

Newsletter



BBCCI's Innovation Hub and Angel Network



A Brainstorming Workshop Organised By BBCCI to Develop the Start-up innovation hub and Angel Investment initiatives, took place virtually on Monday 11 January 2021, attended by investment bankers and entrepreneurs.

To develop support for the next generation start businesses from the British Bangladeshi community in the UK, the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (BBCCI) arranged a knowledge sharing session in attendance with industry experts to explore the BBCCI Innovation Hub on Monday 11 January 2021.

BBCCI Angel investment network developed a road-map to foster and mentor the British Bangladeshi startup founders. BBCCI Innovation Hub team is now exploring a six-month Start-up program to source, generate and incubate ideas within its community. Besides, a short term acceleration program will be in place to support existing businesses who

want to grow their brands. An application process will be opened for both startup founders and angel investors to join with BBCCI Innovation Hub probably by the end of March 2021.

BBCCI Innovation Hub will work with an ethnic media partner to produce Bengal Tigers a reality TV show like the Dragons Den to encourage community funding.

BBCCI President, Mr. Bashir Ahmed organized and moderated the brainstorming workshop. Mr. Nurul Islam of Fincorp Capital, Iftakharul Islam (Ifty) CEO of Asian Tigers Capital Partners, Farhan Masud Khan Producer from Channel S, Mahtab Miah, director & advisor of BBCCI, Litu Mohiuddin from One More One Group and Muzahid Khan of Janala Ventura attended the session.

Hon. Patron
Dr. A. K. Momen
Former Bangladesh Ambassador to United Nations

Bbcci Patrons
H. E. Ms. Saida Muna Tasneem
The Bangladesh High Commissioner to UK

H. E. Robert Chatterton Dickson
British High Commissioner to Bangladesh

President
Bashir Ahmed
BBCCI, UK

Shahagir Bakht Faruk
Head of Advisory Board

Startup Program

Do you have a great idea? Are looking to launch your startup?

Do you need help taking your business to the next level?

Are you genuinely passionate and dedicated to achieving success?

We have launched an initiative to support the British Bangladeshi Community's next start-up. It's time to grow together.

Send us an email
info@bbcc.org.uk

for an initial consultation and find your business growth opportunities

BBCCI's North West regional Committee Inauguration



Andrew Gwynne, MP



Jonathan Reynolds, MP



Angela Rayner, MP

Sunday 7th February 2021 marked a historic occasion for BBCCI, as it officially inaugurated the North West committee, adding another layer of regional activism to enhance its work regionally.

We know that the United Kingdom is a big area for the BBCCI to cover coupled with the progress of more new entrepreneurs from the British Bangladeshi community entering into business, it is more important now than ever for the BBCCI to have a footprint in the regions.

The Regional teams will have local knowledge and expertise to engage and support business start-ups, businesses wanting to grow and scale as well as needing mentoring, coaching, finance and connecting with other business support agencies, for example, GC Growth Hub & GM Chamber.

The inauguration event has hailed a huge success by President Bashir Ahmed, he said, “Digital technologies and Upskilling is the key to economic recovery from this pandemic, I am overwhelmed by the sheer number of people attending this event from the all the regions of the UK, United State, Canada and Bangladesh. The overarching theme was about working together, creating support programs, young entrepreneurs, women entrepreneurs.”

