



**BISHOPSGATE
INSTITUTE**

**Swadhinata Trust Oral History Project
Archive**

(SWADHINATA TRUST)

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Name of Creator:

Swadhinata Trust

Extent:

6 Boxes

Administrative/Biographical History:

The Swadhinata Trust is a London based non-partisan secular Bengali group that works to promote Bengali history and heritage amongst young people. The Swadhinata Trust has been operating since November 2000, offering seminars, workshops, exhibitions and educational literature to young Bengali people in schools, colleges, youth clubs and community centres in the United Kingdom. The Swadhinata Trust promotes Bengali history and culture to ensure its representation as an essential part of the history of Britain and by extension, our contemporary world.

Custodial History:

Recordings deposited at the Bishopsgate Institute by the Swadhinata Trust on 18 July 2006.

Scope and Content:

Fifty two oral history recordings compiled as part of the project, 'Tales of Three Generations of Bengalis in Britain', by the Swadhinata Trust (Nirmul Committee) and CRONEM (Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity & Multiculturalism, University of Surrey) covering three areas of interest:

- 'roots and memory' (dialogue between first and third generation on the history of Bangladesh and the 1971 war of independence)
- 'community creativity' (dialogue between second and third generation on welfare and community involvement in the UK, from the 1970s-80s)
- 'popular culture: between tradition and innovation' (across three generations, mainly focussing on traditional and more recent British Bengali musical heritage, from the 1970s-80s)

System of Arrangement:

The collection is divided into the following sections:

SWADHINATA TRUST/1: 'roots and memory' (dialogue between first and third generation on the history of Bangladesh and the 1971 war of independence)

SWADHINATA TRUST/2: 'community creativity' (dialogue between second and third generation on welfare and community involvement in the UK, from the 1970s-80s)

SWADHINATA TRUST/3: 'popular culture: between tradition and innovation' (across three generations, mainly focussing on traditional and more recent British Bengali musical heritage, from the 1970s-80s)

Language/scripts of material:

English, Bengali

Access conditions:

OPEN

Copying conditions:

Documents cannot be photocopied at present. Digital photography (without flash) is permitted for research purposes on completion of the Library's Copyright Declaration form and with respect to current UK copyright law.

Finding Aids:

Copy of handlist available in Library Reading Room.

Rules and Conventions:

Compiled in compliance with General International Standard Archival Description, ISAD(G), second edition, 2000; National Council on Archives Rules for the Construction of Personal, Place and Corporate Names, 1997.

Archive Catalogue

SWADHINATA TRUST/1 **Roots and memory: the history of Bangladesh and the 1971 war of independence** **2006**

Oral history recordings compiled as part of the project, 'Tales of Three Generations of Bengalis in Britain', by the Swadhinata Trust (Nirmul Committee) and CRONEM (Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity & Multiculturalism, University of Surrey) covering 'roots and memory' (dialogue between first and third generation on the history of Bangladesh and the 1971 war of independence) (2006 - 2007)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/1 **Abdur Rashid** **2006**

Oral history recording with Mr. Abdur Rashid (Age: 70) (Interviewed by: Jamil Iqbal) (Mr Rashid was a diplomat. In 1971 he was Assistant of the Labour Attaché, Pakistan High Commission in Bradford. He left his job for the Independence war) (14 January 2006)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/2 **Abdus Sami** **2006**

Oral history recording with Mr. Abdus Sami (Age 72) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Sami remembers one of the biggest demonstrations held at Hyde Park. He donated money and campaigned against the Pakistani military rule in Bangladesh) (12 June 2006)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/3 **Ajmet Ullah** **2006**

Oral history recording with Mr. Ajmat Ullah (Age 77) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal, Ansar Ahmed Ullah and Maliha Haque) (Mr. Ullah owned a grocery shop and was based in Luton. Most of the Luton Steering Committee meetings were held at his flat above his shop. A dedicated campaigner and organiser, he took part in many demonstrations for the

cause of Liberation. He used to have altercations with local Pakistanis and passionately defended the right of the Bengali people) (23 June 2006)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/4

