

Annual Report 2024-2025



বার্ষিক প্রতিবেদন 2024 -2025

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Dear Members of the Newcastle Bangladeshi Association,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullah.

As I reflect on my 14 years serving as Chairman of the Newcastle Bangladeshi Association, it is with a heart full of gratitude and pride that I write this final message to you. This year's annual report marks not only the close of another vibrant year for our Association but also the end of my tenure as Chairman. After much thought and consideration, I have made the difficult decision to retire from this role, entrusting the future of the NBA to a new generation of leadership. Back in 2011, when I engaged in the management of the NBA, there was history of conflict within the old management committee when they approached me and other friends to intervene. At the same time, they raised this issue with the Newcastle City Council. Following this, Neil Denton, from the Community Engagement and Empowerment services, came to me and my friends to resolve the situation. This is when I led an interim committee to start to solve the issues. I was able to foresee the many challenges we had to tackle but could also envisage the great potential for the community. I requested a few of my friends and colleagues to partake in the management committee to serve the community as part of our social responsibility.

Looking back over the years, it is astonishing to see how far we have come together. Our mosque was dilapidated and the community centre was in disrepair. We were in a tough economic climate with diminishing funds. Over the past 14 years, I have had the privilege of witnessing the transformation of our building and organisation into the beloved hub for culture and community that it is today. The journey was not easy, however through the dedication and passion of volunteers, members and donors, we have developed a place that celebrates our community. From cultural events, family programmes, and wellbeing projects to workshops and educational courses to empower our community, particularly the women and children, the Centre has become a sanctuary for the Bangladeshi community in Newcastle upon Tyne. In 2016 we saw the official opening of the rebuilt NBA Jame Masjid after completing a challenging project. One of our proudest achievements was the renovation and expansion of our NBA building in 2023. We are proud to be the first organisation in the North-East of England to arrange an Eidgah (Eid in the Park). Regularly holding Eid Jammāt at Nuns Moor Park, where more than 2,000 unite for congregational prayer. You will also be pleased to know I have negotiated and come to an agreement with the Bereavement services management, Newcastle City council, for further extension of a few hundred spaces on top of the existing graveyard on the North side in the Lemington cemetery as well as to acquire the lease of the old mortuary building.

Beyond the overwhelming support for our community centre and mosque, this has been extended to immense humanitarian efforts and with all of your help we have managed to always been persistent and fruitful, raising thousands of pounds of funds for natural disasters, those in crisis and beyond. We have not only displayed our community in Newcastle Upon Tyne in a progressive light to our local neighbours but we have also made a positive impact nationally and internationally through our achievements – notably being listed in the British Bangladeshi Power 100 in 2013 for its positive work in the community. During any visits both nationally and Internationally, I have always been an ambassador for Newcastle to raise the profile of our Newcastle Bangladeshi community and organisation to stand proudly. Thanks to the support of our members, donors, and grant funding, we have managed to keep our programming affordable while steadily increasing our financial reserves. We have also diversified our funding sources, ensuring that the Centre remains sustainable

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

for years to come. In 2012, our fixed assets was £143,236. As of 2025, I am leaving the organisation with fixed assets of £1,021,575, Alhamdulillah.

Like any organisation, we have faced our share of challenges over the years. Balancing our mission with the need for financial sustainability has never been easy. The increasing demand for more services, high expectations from the community and numerous differing opinions has meant that we have had to be cautiously diplomatic, respectful and resourceful. It has never been our intention to consciously disrespect, disregard or overlook any of our member's views. I aimed to lead through the limits of the constitution and make decisions which does not prejudice one group against another. Fortunately, through negotiation and careful planning, we have managed to overcome these obstacles and emerge even stronger.

One of the most pressing challenges for us going forward is ensuring that the NBA continues to evolve and meet the needs of a rapidly changing community. As the world around us changes, so too must we adapt in order to remain relevant and impactful. As I prepare to pass the baton to new leadership, I do so with confidence. I am excited to see how the next chapter unfolds. In particular in the near-future - the addition of the first floor to the Jame Masjid and the proposed exterior cladding of the community centre, Insha'Allah. It is vital that our centre remains a beacon of unity, dialogue, creativity and empowerment; and essentially to preserve our identity for now and future generations. None of this would have been possible without the support of our dedicated volunteers, and community partners. Your tireless commitment, passion, and hard work have been the backbone of everything we do. And to our members and donors—your support, whether through time, expertise, or financial contributions, has enabled us to keep our doors open to all.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to my fellow executive Management Committee members, past and present. Thank you for your trust, wisdom, and collaboration in steering this organisation towards the success we have achieved. Together, we have made difficult decisions, celebrated our successes, and weathered challenges, all with the same goal in mind: to nurture the growth of the NBA and our community.

