

## Entrepreneur and Business Brand



### Iqbal Ahmed OBE

**Chairman and Chief Executive of the Seacmark PLC** This Manchester based businessman built his fortunes on seafood companies, the group has branches all over the world. One of the richest men in the UK, he is the highest ranked British Bangladeshi featured in The Sunday Times Rich List. He was awarded an OBE in 2001 for his services to international trade.

### Shelim Hussain MBE

**Founder and Managing Director of Euro Foods (UK) Limited** The architect of his own fortune, Shelim started his business with an initial capital of £20, the annual turnover stands at an impressive £80 million. He was awarded Personality of the Year at the British Curry Awards 2011 and received an MBE in 2003 for services to business in Wales.



### Muquim Ahmed

**Founder of the Cafe Naz group of restaurants and property investor** Muquim's business assets are worth in the region of £35 million. He is currently building a food manufacturing branch of his business and leading a campaign to get the government to create a "curry university" to train British unemployed people in the spicy arts.

### Naufal Zamir

**Managing Director of Zamir Telecom Ltd** Owner of the fast growing BME telecommunications business in the UK with a turnover of over £15 million, Zamir is responsible for connecting millions of ex pats with their friends and family on a daily basis. His company currently lists 13th on the Times Tec list 2011.

### Iqbal Wahhab OBE

**Founder of Tandoori Magazine, and multi-award winning restaurants Cinnamon Club and Roast** Voted one of the Top 10 Restaurateurs in Britain in an Independent on Sunday survey, Iqbal has been described as a "serial entrepreneur" by the Institute of Directors and a "national treasure" by The Times. Awarded an OBE in 2009 for public service and services to the hospitality industry.

### Abdur Rouf JP

**Chairman, Diamond Group of Properties and Director of the Mutual Trust** Abdur Rouf has diversified his portfolios, while retaining roots in the hospitality and catering industries. He is the Honorary President of St Andrews University Cricket Club and Scottish Regional President of British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce. He actively supports many community and charitable initiatives both in the UK and Bangladesh.

### Wali Tasar Uddin MBE

**Owner of the Britannia Spice (Scotland) and others** Wali's success has been celebrated by both the Scottish and British Curry Awards. Wali owns a number of restaurants in Scotland and is former Director General and Chairman of the Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce. He is joint president of European Bangladesh Federation. He was awarded an MBE in 1995 for his services to race relations.

### Atique Choudhury

**Proprietor of three restaurants in north London, the Thai Yum Yum, the Japanese Oshini and the Mexican Mercado and also a property developer** Atique's enthusiasm for food and business has led him to launch an apprentice-training programme for aspiring restaurateurs. He is a sponsor of the Hackney Empire, as well as sponsor of the Asian and Oriental School of Catering, part of Hackney College.

### Abdul Quayum Khaliq (Jamal) & Brothers

**Directors of Taj Stores International** Taj Stores was established on Brick Lane in 1936 and instantly became synonymous with spices in the East End of London. They are the oldest Asian grocery store in the UK. They have since diversified business interests into properties both at home and in the Middle East, and Bangladesh.

### Rofique Hayder

**Director of Bangla Town and Bangla City Cash & Carry** Rofique is Chairman of a leading import & export business and runs one of largest Bangladeshi grocers in UK. He is Regional Director of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and in line with his passion for Brick Lane he is planning for a multi million pound hotel in heart of Bangla Town.

## Politics and Policy



### Rushanara Ali MP

**MP for Bethnal Green and Bow** Rushanara is the first British Bangladeshi to be elected to parliament, having defeated George Galloway in the 2010 General Election. She was immediately appointed to the Labour front bench as Shadow Minister for International Development where she is spearheading an international campaign on climate change.

### Mayor Lutfur Rahman

**Executive Mayor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets** Lutfur is the first British Bangladeshi to be elected as an executive mayor. He fought the election in October 2010 as an Independent candidate. He was listed at number 78 in the Daily Telegraph's "The top 100 most influential people on the Left 2011".



