

PRESS RELEASE

The Spice is Right!

According to The Curry Club, 8 out of 10 "Indian" restaurants in the UK – over 7,000 - are actually Bangladeshi owned. That's a lot of Chicken Tikka Masala (reportedly the UK's new favourite dish).

Expo Bangladesh 2005 (15-17 September at London's Barbican) is an exciting showcase for Bangladeshi manufacturers, services and talents, and naturally will feature a range of high quality food and spice suppliers.

One of the highlights on Saturday 17 September will be a **Celebrity Chef Competition** with top Edinburgh-based Bangladeshi chef **Tommy Miah**, who is also renowned as a restaurateur, hotelier, writer and businessman. Miah's annual International Chef of the Year competition - started in 1991 (and launched by Edwina Currie) - to promote innovation and quality in Indian cooking - attracts the world's top Asian chefs. Entries increased from 400 to 5,000 in 10 years. He recently opened a restaurant in Dhaka showcasing his innovative "Bangla fusion" cuisine that has become a big hit with diners.

There will be a big food manufacturing presence at the Expo, with a number of leading Bangladeshi companies hoping to attract the attention of buyers for pre-packaged food, restaurants and wholesalers.

Patwary Potato Flakes for example, is the largest potato flake manufacturing company in Bangladesh, with annual production of over 7500 metric tons of flakes, produced by state of art machinery in one of the most modern factories of its type in the world. Close attention to detail through all the stages, from selection from potatoes grown in bio environments to final packing ensures the highest quality final product. **Raj-Kamal** specialises in masala items and jeera rice produced in their own premises, and is rapidly becoming one of the market leaders in Bangladesh. Exporters **Sayed Enterprise** specialise in a wide range of dried goods, spices, confectionery – and handicrafts, with items in jute, marble and cane.

Expo organiser Dr Wali Uddin of BBCC-UK, himself a highly respected businessman with a chain of restaurants said: ***"We hope the selection of products on offer will be very appetizing to buyers! And the atmosphere will be mouth-watering on Saturday when we will have all these top chefs cooking their special recipes"***.

EXPO BANGLADESH 2005 15 –17 September 2005
Barbican Exhibition Hall 1, Golden Lane, London EC2
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