Serving as Chairman of the Newcastle Bangladeshi Association has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. I will always be indebted to my community for their love, support and trust in me with leading this democratic organisation for all these years. I will carry the memories of this legacy with me as I step into retirement. While I may be stepping down from my role, I will always remain a passionate member of the NBA. I look forward to seeing what the future holds and I will continue to be a strong advocate for the important work we do to develop our beloved community.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your Chairman. It has been an extraordinary journey, Alhamdulillah.

Yours faithfully,



Mahtab Miah

Chairman NBA (2011-2025)



GENERAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

By Mohammed Ahsan uz Zaman (Arif)

As Salamu Alaikum,

We are pleased to present the Annual General Meeting (AGM) report of the Newcastle Bangladeshi Association for the past year. This report reflects a year of meaningful engagement, cultural celebration, and community solidarity. Guided by our mission to serve, connect, and empower the Bangladeshi community in Newcastle, we have successfully organised a wide range of activities that brought people together

across generations and backgrounds.

Over the course of the year, the association has hosted various religious programs, including prayer gatherings, observance of significant Islamic events, and support during Ramadan and Eid celebrations. These events have not only strengthened our spiritual bonds but also fostered a sense of unity and mutual respect within the wider community.

Our cultural initiatives

have been equally vibrant, celebrating important occasions such as International Mother Language Day, Pahela Baishakh (Bengali new year celebration), and Victory Day. These programs served as vital platforms to preserve and promote our rich Bangladeshi heritage, language, and traditions—especially among younger generations growing up in the UK.

In addition, we have focused on social engagement

and community wellbeing through recreational activities for the community women, health awareness programs, physical exercise activities, and children engagement events. These efforts have aimed to uplift our members, address shared challenges, and ensure that our association remains a trusted and inclusive space for all. Some of events are highlighted below.

Highlighted events of the year

Sehri in NBA Centre (April 2024 & March 2025)

Alhamdulillah! Over 500 people participated in Sehri at the NBA centre to observe the 27th night of Ramadan for both consecutive years.

Eid al Fitr 10 April 2024

NBA has organised Eid Jamath in the Jame Masjid. Three Jamaths' have been performed. Lead Imam Mokhlisur Mukhlisur Rahman Chowdhury has conducted 1st Jamath, Hafij Nazrul Islam has conducted 2nd Eid Jamath, and 3rd Jamath has conducted by Hafij Jubair Ahmed.



After Eid celebration & Boishakh Mela 21 April 2024

One Mela was arranged with BOLO at the NBA center from 12 noon to 5 pm. Traditional food stalls, fancy dresses, cultural programs, and a new writer's book were released on that occasion. More than 10 stalls and hundreds of thousands of people participated. It was a massive gathering of local men, women and children.



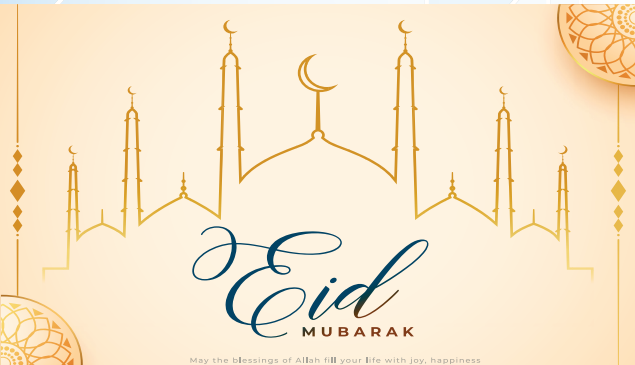
Eid al Adha 16 June 2024

Due to uncertain weather conditions, the NBA postponed the Eid Jamath at the park but organised it at the Jame Masjid at 8:00 am and 9:00 am, and the last Jamath was held at 10:00 am.



Eid al Fitr 30 March 2025

As the Muslim world completes the month of Ramadan, which is dedicated to fasting, prayers and almsgiving, we were pleased to send warm greetings on behalf of NBA to the Ummah on this occasion of Eid-al-Fitr. 3 jamath has been performed as usual at the Jame Masjid.