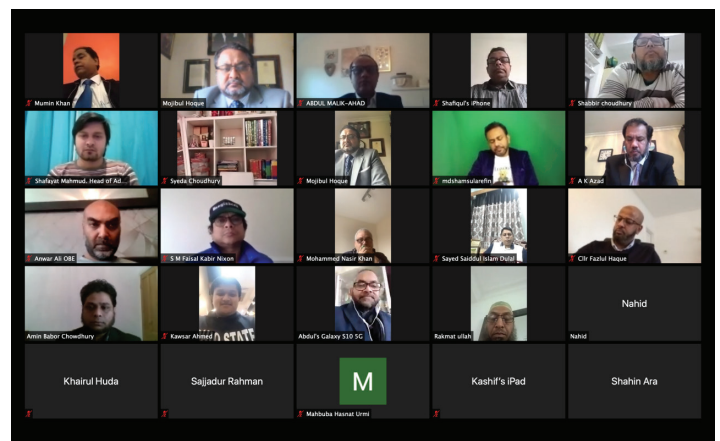
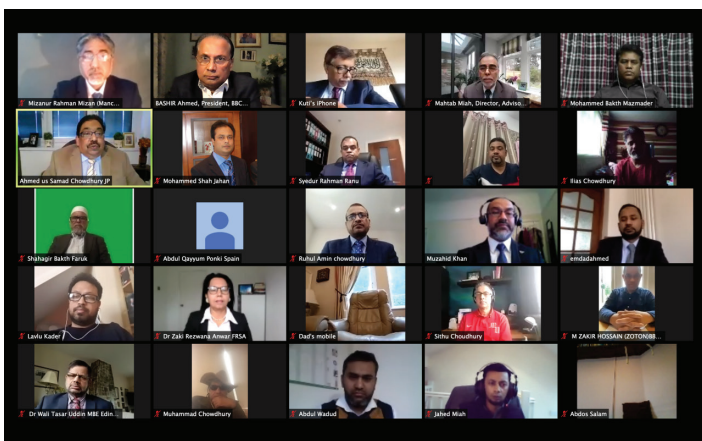
The event was attended by Shahagir Bakht Faruk, Mahtab Miah, Saydur Rahman Ranu, Ahmed Us Samad Choudhury, Wali Tosor Uddin, Misbaur Rahman, Anwar Ali OBE, Dr Zaki Rezwana, Abul Kalam Azad, Emdad Ahmed and many members and directors of BBCCI, amongst many esteemed guests including, Angela Rayner MP (deputy leader of the Labour Party), Andrew Gwynne MP & Jonathan Reynolds MP.

Also in attendance was the President of the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce, ATM Shueb and the president of Sunamgonj Chamber of Commerce Khairul Huda, who both welcomed the new committee and looked forward to a close working relationship.

The North West team will start their activities immediately with a sample survey of the British Bangladeshi business community which will provide the statistics to create a 12 month action plan. This survey will also feed into the strategy at the national level.

Finally the meeting was concluded by the newly elected president of the North West and BBCCI Director Mizanur Rahman Mizan gave his maiden speech and highlighted the need for the work to take place in this region and invited all business people to come forward and feed into the creation of a North West Plan.

The meeting was conducted by Muzahid Khan, General Secretary of BBCCI North West Committee, who managed the meeting efficiently.

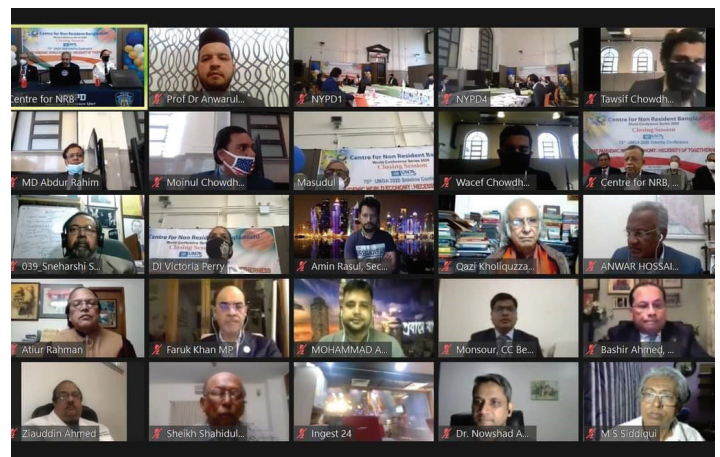
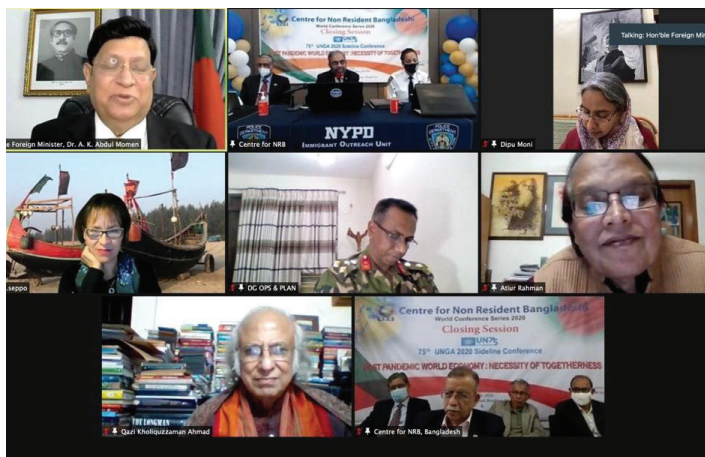