Anowara Jahan

2006

Oral history recording with Mrs. Anowara Jahan (Age 67) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Ansar Ahmed Ullah) (Mrs. Jahan is one of the founding members of Bangladesh Women's Association. She personally handed in letters to different MPs in the House of Commons for support of the War of Liberation. She was closely linked to Michael Barnes (MP) and John Stonehouse (MP). She wrote letters on behalf of the BWA to different world leaders and attended the Labour and Conservative annual party conferences raising awareness among political leaders about the genocide in Bangladesh) (4 July 2006)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/5

Aziz Choudhury

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Aziz Choudhury (Age 58) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Choudhury on one occasion, during the war in Bangladesh, was placed before a firing squad by the Pakistani army in Dhaka airport. By a strange twist of fate his life was spared quite literally from the jaws of death. He was also an eye witness to the massacre of ordinary people by the Pakistani army in the streets of Dhaka in March 1971. Presently, he works for the Bethnal Green Training Centre in the East End of London) (1 February 2006)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/6

Badrun Nesa Pasha

2006

Oral history recording with Mrs. Badrun Nesa Pasha (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Ansar Ahmed Ullah) (Mrs. Pasha was one the founding members of Birmingham Action Committee, a sympathetic supporter to the War of Independence. She is a courageous

woman who donated her entire matrimonial jewellery, after she delivered a passionate speech in front of thousands of supporters, in a demonstration where the flag of Bangladesh was first raised in Smallheath Park. She also witnessed the panic which broke out when Pakistanis attacked 13 Bengalis at that demonstration) (18 September 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/1/7**

C.A.S.Kabir

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. C.A.S Kabir (Age 64) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Kabir organised and sponsored two groups in Britain involved in the War of Independence. These two groups, 'Operation Omega' and 'Action Bangladesh' brought awareness among the non-Bengalis, British and Europeans, about the genocide in Bangladesh) (27 February 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/1/8**

F.Stephen Miles

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. F. Stephen Miles (Age 86) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Ansar Ahmed Ullah) (Mr. Miles was the Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata, India, 1970-74 and High Commissioner, Bangladesh, 1978-79. He witnessed the gathering of half a million people in Kolkota in January 1972 when Mujib flew from London on his way back to independent Bangladesh. As a diplomat he visited many refugee camps in Kolkata where the Indian Government accommodated roughly 10 million Bengali people who fled persecution from the hands of the Pakistani army) (17 March 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/1/9**

Gulam Mustafa Choudhury

2006

Oral history recording of Mr. Gulam Mustafa Choudhury (Age 59) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Ansar Ahmed Ullah) (Mr. Choudhury was an ardent supporter for the Bengali cause. He was closely linked to the UK Awami League when it was first set up in 1969. He was involved in collecting donations for

sending a twelve-seater vehicle to Bangladesh and raised Taka 10,000 for Awami League, Sylhet section for election purpose in early 1971) (10 June 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/10 **Husna Matin** **2006**

Oral history recording with Mrs. Husna Matin (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Ansar Ahmed Ullah) (A remarkable woman, who was not afraid to confront racist skinheads. In one incident she risked her life and ran after some skinheads with sticks in her hand. This happened after the skinheads attacked an elderly Bengali and his son) (30 January 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/11 **Kulsum Ullah** **2006**

Oral history recording of Mrs. Kulsum Ullah (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mrs. Ullah was the founding member and organiser of Bangladesh Women's Association in Britain. She was associated in raising fund and relief for the War of Liberation. On one occasion she organised a gathering of 150 women for a mass demonstration) (1 January 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/12 **Mathin Miah** **2006**

Oral history recording with Mr. Mathin Miah (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Miah is the owner of Lime House Superstore in Bethnal Green Road. He was profoundly involved in the War of Independence and requested many ordinary Bengalis in Britain to take part in the mass rally in Trafalgar Square) (3 January 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/13 **Michael Barnes** **2006**

Oral history recording with Mr. Michael Barnes (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Ansar Ahmed Ullah) (Mr. Michael Barnes was a Labour MP (1966-1974) for Brentford and Chiswick in West London. He went to Bangladesh during

the Pakistani crackdown. During the war the Pakistani cricket team was due to come to England for a tour and he thought this was most inappropriate. He tabled a motion in the House of Commons saying words to the effect that the Pakistani team should not come. In the parliament he gave a clear picture of the genocide that was happening in Bangladesh) (23 February 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/1/14**