Bangla Language Day on 3rd March 2025

NBA hosted Bangla Day on March 3rd in the Newcastle Bangladeshi community centre from 10 am to 12 noon. Lady and St Anne's school in Summerhill Terrace and Wingrove primary schools' pupils, approximately 55 participated. This project was in partnership with International Newcastle, Newcastle City Council and 90+ other educational institutions and social organisations.



Mother Language Day

- February 21st: NBA arranged a wreath-laying program to celebrate International Mother Language Day in the early morning at 12:01 at Shahid Minar in the NBA centre.
- Sunday, February 23rd: The NBA arranged a discussion and cultural event on Sunday, February 23rd, in the afternoon in the NBA community centre. Bangla School students performed a cultural program on this occasion.





Victory Day Celebration, 15th December

- Newcastle Bangladeshi Association celebrated the victory day of Bangladesh on December 15th from 1:15 pm. Children participated in quizzes and art competitions. Many families celebrated together this prestigious event.



Gopshop Ladies Group update

- It has a couple of great sessions about women's health with Healthworks Newcastle and dementia awareness with Dr Alison Killen from Newcastle University.
- A 13-week Art project was arranged from September to December.

Shabaan 15th night (Laylatul Bara'ah or Laylatun Nisfe min Sha'ban)

NBA Jame Masjid has organised Waz- Mahfil, Special Duas during this holy night, on February 13th, Thursday (midnight). Those programs were:

- * Individual Ibadah for Shob-e-Borat after Isha Jamaat.
- * Bayan Mahfil was started at midnight 12-am
- * Jikir & Akheri Munajath was held at 2:30am

Health Check

- On Friday, December 13th, 2024, a health check was done by the Public Health Department, Newcastle City Council.
- At the NBA Centre, regular health checking was conducted, including checking cholesterol, blood pressure, height, weight and BMI check, health advice and more. Three sessions have



been conducted last year in various months between 10 am-4 pm. Newcastle GP Services did health checks in partnership with Newcastle University School of Pharmacy.

- NBA will arrange free flu shots in the community centre on November 8th from 11 am to 3 pm. Several people attended and took service from Blue House pharmacy.

Victory Day Celebration, 16th December

- On December 16th, on Victory Day in Bangladesh, the National Flag raising ceremony was hosted by the NBA Management Committee in the Civic Centre at 11 am. The Lord Mayor of Newcastle City Council, Cllr Rob Higgins attended, ended as chief guest. Later, at the NBA centre, the national Bangladeshi flag was raised by Cllr Miriam Mafemba, the management committee members and local dignitaries.



Harm Reduction & Social Inclusion

- NBA attended a seminar organised by Newcastle City Council in City Hall in September 2024 regards to reduce drugs, alcoholic disorder in our society.
- NBA arranged a meeting with the Harm Reduction & Social Inclusion Team of City Council on Tuesday at 1:30 pm in the NBA centre.



Women Empowering Project

- GOPSHOP Tuesday morning from 10 am
- Fitness Classes are arranged on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm in conjunction with Suffrage Sisters Alliance.
- Cooking Classes are held on Thursday mornings from 10 am in conjunction with WEA.



Consulate service in NBA

On November 3rd, many people received consulate services from Bangladeshi Assistant High Commission, Manchester, which were held from 11 am to 5 pm.

Rehabilitation of Flood victims in Bangladesh

NBA has raised funds for flood appeal, £13800 (including Ciddor debt paid off £5000), which was converted to BDT 21,90,400. Was distributed in Rajnagor of Moulbibazar district and Chagolnaiya of Nowakhali district, where headed by NBA chair Mahtab Miah along with Humayun Choudhury and Abul Boshar. Over 400 people in Bangladesh were beneficiaries of this project.

Community engagement meeting on September 25th

Elswick Councillor and The NBA organised a community engagement meeting with Newcastle City Council Housing officials, health and environment officials and community policing officers. Residents have been raised issues relating to anti-social behaviour, drink and drug abuse by neighbours, bins in back lanes, debris and rubbish not being cleaned up, etc.



MP's visit to NBA

Chi Onwurah MP of Newcastle west & Central constituency has met with NBA officials on Saturday, September 21st, at 12:00 noon in the NBA centre.



AGM 2023-24, 7 July 2024

A successful AGM was conducted, where many members shared their thoughts.

Other Achievements:

- Non-Muslim Iftar and gatherings have been arranged by FSN in conjunction with the NBA.
- Most of the programs have been broadcast on Bengali TV channels.
- 80s renowned footballer Makhon Miah was honoured by the NBA on Monday night in the centre hall.
- NBA has arranged a few food safety courses with New Vision Ltd and has been awarded to 17 participants.



