXCELLENCE IN PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT**  
*An individual or organisation who has a wealth of experience in managing assets & properties.*
- **SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD FOR CHARITY WORK**  
*An individual or organisation who has dedicated their time to humanitarian causes around the world.*
- **SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR**  
*Awarded to an individual who has enhanced their community through social development and enterprise.*
- **HONOURARY INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS AWARD**  
*Awarded to an individual or business with commercial links to Bangladesh who have developed their business internationally.*



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## ZILLUR HUSSAIN

### Prominent Business Leader

Hailing from a small Sylhety village in Nogdipur, Bangladesh, Zillur Hussain has proven that no boundaries can stop you if you aspire to dream big and turn it into reality. He was born in June 1976 to a local businessman and has inherited the business skills of his father. At the age of 9, he was accepted and studied at the Government Jubilee High School in Sunamganj.

From an early age he pursued his dream to have his own business and went into partnership with a small tea stall when he was only 11 years old. At the age of 12 his family moved to Bedford, England, leaving behind his friends and relatives but giving him a new beginning in a foreign country. After school, he worked within the Indian restaurant trade for the next 25 years but his mantra of 'think big, dream big' always stayed with him.

He opened his first restaurant in St. Neots, but unfortunately it did not work out and was one of the low points of his entrepreneurial journey. His 'never-give-up' attitude helped him continue within the restaurant industry and soon he was successfully running 10+ restaurants which are renowned throughout their locality for excellent service and food.

Following on from his success in the restaurant industry, in 2002, Zillur started a small import/export business in Dubai which expanded within two years. He was recognised by Nokia as their biggest exporter in Dubai. His next business venture was the Pearl Hotel in Peterborough which has been consistently voted the Best Hotel in Peterborough. He has also invested in a big hotel chain group.

Opening a Turkish restaurant in Stamford in 2015, he has managed to make it the number one rated restaurant in Stamford as well as being selected for the prestigious Michelin Guide. With this success he continued expanding his business empire throughout the following years - Ishtar Lounge, the only shisha lounge and wedding hall in Peterborough opened in 2016 and Tavan Moroccan Restaurant launched in Cambridgeshire in 2017.

He also has a successful property portfolio managed by his MT Properties venture with numerous properties in Peterborough. He now develops and manages property in Abu Dhabi as well as his homeland Bangladesh turning into reality European based ideas.

With Bangladesh being close to his heart, Zillur has been involved with many charitable organisations over the years, helping to build hospital, schools and houses for the poor throughout the country.

Zillur has recently formed Z Group which combines all his business ventures under one platform. Z Group is a combination of architecture, construction, business investment, marketing, businesses development, property rental and charities.

Ever since his journey started from Nogdipur, this 43-year-old's entrepreneurial odyssey has not been a walk in the park but through hard work, determination and always striving to be the best - he is now a prominent business leader and respected throughout his community.

*“Doesn't matter how big and how far he got  
he never forget where he came from.”*

### **Ahbabur Rahman (Miron)**

#### **Restaurateur of the Year - The Original Dilraj**

Based in Dodworth in Barnsley, The Original Dilraj Restaurant & Takeaway is an established business specialising in Bangladeshi cuisine. It is renowned for its unique flavours and outstanding customer service since its inception more than 15 years ago. The restaurant's luxurious setting and cosy alcoves caters to all clients.

One of the key aspects that differentiates The Original Dilraj from its competitors is its unique menu which even boasts a range of duck dishes! They have assembled a menu that is far beyond what may be considered traditional Bengali cuisine.

The restaurant has already accumulated numerous prestigious awards such as Best Restaurant and Best Chef of the Year for Yorkshire and Humberside. The restaurant is also an 'Investor in People' and employs approximately 15 people with an annual turnover of just over £500,000.

The customers think very highly of the presentation, the wide ranging menu and most importantly the taste. Customers have said how "their service was excellent" and how "our food arrived and it looked fantastic". This is not your normal restaurant and this is not an ordinary experience, this is the Original Dilraj.



### **Kamila Rahman**

#### **Best Entrepreneur Award (Female)**

Having qualified as a Solicitor in 2010, Kamila has had to overcome a number of difficulties. Being a young mother at University, she managed to become the first in her class to open a Solicitors Practice. Successfully opening an innovative law firm in 2014, Cambridge Solicitors in Birmingham attracts clients from all over the UK and internationally.

