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Johnson joins sprint immortals



Atlanta 1996

ATLANTA, Aug 2: Michael Johnson, spurred on by the memory of the legendary Jesse Owens, hurtled into the history books in world record time on Thursday with an unprecedented Olympic double, reports AFP.

The American added the 200m title to the 400m gold already around his neck by annihilating his one-month old record. The Texan clocked 19.32 sec to destroy Frankie Fredericks of Namibia (19.68) and Ato Boldon of Trinidad (19.80).

His achievement overshadowed French star Marie-Jose Perec's identical double after winning the women's 200m just 20 minutes earlier.

Johnson's victory margin of 0.36 sec was the biggest in an Olympic 200m since Owens' 1936

victory at the Berlin Olympics watched by Nazi leaders.

Having beaten his own previous mark of 19.66 sec set at the US trials on the same track in June, Johnson revealed he had kept a letter of support from Owens' widow with him throughout the Olympics.

He said of Owens, who won four golds in Berlin: 'He is my hero. It was an honour getting a letter from his widow. That was a tremendous motivation for me. It has been with me every round.'

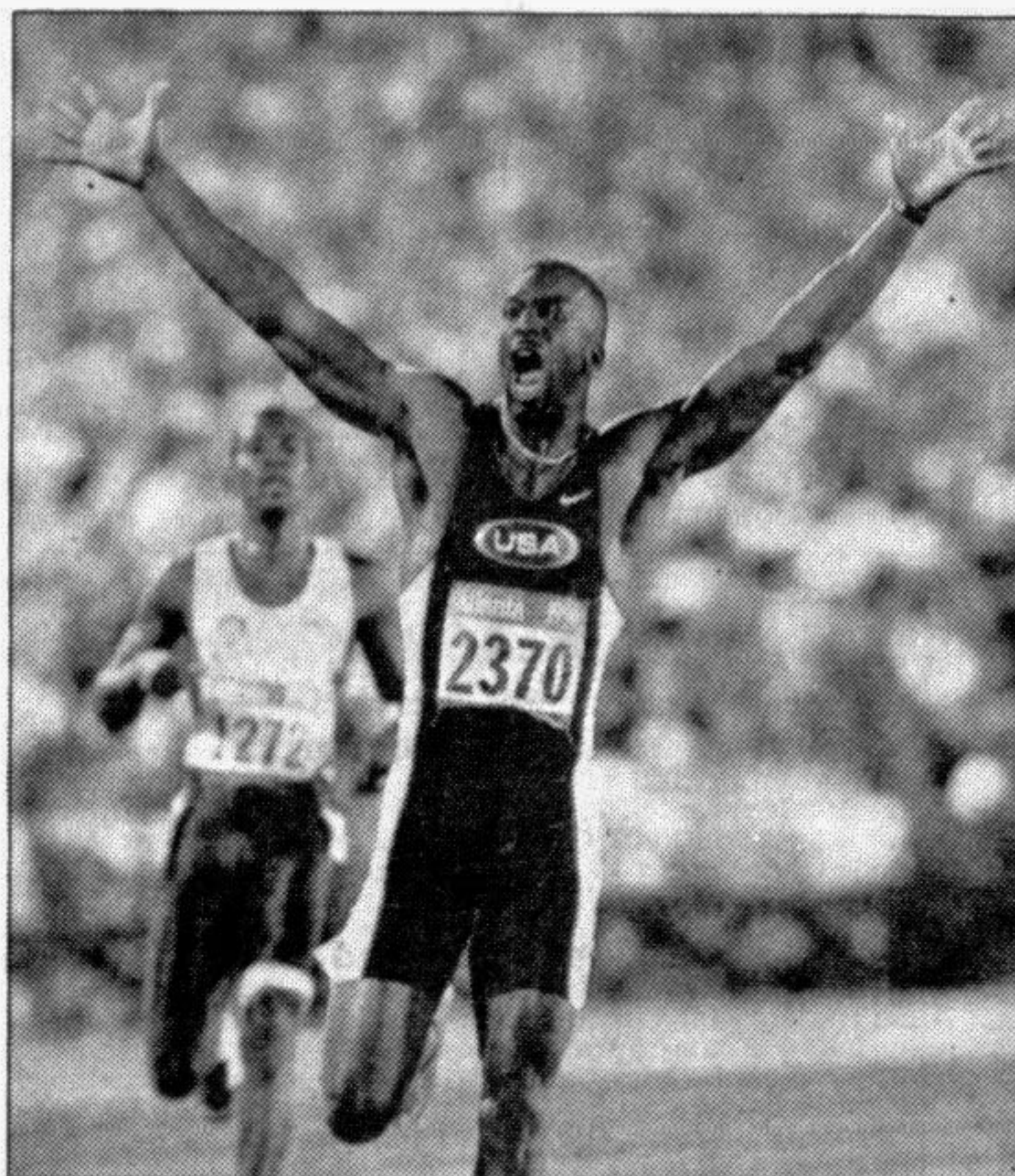
The 28-year-old, who also did the double at the world championships last year, will now bid for a third gold medal in the 4x400m relay.

