



## Mr Bajloor Rashid

Place of Residence: **Ashford, Kent**

Sector: **Catering**

**M**r Bajloor Rashid is a renowned business man amongst the Bangladeshi community living in the UK. He was born in the village of Balikandi in Moulvi Bazaar. He first came to the UK in 1978 and has been involved in a number of different business ventures, both on his own and with others which have helped him build an enviable reputation. He married in 1988 and has four children, two sons and two daughters whom he currently resides with in his family home in Ashford, Kent.

His business life began in 1978 when he got involved with the curry industry with his brother in a restaurant in Dover, Kent; the success of which, spawned the opening of a number of different restaurants around Kent and London area including Shapla Tandoori in Whitstable, Kent, a partnership with Wingham Tandoori, in Kent as well as Zarin, formerly known as Curry Garden in Ashford, Kent which is undoubtedly the jewel in the crown for Mr Rashid. In 1993 he tapped into the wholesale business of rice and spice whilst simultaneously buying commercial properties forming his property company, Atlantic Properties Ltd. In 1997 he started more work with fellow Bangladeshis on different

projects in areas such as travel which expanded his ever growing business portfolio. At this moment, Mr Rashid has spent around thirty years of hard work and dedication in these industries.

His involvement in joint business ventures since then as bought about his positions as Chairman of Sarina CNG Ltd, Bangladesh; Chairman of Sylhet Parjatan Motel; Director (and former vice chairman) of Progressive Life Insurance co Ltd, Bangladesh and also, involvements with Syhlet Shishu Park, International Medicare Ltd in Bangladesh (a medical a college with a 500 bed hospital, nursing college and dental college). However his contributions to the Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce (BBCC) and the Bangladeshi Caterers' Association (BCA) stand out the most.

Mr Rashid is director in the BBCC having previously held the position of finance director and is involved in work helping improve the trade links between the UK and Bangladesh which has culminated in many awareness events including the Bangladesh Expo 2005, held in the Barbican centre in London, which displayed the many

goods that Bangladesh has to offer when exporting. His work in the BCA, an umbrella organisation representing the 12,000 British Bangladeshi restaurateurs stands out the most in his list of achievements; having held positions of Chief Treasurer and Assistant Secretary General in previous committees, Mr Rashid was elected President of the BCA in 2006, a position coveted by many. With the help of his trusted colleagues, he has led the way in the fight for better immigration rules to help the survival of the curry industry which has fallen upon hard times recently with the shortages of skilled staff proving to be an ever increasing problem. Since becoming president, Mr Rashid held a number of memorable events to raise awareness of the issue including the annual dinner in Park Lane in December 2007 and most memorably, a mass demonstration in Trafalgar Square in London which was attended by tens of thousands of people. This sparked a debate in the House of Commons just days later about the current set of immigration rules. Undoubtedly Mr Rashid, with his fellow caterers', will continue his work for this cause and to give back to the industry that gave him so much.