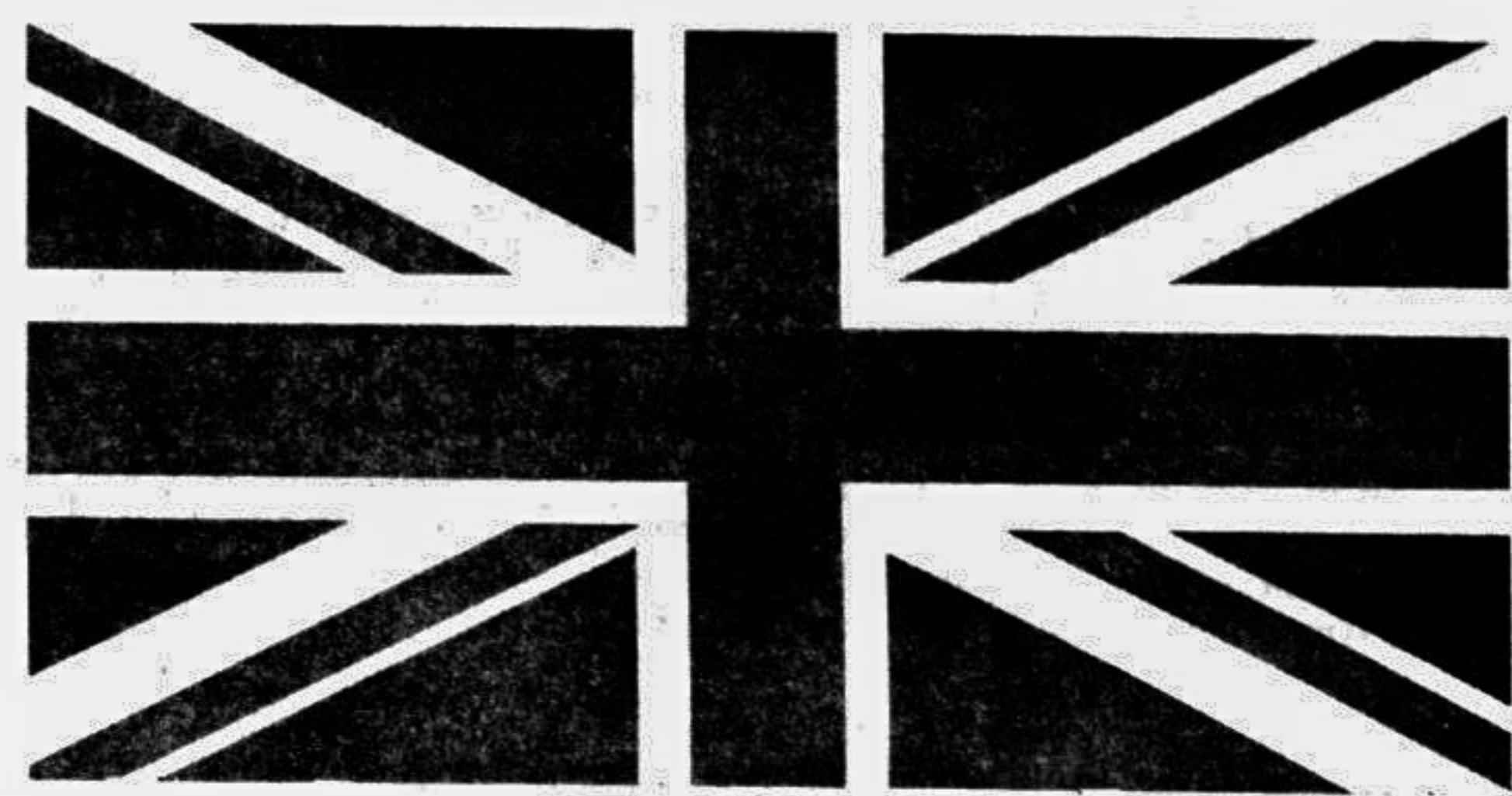


The UK Trade & Education Fair 1999

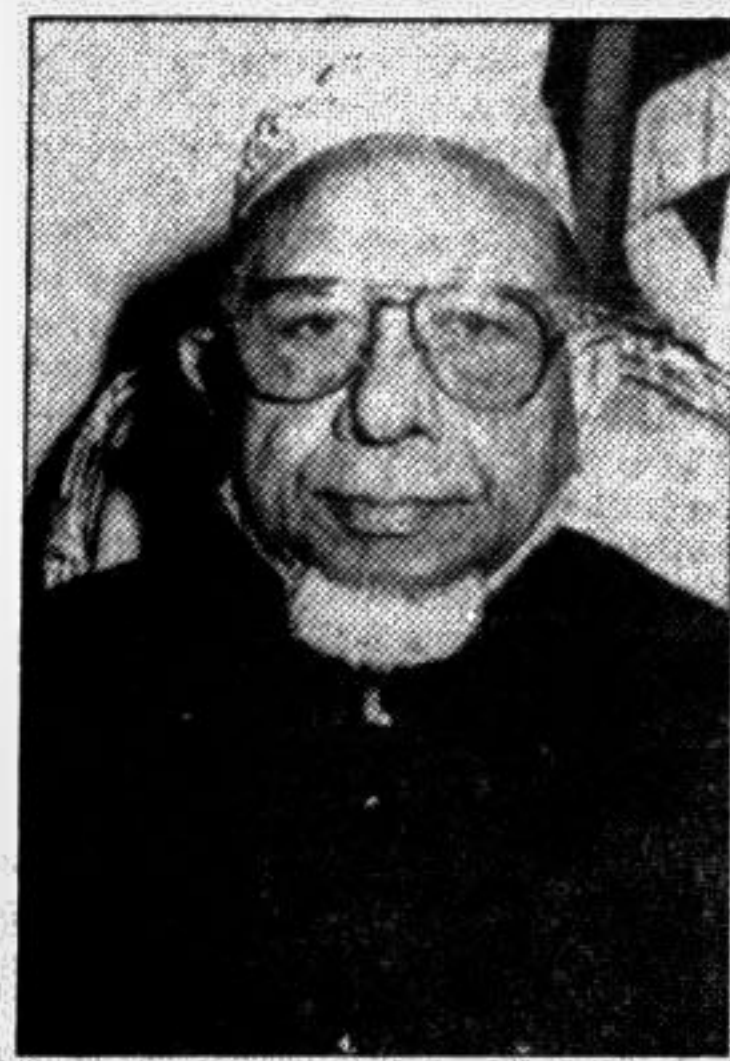


SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

The Daily Star

December 5, 1999

MESSAGE



The relations have grown in depth and dimension over the years, especially in economic and cultural fields. The UK is one of our important development partner as well as trade partner. The British participation in our human resources development is yet another important area of intense cooperation between our two countries.

The Trade Fair will provide an opportunity for our people and businessmen to acquaint themselves with the latest products and technological development of the United Kingdom. The participation in the Fair of a large number of educational institutions will also give an opportunity to our students and young scholars to get a firsthand information about latest development in the British Education System.

I have no doubt that the Fair will contribute immensely to furthering our existing economic and cultural ties. I wish the UK Trade Fair every success. *Joi Bangla, Joi Bangabandhu.*

Abdus Samad Azad
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

I am happy to learn that the Third UK Trade and Education Fair organised by the British High Commission and the British Council is going to be held in Dhaka from 5-7 December 1999. I welcome this initiative.

Bangladesh and United Kingdom enjoy an excellent bilateral relations. Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the architect of the Bangladesh-UK relations and he chose to return to the independent Bangladesh from captivity by British Airways via London in 1972.

British-Bangla Trade : A Bright Future

by Shafin Ahmed

"NO nation was ever ruined by trade" said Benjamin Franklin in his essay "Thoughts on Commercial Subjects" over 200 years ago. This sentiment is equally as valid today.

Britain has played and continues to play a significant role in world trade. The UK is the 5th largest exporter and importer of goods and the 4th largest exporter of services. On investments, the UK is the 2nd largest outward investor as well as being the 2nd largest recipient of overseas investment in the world. London is an essential component of the world's money and investment markets. The city of London has much the largest stock exchange, foreign exchange and international bond business of any European city including a major share of Marine and Aviation Insurance.