### Anwar Choudhury

**Diplomat and Director at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office** Anwar was the former British High Commissioner for Bangladesh in 2004, and was the first BAME person to be appointed in a senior diplomatic post. He continues to serve the government as Director of International Institutions at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

### Asif Anwar Ahmed

**British Ambassador to Thailand** Having joined the Foreign & Commonwealth Office in 1999, Asif was appointed as British Ambassador to Thailand in 2011. He is the former head of the South East Asia and Pacific Department of the FCO and former Director of UK Trade and Investment.

### Cllr Nasim Ali OBE

**Leader of Council, London Borough of Camden** A Labour councillor with 25 years experience working in the community, Nasim is the first British Bangladeshi leader of Camden Council and the countries youngest ever Civic Mayor. Nasim was awarded an OBE in 2010 for services to Local government.

### Dr Halima Begum

**First Secretary (Development) Department for International Development (DFID)** Working in a diplomatic role with the British Government overseas, Halima has worked in China, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan on high-impact international programmes, leading the UK government's work in education.

### Nahid Majid OBE (CCMI)

**Civil Servant** Nahid is Deputy Director within the Department for Work and Pensions and is currently the most senior British Bangladeshi Muslim woman in the civil service where she heads a new division whose task is to develop and deliver employment opportunities for disadvantaged people. She was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Honours List 2006.

### Murad Qureshi AM

**Greater London Assembly Member** Murad has been a GLA member since 2004, where he is Chair of the Environment Committee, the London Waterways Commission, and a Member of the Standards and Budget Committees. Previously a Westminster City councillor between 1998 and 2006. Murad is a Board Member of BRAC UK, an International NGO.

### Shazia Ullah

**Head of Policy and Improvement - Southend Borough Council** First British Bangladeshi to hold an Assistant Chief Executive position in local government, Shazia is invested in supporting the development and growth of community services in Southend.

### Saleemul Huq

**Scientist** Saleemul is Senior Fellow in the Climate Change Group at the International Institute for Environment and Development. He was awarded the Burton Award in 2007 and is lead author of the chapter on Adaptation and Sustainable Development in the third assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

## Education, Culture and Sports



### Prof Andy Miah (BA, MPhil, PhD, FRSA)

**Professor in Ethics & Emerging Technologies and Director of the Creative Futures Research Centre at the University of the West of Scotland** Andy is a fresh thinking academic, who is a regular writer for newspapers around the world including the Washington Post and the Guardian. His research discusses the intersections of ethics, technology and culture.

### Akram Khan MBE

**Renowned Choreographer and Classical Dancer** Winner of multiple critics awards including the Distinguished Artist Award at the International Society for the Performing Arts 2011. In August 2000, Akram launched the Akram Khan Company. His first full-length work Kaash, collaboration with Anish Kapoor and Nitin Sawhney, was performed at the Edinburgh Festival.



### Monica Ali

**Author of Brick Lane, In The Kitchen and The Untold Story** Visiting Professor of Creative Writing at Columbia University, Monica is former Chair of the 2011 Asian Man Booker Prize and a member of the Advisory Council. She will be Chairing the judging panel of the Royal Society Winton prize for popular science writing, and judging the Guardian First Book Award.

### Prof Mushtaq Husain Khan

**Professor in Economics - School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) University of London** Mushtaq's ground breaking work focuses on the economics of poor countries; it includes notable contributions to the field of institutional economics and South Asian development.

### Prof Tipu Zahed Aziz

**Professor** Tipu is Professor of neurosurgery at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, and lecturer at Magdalen College, Oxford and Imperial College London medical school. His research focuses on the use of Deep Brain Stimulation in the alleviation of movement disorders and pain syndromes.

### Dr Abdul Hyee Murshad

**Head Teacher** First British Bangladeshi head teacher in Tower Hamlets and also, HM Inspector for Education. Exceptionally talented and dedicated teacher who also runs one of the biggest Saturday Islamic Schools in East London.