Kamila's efforts and hard work paid off and a second branch opened in Swansea in September 2015, further expanding her client base. Cambridge Solicitors now have more than 2000+ clients and around 15 staff members over both branches. Kamila dedicates most of her time dealing with Business Marketing aspects of the firm, focussing on how to grow the business and its revenue.

She is also the founder of a Youth Mentoring Scheme and is an advocate for women, supporting young aspiring women and teenagers to achieve their goals in education and in the business world. It also provides advice and assistance with interview techniques, CVs, how to be forward thinking and confident and how to have the perfect work life balance. She has always strived to help other individuals to reach their full potential and break social and cultural stigmas.

Due to her hard work, Kamila has been nominated and won awards. In 2014 she was nominated and shortlisted by the Law Society Excellence Awards as Legal Business Woman of the Year and was the winner of Business Woman of the Year in 2015. That same year she was also a finalist as Outstanding Business of the Year by the Asian Chamber of Commerce. In 2018 she was nominated by the British Parliamentary Review. Kamila Rahman is certainly an exemplary leader for women and an asset to the British Bangladeshi community.



## Muhammed Kuduse

### Best Entrepreneur (Male)

Mr Kuduse arrived from Bangladesh with his family in the year 2000. He completed his studies in the UK and achieved a GNVQ Business qualification at Bristol College. He studied further to attain his English language at Bhasvic College, Brighton and after finishing his studies he then moved to Bristol in 2003.

In 2004 Mr Kuduse started working as a sales person at Phones4U where he gained the skills to implement new sales techniques, strategic planning and leadership, negotiation and growth attainment. His knowledge and experiences in telecommunication continued to expand when he moved to manage JAG Communication.

He gained substantial knowledge and experience within the mobile communications industry and in 2009 decided to start his own venture - Mad Mobiles which started trading in June 2009 with three employees and achieved a turnover of £400,000 in its first year. He successfully opened another 14 stores in the span of 6 years and in 2015 the company turnover was £3.5 million. Go Phone Ltd is Mr Kuduse's second venture in telecommunications which is already exceeding key operational performance targets. He says his mantra of "Service After Sales" has been the key point for his business success.

In May 2016 Mr Kuduse established Dreamspas Limited, and opened a showroom in Brislington Retail Park, Bristol. In March 2019 he has expanded this business with a 5000+ square foot showroom in the capital of Wales, Cardiff - the largest hot tub showroom in South West Wales.

In 2018 Mr Kuduse established Luxury Kitchen and Bath Ltd which is his 4th business venture and this year has opened a further two businesses - Style Shoes Limited (a fully independent shoe company) and Gems Design & Repair Ltd, a well-established jewellery shop in Thornbury, Bristol which had been trading in Thornbury for the past 27 years.

Mr Kuduse also has a property portfolio with investments mainly in Bristol and is also a budding philanthropist who openly enjoys fundraising for his self-run charity, Hazi Abdus Shohid Foundation in Bangladesh.



## Md. Lokman Hossain

### Honourary International Business Award

Md. Lokman Hossain was born in 1956 in Modhukhali, Faridpur, Bangladesh to a family of freedom fighters who fought in the war of independence in 1971. As a child, he was given to his uncle in Dhaka due to the family struggling post war.

He began as a child labourer at the age of 8, working in a workshop using hammers to work metal. He had no chance of a formal education due to his family's financial situation and his own personal circumstance.

His company Panna Group's inception was laid out in 1980 when Lokman started a small business using only 3500 taka, supplying coal to different lead manufacturing industries under the name of "Panna Battery Co.". He then successfully started a lead recycling plant, before starting the production of heavy duty industrial batteries as well as battery related accessories.

Panna Group is now a nationwide company driving enormous value in Bangladesh's economy with more than 6,000 people working throughout the country. The company has grown rapidly by establishing branches all over Bangladesh. His company has now started exporting batteries internationally and are looking to gain a foothold in the European market.

From humble beginnings at the age of 8 years old to now being a Commercially Important Person (CIP), Md. Lokman Hossain has achieved great wealth and respect by conducting his businesses in an honest and dignified manner.



## Shukur's Brasserie

### Best Restaurant – Warwickshire

Shah Shahid Hussain is a truly inspiring restaurateur and the proud owner of Shukur's Brasserie in Warwickshire. Shukur's Brasserie opened in 2000 and Shah was the founder and head chef. He has worked part-time in a restaurant from the age of 11 and by the age of 25, he became a chef of the highest calibre. He and his team have won many prestigious awards within the catering industry.

