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BRITISH  
BANGLADESHI  
POWER &  
INSPIRATION

2014

[www.bbpower-inspiration.com](http://www.bbpower-inspiration.com)

# Welcome to the 2014 edition of the British Bangladeshi Power & Inspiration

Here you will find 100 bright, ambitious and successful British Bangladeshi names across 19 categories demonstrating the dynamic, entrepreneurial, philanthropic, pioneering and innovative nature of this community. The 20<sup>th</sup> category of the 2014 list is the "People's Choice" where for the first time the general public were invited to nominate their most inspirational British Bangladeshi. The judges are delighted to announce the 5 unsung heroes of this category who serve to remind us of the strength and courage of individuals and the potential for the future.

We are often asked why we produce this list and the answer lies with the word "inspiration". The next generation is rising fast and we aim to be at the forefront of this revolution. Recent studies have shown that in GCSE exams taken at the age of 16, Bangladeshi girls now outperform their peers. On its own this is an amazing sound bite of achievement, but imagine what more could be achieved by providing strong, powerful role models and mentors for young girls (and boys!) from across all industries and categories that the BB Power & Inspiration represents. That is why following the success of our recent lawyers networking event, we will be hosting a series of "inspirational events" under the BB Power & Inspiration banner throughout 2014 for sectors such as business and enterprise, medicine, public service and the arts. Please keep checking the website for further details.

As if that wasn't enough, it has become tradition that we do a little extra and so this year, please take a look at the 10 inspirational Bangladeshi figures who live away from our shores but who demonstrate our values of talent, success, leadership and are exceptional role models for all.

Thanks as always to the brilliant team that support and guide us in this mammoth task: the members of our judging panel, our dedicated advisers, volunteers and researchers and our sponsors and supporters. And congratulations to the 100 members of the 2014 British Bangladeshi Power & Inspiration, this is your list and your time to shine.

*Abdal Ullah & Ayesha Qureshi MBE*  
*Founder & Editor*



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★ New entry

## Business & Enterprise



### Iqbal Ahmed OBE

**Chairman and Chief Executive  
The Seamark Group**

Iqbal leads the multinational Seamark Group of companies, which has a group turnover of \$250m and is the UK's leading importer and processor of seafood. One of a few British Bangladeshis on The Sunday Times Rich List, Iqbal has also set up the Non-Resident Bangladeshi Bank (NRB), a new bank for expats to invest in their homeland.



### Naufal Zaman

**Managing Director  
Zamir Telecom Limited**

Zamir Telecom has soared to new heights from selling low-cost international calls to offering a range of communication services. Naufal's company has seen incredible international growth, particularly in the Middle East. The company has announced a new MBA scholarship programme with the Said Business School at the University of Oxford.



### Aref Karim ★

**Hedge Fund Manager**

Prior to setting up Quality Capital Management, Aref worked at the world's largest sovereign wealth fund, the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority where he designed and managed a multi-billion dollar portfolio of alternative investments. His Weybridge-based hedge fund has been a huge success with assets in the region of £150m according to the Sunday Times Rich List.



### Ruby Hammer MBE

**Makeup Artist and Entrepreneur**

Ruby has established a number of leading brands in the UK. Her ranges have become some of the most innovative makeup brands to be established in thirty years. Ruby has worked for publications such as Vogue and Elle magazine. Department store Debenhams exclusively stock a "Ruby recommends" range of makeup in recognition of her status as a household name.



### Shelim Hussain MBE

**Founder and Managing Director  
Euro Foods Group**

Founder of Euro Foods Limited, a thriving business which has rapidly grown to employ over 200 staff, with food processing units in Newport, Barking and Sunderland.

The company also operates in Bangladesh and New York and has an annual turnover of around £40 million.

## Politics



### Lutfur Rahman

**Executive Mayor of London  
Borough of Tower Hamlets**

The first directly elected Mayor of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets, having been leader of the council for the previous two years, Lutfur climbed 15 places to 53rd on the Daily Telegraph's list of the Top 100 most influential Left-wingers. His Borough's budget is the second largest in the UK.



### Rushanara Ali MP

**Shadow Education Minister**

The Labour Member of Parliament for Bethnal Green and Bow and the first British Bangladeshi elected to the House of Commons, Rushanara is the Shadow Minister for Education. She is leading the Save Remittance Giving Campaign calling on Barclays to reverse its decision on closing the accounts of money-transfer companies.



### Tulip Siddiq

**Prospective Parliamentary  
Candidate**

Tulip is Labour's Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Hampstead and Kilburn. Recognised for her strong stance against government cuts to the NHS, Tulip is a rising star of the Labour Party. She has also been campaigning recently on the impact of the proposed underground ticket office closures.



### Baroness Pola Uddin

**Life Peer  
House of Lords**

The first British Bangladeshi woman to enter the House of Lords, she continues to champion a range of initiatives and during 2013 remained focused on organisations which promote women's participation in civil society and human rights.



### Murad Qureshi AM

**London Assembly  
Member**

In his third term as a GLA member, Murad has increased his responsibilities to cover the Transport Committee and Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee. He also put forth a motion urging the Mayor of London to fully fund the London Fire Brigade to stop the closure local fire stations.

## Civil and Public Service



### Asif Anwar Ahmad

**Diplomat, British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO)**

Asif is currently serving as Ambassador to the Philippines, having previously been British Ambassador to Thailand and Laos. After a career in Banking, Asif joined the FCO where he first worked in the Resources Directorate and then moved into foreign policy work on commonwealth issues. His previous roles also include Director Asia for UK Trade and Investment.



### Mockbul Ali OBE

**Diplomat, British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO)**

A leading young diplomat, Mockbul has served as a policy advisor to three former Foreign Secretaries. His recent diplomatic posting was in Cairo during the Arab Spring. Previously listed amongst the 500 most influential Muslims globally, Mockbul is currently completing a prestigious leadership programme in international strategy before his next posting.



