



Mr Ashaque Ahmed (Ashuk)

Place of Residence: **Ilford, Essex**

Sector: **Catering and Community Relations**

Mr Ashaque Ahmed is the current Office secretary of the UK Awami League. The Essex based entrepreneur has established himself as one most successful businessman in the British Bangladeshi Community. Son of Alhaj Abdul Khaliq from Beani Bazar, Kashba Boro Bari, Sylhet in Bangladesh, Mr Ahmed studied there before moving to the UK in 1975.

Whilst completing his studies in Bangladesh, Mr Ahmed held numerous influential positions as President of the Student Union in addition to serving as the founder general secretary of Beani bazaar Unnoyon Shongsta in the early seventies. After arriving in the UK in 1975, the former President of the Student Union experienced a lot of racial tensions from various political sub groups and as a result became a prominent activist against East London's National Front.

However, after being employed in a range of different industries, Mr Ahmed launched a garment factory in East London in 1979. Five years later, Mr Ahmed turned his attention on the catering industry and started a chain of restaurants all across London. Notably, the 'Sagor Indian Restaurant' based in East London was recommended in the Good Food Guide and was screened twice on the Channel 4 documentary "Curry Connection". In the mid- eighties, the restaurateur also successfully invested in property and land in UK and Bangladesh including ex-prime minister's office Hawa Bobon, as well as setting up a travel agent.

Mr Ahmed over the last thirty years has greatly contributed towards socio-political welfare projects in both UK and Bangladesh. In the late seventies and early eighties, the Essex based businessman was the founder secretary of the Jalalabad Probashi Shongsta (UK) and helped launch the Greater Sylhet development and Welfare council as a founder member. The member of the Bangladesh catering Association UK also played a central role during the silver Jubilee event of Bangladesh's Independence in London's Trafalgar Square.

Mr Ahmed has always donated kindly towards the



Shahjalal Masjid in Manor Park, and in Bangladesh, the restaurateur is a lifelong donor of the Beani Bazar Senior Kamil Madhrasha, Gulabshah Hafiza Madhrasha and the Sylhet Bilbagh Unnoyon Porishod Dhaka. Mr Ahmed is also the Founder President of Beani Bazar Jonokolliyan Somitee UK, which was the first Thana committee in the UK in the late eighties. An advisor for the Beani Bazar Pouro Unnoyon Shongsta, Mr Ahmed is also a Life member of the London press club.

In 2000, Mr Ahmed helped launch the Beani Bazar Welfare Trust of which he was the founder President in addition to establishing a family run charity called Ashuk Hawa Education Trust in 2006 for which he serves as President respectively. In 2008, the former President of Bangladesh Awami League Essex branch created a charity for poor elderly, disabled, blind and those suffering from illnesses called the Bangladesh Elderly Care. The restaurateur through his businesses helps schools, villages and homeless people as well as providing regular donation for victims of natural disasters.

Married to Mrs Haurun Ahmed (Hawa), the couple have been blessed with four daughters who are all graduates and one son who is currently completing his education.