

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Best Chefs and Caterers Announced at the BCA Awards 2013
Inspired by Passion, Thriving through Unity

November 3rd 2013, the Bangladesh Caterers Association hosted their 8th Annual BCA Awards 2013 at one of London's finest hotels, Park Plaza Westminster Bridge hotel beautifully enriched with glamour and charm overlooking breathtaking sites. The night celebrated 53 years of the finest British Bangladeshi Cuisine.

Chief Guest RT Hon Justine Greening MP delivered a very positive, inspiring and supportive speech. Special guests RT Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for local communities and Mohamed Mijarul Quayes Bangladesh High Commissioner also graced the event with their support along with the host of dignitaries, parliamentarians and the curry elite and loyal BCA members.

Guests together joyously applauded 14 Best Restaurants named the BCA Caterer of the Year, 11 optimum chefs named BCA Chef of the Year with this year a Special Chef Award presented to Tipu Rahman for being recognised by the Guinness Book of Records for building the tallest poppadum tower. Also honored on the night were 3 outstanding individuals who have contributed and supported the British Curry Industry, Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP amongst the 3 respected winners. (Full Winner List Below in Notes to Editor)

With a fusion of amazing entertainment from a duo contortionist act that wowed the audience with their unique and phenomenal act, breathtaking sounds from rising vocal talent, Taal Toronga, a Bangladeshi infused dance group to Sky One's Got to Dance Semi Finalist Gaana Raja's that amazed the audience with their unique Gaana dance style bringing beats from the streets.

The BCA Annual Awards like ever before provided a fabulous platform to recognise and commend the entrepreneurial talent of UK's best Curry Houses who have played an instrumental role in bringing curry to the forefront and tickled the taste buds of the nation leading curry to the pinnacle as one of Britain's favourite dishes.

Hosted by Bangladesh Caterers Association supporter and renowned presenter Tasmin Lucia Khan together with co-host Kulvinder Ghir, famously known for his role in 'Goodness Gracious Me'. The talented duo brought the event alive and welcomed 1000 guests to what was a spectacular evening.

Mr Pasha Khandaker, the President of the BCA expressed at last night's ceremony: *"It has been overwhelming to see the support our industry is receiving from so many Parliamentarians, Sponsors and of course our members, making me feel immensely proud to be the leader of this organization. Together in unity everything is possible, we will keep working hard to create solutions to keep our industry alive and thriving"*

The event emphasised the importance of keeping the Bangladesh Heritage and culture alive for generations to come. Another young and talented Chef, Shahena Ali who has modernised the authentic Bangladeshi taste, graced the Awards Ceremony by delivering a few motivating words for next generation chefs and also paving the way for more Bangladeshi women to join the heritage founded by their ancestors. She spoke about the future of the Bangladeshi Cuisine and the significance of getting young and talented people to go forth and represent this industry in order to secure its survival and allow it to flourish and prosper in its years to come.

The night enticed taste buds and warmed souls through a fusion of traditional and contemporary entertainment. It allowed us to really celebrate the UK's leading Curry Industries entrepreneurs as they have successfully immigrated and integrated into Britain's culture yet maintaining their heritage and roots through their fantastic cuisine.

A special raffle enabled the BCA to raise funds of £2,600 for the Rona Plaza victims and their rehabilitation; it gave the BCA great pleasure to be able to provide some form of solace for such a tragic disaster in their home nation.

A special thank you to our sponsors who have displayed their commitment and support to the BCA; Cobra Beer, Square Mile Insurance, Bartercard, Kansara's, Bangladesh Biman Airlines, Canary Wharf Club, Chivas Regal, Community Skills Development Agency, Ellwood Foods, N Power, Metro Bank, Madhus.