### Nahid Majid OBE ★

**Chief Operating Officer  
Regeneration Investment  
Organisation at UK Trade  
and Investment**

Nahid is recognised as one of the top eminent Town Planners in the country. In her role at RIO, the government's new high profile inward investment body, Nahid aims to raise billions of pounds from overseas to fund urban regeneration projects in the UK and helped to orchestrate the Prime Ministers recent trade mission to China.



### Anwar Choudhury

**Diplomat, British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO)**

Currently a Director of corporate affairs in the FCO, Anwar was the British High Commissioner for Bangladesh in 2004, the first British Bangladeshi to hold the role. He then served as Director international institutions in the FCO. He remains a popular personality with many British Bangladeshis.



### Dr Halima Begum

**Director of Education, East Asia, British Council**

An experienced international development manager, Halima is responsible for providing intellectual leadership on policy matters to drive forward the British Council's education offer in 14 countries in East Asia. She has extensive experience of working with international partners including the EU, UN, World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

## Innovators



### Sharif Banna MBE

**Co-Founder and CEO, Awakening Worldwide**

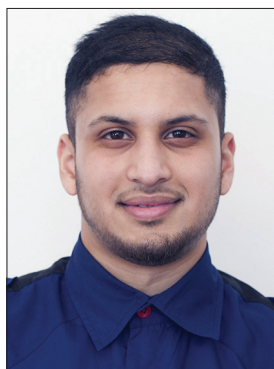
Sharif's international media conglomerate is a by-word for innovation in faith inspired and value driven media. In recognition of this, Awakening recently was awarded the prestigious Islamic Economy Award by the Emir of Dubai. In addition, Sharif is also a board member of the international Qatar Foundation based Centre for Islamic Ethics and Legislation, a leading centre for innovation in ethics.



### Dr Miratul Muqit

**Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellowship in Clinical Science and Programme Leader**

Based at the University of Dundee, Miratul has been awarded almost £1.9 million from the Wellcome Trust to investigate the causes of Parkinson's disease. This is allowing Miratul to undertake groundbreaking research over the next 5 years that may lead to new breakthroughs on how to diagnose and treat the disorder.



### Shakir Ahmed ★

**Co-inventor of Skycopter**

Shakir designed and built the world's first multicopter powered solely on solar power, achieving the highest thesis mark awarded in the history of his University.

The Project featured on the Discovery Channel. He is in the process of filing for a Patent.



### Syed Ahmed ★

**Co-founder and CEO Savortex**

Having found a gap in the market for low energy dryers, Syed developed the innovative Vortex EcoSmart hand dryer. He has been shortlisted for the prestigious BusinessGreen Leaders Awards and has won a string of multinational clients. The Vortex is also the world's first hand dryer to achieve a Guinness World Record title for drying the most pairs of hands using just 30 KJ of energy.



### Dilara Khan ★

**Chair and CEO, Pillar Productions**

The creator and producer of the first ever British Bangladeshi reality show 'Forgotten Roots', Dilara continues her production portfolio by creating the award winning show 'Maa Amar Maa' celebrating motherhood and women's contribution to their children, family, and society. Dilara has secured the Bangladesh license for the TV show 'The Apprentice' and also is the President of the British Bangladesh Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs.

## Academic / Think Tanker



### Ed Husain

**Senior fellow for Middle Eastern Studies, The Council for Foreign Relations (New York)**

Ed is a leading global expert on international affairs, in particular the Middle East. A frequent and high profile commentator in the international media, his latest policy paper formed the basis of the US administration's recent announcement of a \$200m global CT fund for communities. Ed is also an acclaimed bestselling author.



### Dr Irene Zubaida Khan

**Chancellor, University of Salford**

The only Chancellor of British Bangladeshi origin, Irene Zubaida Khan was the first female and Asian to hold the position of Secretary General of Amnesty International. Irene is internationally known for her work on human rights, social justice and women's issues. She continues her work for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.



### Dr M Hasan Shaheed ★

**Senior Lecturer in Control and Robotics, Queen Mary University of London**

Teaching and carrying out his own research in the fields of Robotics, Medical Robotics, Medical/Surgical devices, Hybrid Energy Systems, Solar Helicopters, UAVs, Water Desalination and Cancer, Dr Shaheed supervised the invention of first solar powered multicopter in the world and two techniques for Capsule Robot movement inside the GI tract for cancer screening.



### Naila Kabeer ★

**Professor of Gender and Development, LSE**

Naila is Professor of Gender and Development at the Gender Institute of the London School of Economics, prior to that, she was Professor of Development Studies at SOAS. Her research interest includes gender, poverty, social exclusion, labour markets and livelihoods, social protection and citizenship and is focused on South and South East Asia. She has carried out extensive training and advisory work with NGOs and international development agencies (including Oxfam, ActionAid, BRAC, and the UN).



### Andy Miah

**Chair of Ethics and Emerging Technologies and Director of the Creative Futures Institute, The University of the West of Scotland**

Andy holds degrees in Science, Bioethics and Law, and has expertise in fields as diverse as sociology, cultural studies, the history of medicine, the philosophy of technology and media theory. His recent work considers pervasive wireless connectivity, the modification of living matter through nanotechnology, and the role of art and design in biotechnology. His work is inspired by his interest in the implications of technology and science for humanity.

## Legal



### Sapnara Khatun

**Barrister/ Judge**

A family law specialist, Sapnara has extensive experience in both private and public law representing women and children in cases involving domestic violence and forced marriage. She is the first person from a minority background to be elected to the Committee of the Family Law Bar Association. Sapnara sits as a recorder (Judge) in both family and criminal cases.