BBCCI Joining 75th United Nations General Assembly Sideline Event Organized by Centre for NRB



BBCCI president Bashir Ahmed and Shahagir Bakht Faruk, head of the advisory board of BBCCI has spoken at the 75th United Nations General Assembly sideline event in New York on 30 December 2020. The Sideline zoom conference meeting was about the “Post-Covid impact at world economy” organized by Mr. M S Shekil Choudhury, Chairperson of Centre for NRB. The event was a great success and participant was attending from around the world.

Attendees are the Honorable Foreign Minister Dr. A K Momen, Presentations were made by Ms Mia Seppo United Nations Chief in Bangladesh, Covid19 research by Prof. Dr Tarek Alam, Bangladesh, Covid19 medicine by Dr Masudul Hassan, USA, Dr Zaki Rezwana Anwar on Child & Mother Health, UK, Mr David Kauper US Aid, Mission Chief of IOM Mr Giorgi Gigaauri, UN Peacekeeping by Maj Gen. Md. Mujibur Rahman, DG SSF, Brig Gen ANM Manzoorul Haque Mazumder, Dir Ops & Plan AFD, economic Impact by economist Dr Atiur Rahman, Prof. Dr Anwarul Hassan-Qatar University, NYPD, Commanding Officer, CAB, Victoria Perry, business impact by Mr Abul Kasem Khan, ex-President DCCI, Ambassador Nahida Sobhan, Jordan, former Minister Mr Abul Hasan Chowdhury, former Minister Dr A Moyeen Khan, Former Minister Sheikh Shahidul Islam, Education Minister Dr Dipu Moni MP and Bangladesh's Planning Minister M A Mannan, former minister Faruk Khan MP, Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, CPD Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Malaysia, Prof Dr Nowshad Amin, India, Prof Emanul Haque, ex banker Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, Trust Bank MD Mr Faruk Main Uddin, Kolkata Press Club President Mr. Snehasis Sur and Turkey journalist. Ms Shamim Chowdhury and Mr. Matab Miah, advisor of BBCCI, UK.



London Mayoral Candidate Shaun Bailey Meets BBCCI Members and Directors



Shaun Bailey

*Mayoral Candidate
of Conservative party*



In this year's London Mayoral election a new mayoral candidate for the conservative party, Shaun Bailey dropped in to BBCCI to discuss business and enterprise with members. The British Bangladeshi business community in London has been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19 and will further be affected by the effects of BREXIT, the damage to our business community is unprecedented. What are the authorities doing to protect business and its entrepreneurs?