Britain has contributed to the development of Bangladesh for many years, both through its considerable aid programme and through the large number of British companies operating in Bangladesh. Britain's commercial profile in Bangladesh includes significant investments in banking, gas exploration, power generation, tea, tobacco and other consumer goods. In addition to the ongoing investments of these companies, a number of British companies, such as Cynergy, have recently invested in Bangladesh or have expressed a willingness to invest.

Trade between Britain and Bangladesh continues to be significant in both directions. Last year, the UK exported £87 million worth of goods and services to Bangladesh, mainly machinery, road vehicles and cereals.

Its imports from Bangladesh amounted to £253 million, mainly RMG, textiles and frozen seafood. In the first seven months of 1999, British exports to Bangladesh were worth \$35.4 million and its imports from Bangladesh reached \$142.2 million.

The desire of British companies to develop trade links with Bangladesh is clearly demonstrated by their participation in the third UK Trade & Education Fair in Dhaka. The Fair will, either directly or indirectly, benefit industries in both countries.

Following on from the resounding success of the first two UK Trade Fairs in Bangladesh, the third Fair will be even bigger and will again showcase in Bangladesh, the wide range of the British technology and services available. The products and services represented at the

Fair will cover sectors such as, Oil and Gas, Banking, Education, Power Generation, Construction, Ship Building, Transport, Electrical, Consultancy, Agriculture, Travel, Eye Care, Industrial Gases, Engineering, Jewellery, and Paper. It is firmly believed that the UK Trade & Education Fair 1999 will contribute further to the development of Bangladesh's economy through new trading links and perhaps through the start of new cooperative ventures. The Fair will therefore help to achieve the long-term objective of developing the trading relationship between Britain and Bangladesh into an ever stronger and more mutually beneficial partnership in the years to come.

The writer is Commercial Officer, British High Commission.

MESSAGE



participants are exhibiting for the first time in Bangladesh. A broad range of companies are represented at the Trade Fair. Such a diversity of British goods and services underlines the fact that the United Kingdom is one of the world's most important trading nations. This brochure highlights another important aspect of Britain's commercial success worldwide — the creative and innovative nature of modern Britain. These characteristics will serve Britain well in the next Millennium.

The Trade and Education Fair also demonstrates the strong commercial and educational links that exist between Britain and Bangladesh. This year's Fair will help to strengthen these links even more for the mutual benefit of Britain and Bangladesh.

David Walker CMG
CVO
British High Commissioner to Bangladesh

The third UK Trade and Education Fair in Dhaka will be an even bigger event than the previous Fairs. This is gratifying, but not surprising given the success of the Fairs in 1997 and 1998. I am particularly pleased that there is a good balance between first time exhibitors and companies that have participated in previous Fairs — around one third of this year's

An Outline of the British Economy

IN recent years the UK has experienced economic growth combined with low inflation and falling unemployment. In 1997 it achieved the first surplus on the current account of the balance of payments since 1985. In 1997 gross domestic product (GDP) totalled almost 802 billion pounds. Between 1987 and 1997, GDP at constant prices increased by 24 per cent.

The Government's economic policies are directed towards the achievement of high and stable levels of growth and employment, enabling everyone to share in higher living standards and greater job opportunities. Extra resources are being allocated to priority concerns, notably health, education, public transport, and the regeneration of urban areas and housing. The Government's economic strategy therefore seeks to:

- Ensure economic stability, based on low inflation and sound public finance
- Encourage work and raise productivity
- Create a fairer society through fairness in taxation and spending
- Manufacturing continues to play an important role in the British economy, although services now generate about three times as much GDP and four times as much employment. The UK excels in industries such as chemicals, plastics,

pharmaceuticals, electronics, motor vehicles and components, aerospace, offshore equipment and many others.

Manufacturing accounts for around 20 per cent of GDP and, with over 150,000 manufacturing businesses, around 18 per cent of employment. Almost all manufacturing if carried out by the private sector. Not surprisingly, given Britain's commitment to free trade, non-British companies in the UK account for around a quarter of net manufacturing output.

Overseas Trade and Investment

Trade has been of vital importance to the British economy for hundreds of years. With only about 1 per cent of the world's population, the UK is the fifth largest trading nation, accounting for around 5 per cent of world trade in goods and services. The UK exports more per head than the United States

or Japan. As a member of the European Union, it is part of the world's largest established trading group.