Shah has two main passions: football and cooking! He has worked all over the UK and gained a wide range of experience before opening Shukur's Brasserie. Shukur's Brasserie is an amazing collaboration of curry with a gourmet twist, aided by unrivalled interior design, service and décor. Shah continues to travel the world to gain new culinary insights so that he can continue to amaze his loyal customers in Warwickshire.

Shah recently prepared a meal for HRH Prince Charles - the highlight of Shah's already glittering career and a huge compliment for his unique talents. His customers have given him rave reviews namely: "for a rural Indian restaurant, it's pretty damn nice" and "I would recommend this place to anyone passing".

Shah has recently opened an impressive new restaurant called Entouraj based in Kidderminster (next to Chateau Impney) which has an exceptional interior design and is running successfully. On this evidence, Shah will soon become a celebrity within the Bangladeshi catering industry, if he isn't already!



## Kaysor Ahmed

### Best Catering Manufacturer Award (Commercial) - Sylhet Welding

Kaysor Ahmed arrived in the UK in 1994 from the Middle East. With his previous experience in engineering he joined a company, working as an engineer. For 3 years he worked hard and committed himself to learning the craft but had ambitions for greater things. Whilst working he set up Sylhet Welding in 1995. Alongside working long hours full time, he worked tirelessly to turn his dream in to reality. He spent all of his spare time establishing his business until finally he left his full time job to focus 100% on Sylhet Welding.

He became the first GAR Certified Bangladeshi and gas appliance manufacturer to be approved by the Government notified body back in 1997. After 2 more years it was time to make another of his dreams come true. He set up his own manufacturing factory in his native area of Gohorpur, Balagonj, Sylhet. In 1999 he established a 100% export orientated custom bonded warehouse in Balagonj. A year later, he established another factory in the 'BSCIC' Industrial Zone in Sylhet. His factories have created many highly skill jobs within Bangladesh and he now imports, into the UK, gas appliances manufactured to British Standards.

Alongside his professional success he has received countless accolades to recognise his achievements. In 2009 and 2011 he was given the prestigious title of 'CIP' by the Bangladeshi Government. Also during this period he was given a 'Government Special Privilege Card'. He was invited by the Royal Family to attend engagements thanks to his success.

He credits his success to his loving wife and his 3 children. His personality, honesty and integrity has made him a household name across the Asian community and his appliances are seen in most restaurant kitchens you walk into.



## Moin Uddin

### **Best NRB Investor Award**

Moin Uddin is a renowned businessman and the founder and owner of the Rose View Hotel in Sylhet, Bangladesh. The son of Alhaj Ahad Uddin, he was born in 1966 in the village of Mathurapur in Nabiganj, a sub district of Greater Sylhet.

Though he is originally from Nabiganj, he resides in Sadipur, Sylhet with his family when in Bangladesh. Moin Uddin started his education in Dhigalbak Government Primary School and went onto further his education in Dhigalbak High School but came to the UK with his family before completing his education. On arriving in the UK, he joined Leeds Roundhy High School obtaining 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.

Although he is involved in many catering businesses in Surrey and is a proud director of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce, his coup de grace from a business perspective is actually based in Bangladesh. The Rose View Hotel is the first five star rated hotel in Sylhet and has the accolade of being the first five star rated hotel outside of the capital Dhaka. Moin Uddin is from a very rare breed of businessmen who not only focussed their business interests in the UK but also decided to contribute to their native country of Bangladesh. This makes him a standout recipient of the Best NRB Investor Award as he is someone who actively seeks to further his investment in Bangladesh, despite being based in the UK.

He is also a dedicated community worker and is the trustee of the Surrey Muslim Centre. He is also involved with the Bangladesh Caterers' Association and Nabiganj Education Trust among other associations.



## Café Naaz

### **Best Restaurant – Sheffield**

An established business in Rotherham, Café Naaz has been trading since 2010 and has already been the recipient of several awards including Sheffield Star Awards 2011 and the prestigious Currylife Awards 2013.

The owner, Nazmul Hoque, is a pioneer in fusing the traditional with the contemporary whilst maintaining the highest standards with regard to taste and hygiene.

He came to the UK when he was 11 years old and his passion commenced from that young age. He used all of his experience to create his own dining experience in a purpose built restaurant that seats 66 people and is renowned for being one of the finest restaurants in the region.

Furthermore, his customer feedback is outstanding with numerous positive reviews on Tripadvisor. Nazmul's dedication and unique ideas are a true inspiration for all British Bangladeshis in the UK.