### Akhlaq Choudhury

**Barrister/ Judge**

Akhlaq is a leading practitioner in the field of information law having appeared in several landmark decisions in recent years including the MPs' Expenses case and has been heavily involved in connection with the employment law aspects of the highly publicised phone hacking scandal. He is consistently listed as a leading barrister in Chambers UK and the Legal 500 and is a part time Recorder (judge).



### Ajmalul Hossain QC

**Barrister**

Ajmalul has vast experience of advocacy in complex and high-value cases in the High Court and Court of Appeal in London, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and in international arbitrations and mediations. He is highly rated by the Chambers Asia Guide and The Asia Pacific Legal 500. Ajmalul is the first and only QC in England of British Bangladeshi origin.



### Shah Qureshi

**Solicitor, Partner Bindmans LLP**

Shah is a top ranked lawyer in Chambers UK 2013. His pioneering work led him to be listed in the Lawyer magazine's Hot 100 as a leading figure in discrimination law. He has developed a reputation for pursuing successful discrimination and whistle-blowing cases against large corporations and public bodies.



### Wahid-Ur Rahman ★

**Managing Associate, Simmons & Simmons LLP**

Wahid is a senior finance lawyer who acts for banks, funds and corporates on a wide range of international transactions. Wahid's recent work has focused on advising a large number of UK and US hedge funds and other creditors in relation to the administration of Lehman Brothers International (Europe).

## Medical



**Prof Tipu Zahed Aziz**  
Head of Neurosurgery

Professor Aziz is the founder and head of functional neurosurgery at John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. His landmark work was central to confirming a possible surgical target for deep brain stimulation in Parkinson's disease. His centre is currently one of the busiest for surgery and research in the UK in this area of expertise.



**Dr Shafi Ahmed**  
Consultant Surgeon

A specialist in general and colorectal surgery, Shafi is Consultant General, Colorectal and Laparoscopic Surgeon at Barts and the London NHS trust. Shafi is also a Senior Lecturer and Associate Dean at Barts and the London Medical School. He has set up iHealth which is a modern way of managing NHS patients and offers an alternative pathway for care.



**Dr Tahseen Chowdhury**  
Consultant Physician

Tahseen is lead clinician in the department of diabetes and metabolism at Bart's and The London NHS Trust in the East End of London. He deals with diabetes particularly among the Bangladeshi community of Tower Hamlets. As a clinical researcher, Tahseen's interest in diabetes in South Asians has led to more than 100 publications. He is also on the editorial board for the prestigious journal of the Royal College of Physicians, Clinical Medicine.



**Dr Rabaiyat Haque**  
Consultant Physician

Rubaiyat is a leading expert and is one of a very small number of consultants who undertook specialist training in Allergy at the world renowned allergy department at Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge. After completion of specialist training, he took up his current post as Consultant Allergist at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital in London where he is the lead clinician in the adult allergy service. He also chairs the Allergy Safety Improvement Group on behalf of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust.



**Prof Anisur Rahman**  
Head of Rheumatology

Senior Lecturer on Rheumatology at University College London, Anisur's research focuses on chronic pain. He has forged a successful collaboration with researchers in primary care at Barts and the London and together he is working on studies of beliefs and expectations about chronic pain in different ethnic groups.

## Professional



**Sham Ahmed** ★  
Managing Director, MathWorks UK

Shamim was appointed MD of MathWorks aged just 29. MathWorks products have become a de-facto standard in research and development within leading organisations worldwide and is used by all the major Automotive, Aerospace & Defence companies worldwide. The company generates nearly \$50 Million turnover annually and has over 150 employees.



**Nural Choudhury**  
CNN Digital, International Art Director

Responsible for all CNN Digital design outside of America including CNN.com, CNN Arabic, CNN Travel, Nural is a highly experienced digital designer. He has a proven track record in translating challenging business requirements into innovative design solutions for consumer facing websites, mobile devices and tablet applications. Nural's clients include The Times, Telegraph and Disney.



**Dr.A.K. Rahman** ★  
Principal Mechanical Analysis (Structural Integrity) Engineer, BAE SYSTEMS

Aminur is the technical lead and responsible for the structural integrity of military/civil aircraft Active Inceptor Systems, a fly-by-wire technology which is state of the art. They are the next generation in flight controls, providing the pilot with aircraft feedback through varied vibration and resistance of the flight control stick. In his current role, Aminur is also responsible for the structural integrity of Primary Flight Control Computers for civil aircrafts.



**Dr Shorful Islam** ★  
Head of Data, DDB UK (a WPP Company)

With clients spanning across a range of sectors including retail, media, petro-chemical, technology and telecommunications, Shorful has spent the last decade working across the public and private sector in the area of data and analytics and helps blue-chip companies use data for marketing activities. Shorful has previously worked at ITV as Head of Business Information.



**Nazma Uddin** ★  
Consultant at Rise Management Consulting

Nazma is a Project Manager with 5 years quality experience with leading UK Construction and Management Companies. Providing construction management services in both the private and public sectors, Nazma projected managed the building of the Serpentine Gallery Pavilion. She is currently providing project management services on projects in Oman.

## The City / Finance



**Prof Moorad Choudhry**  
**Treasurer, RBS Group Treasury**

Combining a 24-year career in financial markets with an MBA, a PhD, and a parallel career as a leading academic in finance, Moorad has brought all his experiences together to focus on Treasury at RBS. He has literally "written the book" on bank treasury, having published two books on the topic. Moorad has used his success to set up a scholarship at the University of Westminster to support undergraduate students.



**Samad Choudhury** ★  
**Global Audit Director, Citibank**

Samad is a Chartered Accountant with extensive experience and knowledge of financial services activities and products. He has gained international exposure from living and working in the USA as well as key financial centres across the globe. He plays a crucial role in providing objective and independent opinions on the safeguarding controls that address the numerous current and emerging risks in the various business activities of the bank.