The UK's external trade is predominantly with other 'developed' countries. For example, other countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) took nearly 81 per cent of UK exports in 1997 and supplied 83 per cent of imports. In 1997, almost 56 per cent of the UK's total trade in goods was with the other members of the European Union. Around 13 per cent of the UK's trade was with the USA.

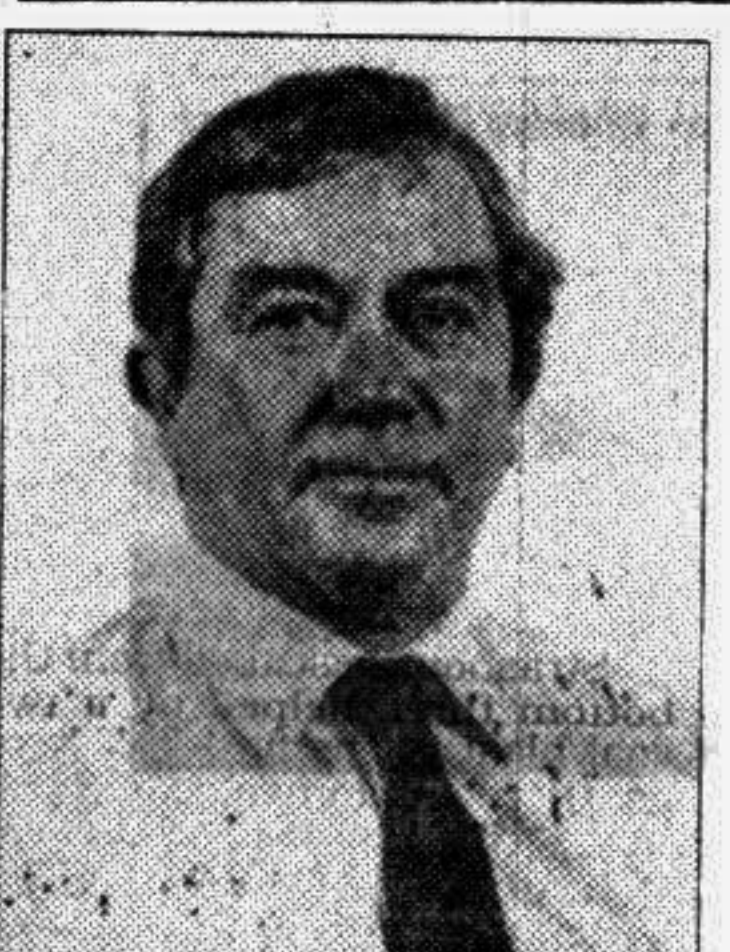
The total value of UK exports of goods and services in 1997 was almost 229 billion pounds, with goods representing almost 172 billion pounds and services almost 57 billion pounds. Total imports were worth over 229 billion pounds (goods 183.5 and services 46 billion). The UK has had a surplus on trade in ser-

vices since 1966. British exports to Bangladesh were worth around 85 million pounds, making Bangladesh the 70th largest export market for the UK. Imports from Bangladesh are worth around three times this amount.

The UK has a higher degree of inward and outward investment than any other leading economy, relative to GDP, and is second only to the United States as a destination for international direct investment. It is the world's second biggest foreign investor and British investors have more direct investment abroad than overseas firms have in the UK.

Merger and acquisition activity involving overseas companies in the first nine months of 1999 was worth almost 50 billion pounds. The United States was by far the dominant inward investor in Britain, responsible for 81 billion pounds, followed by Germany (9.3 billion pounds) and France (6.25 billion pounds.)

MESSAGE



and their parents, teachers, and personnel and training managers to talk directly to representatives of the institutions at the Fair. These representatives have long experience of welcoming overseas students to Britain, and will be able to answer questions on academic and personal topics. Between them they cover the whole range of British education, and you will be able to obtain advice, and information that will enable you to make informed choices about going to Britain to study.

In addition to the representatives from the UK, our staff will be present to offer advice and answer any other questions you may have. You may follow up enquiries made at the Fair, or come and see us at any time in our offices in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Our trained staff will be delighted to help you. I wish you an enjoyable and fruitful visit to the Fair.

