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VOL. IX NO. 265 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 20, 1999

3rd Millennium

KARTIK 5, 1406 BS

RAJAB 9, 1420 HJRI

16 PAGES PRICE: TAKA 6.00

## IG's desire for non-police job kicks off lobbying

By Staff Correspondent

Lobbying by top police officials is going on for the post of Inspector General of Police as IGP AYBI Siddiquee has expressed his desire to the authorities concerned to be posted outside the police department.

Sources in the home ministry told The Daily Star yesterday that Siddiquee verbally requested the highest authorities to post him elsewhere. Siddiquee has more than one year to retire.

"Most of the top police officials are now busy lobbying for the post of IG, giving rise to grouping among their juniors", one source said.

A High Court order for reinstatement of three senior police officials has added to the lobbying. The court on July 1 ordered the government to reinstate

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## Hartal: Rallies, processions in city today

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance has called a nationwide dawn-to-dusk hartal tomorrow (Thursday) to protest Indian "aggression" and press the demand for resignation of the Awami League government.

In support of the hartal, main opposition BNP yesterday held a series of public rallies and brought out processions in different areas in the city, including Kotwali, Sutrapur, Dhanmondi, Pallabi, Mohammadpur and Kafilur.

The BNP and Jatiya Party will hold separate rallies and bring out torch processions in the city this evening while Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote will stage demonstration.

BNP will bring out torch procession from 11 places in the city in support of the hartal. Main torch procession will be brought out from BNP's central office at Naya Paltan in the evening while 10 other processions will bring out from New Market, Mohakhali, Golapbagh, Farmgate, Mirpur, Uttara and Rampura.

## EU ambassador meets Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said SAARC activities in many cases have turned out to be disappointing as India and the present Bangladesh government gave importance to various sub-regional groupings, by-passing the seven-nation association.

She was talking to European Union ambassador and mission chief in Dhaka Antonio Desuza Menezes at her 29 Minto Road

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## Prayer Timings

October 20

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	5:00
Jorh	12:45	1:20
Asr	4:10	4:25
Maghrib	5:38	5:42
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Dighinala tribals blamed 30 houses of Bangalees 'torched'

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 19: Tension mounted in Khagrachhari after over 30 dwelling houses of Bangalee settlers were torched near Babuchhara bazar in Dighinala thana last night, sources said.

Administration sources said that 30 houses made with bamboo were gutted and three others damaged in the arson which took place at midnight last night.

Sources said that Bangalee

settlers blamed the tribals for setting fire while the tribals denied it.

Sources believed that the fire incident was a sequel to Saturday's clash that took place at Babuchhara bazar involving tribals, Bangalee settlers and army personnel.

With the death of another injured, Yusuf Ali, last night at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, the death toll in the clash

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## BNP, allies to boycott, resist UZ polls

By Staff Correspondent

In a major policy decision, the BNP-led opposition alliance has decided to boycott the forthcoming Upazila polls and resist it unilaterally if the government tries to hold elections without opposition participation.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting of secretaries general of the four component parties of the alliance and its Liaison Committee with Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad. The alliance comprises BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote.

The meeting that lasted about an hour from 11:30am also decided to intensify the

Opposition's on-going one-point out-governments movement and take up "tougher action programmes". The meeting was held at JP's Baridhara office.

The meeting also decided that the leaders would meet Jamaat Ameer Golam Azam at its central office at 11am today and IOJ chief Azizul Haq at 9am on Friday.

They earlier met BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on October 8 and reviewed the Opposition movement.

Briefing newsmen after yesterday's meeting, JP Secretary General Nazim Rahman

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## '97 bomb attack Charges framed against 11 BNP men

By Court Correspondent

Charges were framed yesterday in a Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court against 11 BNP leaders and activists in a case filed in connection with hurling of bombs on a police vehicle during a hartal day in 1997.

Police filed the case with Motijheel thana on September 22, 1997 accusing BNP leader Mirza Abbas, Gayeswar Roy, CD leader Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny and eight others for hurling bombs on the police vehicle in the city's Naya Paltan area the same day leaving at least three police personnel injured, according to the FIR.

Police submitted the chargesheet accusing the eleven on September 19, 1998.

During yesterday's proceedings, ten of the 11 accused appeared before the court while Anasullah, a BNP activist, has been absconding since the incident.

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## Seven drown in Kaligram beel in Naogaon

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 19: Seven people drowned when an engine boat capsized in Kaligram beel under Manda thana of Naogaon district yesterday evening.

