

Press Release

Kent restaurateur awarded at House of Commons dinner

Kent restaurateur Rezaul Raja who owns the Raja of Kent restaurants in Tenterden and Maidstone and Mouchak restaurant in St Michael's has honoured at a special seminar and dinner at the House of Commons on Thursday 3rd March.

Hosted by the Development Council for Bangladeshis in the UK, the seminar was attended by Rushanara Ali MP, Jim Fitzpatrick MP, Lee Scott MP, Simon Danczuk MP, Stephen Timms, Justine Greening MP, Andrew Stunnell MP, Baroness Sarah Ludford MEP, Anwar Chowdhury - ex British High Commissioner for Bangladesh, Dr M Sayeedur Rahman Khan – British High Commissioner for Bangladesh.

Congratulating the winners, the Labour leader Ed Miliband highlighted the “Big Role in promoting the vital economic, social, cultural and political work done by so many Bangladeshis in this country,” describing their work as, “valuable and inspiring.”

The seminar recognised the contribution to the UK economy by the half million British Bangladeshi community and outlined the challenges they face in the 21st century. It also warned of the dangers of a disaffected youth who could become prey to extremist influences.

Of the Raja was the only restaurateur to be honoured. The other awards were given to Motasem Ali – community work, Saif Uddin (education), Naziur Razim (charity), Tasbirul Chowdhury (aviation), and Shykh (agriculture).

Accepting the award, Raja said, “It's a great honour to received such recognition given that there are over 18,000 Indian restaurants in the UK

– it's testament to the dedication of my chefs and front of house teams."

The Raja of Kent supports a number of local and national charities including Restaurants Against Hunger, Hi Kent which services and equipment to the deaf and sponsors the Maidstone and Mid Kent Sunday Football League.

The Tenterden restaurant is the current holder of the Best Indian title of the Kent Restaurant Awards is was named one of the Top 100 Indian Restaurants in the British Curry Awards.

Set in a rural location in a former coaching inn, the reputation for the Raja of Indian's is such that customers are drawn from across the Kent, with many regulars travelling on a weekly basis from London.

Editors' Notes: Photos available

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