Mohammed Ibrahim Baksh

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Mohammed Ibrahim Baksh (Age 68) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Baksh was one of the founding members of Luton Steering Committee. He was also the chief auditor of the committee. He was an ardent campaigner and the committee collected donations to the amount of £23,000 for the cause of the War of Independence) (9 July 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/1/15**

Mohammed Israel

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Mohammed Israel (Age 63) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Israel was the accountant of the Bangladesh Steering Committee. The steering committee was formed in Britain, in April, 1971 to coordinate the activities of all the subcommittees formed in favour of the independence of Bangladesh. From his financial record, the total amount raised for the Bangladesh cause was £406,856) (25 February 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/1/16**

Nikhilesh Chakraborty

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Nikhilesh Chakraborty (Age 65) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Abdul Shahid) (Mr. Chakraborty is a retired Head teacher. In 1971 he was politically involved for the war of independence in Britain. He was working for restoration of democracy in Pakistan, which later on was taken over by Democratic Front of Pakistan. This group that he was actively

associated was a Left organisation, whose members were students, professionals and other individuals from the left. Through this organisation he took active part in the Independence war in Bangladesh) (30 April 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/1/17**

Nora Shariff

2006

Oral history recording with Mrs. Nora Shariff (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mrs. Nora Shariff is one of the British White campaigners who fought for the rights of the Bengali people. She organised campaigns, distributed leaflets and organised meetings in her flat. Bengali campaigners used to come to her flat and make placards for demonstrations. She was also directly involved in releasing Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from prison after the Agartala Conspiracy Case) (16 February 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/1/18**

Sazzad Khan

2006

Oral history recording of Mr. Sazzad Khan (Age 67) (Interviewed by: Jamil Iqbal, Ansar Ahmed Ullah and Charlie Sen) (Mr. Khan visited Bangladesh (erstwhile East Pakistan), in February 1971. He was caught up in the turmoil of the War of Independence and decided to become a freedom fighter to resist the Pakistani army's atrocities in his village. In May, 1971 he was captured and detained by the Pakistani army for six months) (9 March 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/1/19**

Shahid Ali

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Shahid Ali (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Ali eye witnessed the memorable demonstration in 1971 where the flag of Bangladesh was raised for the first time in Smallheath Park, Birmingham. He was also an eye witness to the incident in the same demonstration where a Bengali was stabbed several times by a Pakistani) (7 January 2006)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/1/20	Sultan Shariff	2006
	<p>Oral history recording with Mr. Sultan Shariff (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Shariff is the Advisor of UK Awami League. A political activist who came to Britain in the early 1960s. He was involved in the demands of the Bengali people back home. As an Awami League campaigner he organised and led demonstration in the UK. He demanded autonomy for East Pakistan) (16 January 2006)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SWADHINATA TRUST/1/21	Tahir Ali	2006
	<p>Oral history recording with Mr. Tahir Ali (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr Tahir Ali was a local campaigner in East London. He is one of the few peoples who distributed leaflets and posters almost everyday during the nine month War of Independence in East London) (19 January 2006)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SWADHINATA TRUST/1/22	Tunu Miah	2006
	<p>Oral history recording with Mr. Tunu Miah (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Ansar Ahmed Ullah) (In 1971 Mr. Miah was a school student and attended a secondary school in Tower Hamlets, London E1. He joined the movement and participated in as much rallies and demonstration he could) (17 January 2006)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	

SWADHINATA TRUST/2 **Community creativity-dialogue between second and third generation on welfare and community involvement in the UK, from the 1970s-80s** **2006**

Oral history recordings compiled as part of the project, 'Tales of Three Generations of Bengalis in Britain', by the Swadhinata Trust (Nirmul Committee) and CRONEM (Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity & Multiculturalism, University of Surrey) covering community creativity-dialogue between second and third generation on welfare and community involvement in the UK, from the 1970s-80s (2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/2/1 **Abdus Shukur** **2006**

