

Lutfur calls

Rahman was not notified of this complaint, let alone allowed to refute it. The NEC did not even investigate the matter before deciding to remove Rahman as Labour's candidate. Shockingly, the NEC imposed Cllr Abbas as the candidate, despite the fact he came a distant third in the election.

The NEC member Christine Shawcroft gives a detailed and clear account of this monumental injustice on her website at www.christineshawcroft.co.uk/nec.

Among Cllr Abbas's allegations is his belief that Rahman has been "brainwashed by fundamentalists" as well as fabricated allegations that he "bought" members. Cllr Bill Turner, who ran Cllr Shiria Khatun's unsuccessful campaign to be the candidate made similar allegations.

Rahman has said: "I have never shown undue favour or given undue influence to any group in the borough, religious or otherwise. I am very clear that a better society is one where everyone feels included and valued. A society where we do not pander to base fears or indulge the politics of negativity, but instead aim for a better, fairer, more progressive Britain. Indeed, these allegations against me are not just false, they are the very opposite of what I believe in."

"Neither Cllr Abbas, nor Cllr Turner is impartial. Cllr Abbas has run against me four times - twice to be Leader, once to be PPC and once to be Mayor. He lost on three occasions. Cllr Turner managed the campaign of another unsuccessful candidate and twice failed to make my cabinet selection.

"The idea that a duly elected candidate can be removed on a whim and replaced by their accuser belongs in an Orwellian nightmare - it does not belong in Labour party politics. If Ed Balls had made a complaint about Ed Miliband, would the NEC have torn up the election result and made Ed Balls Leader? No, it would not!

"I'm afraid that my confidence in the NEC's decision-making is shattered. I have appealed to Ed Miliband asking him to commission an independent investigation into the way Labour's Mayoral selection has been conducted as well as the allegations against me.

"I hope you will agree that the imposition of Cllr Abbas in my place is an insult to the democratic process and natural justice. I am certain you would want me to stand up for East Enders to fight injustice, stand up for democracy and fairness for all. This is why I am standing as an Independent candidate in this election. My manifesto, as you would expect, remains exactly the same as the one I drew up in partnership with the people of Tower Hamlets as Labour's candidate.

"You may be aware that a significant number of councillors from across all parties have directly and indirectly joined me to fight the injustice and to change Tower Hamlets for better and fairer future for us all. In addition, numerous Party officers, including the Party Secretary, the Communication Officer and hundreds of members are supporting me too.

I know that you want to be loyal to the Labour Party and especially with our new Leader, Ed Milliband. I'm not asking you to tear up your membership card. But if Labour stands for anything it is FAIRNESS.

"And I ask you - where is the fairness in the way I have been treated? Please join me on this momentous journey to create a better and fairer future for all - please vote for me as your first preference on 21st October."

Punch up

people like him and his supporters in broad daylight, imagine what else they are capable of?

"This is Grand Theft Auto Style politics from Labour and the NEC and Labour party have no one to blame. They are despicable. They are out of touch.

"Obviously Abbas can do no wrong, what with his corrupt political friends presenting him garlands for his every lie and gaff.

"Mr Abbas would be better off in charge of Sin City."

A traumatised Oliur Rahman and his fellow canvassers have received messages of support from a community that is increasingly becoming concerned by the loutish behaviour of Politicians, their aides and supporters.

"I have reported the matter to the Police," said

Councillor Oliur Rahman.

Abbas has also caused much controversy this week with accusations of outright racism.

During an interview with Satellite station Bangla TV Abbas retorted: "To shout and be threatening is part of the culture of developing countries like Bangladesh and Africa. If we bring these cultural aspects to Britain then we are at risk of embarrassing ourselves..."

"He is breaking under the pressure, said local voter Rukiya. "You'd think Abbas has no conscience, but his lies and his own checkered past may be leading to cracks in his person. He seems awfully uptight."

In a blow to the Abbas camp, legendary community activist and long time Labour stalwart Kathy McTasney has resigned from the Labour party in protest at the treatment meted out by the party towards Lutfur Rahman.

She said: "I have been a Labour Party member for many years. I have seen many things happen over those years.

"However I have never experienced what has happened to the Labour Party locally recently.

"I have resigned from the Labour Party and I have done this with heavy heart.

My vote was of no value at all for our local selection for Mayor. My money (membership fees) over the years was good enough but not my vote.

"I have been informed by a Tower Hamlets Councillor not to vote for Lutfur Rahman. I asked why and to this date there isn't anyone person that can prove to me the "serious allegations" in writing. Why would that be?

"So I am supporting Councillor Lutfur Rahman for Mayor. I am sure he is the right person to lead Tower Hamlets for the next 4 years. I'm sure he will be a strong Mayor, one who cares as he did when Leader of the Council.

"I'm sure he (Lutfur Rahman) will bring Disability and Carers to the forefront as there are many of us in Tower Hamlets. Disability has no boundaries.

"So vote with me. Vote Lutfur Rahman on October 21st."

Labour peer Lord Nazir Ahmed may receive a call from the NEC after he attended a packed youth conference at Oxford House. At the event in support of Lutfur Rahman, Lord Ahmed of Rotherham said:

"I'm a Labour peer and for a Labour peer to come and support somebody like Lutfur Rahman, I know that I could get into trouble, but...I've no hesitation in supporting Lutfur Rahman because he is the best candidate.

"When 50% of the local Labour Party supported Lutfur Rahman and when Lutfur Rahman has been a Labour Councillor for ten years, leader of the Council for two years and done a fantastic job for this borough and you've got a list of things he's done.