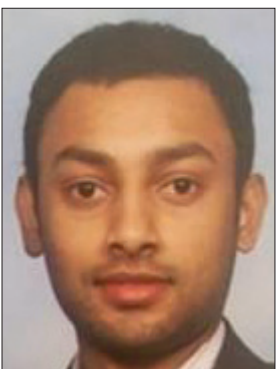
**Sultan Choudhury**  
**Managing Director, Islamic Bank of Britain**

Sultan is a member of various community and Government advisory groups on finance and has contributed to the development of Islamic Financial Services in the United Kingdom. He has also led the development and implementation of IBB's full product range and service delivery channels. Sultan is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute for Securities & Investment.



**Iftakharul Islam**  
**Asian Tiger Capital Partners**

Iftakharul established his boutique investment company Asian Tiger Capital Partners in 2007. AT Capital is one of the first financial institutions in Bangladesh focusing on Asset Management, Corporate Advisory and Macro-Economic Consulting. He is regularly quoted in foreign and national press as an authority on the Bangladesh stock market.



**Raihan Faradhi** ★  
**Strategy Consultant, PwC**

Raihan's has extensive experience providing professional services to large banks and insurance companies through his work previously at PwC and previously Deloitte. He has worked in the office of Ed Balls MP, advising on Treasury and Corporate Tax policy. He delivered a European market entry business plan and strategy for a leading African bank. He also was awarded Honorary Lifetime Membership to the Student Union of the LSE and currently serves as an ambassador for the university.

## Networks and Associations



**Bangladesh Caterers Association (BCA)**

**Pasha Khandaker, President**

An umbrella organisation of approximately 12,000 British-Bangladeshi restaurants across the UK employing more than 90,000 people with an estimated yearly turnover of £4 billion, the BCA organises various activities to promote Bangladeshi cuisine in Great Britain as well as in Europe. The BCA is working relentlessly to raise standards in the curry industry.



**London Bangla Press Club**

**Mohammed Nobab Uddin, President**

Celebrating 20 years, the London Bangla Press Club brings together Bangladeshi led media organisations (print, publishing, electronic, television and radio).

Working in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and beyond, the organisation works in partnership with the British Bangladeshi media sector.



**British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce (BBCC)**

**Muquim Ahmed, President**

With a mission to support businesses to grow and prosper and improve commerce between Bangladesh, the UK and the EU, the BBCC provides a forum for debate, acts as voice for business and works to influence public policy. It has established itself as a key lobbying group on behalf of its members as the voice of the British-Bangladeshi business community.



**Emerald Network** ★

**Rooful Ali, Founder**

Emerald has grown from strength to strength and is now established as the oldest and leading Muslim professional network of its kind. The organisation's membership spans diverse professions and locations. Its key areas include the Arts, Businesses and Charities under a vision to connect through networking. Emerald hosts an extensive programme of annual events.



**Wales Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce**

**Dilabor A Hussain, Chairman**

The WBCC was established to promote, protect and strengthen bilateral trade and commerce between Bangladesh and the Wales. The members combined turnover is estimated to be over £20 million annually just in Wales. The potential membership turnover of Welsh Bangladeshi businesses is estimated at over £3 billion combined and this figure is growing.

## Media



### Mihir Bose ★

**Sports Journalist**

An award winning journalist and author, Mihir writes a weekly "Big Sports Interview" for the London Evening Standard. He also writes and broadcasts on social and historical issues as well as sport for a range of outlets including the BBC, the FT and the Independent. He was the BBC's first Sports Editor.



### Lisa Aziz

**Newsreader**

Lisa Aziz is a highly-experienced newsreader and presents the Morning News on LBC 97.3 every weekday at 6.30am. Lisa is an Ambassador for the charity Gingerbread and is also on the Gala Committee of the Young Vic Theatre with The Prince's Trust.



### Ali Hussain ★

**Finance Journalist**

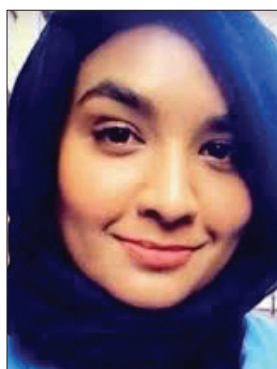
A respected journalist, Ali writes for The Sunday Times specialising in finance. His articles offer readers insights into the money markets, global business and financial planning. Ali is helping to put consumers back in the driving seat by equipping them with insider financial knowledge.



### Nadia Ali

**Radio and TV Presenter**

The voice of the BBC's Asian Network Bangla show, Nadia began her career on a Children's TV programme which was beamed into thousands of Asian homes across the UK & Europe. She has also previously worked for a number of Asian Channels, including B4U, Channel S & ATN Bangla and is pursuing a parallel career in the law.



### Yasmin Khatun ★

**Journalist and Producer**

A journalist and producer, writing for a number of different publications, Yasmin's work is diverse and touches on a wide range of topics from fashion to politics. She produces programmes for the Islam Channel and is due to launch a new interview focused programme 'In conversation with' where she will interview prominent figures from around the world.

## Culture



### Zoe Rahman

**Jazz Musician**

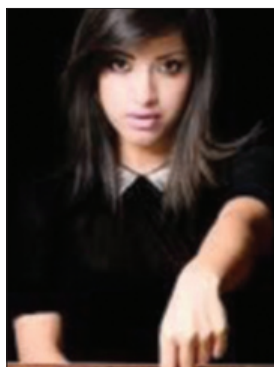
MOBO award- winning pianist Zoe was described in The Observer as "a remarkable pianist by any standard". She has firmly established herself as one of the brightest stars on the contemporary jazz scene. A vibrant and highly individual pianist/composer, her style is deeply rooted in jazz yet it reflects her classical background, British Bangladeshi heritage and her very broad musical taste.