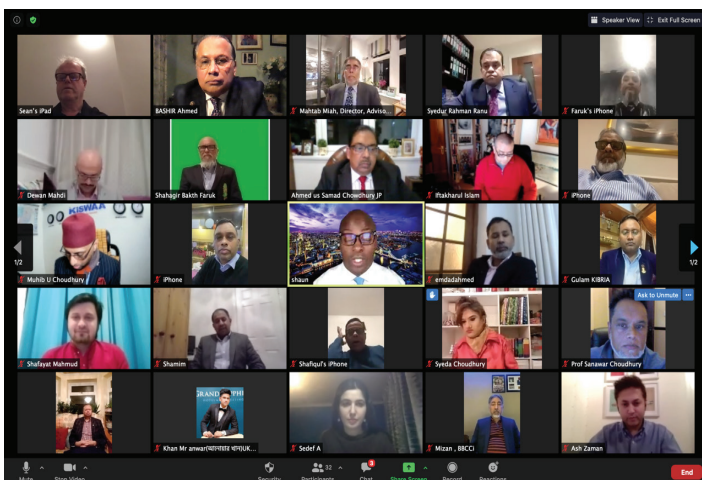
These and other important questions were presented to the conservative party mayoral candidate at the Zoom virtual Conference meeting on 29 January 2021 at 6pm.

Bashir Ahmed, President BBCCI UK commented, "It is very important for us to discuss the damage to our business community by covid-19 and Brexit. We want mayoral candidates who are seeking votes, to commit to providing us with confidence that they will introduce practical solutions and offer financial resources for our business community should they become the next mayor of London.

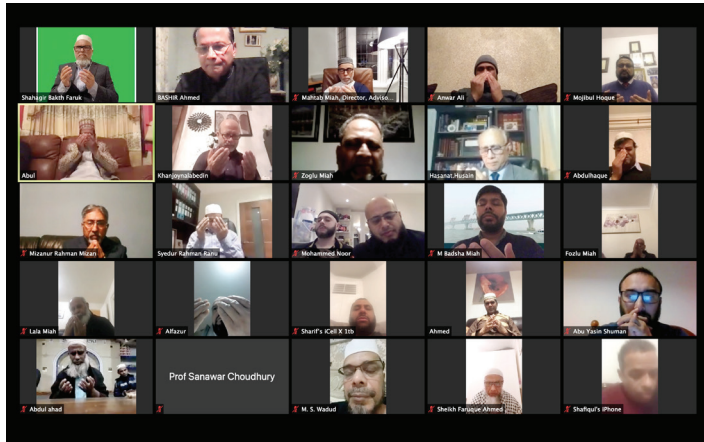
Discussions also followed a common theme surrounding our entrepreneurs in the catering and hospitality trade particularly around Brick Lane and Drummond Street. Further discussions centred around the following topics:

- BBCCI's new innovative programme for start up businesses aimed at young people, women and the unemployed.
- How can he encourage more British Bangladeshis to pursue a career in the financial sector
- BBCCI proposes to lead a think tank to look into accelerating the start up space for the BAME community

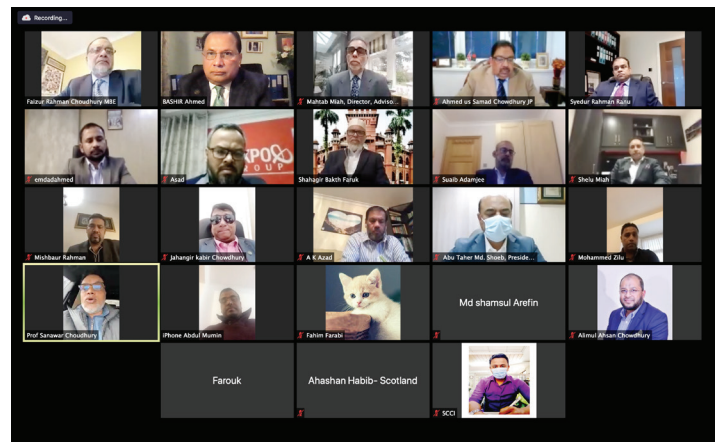
Mr Shaun Bailey, said, "I am committed to the success of London and its diversity. Meeting the BBCCI i have been very informative and i am committed to following up on the suggestions made. I value the contribution of the BBCCI and will commit to working closely with you