Oral history recording with Mr. Abdus Shukur (Age 49) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Charlie Sen) (Mr. Shukur was one of the founding members of Bangladesh Youth Movement (BYM) in the 70s and was its chairman and secretary. He was very much involved in Brick Lane in the 1970s in relation to the anti-racist movement and was chairman of the Spitalfields Housing and Planning Rights Service (SHAPRS). At the time of the interview Mr. Shukur was a Labour Party councillor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets) (21 March 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/2/2 **Aloke Biswas** **2006**

Oral history recording with Rev. Alope Biswas (Age 61) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Charlie Sen) (The Reverend Biswas started his career as a social worker in the borough of Hackney in 1972. In the 1970s he was involved with the struggle against racism and he is still working as a social worker on a part time basis) (19 May 2006)
OPEN

- SWADHINATA TRUST/2/3 Akikur Rahman 2006**
- Oral history recording with Mr. Akikur Rahman (Age 53) (Interviewed by: Jamil Iqbal and Abdul Aziz) (Mr.Rahman was a young political activist in the late 1970s.He was one of the organisers of the Black Solidarity Day in reprisal to the murder of Altab Ali - one of the biggest demonstrations in East London where 7,000 people marched from Whitechapel to 10 Downing Street. At the time of the interview Mr. Rahman was a Liberal Democrat Party's councillor for the London Borough of Tower Hamlets) (5 March 2006)
OPEN
- SWADHINATA TRUST/2/4 Clare Murphy 2006**
- Oral history recording with Ms. Clare Murphy (Age 59) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal (Ms. Murphy came to Tower Hamlets in 1972 to work with Avenues Unlimited as a Community Development Worker. She challenged the local authority on such issues as housing, repairs etc and formed a group to do something about the Bengali housing problems. Currently, she works parttime with the YMCA) (1 June 2006)
OPEN
- SWADHINATA TRUST/2/5 Dan Jones 2006**
- Oral history recording with Mr. Dan Jones (Age 65) (Interviewed by: Jamil Iqbal and Ansar Ahmed Ullah) (Mr. Jones was a well-known youth and community worker and also the secretary of the Trade Union Council in Tower Hamlets. He struggled for the rights of ordinary Bengali people in and around Brick Lane. He has written, edited and illustrated a number of books. He has worked for Amnesty International UK as a campaigner and education officer for many years) (6 March 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/2/6	Derek Cox	2007
	<p>Oral history recording with Mr. Derek Cox (Age 68) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal, Abdul Shahid and Shanaz Shahid) (Mr. Cox has been a youth and community worker for over 40 years and worked for Avenues Unlimited in Brick Lane. It employed the first full-time Asian youth worker, Ashok Basu Dev, in the early 1970s. Mr Cox was involved in setting up the Montefiore Community Centre. He now works for New Avenues, the successor to Avenues Unlimited) (22 March 2006)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SWADHINATA TRUST/2/7	Jamal Hasan	2006
	<p>Oral history recording with Mr. Jamal Hasan (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Hassan currently works at Camden Community Law Centre. He was a community and youth worker in the East End from 1972 until 1981. He was also involved with the Bangladesh Welfare Association (BWA). He became secretary of the coalition organisation which staged the demonstration from Brick Lane to Hyde Park) (7 April 2006)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SWADHINATA TRUST/2/8	John Eversley	2006
	<p>Oral history recording with Mr. John Eversley (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Charlie Sen) (Mr. Eversley is a part-time university lecturer and managing director of a notfor- profit social research company. He has worked in Spitalfields from 1977 and was primarily concerned with adult community work but also had a lot of contact with youth organisations. He was involved in anti-racist struggle, partly through trade union movement and partly through community work) (23 March 2006)</p> <p>OPEN</p>	
SWADHINATA TRUST/2/9	John Newbegin	2006
	<p>Oral history recording with Mr. John Newbegin (Age 58) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Charlie Sen) (In January 1976 Mr. Newbegin</p>	

started working with Avenues Unlimited as a youth and community worker. He worked with Bengali youth in and around Brick Lane. Now he works as a freelance journalist and strategic consultant to the cultural industries) (21 March 2006)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/2/10 **Cathy Forrester (Peters)** **2006**