### Tahmima Anam

**Author**

Tahmima is the author of the Bengal Trilogy, which chronicles three generations of the Haque family from the Bangladesh war of independence to the present day. Her debut novel, A Golden Age, was awarded the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book. It was followed in 2011 by The Good Muslim. The final instalment of the trilogy, Shipbreaker, is due to be published in 2014.



### Shapla Salique ★

**Musician**

A song writing musician and arranger, Shapla is known for combining the Baul tradition in Bengali Folk Music with her warm distinctive emotive voice and English vocals. She has performed at the Hammersmith Apollo, Royal Ascot, the Barbican and in London's South Bank as well as at events in the Houses of Parliament.



### Naz Choudhury ★

**Founder of Flex FX**

Naz is one of the most successful Asian performers in the UK. He is known for bringing some of the most famous Bollywood names to perform in London. His most treasured moments include playing the O2, dancing with Bollywood stars on stage, performing at the Royal Opera house, and opening the Commonwealth Games Handover Ceremony in Glasgow.



### Menhaj Huda ★

**Film, television director and producer**

Menhaj Huda made his name as the director of ground breaking feature film Kidulthood, and has firmly placed himself in the front seat as one of the UK's youngest rising directing talents. He entered television through creating and directing a series of innovative award winning music/youth programmes for Channel 4. This was quickly followed by full feature films and dramas for prime time television.

## Sport



### Ruqsana Begum

#### Kickboxer

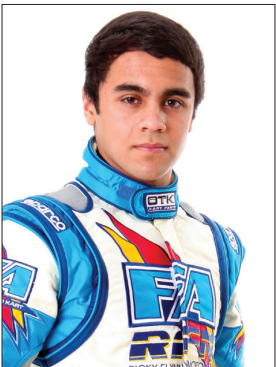
Ruqsana is the current British female Muay Thai Champion and captain of the British Muay Thai Team. She was also recently awarded the bronze medal at the World Muay Thai Championships in Russia. Ruqsana won Sports Personality of the Year at the 2013 Asian Achiever Awards.



### Mesba Ahmed

#### Chief executive at London Tigers

One of the most successful Asian and community football projects, including an award winning football team, in London. At the helm of the award winning London Tigers, Mesba is using sports to engage with disadvantaged communities across London, the UK and abroad.



### Zubair Hoque ★

#### Formula 4 Racing Driver

Zubair is the only British Asian in Single-Seat Formula Racing. Zubair has been involved in competitive karting since the age of 8. Currently competing at national level in the Super 1 British Championship and Formula KartStars karting championships, the 17 year old Zubair has rapidly developed a reputation for being highly professional and above all, fast.



### Mohammed Nurul Hoque ★

#### Chairman of Helvecia Futsal Club and Tower Hamlets Football Club

Nurul has turned Helvecia into one of the strongest and most ambitious futsal clubs in the UK. With Nurul at the helm Helvecia have won the FA Futsal Cup and dominated the FA's National Futsal league winning in successive years. Nurul has also secured the support of the greatest footballer ever the legendary Pele.



### Anwar Uddin

#### Coach, West Ham Academy

The 31-year-old defender, who signed pro with West Ham at the turn of the Millennium, went on to play in the Football League for Bristol Rovers, Dagenham & Redbridge and Barnet. He won promotion twice during his time with the Daggers. He was also part of West Ham's FA Youth Cup winning team in 1999 and is now teaching the next generation of Hammers as a part-time coach with the Academy.

## Celebrities



### Konnie Huq

#### Presenter

As one of the longest serving presenters on Blue Peter, Konnie is a name known by almost all children growing up in the late nineties. Konnie also presented on the X Factor. Konnie now dedicates her time to various media and journalism related projects on TV, radio and in print. Konnie is also an ambassador for the British Red Cross participating in their global HIV awareness campaign.



### Akram Khan

#### Choreographer

One of the most celebrated and respected dancers today, Akram has created a body of work that has contributed significantly to the cultural arts. His reputation has been built on the success of imaginative, highly accessible and relevant productions such as DESH with a recent highlight being the creation of a section of the London 2012 Olympic Games Opening Ceremony.



### Monica Ali

#### Novelist

Novelist Monica has appeared recently as one of the new faces of Marks & Spencer advertising campaigns as one of "Britain's leading ladies". Previously named as one of the Best of Young British Novelists, her first novel Brick Lane, was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. She is also the author of two other novels, and a collection of short stories.



### Tasmin Lucia Khan

#### Presenter

Tasmin has been on our screens for 13 years working on showbiz to news and current affairs. She has interviewed Bill Clinton, broken world news stories and has hosted award ceremonies and live television events. In 2011 she was asked to be an ambassador for The Prince's Asian trust, part of the Prince of Wales's charity. She has done much televised work for the BBC and ITV along with many other terrestrial networks.



### Nina Hossain

#### Newsreader

A highly respected anchor, Nina is one of the main presenters of ITV's London Tonight. She presents the capital's main stories of the day and conducts exclusive interviews with high-profile figures and celebrities. Nina also presents ITV Lunchtime News and regularly co-presents ITV News at Ten.

## Activist



### Dr Muhammad Abdul Bari MBE

Trustee London Muslim Centre

A leading educationalist, Dr Bari has served East London's diverse communities in various capacities for three decades. He has been the Chairman at the East London Mosque and a founding member of The East London Communities Organisation, a coalition of churches, mosques, and other civil society organisations working together. He was also the first British Bangladeshi Secretary General of the MCB.



### Ahmed us Samad Chowdhury JP

Chairman of Channel 5 Television Group

Ahmed us Samad, is an entrepreneur and philanthropist who has raised millions of pounds for charity and has devoted much of his time to bridging the gap between different communities. His work centres on raising the profile of the British-Bangladesh community and he has widely been recognised for his community work across the country.