### Muhammed Ali

**Aerosol Arabic - Street/Urban Artist** Birmingham based spiritual artist known for merging graffiti style with Islamic art and connecting different communities. Having won an ITV South Bank Award in the Arts Council England Diversity category, he continues to paint his "walls" around the world.

### Anwar Uddin

**Professional footballer** Anwar is the first British Bangladeshi professional footballer. He currently plays as a defender for Barnet F.C. and has previously played for West Ham United, and captained at Dagenham & Redbridge F.C.

### Ruqsana Begum

**British Atomweight Muay-Thai boxing champion** With only two and a half years of professional fighting experience, Ruqsana has already won the British Atom weight (48-50kg) championship and a bronze medal at the World Championship in Bangkok. She has represented England as a kickboxer and will be competing in the Sports Accord Championships in 2012.

### Dipayan Paul

**Professional MCC young Cricketer** At 18 years old the East London teenager has won a dream professional contract with the MCC Young Cricketers (YCs). Dipayan will join the YC squad at Lord's in 2012.

## Catering Industry



### Bazlur Rashid MBE

**Restaurateur and other business entities both in the UK and Bangladesh** Bazlur is President of the Bangladesh Caterers Association. His inspirational leadership has transformed the organisation and he was awarded with an MBE in the 2012 new year's honour list.

### Amin Ali

**Restaurateur** Amin founded the famous Red Fort restaurant in 1983, a Soho favourite with politicians, celebrities and dignitaries from across the world. He established the very first Co-Operative Indian restaurant in 1979. He also organised the first 'London Festival of Bangladesh' and hosts the Bangladesh Food Festival at the Red Fort.



### Enam Ali MBE

**Restaurateur, Founder of the British Curry Awards** Enam is owner of the highly acclaimed Le Raj restaurant in Epsom and is Editor of Spice Business Magazine. He was honoured with the Freedom of the City of London in 2011 and also awarded an MBE for contribution to the curry industry in 2009.

### Mohammad Ajman 'Tommy Miah'

**Hotelier, Celebrity Chef** Owner of the Raj in Edinburgh, Tommy Miah has created a celebrity following through his own TV shows. He owns a hotel in Scotland and London. He also established the Institute of Hospitality Management, training many Bangladeshis in the international hospitality industry.

### Wazid Hasan Shelim

**Catering Events Management** Director of Pride of Asia, the award winning and most recognised Bangladeshi wedding and corporate events caterer, Wazid has built a strong reputation over the past 15 years and acts as a passionate community and charity activist.

### Pasha Khandaker

**Restaurateur** Pasha is a well known champion of the curry industry in the UK as Secretary General of the Bangladesh Caterers Association and owner of a number of well established restaurants in the Kent and Sussex areas. He is also an active member of the Labour party.

### Ana Choudhury

**Restaurateur** Ana is CEO and Chairman of House of Spice Group. Since arriving in UK in 1964 at the age of 16 Ana has opened 23 restaurants. He was a local Conservative councillor for four years. As well as being a restaurateur; Ana has a keen interest in racing horses.

### Azizur Rahman

**Restaurateur** Azizur is a director of the Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce and has gained a reputation for excellence. His restaurant the 'Aziz' has gained national and international recognition as one of the best in the country. He is an organiser of the increasingly popular annual "Nowka Bais" boat race in Oxford.

### Mahtab Miah

**Restaurateur** Mahtab Miah is a very well known restaurateur in the north east of England. He opened his first restaurant in 1973, and now owns the highly acclaimed Vujon restaurant in Manchester. Mahtab is Director of British Bangladesh Chamber of commerce.

### Shahagir Bakht Faruk

**Catering Recruitment and Training** Founder of Shahnan Employment Service, Faruk has three decades of experience in recruiting and training staff for the British Bangladeshi catering industry. He pioneered bi lingual hygiene training and is a valued resource for the community. He is former chair of the Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce.