Oral history recording with Ms. Cathy Forrester (Peters) (Age 54) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal, Riza Momin and Maliha Haque) (Ms. Peters moved to the Chicksand Estate in 1962 when she was ten years old. As a local resident she experienced the problems faced by the Bengali community in Brick Lane. She stood up for the cause of the Bengali community in the late 1970s and was beaten, dragged and arrested by the police when a fight broke out between youth groups) (7 June 2006)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/2/11 **Rev. Kenneth Leach** **2006**

Oral history recording with Rev. Kenneth Leech (Age 66) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal, Ansar Ahmed Ullah and Charlie Sen) (The Reverend Leech has served as a director of the Runnymede Trust, a leading think-tank promoting ethnicity and cultural diversity. He was involved in the foundation of the Christian Socialist Movement and the Jubilee Group - a network of socialist Christians. He was also one of the church's leading experts on drug culture and the social problems it create. After 40 years as a priest and community theologian in Central and East London he retired in 2004 and now lives in Manchester) (9 March 2006)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/2/12 **Mark Adams** **2006**

Oral history recording with Mr. Mark Adams (Age 50) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Adams was an anti-racist activist in the late 1970s and also involved in working class struggles. He worked for SHAPRS and is

currently a Regeneration Manager in South Kilburn) (24 March 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/2/13**

Shila Thakor and Mithru Ghosh

2006

Oral history recording with Ms. Mithu Ghosh and Ms. Shila Thakor (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Ms. Ghosh was one of the founding members of Jagonari - one of the first women's resource centres for the local community in East London. She worked for the Tower Hamlets Law Centre as an immigration lawyer in the late 1970s and currently works as an independent housing consultant for Tower Hamlets Council) (Ms. Thakor was one of the leading members of Jagonari - one of the first women's centres in East London to struggle against discriminations and to fight for women's rights. Currently, she is an Early Years Advisory Teacher at Tower Hamlets Council) (9 May 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/2/14**

Mohammed Abdus Salam

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Mohammed Abdus Salam (Age 49) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Salam is the founding member of Progressive Youth Organisation (PYO), which was based at the Robert Montefiore Centre. In the late 1970s PYO took the lead in street confrontations with racist NF and was associated with many distinctive social youth activities) (22 June 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/2/15**

Nooruddin Ahmed

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Nooruddin Ahmed (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal, Charlie Sen and Riza Momin) (Mr. Ahmed in the 1970s was a young political activist and the founding member of Bangladesh Youth League. He also worked for Tower Hamlets Association for Racial Justice (THARJ) and was one of the field officers responsible for monitoring the racial incidents in and around Brick Lane. Currently he is working for a

community research organisation in East London) (Transcription only) (10 April 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/2/16 Sunahwar Ali 2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Sunahwar Ali (Age 45) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Ali was a radical political activist in the late 1970s and the founding member of Bangladesh Youth Front. He was closely linked in establishing the Kabi Nazrul Centre and was also involved in renaming the Montefiore School as Osmani School. He was associated with the Asian Unemployment Outreach Project (AUOP) in the East End) (23 May 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/2/17 Suroth Ahmed (Faruk) 2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Suroth Ahmed (Faruk) (Age 49) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal, Ansar Ahmed Ullah and Charlie Sen) (Mr. Ahmed was one of the founding members of Bangladesh Youth Approach (BYA). He was the fourth resident of Toc H and helped many Bengali families in East End from racial attack) (30 April 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/2/18 Syeda Rowshanara Choudhury Shelly 2006

Oral history recording with Mrs. Syeda Rowshanara Choudhury Shelly (Age 51) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Ansar Ahmed Ullah) (Mrs. Begum came to this country in 1981. She recalls the loneliness she felt as part of a few Bengali families in the small town of Stockport and the atrocities committed by the Pakistani army in her village in March 1971) (10 June 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/2/19 Terry Fitzpatrick 2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Terry Fitzpatrick (Age 60) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Fitzpatrick worked as a builder in the early '70s. He is regarded as the

champion of the Bengali community in fighting anti-racism in East London and started the squatting movement around Brick Lane to accommodate people in empty flats. He is still very active in the anti-fascist movement and probably one of the few activists from the 1970s who stayed most constant to that cause. He speaks fluent Sylheti (Bengali) and is a regular contributor to 'Searchlight', a monthly magazine challenging racism and fasism in Britain and around the world) (1 June 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/2/20**