As we look back on a successful year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers, community members, partners, and supporters whose dedication made these achievements possible. This report is a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together with purpose and pride.



TRESURER'S REPORT

BY SIRAJ MIAH

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

Newcastle Bangladesh Association	Year ended 31 March 2024		
	Masjid	Community Centre	Total for the Year
Income	78,442	75,834	154,276
Expenditure	(51,711)	(61,637)	(113,348)
Surplus / (Deficit)	26,731	14,197	40,928

Newcastle Bangladesh Association	Year ended 31 March 2025		
	Masjid	Community Centre	Total for the Year
Income	90,320	74,768	165,088
Expenditure	(75,311)	(40,000)	(115,311)
Surplus / (Deficit)	15,009	34,768	49,777

TRESURER'S REPORT
BY SIRAJ MIAH



**DETAILED INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 MARCH 2025**

Masjid	Income 31-Mar-25 £	Income 31-Mar-24 £
Masjid Income		
Jummah Collection	43,140	43,329
Eid- UI Fitra	7,172	6,926
Eid- UI Adha	3,515	
Lailatul Qadar - Masjid	6,698	2,750
Lailatul Qadar - Hafiz	5,751	3,355
Taraweeh	5,021	4,279
Marriage Certificate	1,200	1,250
Masjid Box	1,634	497
Lloyds Bounce Back	11,295	11,295
General Donations	859	1,061
Electricity refund	3,091	
Fitra	944	-
Ramadan Imam's gift	-	3,700
Total Income	90,320	78,442
	Expenditure 31-Mar-2025 £	Expenditure 31-Mar-2024 £
Masjid Expenditure		
Salaries	22,150	17,007
Karde Hasana - Internal	27,000	19,000
Fitra	1,000	788
Lailatul Qadar Sehri	3,016	845
Ramadan Imam's gift	5,400	3,700
Insurance	5,572	5,269
Light & Heat	7,800	2,459
Cleaning	445	406
Repairs and maintenance	1,148	850
General expenses (Stewert expenses)	1,780	1,387
Total expenditure	75,311	51,711
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	15,009	26,731



DETAILED INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Community Centre	Income 31-Mar-25 £	Income 31-Mar-24 £
Community Centre Income		
Shop rent	1,680	3,440
Karde Hasana - Internal	27,000	19,000
General Donations	305	1,150
Membership Fee	2,580	-
Hall Hire	40,605	37,630
Government Grants	925	12,529
Workers Education	1,673	1,575
Borono Mala School	-	510
Total Income	74,768	75,834
	Expenditure 31-Mar-2025 £	Expenditure 31-Mar-2024 £
Community Centre Expenditure		
Water rates	702	1,038
Grant Bcausam	250	3,500
Stationery, printing and advertising	868	1,145
Telephone	709	544
Repairs and renewals	4,092	1,766
Bounce Back BBL	11,295	11,295
Sundry expenses	3,347	10,443
Light and Heat	4,009	3,621
Karde Hasana - Centre	5,000	-
Fixture Fittings & Equipment (Depn)	9,300	10,444
Bounce Back Charges	428	661
Refurbishment and maintenance wages	-	16,930
Professional fees	-	250
Total expenditure	40,000	61,637
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	34,768	14,197

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	31-Mar-25	31-Mar-24
Fixed assets (Land & Building)	£	£
Masjid b/fwd	375,000	375,000
Masjid Addition / Re-valuation	-	-
Community Centre b/fwd	562,875	562,875
Improvements - F F & Equipment b/fwd	103,444	95,650
F F & Equipment - Addition	-	7,794
F F & Equipment - Accumulated Depn b/fwd	(10,444)	-
F F & Equipment - Depreciation	(9,300)	(10,444)
	£ 1,021,575	£ 1,030,875
Current assets		
Cash at bank - Lloyds	28,176	26,101
Cash at bank - Barclays	5,101	2,990
Cash at bank - Relief account	2,520	15
Karde Hasana - Internal	130,221	103,221
	£ 166,018	£ 132,327
Current liabilities		
Other creditors	-	5,385
Karde Hasana - Internal	130,221	103,221
Karde Hasana - Public	10,000	42,000
Cidr	5,000	10,000
	£ 145,221	£ 160,606
Non current liabilities		
Long term borrowing - Bounce Back	11,667	21,668
Net assets	£ 1,030,705	£ 980,928
Capital and reserves		
Surplus b/f	980,928	929,734
Surplus for the year	49,777	51,194
	£ 1,030,705	£ 980,928

Accountant:

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