## Media



### Ahmed us Samad Chowdhury JP (FISMM, FCMI, FIH)

**Chairman of Channel S, founder of the Potrika Newsweekly, businessman and community activist** Under Ahmed's guidance Channel S is now one of the most watched ethnic channels in Europe. It leads on community campaigns and champions charity fundraising.

### Sharif Muhammad Hasan- Al Banna MBE

**Banna is CEO of Awakening Worldwide** a portfolio of companies including a publishing house and international record label. He chairs the Exploring Islam Foundation (EIF) and is a member of the international Qatar Foundation.



### Konnie Huq

**Television Personality** Konnie has made herself a household name from being the longest-serving female Blue Peter presenter and a former X Factor presenter. Konnie works in TV, radio and print journalism. She is a regular visitor to Bangladesh and supports a number of charities.

### Sarwar Ahmed

**Publisher** Sarwar is Founder of the Eastern Eye, which became the fastest-growing Asian newspaper in Britain. He became editor-in-chief of the Asian Times, Caribbean Times and New Nation, then sold up to launch other Asian fashion magazines. He is currently publisher of Asiana and Asiana Wedding.

### Abdul Gaffar Choudhury

**Author, journalist, and columnist for Bengali newspapers of Bangladesh and UK** Abdul Gaffar has accumulated a vast body of work as an author and journalist but is best known for his political views and lyrics to Amar Bhaier Rokte Rangano, which has become the main song commemorating the Bengali Language Movement.

### Faisal Islam

**Channel 4 Economics Editor** Faisal has interviewed everyone from the Prime Minister to the President of the World Bank. He has won the World World Foundation's "Broadcast News Reporter of the Year" in 2010, having also collected numerous awards for his coverage of the Icelandic banking crisis in 2009.

### Syed Nahas Pasha

**Journalist** A highly respected British-Bangladeshi journalist. Syed is chief editor of Janomot and Curry Life Magazine. He also writes for the biggest online news agency of Bangladesh bdnews24.com and is a founding member and former general secretary of London Bangla Press Club. He sits on the committee of the Commonwealth Journalists Association.

### Nina Hossain

**Journalist, newscaster** Nina is a freelance journalist and the main presenter of ITV London's regional news programme London Tonight. She is a newscaster for ITV News and has presented all of ITN's main bulletins, from the ITV Evening News to News at Ten.

### Tasmin Lucia Khan

**Journalist, newscaster** Former news presenter on the BBC and ITV's breakfast television programme Daybreak, Tasmin is the favoured host at a number of community and business awards and ceremonies.

### Ajmal Masroor

**Author and TV presenter** Ajmal currently presents his own programmes on Islam Channel and on Channel 5. He is the 'go to' imam for a number of the mainstream media and has appeared on the BBC and Channel 4 commentating on social, political and religious issues.

## Women



### Irene Zubaida Khan

**Human Rights Activist** Irene is Chancellor of the University of Salford and in 2001 she was the first woman, the first Asian, and the first Muslim to guide the world's largest human rights organization, Amnesty International as its seventh Secretary General.

### Ruby Hammer MBE

**Make-Up Artist and Entrepreneur** Ruby is a pioneering influence on the fashion and beauty industries, is director of Ruby and Millie and the Scarlett & Crimson make up ranges, and is well known from her media appearances and contributions to the leading fashion and lifestyle magazines including Vogue, Elle, Harpers Bazaar and Marie Claire.



### Naveen Rahman

**British Army Officer/Fencer** Naveen is a Captain in the British Army, Intelligence Corps and has fought in Afghanistan and Iraq. She is also a world class fencer and has represented Guernsey at the Commonwealth Games, she is a former British number eight, as well as an army and inter-services champion.

### Tahmima Anam

**Author** Tahmima's first novel, 'A Golden Age' was shortlisted for the Guardian First Book Award and the Costa First Novel Prize, and was the winner of the 2008 Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Book. The follow up novel 'The Good Muslim' was nominated for the 2011 Man Asian Literary Prize.

### Jhumur Pati (FRCS, FRCS(Urol))

**Surgeon** Consultant Urologist, Jhumur is one of just a few female surgeons within the field of Urology and one of five designated pelvic cancer surgeons within the North East London network.