### Rahima Begum

Restless Beings

Rahima is co-founder and director of 'Restless Beings', an international human rights organisation and alternative grassroots news agency which aims to support marginalised communities that are deprived of media and/or public attention. Alongside campaigning for human rights abuses across the world, Rahima actively champions the arts providing a platform for young emerging musicians across the UK.



### Yasmin Choudhury ★

Founder of Lovedesh and Amcariza Foundation

On a mission celebrate and champion Third World nations and its people, Yasmin is trying to change how we, the rest of the world, see and experience the world's poorest nations. She started Lovedesh.com, a website which focuses on the positives of destinations such as Bangladesh. Her campaign to encourage tourism has been highlighted in the Guardian Travel section.



### Roushon Siddika Ahmed

Founder and Managing Director of Breaking The Cycle UK Ltd

With a corporate career at Shell in the Netherlands and a top 10 Global American Pharmaceutical Company, Roushon was elected to be the first British Bangladeshi woman to chair a strategic regional Equality Group. Roushon's contribution was recognised by the government and she was previously appointed to be a member of the National Muslim Women's Advisory Group.

## 30 and Under

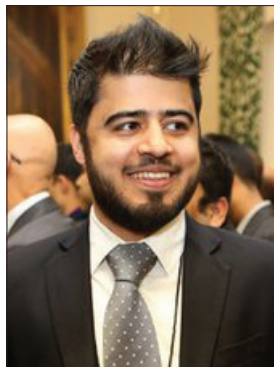


### Sabirul Islam

Entrepreneur

An award winning young entrepreneur, author and global motivational speaker, Sabirul has spoken at over 778 events in 26 countries worldwide worldwide as part of his "inspire1million" campaign. He has authored two bestselling books.

Sabirul has now secured his own TV series in South Africa to promote entrepreneurship across Africa.



### Dr Na'eem Ahmed

Founder of Selfless

Na'eem was recently appointed as a member of the editorial board for the Royal College of Physicians publication Clinical Medicine. He is currently a visiting Quality Improvement Fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital and Honorary Research Fellow at King's College London. Na'eem will be working at the NHS Commissioning Board helping to create a national strategy to reduce health inequalities.

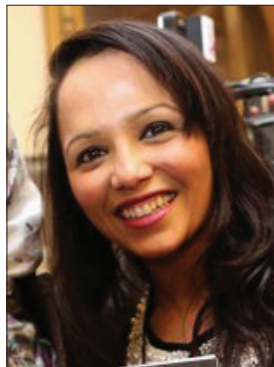


### Farhaz Miah ★

Senior Research Analyst, Preqin

Farhaz advises clients on the use of data and intelligence for alternative investments. His recent work includes liaising with executives at global financial institutions to grow their Real Estate portfolios globally.

His work has been widely cited in the media including Bloomberg, the New York Times and Reuters. Farhaz is also the Director of a UK charity focussing on rural healthcare in Bangladesh.



### PC Sakira Suzia

Metropolitan Police Service Constable

As well as a dedicated police officer, Sakira is also a trained army officer. The highlights of her career include her role on the Olympic Torch Security Escort Team and being awarded the Metropolitan Commissioners Award, the highest award for bravery. She is an avid marathon runner, community volunteer and charity fundraiser.



### Saida Khan ★

Engineer, Atkins

Saida is a leading young engineer specialising in electronics and communications at the global engineering conglomerate Atkins. Saida's work includes innovative projects in the Rail and transport sector. Saida's projects were recently nominated for high profile and prestigious industry awards. She was one of the youngest nominees nationally. Saida has also worked for the global company Buro Happold.

## Restaurateur / Foodies



### Enam Ali MBE

**Founder of the British Curry Awards**

A true innovator in the British curry industry, Enam's British Curry Awards has been termed the "Curry Oscars" by Prime Minister Cameron who attended the event along with a host of celebrities. Enam is also a founding member of the UN Millennium@EDU initiative which in partnership with Microsoft aims to deliver computers to 15 million students in the developing world by 2015.



### Amin Ali

**Founder Red Fort**

Celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year, The Red Fort is well known for its Mughal inspired cuisine, combining high-quality fresh British produce with sub-continental flavours to create refined Indian dishes. It remains a landmark restaurant favoured by politicians and celebrities alike.



### Aktar Islam

**Lasan**

Lasan has firmly established itself as one of the finest Indian restaurants in the UK, having won numerous awards and international recognition. Aktar won Gordon Ramsay's 'F Word – Best Local restaurant' on Channel 4' against tough competition. He also featured on the BBC's 'Great British Menu'. Lasan has also made it into The Sunday Times Top 100 UK Restaurants.



### Atique Choudhury

**Yum Yum**

Yum Yum is one of the largest Thai restaurants in Europe and was a winner of an award at the prestigious Asian Curry Awards 2013. Atique is also the proprietor of two popular Islington eateries, Oishiii and Mercado. He is an active member of the North London community.



### Rigina Sabur-Cross

**Author and Blogger**

Regina has established herself as one of the best food bloggers in the country, with a debut book sharing the name of her blog, Gastrogeek. She has been selected by Sainsbury's to appear in their new 'Local Food Heroes' advertising campaign and her recipes appear in a many national newspapers.

## Religious Figure



### Sheikh Abdul Qayyum

**Imam of East London Mosque**

The senior Imam for many years at the East London Mosque, which holds the UK's largest Friday congregational prayer service and hosts weekly attendance exceeding 35,000 worshippers.

Shaykh Abdul Qayyum serves the largest British Bangladeshi Muslim congregation in the UK.



### Ajmal Masroor

**Religious Commentator**

Ajmal is a respected public commentator on Muslim affairs, appearing on mainstream media and TV networks.