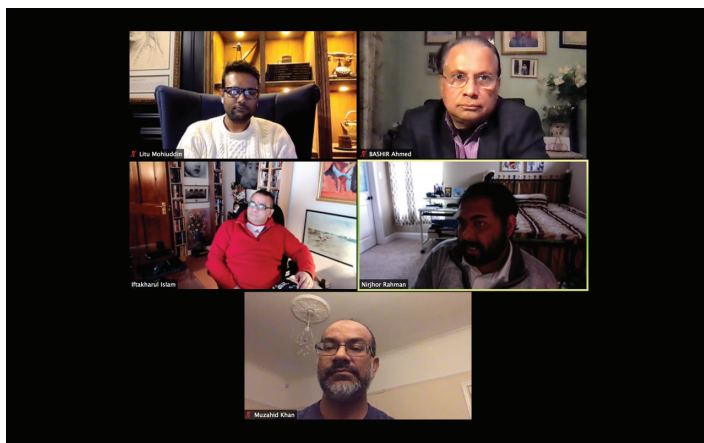
BBCCI's Members and Partner Institutions Stay Connected via Zoom and Social Media



A prayer meeting was organized by BBCCI for members of the BBCCI directors and family members



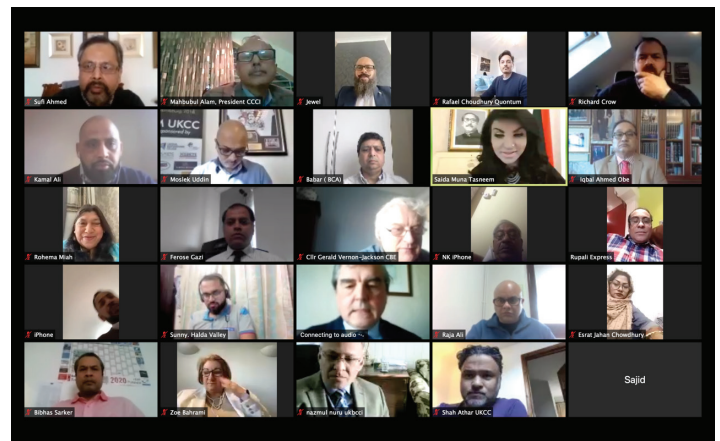
Prayer meeting was organized by BBCCI for members of the directors and family members.



A start up and business Angel development meeting with industries leading experts on 11February 2021



BBCCI Board Meeting 5th of January 2021



A virtual Zoom conference was organized by BHC on 12 February 2021. "Investment in a green Industry" Promoting green prosperity in Bangladesh. Attended by BBCCI president along with Dr. Wali Tasser Uddin, MBE, director and advisor of BBCCI, M R Choudhury Matab, former President and Director, Emdad Ahmed, director Press & Publication of BBCCI and many other members and directors attended the event. BBCCI also invited many foreign investors to attend the event

Doing Business with Bangladesh in 2021

By Muzahid Khan



For many, Bangladesh is a country known for its garment trade, an industry that now accounts for nearly 78 per cent of total exports. It is second only to China as the world's largest apparel exporter and is popular with several high street fashion brands including H&M, Primark, Gap and Zara. The industry has created and supported thousands of jobs for the

population - particularly for women – exporting to the US and Europe. As a country enriched deeply in its agriculture, it is not surprising Bangladesh is also the world's fourth biggest rice producer too. But now Bangladesh wants to compete alongside its neighbors for a slice of the global market. It is establishing itself as the next rising star in South Asia for foreign investment to create lucrative opportunities for investors and for its own citizens – after all this is a country that's mostly led by the entrepreneurs of a young generation. Over the years, the government has implemented a number of policy reforms designed to create a more open and competitive climate for private investment, both foreign and local. On a recent visit to the country, you couldn't fail to notice the entrepreneurial spirit of Bangladeshis which has been fuelled by the advancements in technology. It is signalling to a new era in a country that's taking the best of its heritage and future potential to maximise opportunities. I was lucky enough to meet several entrepreneurs across different sectors to get a feel for what is to come.