## Mahbubur Rahman Choudhury

### Outstanding Achievement in Travel and Tours - Zam Zam Travel and Tours



Born in Bangladesh in 1968, Mr Mahbubur Rahman Choudhury came to the UK in 1982, living and studying in Birmingham before finally settling there with his family. Whilst studying at Joseph Chamberlin College he also worked at the family restaurant and established his knowledge of the restaurant sector.

Owning several successful restaurants and takeaways in the region, most notably Bilash in Kingstanding, Bengal Spice in Lichfield and Rivaj Restaurant in Staffordshire amongst others he has certainly been successful in the curry trade. Mr Choudhury moved into the travel and tours business and established Al-Hashmi in 2002 before setting up Zam Zam Travel and Tours a year later.

The new venture in travel and tours was a major turning point for Mr Choudhury and his business in Hajj and Umrah tours world-wide became very successful. Zam Zam Travel and Tours has now become one of the biggest and reputable approved Hajj and Umrah tour operators in the UK and Europe. Furthermore, he has expanded his Hajj and Umrah travel business into Bangladesh and his operations in this sector has a turnover of £5 million yearly.

He is an avid philanthropist, always seeking to give and promote the welfare of others and donate to good causes which has been recognised within the Asian community. His projects include funding Islamic institutions such as madrasahs, academies and a multi complex orphanage building in his native area of Umorphur Union, Osmani Nagar, Sylhet.

## Mumbai Spice

### Best Restaurant - Manchester

Foyzul Hoque is currently the owner of Mumbai Spice, a business that he has been running since 2004. Based in Greater Manchester, his restaurant can seat up to 140 people and also caters for parties, events and wedding functions. Mr Hoque has a wealth of experience as a restaurateur. His customers described their experience at Mumbai spice as: "everything being spot on" and "not your traditional Bangladeshi cuisine, this place is something else". Mumbai Spice is renowned for its outstanding service, hygiene and most importantly, taste! It was also the recipient of an award at the prestigious Curry Awards in 2017.

This is a family run business and Mr. Hoque's contribution to the cause has been significant in bringing the business to the position that it is in today. His work ethic and personality make him stand out as not only a successful restaurateur but also a shining example of a hard-working British Bangladeshi whose success has been built on the foundation of honesty and integrity.



## Abdul Niaz Muhaimen

### Innovation Award

Niaz started working in the Bangladeshi curry industry aged 14 and from a very young age he tried innovative ways in order to help his father, Mr Ahad Choudhury, run his restaurant - City Spice in Brick Lane, London. He came to the realisation that in order to stand out amongst the 12,000 Curry restaurants in the UK - he needed to do things better and differently to create business success.

At the age of 15, he began the process of modernising the restaurant, establishing a presence online and learning applications such as website development, SEO and website data to help increase bookings and also implemented new methods to help track customers.

The restaurant tracked new and repeat customers to the business which allowed Niaz to help run the PR and marketing more efficiently which allowed him to know where to best spend his advertising budget. As a result of his efforts, City Spice has been lauded in the press and covered in media such as the Evening Standard, Metro, ITV and The Independent.

Niaz started innovating and creating London's first ever bespoke vegan curry menu after working with a Michelin starred chef. The "Michel-Indian vegan menu" became an instant success with, according to papers, an increase of 170% in bookings for the business! This success also garnered Niaz the title of the 'Prince of Brick Lane' from customers and within the industry itself.

In late 2018, City Spice Restaurant won the "Best Indian Vegan Restaurant" award in London, nominated by members of the Bangladeshi Caterers Association. This helped establish the success of his vegan curry menu even more.

Alongside putting time and effort into the restaurant business, Niaz is also studying at the University of Birmingham for an Economics degree. Niaz' innovation in the restaurant business continues - catering to the growing demographic of vegans and in 2019 he introduced vegan wines into the restaurant. He will soon launch the UK's first ever vegan 'meat' curry menu, called the "Inconceivable Curries" which are due to launch in autumn 2019.



## Kismet Indian Cuisine

### Best Restaurant – Northumberland

The Kismet Restaurant leads the way for being one of the oldest running Bangladeshi curry restaurants in the UK. The business has been established for more than 50 years in Whitley and the quality of food gets better as the restaurant moves with change. The chefs continuously experiment with new concepts, recipes and tastes.

The restaurant has recently been refurbished and looks dazzling its Tripadvisor reviews rate it as exceptional.

Most of Kismets customers have been coming to the restaurant for decades with newer generations of their families following suit. It has built an excellent reputation and constantly increases its number of regular customers.