"I supported Ken Livingstone. I thought he was a brilliant candidate... I thought that Tony Blair and the NEC then made a mistake by not having him as our official candidate. And then we were

embarrassed to ask him to come back into the Labour party. I hope that we would have to do the same for Lutfur Rahman as well."

In a statement to Ted Jeory, a Labour Party spokesperson, said: "Our focus is getting Labour's excellent candidate Helal Abbas elected as Tower Hamlets' Mayor. We will look into the allegations made in due course after the election."

This has left the highly criticised NEC accused of double standards.

Stephen Beckett, Tower Hamlets Borough Labour Party Secretary (apparently expelled) has written an exclusive statement to London Bangla (For Stephen Beckett's full article see page...). Becket says: I have been an active member of the Labour Party for thirty years - all of them in Tower Hamlets. I eventually joined the Party in 1980, aged 23, after previously being told that I couldn't join because it was "full up"! I have seen the party grow in membership and I have seen it slump. I saw the docks when they were a major employer in the borough and since their decline I have seen the development of Docklands - with its failure to provide enough decent job opportunities for local people. I have seen the NF and the BNP exploit local tensions on our estates and at the ballot box. I have seen the solidarity shown to striking miners and poll tax non payers.

I am proud to support Lutfur Rahman for Mayor of Tower Hamlets - for me he is the real Labour Party candidate, chosen by members young and old, black and white, men and women. I have no hesitation in recommending him to all voters in Tower Hamlets. Please give Lutfur Rahman your first preference vote on Thursday 21st October."

To Labour supporters thinking of voting for the imposed candidate I appeal to you to think again and if you can't vote for Lutfur Rahman on your first preference at least give him your second preference vote.

"Finally to Labour Party members disgusted at the manipulation of the local party I call upon you not to resign or walk away from Labour. If democratic rights are not restored the hierarchy will continue to override local members. Stay, continue the fight inside Labour for the return of your full democratic rights - a fight that I hope one day to be able to join you again as a member of the Labour Party."

In an interview the BBC's Karl Mercer asked Abbas three times: "Why didn't you think he (Lutfur) was a suitable candidate?" Abbas refused to answer despite the question being posed three times.

The Domestic Violence Forum East have been busy promoting a rally scheduled for next week.

The groups publicity leaflet states: 'Stop Wife Beating Mayoral Candidate Helal Abbas'

A rally against Domestic Violence in Tower Hamlets will take place at 6pm on Tuesday 19th October outside the Labour Party HQ, 349 Cambridge Heath Road (Organised by Friends of Saleha).

Some names have been changed at the request of the interviewees.

আমরা নিম্নলিখিত পরামর্শ ও সহযোগিতা প্রদান করি

- লস্ট পাসপোর্ট, ভিসা, নো ভিসা
- পাসপোর্ট নবায়ন
- পাওয়ার অব এটর্নি
- বাংলাদেশ থেকে বার্থ সার্টিফিকেট
- লোন, মর্গেজ, ব্যাংক একাউন্ট
- হজ্জ ও ওমরাহ প্যাকেজ
- লাইফ ইন দ্যা ইউকে ও ইসল
- ইভেন্ট ম্যানেজমেন্ট ও বিজনেস প্রমোশন
- স্টুডেন্ট ভর্তি, নতুন ও পুরাতন

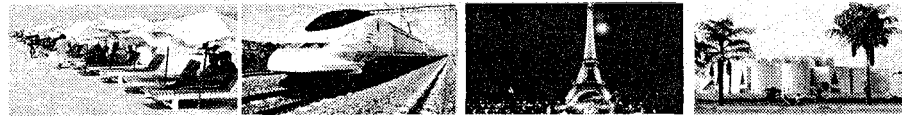
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- কার্গো সার্ভিস কম খরছে
- ফুড হাইজিন কোর্স
- স্পন্সার ডিক্লারেশন
- নতুন কোম্পানীর লাইসেন্স
- নাম পরিবর্তন ও ট্রান্সলেশন
- বিয়ের জন্য অনুমতি পত্র
- লন্ডনে ও বাংলাদেশে
- বাড়ী, জমি, প্লট ক্রয়-বিক্রয় করা হয়

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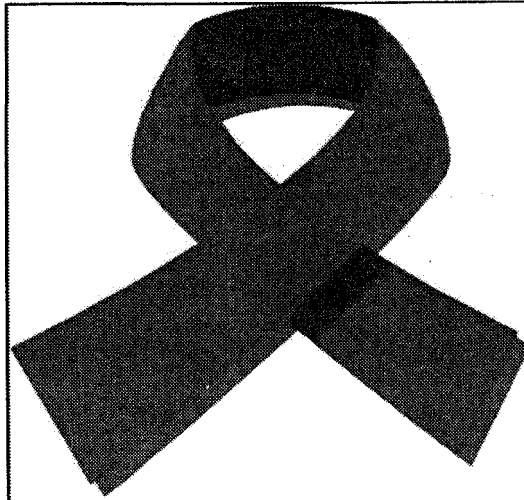
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"Domestic violence touches the lives of people of all ages, leaving a devastating impact on women and children of every background and circumstance. A family's home becomes a place of fear, hopelessness, and desperation when a woman is battered by her partner..."

**Stop
wife beating
Mayoral
candidate
Helal Abbas**

**Rally against
Domestic
Violence in
Tower Hamlets**

- Meet 6pm, Tues 19 October 2010 outside Labour Party offices 349 Cambridge Heath Road E2

- Speeches and info stalls

- Contact 07904 687 039 | stopwomenabuseth@yahoo.co.uk

Organised by: *Friends of Saleha*

The Domestic Violence Forum East