Technology

Huge changes in advancement across all sectors have been enabled by the speed and use of technology. Easier internet access has led to a new generation of entrepreneurs whose tech-based start-ups are creating wealth and jobs. On my recent visit to Bangladesh, I met with a number of tech start-ups who aspire to become leading tech businesses in Bangladesh serving not only the local economy but also globally. One such business, Smart City, has been created by a Sylheti entrepreneur Syed Delaware Hussain, whose aim is to digitise everything about Sylhet inside the smart city platform. His company has won prestigious start up award run by the new Bangabhandu High Tech Ark in Sylhet. Another amazing success story is Daraz, an innovative company offering similar services to Amazon and has already expanded into neighboring countries. The future of tech entrepreneurs in Bangladesh looks promising with Bangladesh Angels promoting a number of these each week to a global forum of investors and is already succeeding in attracting huge amounts of investment. Drop shipping is also a major growth area for people in Bangladesh especially those in the rural communities who

have access to high-speed Internet and smart phones. This is an emerging sector which is expected to grow into a \$2bn dollar industry.

Freelance economy

Asia has become the number-one region for providing outsourcing services to the rest of the world.

Freelancing offers many advantages including the freedom to choose clients and projects, access to the global market, and flexibility over location. It also means avoiding long commutes in Bangladeshi traffic, especially in Dhaka, resulting in more people looking at a freelance career.

Again, the rapid digitalisation of Bangladesh - has contributed to the recent growth of this way of working.

As a result, Bangladesh has already become the second largest supplier of online labour, according to the Oxford Internet Institute.

About 500,000 active freelancers are working regularly out of 650,000 registered freelancers in the country; between them they are generating \$100m annually, according to the ICT Division of Bangladesh.

It also means, Bangladeshi freelancers are open to work across the globe, offering talent on par with those in developed countries.

Jute industry Known as the 'Golden Fibre', Jute was one of the major cash crops of Bangladesh. Pre-independence and during British rule, the production of jute and related goods was the single largest industry in this region. Even after the emergence of Bangladesh as an independent state; jute was the main contributor to foreign exchange earnings for more than a decade. The widespread use of alternative products like plastic and hemp has reduced the demand for jute. But it still is one of the most important export items in the country and is growing in popularity as it makes a comeback thanks to an appetite for natural products. Whilst Akij Group is an industrial conglomerate and owns one of the largest jute mills in the world, there's also many growing enterprises where sustainability is at the heart of what they do. Take North Bengal based Saidpur Enterprises which has been recently established as a fairtrade organisation creating high quality products out of jute. The company already employs 98 local women, supporting mothers to improve their livelihood and that of their families. What are you waiting for? Bangladesh has a come a long way to improve its economy by investing in the latest technological advances to create a country full of opportunities and hope. It is led by its young entrepreneurs who are not only competing with competition from neighboring countries but also those across the globe.

Sectors are diversifying and with that we will see a further rise of start-ups and talent that is eager to succeed. For anyone thinking about investing in Bangladesh, now is the time to explore. Contact us for more information www.janalaventura.com

JAMDANI & BANGAJ



All of us know that jamdani is a part of bengali tradition. However we know about dhakaia jamdani but there are 3 more districts which also produces jamdani and those are tangail, shirajgong and ishwardi from pabna district. In 4th December of 2013 Bangladeshi jamdani weaving was declared as the “Intangible cultural heritage of humanity” by UNESCO.