### **Babul Uddin**

#### **Best Chef - Le Raj Restaurant**

Starting off as a kitchen porter 30 years ago, Babul Uddin has been a Head Chef for more than 23 years at Le Raj Restaurant, Dudley. His passion to continuously learn and explore his craft never ends.

Chef Uddin's pleasure is to serve up each dish with his personal flair, always determined to be in touch with his customers and knowing exactly what they want. He is exceptionally talented, competent and possesses a great passion for his food.

The owner of Le Raj, Mr Aminur Rahman, has commented "Babul is an exceptional Chef and is always looking to improve his flavour pallet and bring great tastes to Dudley."

He has won numerous accolades and awards over the years which recognise his great food and exceptional service. The Le Raj in Dudley is certainly a restaurant to visit if you want to try his fantastic creations.

### **Mohammed Mojibul Hoque**

#### **Best Legal Professional of the Year**

Mohammed Mojibul Hoque started his LLB at Teeside University, going on to complete his LLM (ALP) and attain his Diploma in Professional Development. Further studies continued at Northumbria University culminating in him achieving his PGLPC and PGDipBVC.

Barrister Hoque has had a long-standing career in law stretching 11 years having started as a solicitor specialising in immigration. His clients are not only from the Bangladeshi community but range from the wider communities nationally. His reputation and legal work started in the 1980's helping the Bangladeshi community with legal issues from the Citizen Advice Bureau based in Middlesborough for over 5 years.

He is a member of the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple, Member of Bar Council of England and Wales and a legal consultant barrister for Tees Valley Bangladesh Association. He is also the chairman of Tees Valley Islamic and Cultural Association and is a well known figure in the community for his voluntary contributions.

Mr Hoque has investments in Bangladesh and was an early investor in the Dhaka Regency Hotel and Resort which has been a successful project in Bangladesh.



## Muhim Tanjib

### Financial Services Award - Mortgage Circle

Mr Muhim Tanjib always had an entrepreneurial mindset from a very early age. He completed his BA Honours Degree in English Literature at the reputable MC College in Sylhet, Bangladesh. He came to the UK in 2001 and started full time employment in London.

He quickly realised to achieve his dreams and ambitions he would have to start his own business which is something he always wanted to do. He started in a trainee financial advisor position at a reputable West Midlands based firm and achieved his financial services qualifications, becoming MP & ER certified.

Muhim encountered many trials and errors in his journey and he realised engaging more with communities would make an excellent business plan, so he decided to set up his own financial advisory firm. This would allow him to create job opportunities for others but also help to achieve his own business ambitions. He set up Mortgage Circle in 2015, which has become a reputable mortgage advisory service in Birmingham.

Muhim is the Director and Principle Adviser of Mortgage Circle and covers the whole of the financial market from brokerage, residential, buy to let, commercial and bridging loans. Since its inception, the firm helped hundreds of clients throughout the UK and arranged finance for them in excess of £100 million.



## Khimuk Pan Asian & Indian Cuisine

### Best Newcomer Restaurant

Khimuk Pan Asian & Indian Cuisine is a newly refurbished contemporary restaurant that is located in the picturesque village of Aldridge. They are a specialist in Asian continental food, fusing a variety of flavours and cuisines to create a mouthwatering menu.

Their passionate and experience chefs are motivated to showcase their innovative skills and bring you the finest quality of food. Since taking over they have gained a regular following and have some excellent reviews - "5/5 on everything, absolutely great food, highly recommended, you can tell that it is cooked fresh 5\*hygiene rating always welcome."

## Sayed Khalid Miah Olid

### Life Time Achievement Award

Since coming to the UK in the early 70's, Mr Sayed Khalid Miah Olid has always been involved in community initiatives and programmes which have helped local Bangladeshi people to achieve their ambitions. As a leader of the Bangladeshi Community Centre in the North East, he has been elected to be their spokesperson featuring in mainstream tabloids and on the BBC.

He's a prominent business person within the community and started in the Bangladeshi restaurant industry, owning several successful restaurants. Over 35 years of his business career, Mr Olid has employed hundreds of staff and supported them to open their own successful ventures. Mr Olid is also the chairman of the Mumbai Group of restaurants within the region, thanks to his vast knowledge and experience.

Mr Olid is highly recognised within the Newcastle and Sunderland community and has been the chairman of Sunderland Bangladeshi Community Centre for the fifth year running. His contribution to his community work for the past 5 years in the North East has been nothing short of exceptional and his reach to support his own community does not just stop in Northumberland.