Tom Cowin
Director, The British Council, Bangladesh

The UK Trade and Education Fair is taking place between 5 and 7 December 1999 at the Sheraton hotel in Dhaka. The Fair has been arranged by the British High Commission and the British Council, and the British Council is responsible for the Education sector. It will showcase a range of British institutions at school, college, and university level. One of the purposes of the Fair is to provide an opportunity for prospective students

MESSAGE

I am particularly pleased that my first visit to Bangladesh coincides with the third UK Trade and Education Fair, an event which has become a cornerstone in the Dhaka business calendar.

In my first five months as Head of the Southern Asia Group I have been very impressed with the enthusiasm and vigour which Bangladesh has shown in wishing to develop further the trade and investment links with the UK. British companies for their part are also interested in developing these links and it is one of the roles of British Trade International to facilitate such contacts.

In November a Trade Mission organised by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and supported by British Trade International, visited Bangladesh. The Mission consisted of fourteen companies representing a wide range of sectors and helped to demon-

strate further the interest that British companies have in working in Bangladesh. The feedback that we have received from the companies that participated in the Mission suggests that the visit was very worthwhile and will lead to an increase in the level of business between Britain and Bangladesh.

The Trade and Education Fair will also, undoubtedly, lead to a further strengthening of the trade and investment links between Britain and Bangladesh. It is good to see so many British companies being represented at this year's Fair and I wish them and the Fair every success.

Pam Balkin
Head, Southern Asia Group
British Trade International

Education

EDUCATION has been undergoing a series of major reforms since 1988, including the introduction of various forms of school curriculum; the testing and assessment of pupils' progress and the provision of more information about school performance to parents. Education is the top priority of the Government. Policy is being focused on improvements in school standards for pupils in the first years of education and creating partnerships between the local education service, the schools inspectors and central government.

Schools

All children and young people between the ages of 5 and 16 in England, Scotland and Wales, and 4 and 16 in Northern Ireland, must, by law, receive full-time education. Over 9.8 million children attend 33,400 state and private schools in Britain. About 93 per cent receive free education financed from public funds, and 7 per cent attend independent schools financed by fees paid by parents. Boys and girls are taught together in most schools. Most pupils in state secondary schools in England, Scotland and Wales attend mixed ability comprehensive schools. Secondary schools in Northern Ireland are largely selective.

Most state school education in England, Scotland and Wales is provided by local government education authorities and the rest by centrally funded grant-maintained schools, where parents have voted for self-governing status.

Parents have a statutory right to express a preference for a school. National tables are published on the performance of all secondary schools throughout Britain. All state schools have to give parents a written annual report on their child's achievements. Parents are represented on school governing bodies, which appoint staff and manage school budgets.

Each school must be regularly inspected by a team of independent inspectors, working according to agreed national standards. A new framework for schools organisation is to be set up, based on a clear distinction between functions that local education authorities must carry out and fund centrally and those for which schools are responsible, using their delegated budgets.

curriculum are not prescribed by statute. All state schools must provide religious education and all state secondary schools are required to provide sex education, although parents have the right to withdraw their children from these classes.

The main school examination, the General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE), is taken in England, Wales and Northern Ireland at around the age of 16. A separate, but broadly similar, exam system exists in Scotland.

All GCSE and other qualifications offered to pupils in state schools in England and Wales must be approved by the Government. Associated syllabuses and assessment procedures must comply with national guidelines.

Schools, Careers and Business: One of the Government's key objectives is to help young people develop economically relevant skills. Education Business Partnerships aim to bring about closer links between education and industry. One of the main schemes is the Teacher Placement Service which organises placements in business for teachers and lecturers. Pupils normally undergo some work experience before finishing their school education.

Education after 16

About 70 per cent of 16-year-old pupils choose to continue in full-time education in school sixth forms, sixth-form colleges, further education colleges, universities and other higher education institutions. They study for examinations which lead to higher education, professional training or vocational qualifications. These include the General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ), mainly taken between the ages of 16 and 18, which is designed to provide a broad-based preparation for a range of occupations and higher education; the academic General Certificate of Education Advanced (A) level examination taken at the age of 18 or 19 after two years' study, and the Advanced Supplementary (AS) examination.