Rajonuddin Jalal

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Rajonuddin Jalal (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Charlie Sen) (Mr. Jalal was involved in the formation of the Bangladesh Youth Movement (BYM), which was a crucial youth organisation struggling against the then National Front in 1978. He was involved in setting up many cultural projects in Tower Hamlets, including the Kabi Nazrul Centre. The BYM was one of the leading organisations which coordinated the biggest protest march from Whitechapel to the House of Commons. Currently, he works as a Manager for Havering Council) (11 March 2006)

OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/3 **Popular culture - between tradition and innovation - Across three generations, mainly focussing on traditional and more recent British Bengali musical heritage** **2006**

Oral history recordings compiled as part of the project, 'Tales of Three Generations of Bengalis in Britain', by the Swadhinata Trust (Nirmul Committee) and CRONEM (Centre for Research on Nationalism, Ethnicity & Multiculturalism, University of Surrey) covering popular culture - between tradition and innovation - Across three generations, mainly focussing on traditional and more recent British Bengali musical heritage (2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/3/1 **Abdul Lotif** **2006**

Oral history recording with Mr. Abdul Lotif (Age 66) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal, Abdul Aziz and Riza Momin) (Mr. Lotif is the lead singer of Ektara Group and a well-known Baul singer. He is one of the few British Bengalis who sings Baul songs in Europe. He still sings Baul songs with his ektara and has inspired many young British singers (1 April 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/3/2 **Abdus Salique** **2006**

Oral history recording with Mr. Abdus Salique (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Salique is well known for his song 'Trade Union' and is the lead singer of 'Dishari'. He is the chairman of Brick Lane Trader's Association, founder chairman of Banglatown Restaurants Association and owner of Bonoful Sweets and Salique's Restaurant (18 May 2006)
OPEN

SWADHINATA TRUST/3/3 **Alberta Fatima Matin** **2006**

Oral history recording with Ms. Alberta Fatima Matin (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Natasha Jalal) (Ms. Matin was raised in East London.

She was a dance member of Joi Bangla Crew and a vocalist with Joi Bangla Banned. She started rehearsing dance moves at the age of 14. She performed on BBC 2 programme with the Joi Bangla Crew) (6 April 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/4**

Alaur Rahman

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Alaur Rahman (Age 45) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Rahman is one of the leading singers in Britain's Bengali community. He came to Britain in 1977 when he was just 14 years old and in 1985 appeared on BBC television singing three folk songs. Alaur and his group recorded their first cassette in 1985 and have since made 17 further recordings, either on cassette or CD. By the 1990s Alaur and his group were travelling widely) (7 April 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/5**

Ashfaq Kazi (Minto)

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Ashfaq Kazi (Minto) (Age 43) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Kazi was a dancer crew member of Joi Bangla Crew. Joi Bangla Sounds & Crew exploded into the music scene and had coverage in all the national newspapers and had TV coverage. Mr. Kazi created his own dance moves. The style and the tempo of the dance moves were fused with the beats of Bengali music (22 May 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/6**

Deeder Zaman

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Deeder Zaman (Age 27) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Zaman was nine years old when he first started making music and performed his first live performance aged eleven. He became the lead rapper of Asian Dub Foundation. The 1998 album, 'Rafi's Revenge' was greeted with great critical acclaim and received a Mercury Prize nomination as well as the BBC Asian Award for Music. He left the band on New Year's Eve 2000 and is currently producing his new album 'Minority Large') (25