In Bangladesh, Mr Olid has achieved many of his own ambitions. He is a lifetime board member of Syedpur High School and Director of Syedpur Ideal Girls High School, both in Bangladesh. He is also chairman of the board at Al Haj Syed Manik Miah Rahmatullahi Noorani Academy in Syedpur. He is an advisor to the Greater Sylhet Development Council North East Branch and is also involved in many other organisations and groups, supporting the community and good causes in Bangladesh.



## Shazu Miah

### Social Entrepreneur of the Year

Shazu Miah is the principal of SM Lawson Solicitors based in Kidderminster. Within five years of being in practice, the firm now has 3 offices in Kidderminster and Tipton, employing more than 15 people and over 1500 clients. Such ambitious growth clearly suggests the sheer professionalism and quality of the service provided by Mr. Miah.

He has over 20 years of experience within the legal profession as a solicitor and is highly respected within the commercial and civil litigation arena as well as providing immigration services to his vast number of clients across the UK.

Away from the legal profession, Mr. Miah is a Councillor and the Chairman of Wyre Forest District Council. He stood at the last General Election in 2017 as the candidate for the Liberal Democrats in Wyre Forest and is an active member of the Bangladesh Forum in Kidderminster. He also takes an active role in charitable causes such as the Kidderminster District Youth Trust.

His parents are the main source of his inspiration given how hard they worked when they first arrived in the UK. In terms of future aspirations, Mr. Miah continues with his efforts to grow his services even further around the West Midlands and to continually be involved within the political arena and hopes to stand again in the next general election.



## Purple Olive Indian Restaurant

### Best Restaurant - Cheshire

Purple Olive was established in 2014 and is a contemporary restaurant that serves Indian and Bangladeshi cuisine. The owner and Chef, Mr Atik Sheikh, has over 25 years of experience in the curry industry. He used this vast experience to create a restaurant that is very well known and respected in Cheshire.

The Purple Olive regularly hosts celebrities and sporting legends in their 160 capacity restaurant, including Everton legend Tim Howard, Sheffield United defender Phil Jagielka, Liverpool legend Jan Molby and boxer Tony Bellew amongst many others.

Elegant decoration and atmosphere makes Purple Olive stand out from the crowd as an exceptional restaurant in Cheshire. Mr Atik Sheikh also owns other restaurants including a second branch of Purple Olive in Liverpool.



## Shaheed Ur Rahman

### Special Recognition Award For Charity Work

Shaheed Ur Rahman was born to a working class family in Aston, after his father, a pro-independence activist in the civil war of 1971, migrated to the UK. Having witnessed extreme poverty in Bangladesh, Shaheed and his siblings were raised with values such as helping and giving to the needy; values which would eventually lead to the establishment of an award winning international charity.

In early 2008, the Gaza conflict led him to join an epic 23 day land convey to Gaza, taking vital aid to war torn areas of the city. This was a catalyst for his work in the humanitarian field which Shaheed describe as "seeing the oppression and genocide that I heard my father witnesses in Bangladesh happening again, but this time in Gaza." Having witnessed it himself, he came back to the UK with a profound feeling and the motivation to do something.

Through this experience, the idea of setting up a charity to continue with helping the most vulnerable; Global Relief Trust was born.

Moving forward to 2016, with co-founder and friend, Mohammed Jabbar, Shaheed recruited a team of dedicated volunteers and trustees to set up and manage the charity in the UK, quickly setting up implementing teams across Gaza and Syria. A charity in its infancy, 3 years on sees fundraising hit almost £2million. Global Relief Trust worked tirelessly during this current year growing the charity by 700%.

From its humble beginnings in Birmingham, Global Relief Trust's motto is quite simple, 'Serving Communities Globally', regardless of race, religion or creed. Global Relief Trust is passionate about serving humanity through short and long-term solutions to poverty, through emergency response as well as long-term projects in education, employability, sustainability and enterprise.

With it's local presence, Global Relief Trust are also supporting localised projects in the UK from feeding the homeless, providing blankets to the needy and supporting youth sports.



## **Balti Bazaar**

### **Longest Serving Balti House**

Balti Bazaar is one of the oldest and famous restaurant in the Black Country. Founded in 1996 in Stourbridge by the late, successful restaurateur, Mr Rois Miah, Balti Bazaar is well recognised in the area and has won numerous awards - locally and nationally. They won the House of Commons Tiffin Cup in 2012, Midland Curry Award 2009 amongst others. Recently their chef won the 'Chef of the Year' accolade at the BCA Awards.

The restaurant itself is housed in a well known historic site with a lot of heritage in the local area. It was previously a famous wine warehouse for many years.