Bonani S Chowdhury from Bangaj - (An online shop), working with jamdani since July '20. Currently she is working with Tangail, Shirajgong and dhakaia Jamdani. She is customising tangail and dhakaia Jamdani. Besides of dhakaia jamdani saree she is also working with 3 piece, 2 piece and punjabi along with Koti dress, Lehenga, Khimar, Mask and Gown from the thinking of diversify the uses of Jamdani. From now on Jamdani shirt and Jamdani fabrics are available in Bangaj.

To take jamdani in new era she has also decided to use hand painting on it by a recognised artist named Biplob kor from this month. Moreover she is also trying to make Dhakaia jamdani gorgeous and appealing to everyone.

Tips: To avoid damage, don't dry wash jamdani sharee. It's need to be kata wash.



www.facebook.com/bangaj.bd/
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www.bangaj.com (under construction)

Search of Nature



Artist Biplob Kor state that, Since the very dawn of civilization, human beings have been relentlessly seeking for new discoveries. All that they invented and discovered haven't always been a blessing for humanity, some of the discoveries have brought harm to humanity. In the course of time they invented machines to bring ease in their lives which gradually isolated human beings from nature, they started to lose connection to their souls and it made them face a paradox within. There comes a time when men began to submit to their own creations, the machines. This deceptive dependency made them become real life 'cyborgs'. These 'cyborgs' eventually seek for a way back to nature, out of this rusty mechanical city. The purpose of his creations is to portray his endeavour to bridge these lost 'cyborgs' to nature again.

His every art is an honest portrayal of a journey where machines, men and nature coexist to pave their ways.

This is why he entitles his art as “In search of nature”.

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NEWS



The Award winning Tameside restaurant Adnan's provided meals for 100 NHS front line workers at Tameside Hospital. Adnan's owner Mizanur Rahman Mizan, (also a Director, and North West Region President of the BBCCI), is seen here with Adnan's and NHS staff.

BBCCI president meet with Young Start up entrepreneur at virtual meeting

Many of our youth have already started start up businesses with their strong talent basis skills of innovations and motivations. A virtual meeting was held on Friday 29th January 2021 in cooperation with the British Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry to provide them right guidance, courage, financial support and direct networking communication with customers basis information technology. Mr. Nazrul Islam Bason, one of the trustee of Just Help Eye Hospital was present in the program organized by the director and North-West regional president of the organization Mizanur Rahman Mizan, presided by the present President of BBCCI Mr. Bashir Ahmed. Mr. Ahmed suggested and recommend the participants about the importance of using the digital technologies basis platformed, E-commerce and upskilling the business. Upskilling is the key to success and economic recovery from the pandemic. He assured all kinds of holistic cooperation from the British Bangladesh Chamber of commerce & Industry, UK.

"COVID-19 Mutual Support" was formed with the motto to support the community during national lockdown periods. It was formed by Md. Shamsul Arefin, general secretary of the BBCCI London region with the support of his family friends living in east London on the beginning of March 2020. The idea was perusing friends & family to buy some additional

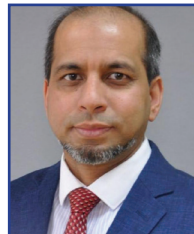
food and essentials each time while shopping for their own family. A family food bank collection box was introduced to cumulate those donations. Tower Hamlet and Newham local authorities nominated support team supplied the number of contacts for those needed most. The local mosque, church and community leaders also helped the team to find out most vulnerable people needed support throughout the period. The group have supported almost 300 families with the food and essentials during this difficult time. BBCCI recognise their noble work to the communities they live in. Besides, the support team is thankful to the metropolitan police, Tower Hamlet & Newham council, and all donors for their generous donation.

BBCCI Welcomes New Members

Mujibur Rahman



Councillor soddak miah



Aminur Rāhman



Kamal ahmed

Mohammad Zakir
Hossain

Bartister Mojibul Hoque



Muhammad Mohi Uddin

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