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Notes to editors:

BCA Chef of the Year Award 2013 Winners

Kamrul Islam of Blue Chutney in Wickford, Essex

Abdullah Mokul of Shafiques in Worthing, Sussex

Abul Monsur of Taj Cuisine in Chatham, Kent

Asharaful Choudhury of Aroma of Bengal in Trowbridge, Wiltshire

Mohammed Salik Ahmed of The Taste of India in Loughborough, Leicestershire

Liyakat Ali Khan of Rose Indienne in Swansea

Sundar Ali of Rishi Restaurant in Norwich

Raju Miah of Gatley Tandoori and Restaurant in Gatley Cheadle, Cheshire

Muslim Miah of Royal Tandoori Restaurant, Whyteleafe, Surrey

Syed Moin Uddin of Kingsthorpe Spice in Kingsthorpe, Northampton

Alfas Miah of Guru Tandoori in Finchley Central, London

Tipu Rahman, Special Award for being included in the Guinness Book of World Records

BCA Honour Award 2013 Winners

Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP in East Ham, for his outstanding contribution and support to the British Curry Industry

Bazlur Rahman Chowdhury, for his lifetime contribution to the British Curry Industry and British Bangladeshi Community

G N Chowdhury Humayun, for his lifetime contribution to the British Curry Industry and British Bangladeshi Community

BCA Caterer of the Year 2013 Winners

Doros Ahmed of Ruchi Restaurant in West Hampstead, London, London Region 1

M Ali Akbar of Neel Akash Restaurant in Ware, Hertfordshire, London Region 2

Jubair Zaman of Curry Inn 84 in Cranleigh, Surrey, South East Region 4 (Surrey)

Iqbal Miah of The Shalimar Restaurant in Waterlooville, Hampshire, South East Region 6

Asjad Choudhury (Siyam) of Raj Pavilion in Turnridge Wells, Kent, South East Region 7 (Kent)

Dudon Ali of Shakil's in Bicester, Oxon, South East Region 8

Syed Mohammed Foysol of Bayleaf Lounge in Macclesfield, Manchester, The North West Region

Kazi Wahiduz Zaman of Cinnamon Lounge in Kings Langley, Hertfordshire, East of England Region 1 (Herts & Beds)

Shahab Uddin of Rasal in Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, East of England Region 1 (Herts & Beds)

Miftaur Rahman Choudhury of Lalbagh in Cambridge, East of England Region 3 (Suffolk, Norfolk)

Robby Malique of The Melford Valley in Long Melford, Suffolk, East of England Region 3 (Suffolk, Norfolk)

Rokib Ali of The Biplop in Swindon, Wiltshire, South West Region 1 (Swindon)

Ahmed Ali of Masala in Llanelli, Carmarthenshire, Wales Region

Abdul Matin Shahid of Mahmaan in Oakwood Derby, East Midlands Region

About Bangladesh Caterers Association

The BCA is the umbrella organization of approximately 12,000 British-Bangladeshi restaurants across the UK. It was established in 1960 to represent the Catering Industry run by the ethnic Bangladeshis.

The BCA organises various activities to promote Bangladeshi cuisine in Great Britain as well as in Europe.

Over the years BCA has established itself as the "Pride of Bangladeshi Community" through its relentless efforts in the interest of our community. With the passage of time, BCA is now generating huge business potentials for any supplier, be it a small Cash & Carry or a large business industry like Cobra or Coca-Cola.

The BCA is a democratically run organization with a new executive committee taking control every 2 years. The present NEC was elected to office last December. The NEC is the highest forum within the BCA and three key personnel, President, Secretary General and the Chief Treasurer run the day-to-day activities.

The BCA has been representing the Bangladeshi curry industry for the last 53 years. The Association exists to ensure that the views of the Bangladeshi Curry industry are represented in a forceful, coherent and co-ordinated way to government and policy makers in the UK and internationally. As the national trade association for Bangladeshi caterers, our primary role is to lobby government across the UK, representing the views of the curry industry.

BCA pride themselves in having created a novel industry which has contributed significantly to the British economy and created thousands of jobs and continue to support the curry industry by working with key Government Ministers and Agencies such as MAC and People's First.

The BCA Awards commenced in 2006, since then the annual ceremony has won recognition as the most prestigious award event recognising the hard work and standards set by the highest achievers in the UK curry industry.

The objectives for the Awards event are to highlight over five decades of hard work, personal sacrifice, and significant success in creating and protecting the £4.1 billion national treasure, which is now part of British heritage as well.