Tuesday 25th May

LO: To write a short biography to explain who Mohammed Ajeeb was and why he was important.

Which award did Mohammed Ajeeb win? Why did he win it?
Where did Mr Ajeeb begin his life?
When did he go to middle school?
When did he decide to move to Bradford?
Which job did he do in 1962?
Who became the second most photographed person in Britain after Princess Diana?
What was he well known for?
What award did he receive in 2001 and who awarded it to him?

Once you have finished, write down any more facts you have found out.

Telegraph & Argus

Community Stars: Mohammed Ajeeb, the first Muslim Lord Mayor

THERE are two special awards this year celebrating unsung heroes who deserve recognition for their dedication and pioneering work in Bradford.

The Lifetime Achievement Award goes to former Councillor Mohammed Ajeeb, the first Muslim Lord Mayor in 1985 who inspired generations young and old. By the end of his first year in office, he had received hundreds of letters of appreciation from all over Britain.

But before he took up the pioneering role in City Hall, he had an extraordinary journey to the world of politics.

Mr Ajeeb began his life in the village of Chattro, Mirpur, in Pakistan (Azad Kashmir). He attended primary school in the village before studying middle school at Hill and Matriculation at Dadyall in 1954. Four years later he graduated with a BA from Karachi University and arrived in Nottingham the following November.

By 1962, he had bought a house and married his wife Arshad Begum as well as taken up the role of a housing officer on the Race Relations Board.

As time passed, he was appointed a member of Race Conciliation Committee of Race Relations Board as well as the Deputy Director of SHARE and, later, Director. After visiting Bradford, he decided to move to the district in 1971.

Mr Ajeeb Joined the Labour Party in 1974 and, two years later, took up a role as chairperson of Bradford Community Relations Council. He was elected to the Bradford Metropolitan Council in 1979.

In the years that followed he established the Pakistan Community Centre and was elected Chairman of the Labour Group on Bradford Metropolitan Council.

But in 1985, he made history and, as T&A reporter Jim Greenhalf wrote at the time, he became the second most photographed figure in Britain - after Princess Diana.

At 11am on May 21, 1985, inside the council chamber at Bradford City Hall, the country's first Asian Lord Mayor, accompanied by his wife the Lady Mayoress, Arshad, accepted the office of first citizen by offering a prayer for the victims of the Bradford City Fire.

“I know we will remain united and the typical Bradford spirit with all the citizens pulling in the same direction will come through, “ he said.

A 46-year-old married man with a family, he took office soon after the disastrous fire and during the Honeyford affair.

Speaking to the T&A in 2005, he said: “It was the most fascinating year of my life; perhaps it was the culmination of my political career.

“It received international recognition."

Mr Ajeeb retired from active politics in 2000 and received a CBE in the Queen’s Birthday Honours in 2001.

Ramindar Singh MBE, former chairman of Bradford Racial Equality Council and a former joint deputy chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, once described his approach as "articulate". Mr Singh said: "His desire to improve race relations was genuine as were his concerns about education and poverty."

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https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7HEY2B4s7JA





Mohammed Ajeeb came to Britain following the partition of India. He came as a commonwealth citizen, initially to Nottingham and then to Bradford. He become Britain's first Asian Lord Mayor.

I do

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Write the next 3 sentences on your white board.

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Write a short biography about Mohammed Ajeeb.