### Dr. Gulnahr Mortuza

**Pan European Scientist** Gulnahr a senior scientist at a National Institute of Cancer Research, is working on proteins orchestrating the cell cycle process. Her work at the National Institute of Medical Research contributed to the understanding of a range of human diseases such as HIV and Leukemia, and has been published in the prestigious journal Nature.

### Dr Husna Ahmed OBE

**CEO of Faith Regeneration** She is a national and international speaker on faith and regeneration, peace building, women's issues and climate change. She is co-chair of Faiths and Beliefs in Further Education and has recently spoken at the Norwegian Parliament on faith and positive change.

### Nazia Khanum OBE

**Director, Equality in Diversity** Nazia is a consultant in equal opportunities management, research and training and amongst others, non-executive director for NHS Luton and currently chair of three voluntary community organisations including Luton Multicultural Women's Coalition.

### Solma Ahmed

**Resilient Adviser/Team Leader at Department for Communities and Local Government** Solma works on emergency planning to ensure a coordinated response between local and central governments. She is former Chief Executive at Labo Housing Association where she transformed a community based housing association into a highly successful BAME organisation.

### Rezia Wahid MBE

**Weaver and Textile Artist** Rezia produces hand woven textiles and was one of the artists selected by the South West Arts Council to create a piece celebrating the cultural diversity of Britain. She is a teacher and exhibits work across the UK, awarded an MBE in 2005 for her contribution to arts in London.

## Community and Voluntary Organisations



### Bangladesh Caters Association

**(BCA)** Umbrella organization of approximately 12,000 British Bangladeshi restaurants across the UK. The BCA has been representing the Bangladeshi curry industry for 51 years.

### British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce

**(BBCQ)** Established in 1991 to promote, protect and strengthen bi-lateral trade and commerce between Bangladesh and the United Kingdom and between them and the European Community. The BBCC has established its reputation as a champion of British Bangladeshi businesses.



### London Muslim Centre

**(LMC)** The LMC promotes social, cultural, spiritual and economic enhancement of the whole community from a Muslim perspective and sits at the heart of the Bangladeshi community in Tower Hamlets, East London.

### Greater Sylhet Development and Welfare Council in the UK

**(GSC)** A charity organisation working for the welfare of British Bangladeshi people living in the UK who originate from the district of Sylhet. Sylhet's make up 90% of Bangladesh's in Britain.

### London Bangla Press Club

**(LBPC)** London Bangla Press Club was established in 1993. The Press Club is a professional British Bangladeshi organisation for journalists and is located in London. Its membership consists of journalists of Bangladeshi origin who are residents of the United Kingdom involved in the journalistic, press, publishing or broadcasting sector.

### London Tigers

**Community & Sports** An award-winning sports and community organisation reaching across London under the leadership of CEO Mesba Ahmed. With over 100 employees and volunteers from over 20 nationalities, it has just celebrated its 25th anniversary. London Tigers' work on improving health and fitness awareness in Bangladeshi women is particularly notable.

### Oldham Bangladeshi Association

**(OBA)** The OBA plays a vital role in serving and supporting the local community and is now located in the purpose built Millennium Cultural Centre with community offices and counselling rooms, as well as conference and training facilities.

### Mitalee Youth Organisation

**Community & Youth** Mitalee Youth Organisation is a Luton based project tackling social exclusion through sports and does not shy away from addressing hard hitting issues facing the community it serves.

### APASENTH

**Specialist Care Organisation** APASENTH has been successfully providing services to people with disabilities since 1984. It is known as one of the leading Bangladeshi organisations working for people with learning and multiple disabilities, their careers and parents, in East London.

### BritBangla

**Professional Network** BritBangla promotes talent and draws attention to the contribution of Bengalis in British society. It is a national networking association that brings together second and third generation Bengali professionals and has built a reputation for its social, cultural, careers and networking events. Its membership reaches in the thousands.