The boat driven by shallow engine was packed with people returning from a village market at Sabaihat. It capsized in the beel due to heavy current and strong wind, witnesses said.

Local people rescued some 40 people but seven people drowned in the beel.

The dead were identified as Humat Ali, 60, Nirmal Kumar, 55, Akbar Ali, 60, Seftullah, 62, Naoshad, 40, Sheuli, 8, and an unidentified child, 6.

Two others - Habibur, 30, and Montaz, 30 - remained missing till writing this report tonight.

More than 30 people were injured during the incident. Of them, six were admitted to RMCH in a critical condition.

## Sharif 'treated well' in protective custody Probe into 'aircraft incident, corrupt practices' starts



Nawaz Sharif

RAWALPINDI, Oct 19: Ousted Pakistani prime minister Nawaz Sharif is being investigated for several matters including loan default, tax evasion and attempting to stop a plane carrying army chief Pervez Musharraf from landing, a military spokesman said today, reports AFP.

Sharif, who is still under protective custody, was being "treated well", added Brigadier Rashid Qureshi. No charges have been laid against him so far, while investigations continue, he told reporters in this garrison city near Islamabad.

A probe has also been launched into the 'aircraft incident', he said, referring to reports that Sharif tried to prevent a commercial flight carry-

ing Musharraf from landing at Karachi airport, even though it had only seven minutes worth of fuel left.

"Information from all agencies is being gathered in other areas including loan default and tax evasion and other activities," he said.

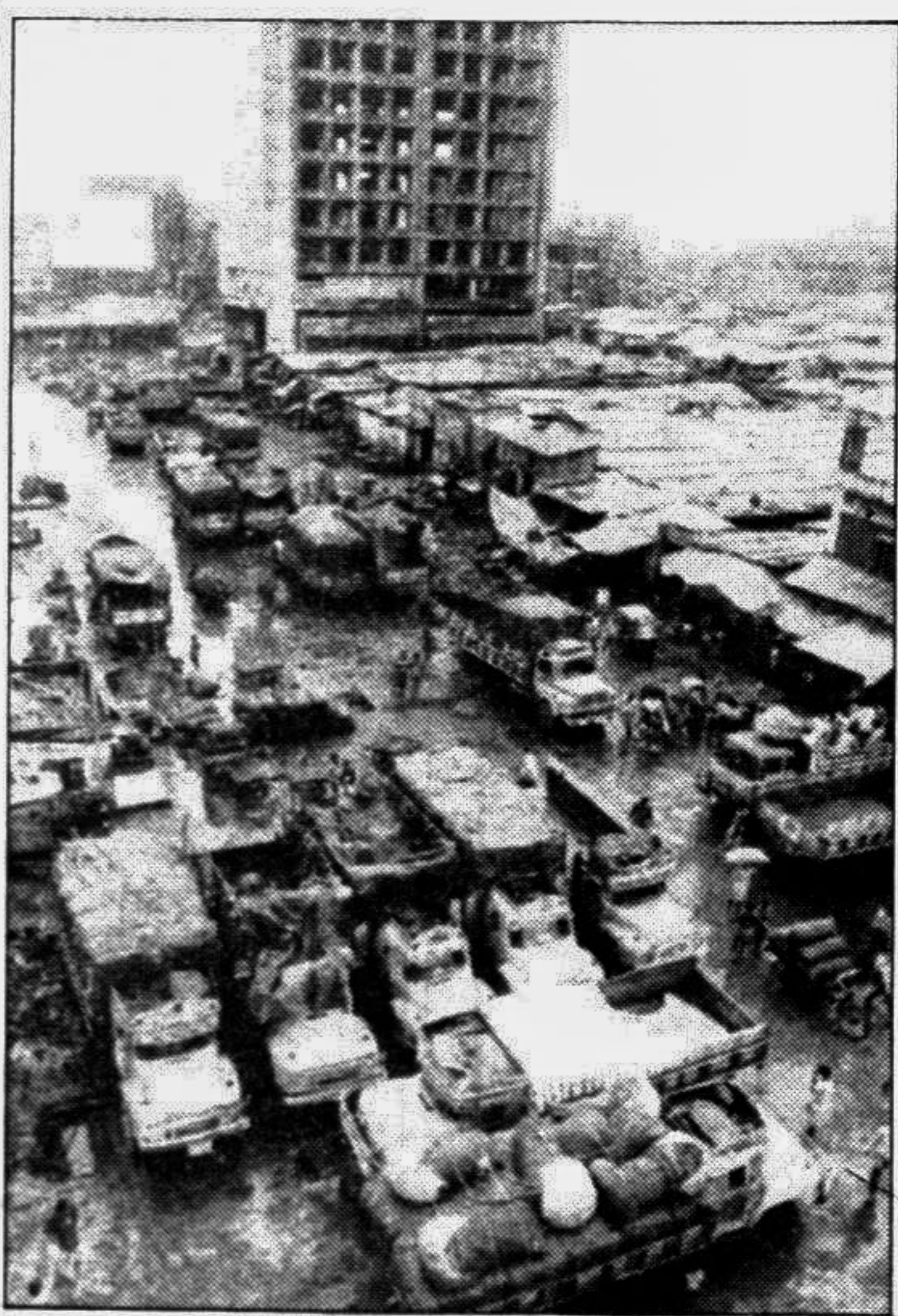
The spokesman said legal procedures would be followed on bringing charges against Sharif or anyone else.