Further Education and Training: About 3.6 million students are enrolled in further education. Much of this is work-related and vocational. Students often attend part-time, either by day release or block release from employment or during the evenings. Courses are run by some 550 institutions of further education, many of which also offer higher education courses.

A wide range of national vocational qualifications, designed mainly for people in work, are based on national

standards that define the competence, knowledge and understanding that employers need.

Higher Education: Higher education, consisting of degree and equivalent courses, has experienced a dramatic expansion. One in three young people

now enters higher education compared with one in six in 1989. The number of postgraduates has increased by over a half in the last decade.

There are some 90 universities, which enjoy academic freedom. First degree courses

are mainly full time and usually last three years, with longer courses in subjects such as medicine. Universities offer courses in a wide range of subjects, including traditional arts subjects and science and technology. *Continued on page 16*

Energy and Natural Resources

BRITAIN has large reserves of fossil fuels and a more varied and balanced energy supply than many other countries. In 1996, transport consumed 33 per cent of energy used, residential users 30 per cent, and commerce, agriculture, and public services 14 per cent. The energy industries accounted for 5 per cent of gross domestic product and 7 per cent of all expenditure on research and development. Energy production directly employs 150,000 people — 3.5 per

cent of industrial employment. **Energy Policy:** The Government's energy policy is to ensure secure, diverse and sustainable supplies of energy at competitive prices. By 1998 all British gas and electricity markets will be opened up to full competition. In the long run, a balance needs to be achieved between the demands of economic growth and the need to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases from energy consumption.

Energy Efficiency: In 1996, energy consumption in Britain's housing, offices and

industrial buildings was worth about £22,985 million. The Government considers that at least 20 per cent of this could be saved through investment in cost-effective energy efficiency measures. To that end it runs and funds a number of energy efficiency schemes for both domestic users and businesses. Every new home in England and Wales is now required to hold the Standard Assessment Procedure for home energy rating, which demonstrates energy efficiency and impact on the

Continued on page 16

BELZONA

HIGH PERFORMANCE POLYMERIC COMPOUNDS

WORLD'S BEST POLYMERIC COMPOUNDS.

FOR THE REPAIR, RENOVATION, RECLAMATION AND MAINTENANCE OF :

- GENERAL EQUIPMENT
- SHAFTS & BEARINGS
- CENTRIFUGAL PUMPS
- VALVES, PIPES & FITTINGS
- HEAT EXCHANGERS
- GASKETS, SEALS & SHIMS
- ENGINES AND CASINGS
- POSITIVE DISPLACEMENT PUMPS
- MECHANICAL POWER TRANSMISSION
- TANKS & CHEMICAL CONTAINMENT AREAS
- SHIPS & OFFSHORE STRUCTURES
- FAN, BLOWERS & COMPRESSORS
- SOLIDS HANDLING MACHINERY
- ROOF & FLOOR PROBLEM AREAS ETC.

VISIT UK TRADE FAIR AT SHERATON HOTEL ON 5 TO 7 DEC'99.

EC DISTRIBUTION LTD. WELCOME YOU TO VISIT STALL # 47

exclusive distributor

EC DISTRIBUTION LIMITED

(a subsidiary of East Coast Group)

East Coast Centre, SW(G)-8, Gulshan Avenue -1, Dhaka
Tel : 9884312-17, Fax:9883783/9883785 E-mail : ecg@bangla.net

Innovative safe reliable

HAULAGE SOLUTIONS ABOVE AND BELOW GROUND

Clayton, First for Innovation

For over sixty years one name has come first for specialist locomotives for use above and below ground in the world's mining and tunnelling industries.

Today, Clayton's modern management and new technology bring solid commercial benefits to customers, as we have one of the largest ranges of battery, trolley and diesel locomotives in the world.

With approved spares, training and maintenance services, quality reconditioned equipment and our leasing and finance packages, Clayton will always find a solution to whatever project you have in mind, wherever you may be.

First for quality. First for reliability. First for excellence.

Clayton Equipment
Hatton
Derbyshire
DE65 5EB England
Tel: +44 (0) 1283 812382
Fax: +44 (0) 1283 814772
Email: claton@dial.pipex.com
www.clayton-equipment.co.uk

Clayton
GLOBAL INNOVATION

FOR MINING, TUNNELLING & SURFACE TRANSPORT