Ajmal presents shows on the Islam channel and Channel S. He is also a member of the Muslim Council of Britain and the Director of Communities in Action. Ajmal was nominated as Religious Advocate of the Year by the British Muslim Awards.



### Hafiz Maulana Abdul Jalil ★

**Darul Hadis Latifah Islamic School**

A pre-eminent Islamic scholar Maulana Abdul Jalil regularly travels across the country and internationally as a widely sought after religious preacher.

He is also a regular contributor to Islamic programmes on British Bangladeshi TV channels.



### Shaykh Shams Ad-Duha Muhammad

**Principal of Ebrahim College**

Shaykh Shams is a leading young Islamic scholar, who is actively involved in developing innovative educational models for young British Muslims. He is a well-known speaker on a wide range of topics and makes regular TV appearances. He is a highly respected translator of classical Islamic texts and is also an author in his own right.



### Sheikh Mahmudul Hassan

**Imam of Essex Mosque**

Sheikh Hassan presents the hugely popular Jibon Jiggasha Islamic Q&A show on NTV Sky 852.

He studied at Loughborough, Cairo and Al-Azhar universities and is currently studying for a PhD at Institute of Education University of London.

## Emerging Influence



### Rupa Huq ★

**Prospective Parliamentary Candidate**

Rupa Huq is a writer and academic. She is author of *Beyond Subculture*, shortlisted for the 2007 Philips Abrams memorial prize of the British Sociological Association and *On the Edge: the Contested Cultures of English Suburbia*. As well as being a part time DJ, Rupa is also contesting the parliamentary seat for Ealing Central and Acton.



### Mary Rahman ★

**Director, MRPR**

Having established her London based PR agency, Mary has a strong reputation for delivering PR campaigns specifically tailored to the needs of her high profile clients. Her company promotes a wide range of arts and entertainment events and specialises in promoting cultural diverse projects, from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival to the Baftas.



### Mansur Ali ★

**Film Director**

Mansur's directorial debut film "Shongram" is hotly anticipated. The film is a romantic drama which is set against the backdrop of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. This is the first time a British film is being simultaneously written, produced and directed by a British-Bangladeshi.



### Ruje Yasmin ★

**Production Journalist, ITV**

Ruje always aspired to break into the field of television. She did her MA at City University and won an NUJ scholarship. She has journalism experience at ITV national news and BBC London. She won the coveted ITV News Traineeship seeing off 800 other applicants. She now produces programmes for ITV Meridian and mentors other young hopefuls.



### Sarah Sawar ★

**President, Queen Mary Student Union**

The first British Bangladeshi female president of the QMW Union, Sarah represents 16,000 students and oversees the strategic development of the union. She acts as a student voice on various bodies and boards giving the students a platform through which they can develop themselves and their skills and get the most out of their student experience.

## People's Choice



### Hamed Ahmed

**CEO, Medina Healthcare Products Ltd and Zack Alexander Developments Ltd**

In the face of considerable adversity due to his disability, Hamed has continued to pursue education and excellence. At the age of 43, he enrolled on a degree, during which he had two major life threatening spinal operations. He still did not miss a class, obtained a first class degree, and won the "Student of the Year". His accolades continued to mount, with Hamed winning the KPMG Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Construction. Hamed is now CEO of two successful corporate organisations.



### Sofina Aktar Motin Islam OBE

**Head Teacher, Stanton Bridge Primary School, Coventry**

Awarded an OBE in the 2014 new year's honours, Sofina is responsible for turning around Stanton Bridge Primary School which was once labelled "under performing" by inspectors. There has been a massive change in pupils' achievements since Sofina took over as head at the school with pupils achieving grades above the national average. The recent OFSTED report credits Sofina's "determined and resolute leadership" and awards her an outstanding mark.



### Jelina Berlow-Rahman

**Partner JR Rahman Solicitors**

Despite being diagnosed with a chronic and severe auto-immune disease, Jelina was determined to fulfil her dream of becoming a lawyer and set up her own firm, while receiving kidney dialysis. Her firm was named Top 100 Business by Barclays and she has won the Empower Scotland Social Justice and Equality Award in recognition of her work with asylum seekers and refugees. After waiting four years for a kidney transplant, Jelina campaigns to raise awareness about the organ donor register.



### Kawsar Zaman

**Fulbright Scholar**

Bursting with potential, Kawsar is currently at Harvard Law School as a US-UK Fulbright Scholar, he graduated with First Class Honours in Law from the London School of Economics and as the Tun Mahathir Scholar of the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies. He is poised to start a training contract with law firm Clifford Chance on his return to the UK.



### Shabina Begum

**Barrister and Acid Attack Victim Campaigner**

Shabina Begum is a 26-year-old barrister with eight years of experience in combating domestic violence. In 2012 she was awarded a Winston Churchill Travel Fellowship to research acid violence against women in Sri Lanka, Cambodia and India. This inspired her to return to the UK and become a vocal advocate for women's rights and the rights of survivors of acid attacks. She currently works for Dawson Cornwell, one of the UK's leading specialist family law firms.

# 10 INSPIRATIONAL BANGLADESHIS AROUND THE WORLD



## 1. Mohammed Yunus

**Founder of Grameen Bank and Nobel laureate**

Muhammad Yunus is a Nobel Prize-winning economist who pioneered microfinancing in Bangladesh. He founded the Grameen Bank, with which he shared the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize "for their efforts to create economic and social development".



## 2. Jawed Karim

**Founder of YouTube**

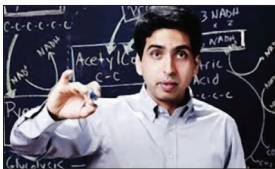
Karim is a co-founder of YouTube. Karim may have taken a back seat from the limelight but when YouTube was acquired by Google in 2007, Karim's payoff was an estimated \$65m.



