

## **PRESS RELEASE**

# **Bangladesh – a Lot to Offer**



*We are proud to have the largest Bangladeshi community of any city in Europe...  
I wish Expo Bangladesh 2005 every success.* **Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London**

Bangladesh is a young, friendly nation, rich in natural resources including water, natural gas and high quality coal. Like Japan and other Asian tigers, Bangladesh's economic growth (averaging over 5% since the return to parliamentary democracy at the start of the 1990s) is led by private sector exports.

- The UK is Bangladesh's 3<sup>rd</sup> largest export partner, with a total of £480m in 2004
- Leading the exports is the massive garment industry with over 2 billion metres of fabric annually going through over 1500 factories, heading for H&M, Sainsbury's, Tesco's and other major high street stores. Bangladesh ceramics are also establishing a reputation for quality with trading partners including prestigious names like Royal Doulton. These traditional industries are being joined by a wide range of trades and services, from pharmaceuticals to ICT.



**Expo Bangladesh 2005 is an exciting, innovative showcase for Bangladeshi manufacturers, services and talents.** It is a pioneering initiative of the **Bangladesh British Chamber of Commerce** to promote trade and investment between the UK and Bangladesh. "Trade not aid" is a current world focus – and a real focus here!



There will be stands representing up to 100 companies from Bangladesh, UK-based organisations with an interest in Bangladesh's export trade, and non-resident Bangladeshi businesses in the UK. Exhibits include ready made garments, ceramics, leather, food, handicrafts and furniture, plastics, metal, pharmaceuticals, fashion, ICT, print & design, media and travel. There will be a number of associations and charitable organisations, including Fair Trade and Women Entrepreneurs Association of Bangladesh, and a series of seminars on trade and related subjects. Over 8,000 people are expected to attend.

On **Saturday 17 September** there will be several live presentations, including a dynamic catwalk showcase by **Ethical Fashion Forum UK** presenting outfits by well known and emerging designers and businesses, with the emphasis on quality and fair trade. And a **Celebrity Chef Competition** with top Edinburgh-based Bengali chef (and restaurateur, hotelier, writer and businessman) **Tommy Miah**.



**EXPO BANGLADESH 2005**      **15 –17 September 2005**  
**Barbican Exhibition Hall 1, Golden Lane, London EC2**  
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**[www.expobangladesh2005.com](http://www.expobangladesh2005.com)**

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