



KASHIF SIDDIQI



for breaking down barriers of race and culture through and in sport and for building bridges between communities through the healing power of football through Football for Peace.



Since making his debut on the international circuit and playing in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Qualifiers, Kashif Siddiqi or Kash as he is fondly called, has become known to many as South Asia's Football Globetrotter. He is also one of a handful of British South Asians to have made it in the professional ranks in the UK. His journey in sport is one of many travelled routes and philanthropic accomplishments.

In 2013, he became only one of five British South Asians to have been signed by an English Professional League Club. He was also the first

BRIDGING WORLDS WITH THE BEAUTIFUL GAMES

British South Asian to have been awarded a scholarship for soccer in the USA and play professional football in Europe, North America and the Middle East.

To date he remains 1 of only 11 South Asian players to have played professional football in the United Kingdom – giving Kash a very strong USP- which he has used to give back to the sport and the community, and to bridge gaps for the South Asian community into mainstream sport both locally and internationally. Kash gives credit to his mother and his faith in God for all his achievements both on and off the pitch.

In 2011 has set-up the Kashif Sid-

diqi Foundation (KSF) and has also Co-Founded the Football For Peace movement alongside the United Nations and one of FIFA's 100 greatest players of all time – Elias Figueroa.

Football for Peace is a global diplomatic sporting initiative seeking to overcome division and create inter-community dialogue through the global language of football. Siddiqi was moved by the great work of Figueroa through the Gol Iluminado Foundation in the Americas and joined hands with him in giving shape and impetus to The Football for Peace initiative. Inspired by the spirit of what had been achieved in the Americas, Football for Peace

brought to the movement to Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa and the Far East. This diplomatic sports movement harnesses the influence and reach of football, and sets out to exert the game's great power to unite and create greater understanding between people, communities and governments. The Football for Peace process provides a universal language – locally, regionally and globally. Working on multiple levels of Government and Football Federations, the foundation hosts award-winning football for peace matches on different continents as a tool for people-to-people diplomacy to promote peace through sport.