Balti Bazaar has 170 covers with beautiful traditional decoration and ambiance. They specialise in traditional balti dishes that are hard to find anywhere else!



## **Mohammed Mohib Ullah**

### **Special Recognition Award In Construction Industry**

Mr Mohammed Mohib Ullah has been successfully running his family construction company since 2000. His building company, ABC Builders, are a construction firm that have been providing building services for almost 19 years. Over the past several years they have worked in Greater Manchester and surrounding areas, London and other parts of the UK. They also do projects in Bangladesh.

He has gained great recognition for his work in and around the Greater Manchester region. His philosophy of “meeting building construction regulations, following industry practices and providing excellent customer service on a project” is what makes him successful.

Providing excellent quality work to home owners and businesses has helped Mr Ullah to build a reputation in the industry for quality workmanship and his business has been thriving in difficult times for the past 19 years and continues to grow.

### **Altab Syed**

#### **Best Hospitality and Management Award - Holiday Homes**



Mr. Altab is a successful entrepreneur who is involved in a diverse range of businesses most notably, as the owner of several holiday homes and cottages in Snowdonia, Anglesey and Bangor. He is also an investor in commercial property (student accommodation) in partnership with the University of Bangor.

Mr Altab came to the UK in 1977 where he continued with his education. After completing a diploma in Business Studies, Mr Altab established himself as successful entrepreneur, taking on various ventures in the form of catering outlets and corner stores around North Wales.

His holiday home in Bangor is surrounded by illustrious company, namely Daniel Craig who also owns a luxury property directly opposite one Mr. Altab's holiday homes!

In an era where the majority of successful British Bangladeshis are in the catering industry, Mr. Altab is a shining example of a diversified businessman who has thought 'outside the box' and has made a successful enterprise out of it.

In amongst the hectic life of such a successful entrepreneur, Mr. Altab is also the founding member of LifeAid Trust and has multiple directorships in several other businesses. He is also the Chairman of Bangor Islamic Centre. As someone who values education, his children are all at University studying Medicine and Teaching. He is renowned within the Bangladeshi community and is someone who also embodies the ethos of seeking for that which is good, right and true.

### **Ashikur Rahman Talukdar**

#### **Outstanding Achievement in Catering - Mishtidesh**

Mishtidesh is an exclusive catering company, buffet restaurant and Bangladeshi sweet producer.

The company started in 1995 as a traditional Bangladeshi sweet shop and catering service. It was one of the first Bangladeshi catering services and has established itself as a household name throughout the Midlands and among the wider community.

For over 10 years, Mishtidesh has maintained a 5 Star Hygiene rating and catered for some of the biggest events. They cater for weddings, special occasions and corporate events to name a few.

Mishtidesh has received numerous awards in the past including the BBL Community Award 2008 and was one of the winners at the first BBB Awards in 2015.



## **Nazia Begum Rashid**

### **Community Excellence Award**

Mrs Nazia Begum Rashid came to the UK in 1969 after finishing high school in the prestigious Biroidakumi High School in Mymensingh, Bangladesh. After arriving she completed a nursing course to begin her new life in the UK. She started her first role as a nurse at East Birmingham Hospital (later renamed Heartland's Hospital) in 1974 and worked there for 37 years before retiring.

In 1971, Mrs Rashid played an active and very important role in Birmingham, for the liberation movement of Bangladesh. Her selfless devotion, dedication and commitment to promote the righteous liberation struggle was second to none. Mrs Rashid was elected as the Secretary of the Women's Action Committee in April 1971. She gave her utmost effort to mobilise Bangladeshi women and women of other communities to raise awareness and to go on to support the historic struggle. One of her most notable acts was to go on hunger strike in Birmingham City Centre with other similar minded people.

Whilst working as a nurse, she has been heavily involved with the British Bangladeshi community by also working as an interpreter in the Midlands and across the country. Mrs Rashid is a trustee of the renowned charity organisation, CRP, in Bangladesh, established by Valorie Taylor and has contributed an enormous amount to this charity.

Despite all of the above, Mrs Rashid retains her zest and enthusiasm for fighting for other's rights. She is a highly active and respected member of the Bangladeshi community in the UK. Her husband, Mr Abdul Rashid Bhuiyan, has also played an important role in the liberation movement and therefore empowering people of Bangladeshi origin. In 1978 he was elected the President of the Bangladesh Residents Welfare Association. Even now, he serves as her main source of inspiration. There is no one in the Bangladeshi community who is more deserving of this award than Mrs Rashid.



