

## **British Bangladeshi Who's Who 2009 is published with grandeur: Award ceremony steals the show**

**By Shamayita Chakraborty**

Following the path of British publication 'Who's Who', British Bangla Media Group has proudly published the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of 'British Bangladeshi Who's Who' to celebrate achievements of more than 200 British Bangladeshis in a wide range of sectors.

The launch of the publication was marked by a gala dinner and awards ceremony on the evening of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Walthamstow Assembly Hall.

The host for the prestigious gala dinner was Barrister Anawar Babul Miah. After an emphatic opening, which included dancers weaving within the tables where guests were seated, the editor of 'British Bangladeshi Who's Who' Barrister Shahadoth Karim presented his precise thanks giving speech.

Leader of Tower Hamlets Council, Councillor Lutfur Rahman, in his speech, said that an issue of racism still remains in Tower Hamlets in spite of its constant campaign against it. Thus, he opined: "Events like this gives opportunity to celebrate the success and it says that no one is left behind."

Member of Parliament for Brent South, Dawn Butler dazzled the audience with her traditional Asian attire. In her speech she said: "This is a book of for future. It says that we can do it." She referred to Martin Luther King to explain the struggle and collective success of ethnic minorities in society.

Secretary of State for communities and local Government, Rt. Hon. John Denham said in the modern era it is not possible to talk about Britain without the British Bangladeshis for their relentless contribution to socio-economic sectors of this country.

In an interview with Bangla Mirror later, he added: "Racism is still there but this country is far more tolerant and open minded today than the time when I was born, 50 years ago. Today this celebration in not just a celebration of a particular community but also a celebration of British people as a whole."

This year, besides publishing the book, British Bangla Media Group also awarded nine British Bangladeshi individuals for their outstanding contribution to community.

Mr Anwar Choudhury, former High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Director of International Institutions, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, received an award from young yet successful entrepreneur Mr Kamru Ali.

First British Bangladeshi millionaire Mr Muquim Ahmed received an award from Restaurateur and Philanthropist Mr Shukur Ali.

Successful Restaurateur and Philanthropist Mr Enam Ali MBE received an award from the young and vibrant restaurateur Wazad Hasan Shelim. Eminent Barrister Anis Rahman OBE, JP received his award from Mr Sadikur Rahman, one of the directors of Grand Sylhet.

Distinguished Academia Dr Hasnat M Husain MBE received his award from Councillor Abdal Ullah.

Bilingual poet and story teller Ms Shamim Azad received her award from restaurateur and the proud owner of Rose View Hotel (Sylhet) Mr Moin Uddin.

Renowned journalist and the director of Bangla Post Mr K M Abu Taher Choudhury received award from Businessman Mr M Altab Syed.

Chair of Channel S, Businessman and philanthropist Mr Ahmed Us Samad Chowdhury received an award from Director of Bangla Town Cash and Carry Mr Rafique Hayder.

Entrepreneur Mr Shelim Hussain MBE received award from proud owner of Hillside Travel Mr Helal Uddin Khan.

Besides these awards, one international award was presented. This was for International Contribution to British Bangladeshi which was given to Managing Director of ATN Bangla Dr Mahfuzur Rahman. He received his award from Journalist and Editor of Janomot Nobab Uddin and Managing Director of Chytel Communications Mr Amirul Choudhury.

The next category was for the Rising Star amongst British Bangladeshis and this award went to the co-founder and the Chair of De Vere Private Equity group Mr Baharul Alam Shayeb.

De Vere Private Equity group proudly sponsored the event. The Bangladeshi British Chamber of Commerce was the co-sponsor of the programme and they made a presentation to the audience about their activities and reasons for sponsoring the publication and dinner. Their presentation was given by DG Absar Waess and Senior Vice Chairman Syedur Rahman Renu JP. The media partners were ATN Bangla UK, Bangla Post, Saptahik Jonomot, STM, Bangla Mirror, Purple Technologies, Film Asia, MRPrinters and Media Link, who were event organisers. Entertainment was provided by the China Chowdhury Group and Baul Shohid who played a tribute to the late Shah Abdul Karim.

The entire programme would not have been possible without the relentless effort of the Editor in Chief of Who's Who Mohammed Abdul Karim, the Editor barrister Shahadoth Karim, the Associate Editor Mashuk Ahmed Khan, Mujibul Islam, Minhaj Kibriyah, Parvez Ahmed, Wajed Hassan Selim, Anwaar Babul Miah, Matiar Rahman Chowdhury, Tabassum Ferdous, Shamayita Chakraborty, Mizanur Rahman, Sheik Tuahid, Rahmin Karim and Sadik Karim.