



Mr Mohammed Afiz Ali

Place of Residence: **Northampton**
Sector: **Catering**

Mohammed Afiz Ali, fourth son of Alhaz Mann Ullah and Al Haz Jorina Khatun, was born in Bangladesh in 1960. His arrival to the UK took place in the year of 1970, where he and part of his family, including his mother, had left Bangladesh to come and live with his father. Soon after, during that same year, Mr. Ali attended Alexandra High School in Tipton West Midlands, and was the first ever Bangladeshi student to have entered the school. At the age of 13, not only was Mohammed Afiz Ali attending school, but he was also working part time. Due to his ability to talk both English and Bengali, he helped Bangladeshi people with Inland Revenue, tax office, social security and translating for patients in a doctors surgery. He then went on to carry out a Business Studies and Law degree. However, he later decided to take on the job of a full time waiter.

In the year of 1978, Mr. Ali wedded wife Amina Begum Ali, daughter of Al Haz Azzizur Rahman Choudhury. Close to the age of 20,

Md. Afiz Ali, along with his wife's support, decide to open his first restaurant in Wantage, Oxfordshire, which he named Bikash. Subsequently, a family decision was made to move permanently to Northampton. There, Mr. Ali opened the Bilash Empire, the first open kitchen take-away and 90 seated restaurant in 1983. With the help of his children and brother Al Haz Jamir Ali, the Bilash Empire has been a tremendous accomplishment. Through this restaurant, he has been able to cater for many wedding ceremonies. In the year of 2005, Mohammed Afiz Ali, with wife Amina, was blessed enough to perform the Hajj.

With many businesses to run, Mr. Ali still makes time to help out in the community. He has been played a part in the Bangladeshi Community in Northampton since as early as 1976 and, in 1992, became the chairman. Al-Jamat Jame Masjid is an additional example of what Mr. Ali has been involved with, and he was also elected chairman of it. With such a

role to fulfill, he has made many improvements to the facilities available in the mosque, such as introducing the dead body washing facility, resulting in the first mosque in Northamptonshire to have such a thing. Moreover, he is one of the trustees of the Northampton Bangladeshi association. What is more, he has helped in the fundraising process for Abington Masjid and Makktubb, which allows 100 youngsters to study Islam.

His Bilash Empire also helps in sponsoring and supporting various sports teams.

Mr. Ali's present aspiration is to help the younger generation of today to have a greater, influential understanding of Islam. He hopes to fulfill this aim by building a Masjid and Madrasah in Northampton. With a large compassionate family of wife Amina Begum, four sons, two daughters, as well as three well adored grandchildren and a daughter In-law, Mr. Ali currently lives happily with them all in Northampton.