## **Mohammad Rahman Joynal**

### **Excellence in Portfolio Management**

Mohammad Rahman Joynal started off in his early days in the restaurant industry in Hertfordshire and owned numerous restaurants. He moved on from the restaurant industry to running his estate agent business in Luton. For over a decade his business has been thriving! He is an expert in property consultancy and has been selling and letting homes in and around the surrounding Bedfordshire area.

Simply Move founded by Mohamad is a successful residential letting agency and experts in providing bespoke personal service using cutting edge software to promote client properties better, smarter and faster.

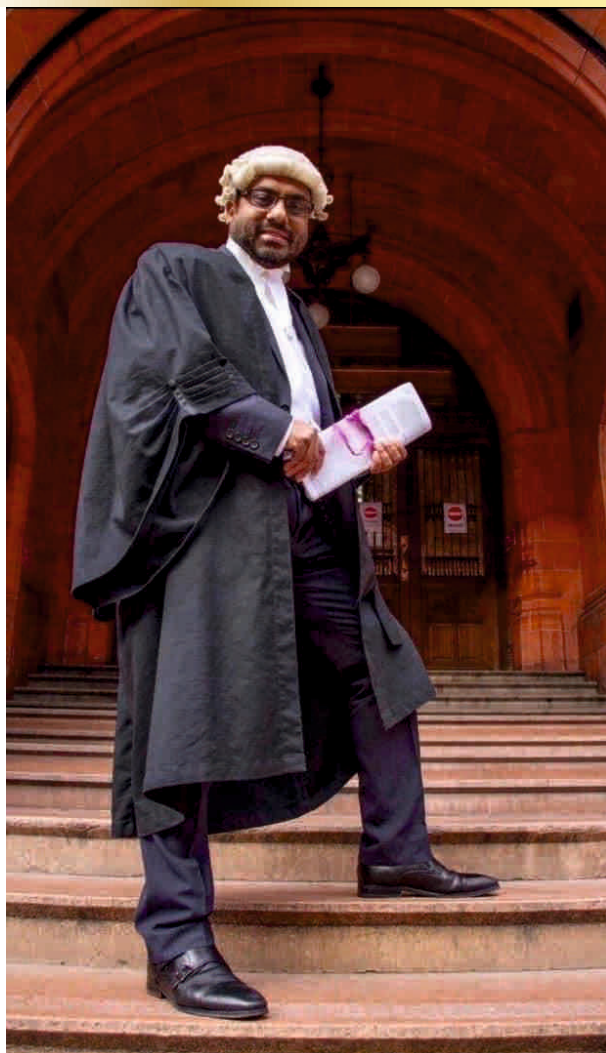
He is an experienced property investor holding properties in Luton, Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, a Director of UK BCCI and Vice President of the BCA. Mohammed is a popular figure in Bedfordshire and is recognised locally for his contribution to community and charities.

## **Bia Lounge**

### **Best Event and Wedding Organiser**

Bia Lounge was established in 2005 in the Small Heath area of Birmingham by Manirul Haque and partners. They were one of the first groups of British Bangladeshis to establish a wedding venue in the West Midlands. Over the last 10 years, Bia Lounge has gained an excellent reputation for its organisational qualities in creating great weddings and events. They provide on-site bespoke catering to clients as well as a range of services to ensure each event is memorable and provides utmost satisfaction.

Bia Lounge has also hosted many important events serving the local community.



**Sham Uddin**  
DIRECT ACCESS BARRISTER

## OBITUARY

# ROIS MIAH



We are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our Senior Advisors of Desh Foundation UK and BBB Awards, Mr Rois Miah, who passed away in 2017.

Rois has left behind many legacies from some of the amazing work he has done for the community. He was a very successful businessman with businesses established both in the UK and Bangladesh. He also ran many charity organisations helping people in need.

Rois was a real inspiration for the whole team and will always be remembered for the advice and support he gave us.

A person that departs from this earth never truly leaves, for they are still alive in our hearts and minds. Prayers and fond memories are what we have to remember of our dearly departed.

*May Allah SWT bless him and grant him the highest place in Jannah.*



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\*Source: CGA data for restaurants, 52 weeks ending 29/12/2018.



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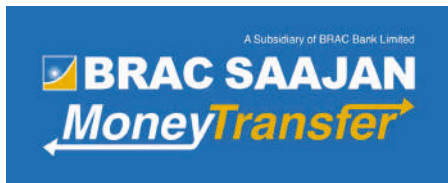
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