But "no conclusion" had been made yet on whether to put the deposed premier on trial before a military court, alluding to a report in Islamabad daily The News that Sharif might be tried by a field court martial.

"What I can say right now is that there will be a complete

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## Karwan Bazar in shambles



By Morshed Ali Khan

An unauthorised truck terminal has taken over more than half of Karwan Bazar Road at the busy business district of the city, blocking all vehicular movements through it.

The terminal was set up over the last six months ago near the Janata Tower, in front of the DCO's Zonal Office-6.

The Karwan Bazar area houses the largest wholesale vegetable market in the country surrounded by hundreds of posh corporate offices. About 200 trucks arrive there each day bringing merchandise from different parts of the country. Some do not bother to move out while others wait on the road for days to trade their merchandise.

The truck drivers who parked their vehicles on the road said they had to pay Tk 50 to the representative of the drivers' association each time they parked loaded trucks.

Munir, a truck driver from the western part of the country, showed a 10-taka receipt from the association and said, in fact, he had to pay Tk 50. The drivers also pointed at a locked room nearby with a signboard reading Jatiyatabadi Dal and Jute Dal and said the partymen were collecting Tk 500 a day from the terminal.

Traders of the wholesale market blamed DCC for its failure to remove the terminal despite repeated appeals. Mohammad Shahabuddin, president of the traders' asso-

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the Australian business leaders in Sydney yesterday. —PID photo

## PM offers package of incentives to Australians

## 'Invest in bigger way, be partners in progress'

SYDNEY, Oct 19: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today invited Australian investors to come forward in a bigger way for investment in Bangladesh.

Claiming a dramatic economic change taking place in the country, she said Australian business people, who are already in Bangladesh, know very well that Canberra's exports to Dhaka grew by 37 per cent in past two years to over 300 million Australian dollars.

Australia's exports to Bangladesh totalled 306 million Australian dollars in 1998 calendar year while its imports were only 44 million Australian dollars.

The Prime Minister attached top priority to the development of the power sector and sought investment in this area saying "we have designed a comprehensive reforms package for the energy, financial and other vital sectors of the economy."

Australian entrepreneurs and invite them "to join as our partners in progress."

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About her government's economic reforms to encourage foreign and private investment, she said: "I've undertaken policies and programmes for the rapid economic development of the country on the basis of good governance and transparency."

She added: "We have undertaken a series of reform measures to establish a market-oriented economy stressing the importance of the private sector."

Hasina referred to the fiscal and monetary policies being purchased to ensure faster economic growth and said: "Regulatory and administrative constraints are being constantly reviewed to simplify procedures and facilitate business transactions to remove barriers to growth."

Spelling out her government's

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## SEC bends rules to favour Beximco companies

By M Shamsur Rahman

Despite allegation of non-compliance with securities law, which calls for paying off dividends within 60 days from declaration, the market regulators have failed to take any steps against 10 Beximco companies which have defaulted in paying

crores of taka in dividends due to Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB).

The payments -- Tk 7.28 crore -- were due in January-February this year.

On May 9 this year, the ICB complained to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) stating that the 10 Beximco companies had declared dividends last year but had defaulted in making the payments within the stipulated

60 days.