## 3. Sir Fazle Hasan Abed

**Founder & Chairperson Brac**

Sir Fazle established BRAC with the primary objectives of alleviating poverty and empowering the poor. Under his leadership, in the span of only four decades, BRAC has grown to become one of the largest and most diverse development organisations in the world.



## 4. Salman Khan

**Khan Academy**

Salman, a graduate of MIT and Harvard Business School, has been listed as one of Time Magazine's 100 most influential people in the world. He is the founder of the Khan Academy, a non-profit educational website which is now the largest virtual 'school' in the world with over 10 million students.



## 5. Korvi Rakshand

**Founder of Jaago Foundation**

Korvi was listed in the "Top 99 under 33 Influential Foreign Policy Leaders" by The Diplomatic Courier, in Washington D.C. He has engaged 10,000 volunteers to work with Jaago on tackling issues from illiteracy, malnutrition in children to helping families build better lives.



## 6. Sara Hossain, Esq

**High Court Lawyer and Human Rights Activist, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh**

A practicing barrister in the Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Sara is a vocal campaigner against human rights violations. Sara has represented, amongst others, slum dwellers seeking protection against forced evictions, women in protective custody, and journalists facing contempt of court prosecutions for reporting on judicial corruption.



## 7. Sakib Al Hassan

**Bangladesh cricket player**

Shakib is unarguably the best cricketer in recent Bangladeshi sporting record. Shakib is Bangladesh's first and the 28th player in the history of test cricket to score a century and pick up 5 wickets in an innings in a test match in 2011 vs Pakistan.



## 8. Omar Ishrak

**Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Medtronic**

Previously president and CEO of GE Healthcare Systems, a \$12 billion division of GE Healthcare, Omar now heads Medtronic, the world's leading medical technology company, with more than \$16 billion in annual revenue, and operations reaching more than 120 countries worldwide.



## 9. Sumaya Kazi

**CEO Sumazi.com**

As founder of a web based social networking platform for professionals, Sumaya has been recognized by BusinessWeek as one of America's "Best Young Entrepreneurs," CNN heralded her as a "Young Person Who Rocks," and by Silicon Valley Business Journal as a "Woman of Influence".



## 10. Nishat Mazumder

**Everest climber**

Nishat, an accountant by profession, hoisted the Bangladeshi flag atop the 8,848-metre-high peak of Mount Everest, becoming the first Bangladeshi woman to make it to the top of the highest mountain in the world. She is a fantastic role model for girls all around the world to reach every height imaginable.

## JUDGING PANEL



**Abdal Ullah - Founder**

Abdal has held a number of senior executive roles across London. He was the first British Bangladeshi to serve on the Metropolitan Police Authority and the council of Queen Mary, University of London. Abdal has a broad spectrum of interests, he is the President of the Inner London Football League, hosts popular community TV and Radio shows covering business, current affairs and sports. He is also Trustee of the Thames Water Trust and the chair of the Labour Faith Network.



**Ayesha Qureshi MBE - Editor**

Ayesha is a managing associate with international law firm, Simmons & Simmons LLP and has extensive experience of advising both banks and borrowers on a wide variety of banking transactions throughout the UK and abroad. Ayesha plays a key role in promoting corporate social responsibility and acts as a mentor for a number of up and coming lawyers. Ayesha was awarded an MBE in the 2006 New Year's Honours list for services to the London Olympic bid and was the only British Bangladeshi to present at a medal ceremony at the 2012 Games.

### Iqbal Wahhab OBE – Judging Panel



Iqbal is a journalist, serial entrepreneur, philanthropist and restaurateur. He opened the highly successful British restaurant and bar Roast, in Borough Market in 2005 having previously

owned the multi award winning Cinnamon Club. Iqbal supports a number social and food initiatives, he is patron of Kitchenette and is currently working on mentoring gang leaders to start legitimate businesses. He received an OBE in the 2010 New Year's Honours list for public service and services to the hospitality industry.

### Syed Nahas Pasha – Judging Panel



One of the most respected British Bangladeshi journalists in the UK and the editor in chief of the Weekly Janomot, a Bangla newspaper established in 1969. Syed is also editor in chief of restaurant magazine Curry Life and UK bureau chief of the largest

Bangladeshi online news agency, bdnews24.com. He is one of the founding members and former general secretary of the London Bangla Press Club, which acts as a voice for British Bangladeshi journalists, and has worked with government bodies including the Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Nahas is also an executive committee member of the Commonwealth Journalists Association.

### Nahida Rahman - Judging Panel



Nahida was one of the first British Bangladeshi women to enter into a management role for a Bangladeshi Television Channel and has successfully led two popular brands NTV and Channel Nine UK holding the roles of Executive Director and CEO. During that time

she has introduced innovative new programming, attracted a younger viewing base and forged stronger relationships with the mainstream media. She has a finance background and previously held the post of a Senior Business Manager for NatWest. Nahida is also a trustee for the Sir William Beveridge Foundation, a UK based international charity.

### Subhan Muhammad - Design & Layout Consultant



Muhammad Subhan is the Managing Editor of The Muslim Weekly. Muslim Weekly was Britain's first national weekly newspaper dedicated for the Muslim community. He is an accredited Graphics Designer and also serves as an Assistant Editor with the Weekly Bangladesh, dedicated for the Bangladeshi community. Muhammad has over 10 years of experience in publishing, and has acquired an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the of the publishing sector.

## Design Team

**Jewel Mahmud** | Web Designer [Ace3.co.uk](http://Ace3.co.uk)  
**Moniruzzaman Sami** | [www.samiphotography.co.uk](http://www.samiphotography.co.uk)  
**Saira Khatun** | Photography

## Research Team

**Fatima Zaman** | **Daniel Pasha**  
**Maz Kamali** | **Masuda Qureshi**  
**Lotifa Begum** | **Zakiyah Qureshi**



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