April 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/7**

Himangshu Goswami

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Himangshu Goswami (Age 54) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Goswami is a household name for Bengali families in the UK. Composer of 'Sadher Lau', a song second only to the national anthem in its popularity for Bengalis. He was born in Sylhet and trained as a classical singer, before turning to folk and traditional songs. He built a successful career, teaching and performing in Bangladesh until 1978, when he was invited to tour London. That first concert in a cinema in London's Brick Lane was highly successful and with a personal recommendation from Ravi Shankar, he agreed to stay in the UK. Since then he has performed with George Harrison, Ali Akbar Khan, and worked with Ravi Shankar on the soundtrack for 'Gandhi') (5 April 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/8**

Mark Uddin and Hassan Ismail

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Hassan Ismail and Mark Uddin (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Ismail was a member of Joi Bangla Sounds. Joi Bangla Sounds promoted a sense of identity through their music to the younger generation in the mid 80s. Mark was one of the members of Joi Bangla Sounds formed in 1986. Joi Bangla Sounds was an offshoot of the League of Joi Bangla Youth organisation. It was formed to give an identity to the British Bengali youths) (28 March 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/9**

Kishon Khan

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Kishon Khan (Age 35) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal and Ansar Ahmed Ullah) (Mr. Khan is well established in World Music and Latin-Jazz scenes as a performer, composer and arranger. His international world fusion project 'Lokkhi Terra', mixes Bengali folk with other world traditions from Cuban rumba to Nigerian

Afro-beat, representing a British-Bengali approach to this heritage) (21 April 2006)
OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/10**

Sam Zaman

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Sam Zaman (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Zaman is the lead singer of 'State of Bengal', set up in 1987 after he returned to London from a visit to the village of Noakhali in Bangladesh where he met and interacted with traditional musicians and dancers. 'State of Bengal' mixes Bengali and Western street style dance to create a style that reflected the diverse facets and synergy between the two cultures in the UK. He has also worked intensely with Asian youth groups in London's East End, many of whose members went onto become some of the 'core' DJs of the Asian Underground Scene. Sam fulfilled a long time dream in 1998 - a collaboration album with the late Ananda Shankar entitled 'Walking On'. At present 'State of Bengal' is working on a dance music concept) (28 March 2006)
OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/11**

Samiul Islam (June)

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Samiul Islam (June) (Age 45) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Islam was the main musician, vocalist and keyboard player of Joi Bangla Banned. Mr. Islam came to this country in 1985. He was interested in mixing Eastern and Western music from an early age. Before coming to the UK, he was a popular musician in Bangladesh. He has performed in many melas and festivals and inspired many young generation Bengalis into pop music. Currently, he is a school teacher) (22 April 2006)
OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/12**

Shanin Badar

2006

Oral history recording with Ms. Shahin Badar (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Ms. Badar is one of the female Bengali front runners of innovative musical collaboration with her blend of Indo-Arabic vocal resonance. Whilst

many South Asian acts are now hitting the UK top 10 and international territories with their collaborations, she was one of the first to do so back in the late 1990s with her controversial contribution to the Prodigy single 'Smack My Bitch Up', which brought her a mainstream Triple Platinum award and a 'Fat of The Land' album which entered the Guinness Book of Records as the fastest selling UK album in 1999. The album was also nominated for a Grammy Award) (13 April 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/13**

Shohid Jolil

2006

Oral history recording with Mr. Shohid Jolil (Age 33) (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Mr. Jolil, also known as Osmani Soundz, started out as a member of 'Osmani Knight Soundz' – a collective of DJs, rappers, dancers and visual artists based in London's East End. By the late 1980s 'Osmani Knight Soundz' moved into the 'rave' scene, playing alongside top DJs as well as organising peace raves and cultural events in the Bengali underground music scene. By 1994 he had created the very first Asian Drum and bass track titled 'Spiritual Masterkey'. He currently holds a residency at Nasha's monthly club night 'Eastern Drum and Breaks' at Herbal, London and is working on producing The Nasha Experience live project (15 June 2006)

OPEN

**SWADHINATA
TRUST/3/14**

Suzana Ansar

2006

Oral history recording with Ms. Suzana Ansar (Interviewed by Jamil Iqbal) (Ms. Ansar is a British-born Bengali singer. She started singing at the age five and started learning classical music at the age of eleven, by which time she had won many singing competitions. She is well known for singing Nazrul Geeti. She has her own music school where she trains young British Bengali children) (17 May 2006)

OPEN