Beximco Ltd declared a 25 per cent dividend and owes Tk 1.30 crore, Beximco Synthetics owes Tk 79 lakh against a 25 per cent dividend, Beximco Knitting declared a 20 per cent dividend and owes Tk 1.30 crore, Beximco Fisheries declared a 20 per cent dividend and owes Tk 20 lakh, Beximco Denims declared 30 per cent and owes Tk 80 lakh, Beximco Textile declared five per cent and owes Tk 35 per cent, Beximco Infusion declared 25 per cent and owes Tk 30 lakh, Beximco Pharmaceuticals declared 30 per cent and owes Tk 1.10 crore, Shinepukur Holdings declared 10 per cent and owes Tk 1.70 crore and

Padma Textile declared 25 per cent and owes Tk 65 lakh.

The figures are mentioned in the ICB complaint to the SEC asking for necessary steps by the regulators.

Based on the complaint, the SEC had initiated an inquiry into the alleged default by the Beximco companies and heard top officials of Beximco.

In the course of hearing the officials admitted having defaulted in making the payments saying that non-payment to ICB was "not deliberate but happened due to factors beyond their control", the inquiry said.

Due to liquidity crisis the companies could not pay, the inquiry report quoted the offi-

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## PM arrives in Canberra: Talks today

CANBERRA, Oct 19: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived here today from Sydney as part of her five-day official visit to Australia, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister will hold formal talks tomorrow with her Australian counterpart John Howard and a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on trade cooperation will be signed between the two countries in the presence of Sheikh Hasina during her stay in Canberra.

Australian Minister for Trade and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs Mark Vaio received the prime minister at the Royal Air Force Base Fairbairn at Canberra International Airport.

A large number of Bangladeshis were also present with National Flags and bouquets to receive their beloved leader.

The Australian National University will tomorrow confer the degree of Doctorate of Law on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in recognition of her distinguished contributions to the service of society.

## Young man beaten to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was beaten to death by a gang of miscreants at Madrasah Road in the city's Agargaon area on Monday night.

The dead was identified as Jasim Uddin, 15, son of Alauddin, a resident of a slum near Agargaon passport office.

Police and hospital sources said, a gang of seven miscreants attacked Jasim and Shamim while they were sitting in front of a tea stall at Madrasah Road at about 7:30 pm.

The gang appeared in front of the tea stall by rickshaws and had an altercation with Jasim and Shamim. At one stage, the gang beat up Jasim and Shamim mercilessly.

Jasim and Shamim were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) by the local people where Jasim died at around 1:30 am yesterday.

The body was sent to the

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## Time bomb recovered in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Oct 19: Police recovered a time bomb from inside a cinema hall at Madhukhali thana headquarters today, reports UNB.

Police said unidentified persons planted the bomb in Neela-Borna Cinema Hall at Madhukhali bazar.

A sweeper of the cinema hall found the bomb just before a show at 2 pm.

Finding a device, separated from the battery, he informed the hall owners. They later informed local police station.

On receiving the news, SP Abdul Mabud, along with some other officers and constables, rushed to the spot and took the bomb to the thana.

He informed Jessore Cantonment about the bomb discovery.

Army explosive experts are likely to come here tomorrow, police said.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Internal Resources Division  
National Board of Revenue  
Dhaka

## Tender for the Appointment of Pre-shipment Inspection Company

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh invites sealed tenders from internationally-reputed Pre-shipment Inspection (PSI) companies for the purpose of mandatory PSI at import stage. Interested companies will be required to submit one original and six copies of their bid in two separate sealed envelopes.

Envelope "A" will contain technical data to be used for pre-qualification. No information on data which can throw light on price proposals shall be included in the technical proposal under any circumstances.

Envelope "B" will contain price proposals.

Tenders will be received at Room No 511, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000 up to 1300 hours on Monday, the 22nd November, 1999. Public opening will take place at the same venue at 1400 hours same day.

The proposal must be accompanied by earnest money in the form of unconditional Bank Guarantee worth Tk. 25,00,000.00 (twenty-five lac) for each block in favour of the National Board of Revenue. Every participating PSI company must submit a separate financial offer for appointment as Audit agency. Earnest money shall be forfeited, should the bidder chose to withdraw his/her bid between the time of the opening of bids and the expiry of the validity period, or fail to accept and sign the contract established in terms with his/her proposal by the Government of Bangladesh.

Tender documents can be obtained from the Second Secretary (Customs Valuation), National Board of Revenue, Room No-507 through a formal request on company stationery signed by an authorized representative on any working day between 24th October and 21st November '99. Price of each set of tender documents is BDT 5,000 (Taka five thousand) only which is non-refundable and must be deposited by Treasury Challan in the Bangladesh Bank against Head of Account "Other Customs Duty," A/C No: 1/1131/0000/0421. DFP-23457-19/10 G-1863

Second Secretary  
Customs (Valuation)

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