He added: 'I knew when I came off the curve — and you always know this — that I was running the fastest I had ever in my career. I was afraid before the race but I like to be afraid.'

After his victory, Johnson let out a whoop of joy when he saw the world record time, knelt down and kissed the track. Fredericks applauded him while bronze medalist Boldon bowed in front of him.

Fredericks, whose time was only bettered by Johnson's two world records and who also lost to a world record in the 100m when Donovan Bailey of Canada ran 9.84 sec, said: 'I am incredibly happy. I set a personal best.'

'But I always knew it would See Page 12 Col 8



ANYBODY ELSE! Texan tornado Michael Johnson roaring triumphantly as he crosses the finish line to rewrite his own world mark in the 200m race. — AFP/UNB photo

PIA passengers at ZIA Rest 54 to be sent back by Tuesday

Star Report

The remaining 54 passengers of a PIA flight from Karachi, detained by the immigration authorities at Zia International Airport (ZIA) for not having valid documents, are scheduled to be sent back to Pakistan by Tuesday, according to official sources.

Nineteen of the 73 passengers who arrived at the ZIA Thursday morning were sent back by the return flight of the airlines on that day, for carrying 'incorrect and fake' documents.

The BBC, quoting Deputy Director of Karachi Immigration Wasim Ahmed, reported that the 19 passengers sent back from Dhaka had been kept at the Karachi Airport and their fate would be decided when offices open on Sunday.

In an interview with the BBC, Wasim Ahmed suggested that the Bangladesh government should accept them if they had relatives in the country.

The BBC report further quoted him as saying that the travel documents of those

people were not of much significance. The major issue, according to him, was whether they had come from Bangladesh or not.

Immigration officials at ZIA said that under the existing law of the country, passengers arriving with false travel documents are bound to be sent back by a flight of the same airlines.

The Daily Star in its issue of November 15 last year had earlier reported, 'The government has cautioned all airlines operating in the Karachi-Dhaka route that any more persons arriving at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) with forged documents, will not be allowed entry.'

'Passengers without valid documents will not be allowed entry and they will be put on a return flight directly by the immigration department at ZIA. The airlines will have to bear the cost,' the report said.

Immigration sources told this correspondent last night that all the 54 detained passengers were kept at the in- See Page 12 Col 1

Landslide kills 4 of a family in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 2: At least four members of a family including two children were killed in a landslide this noon in a slum area adjacent to Matijorna hill at Lalkhan Bazar in the city, police said.

The four were identified as Ful Meah (40), his son Faruk (4), daughter Mukta (1) and sister-in-law Hasina Begum (14).

Two others of another family were injured. The bodies were recovered by police and fire brigade personnel.

Police said a big chunk of soil suddenly broke off from Matijorna hill during rainfall and fell down on the thatched house of auto-rickshaw driver Ful Meah killing four including him. His wife survived as she came out of the house instantly.

By-elections

AL candidates' interview today

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Parliamentary Board (ALPB) would interview today 70 aspirants for party nomination to contest by-elections in 16 Jatiya Sangsad constituencies, party sources said.

The nomination seekers have been asked to appear before the 11-member ALPB headed by party chief Sheikh Hasina at 9 am at the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue. The by-elections are due on September 5.

Govt to purchase 35.55 lakh bales of raw jute

RAJBARI, Aug 2: The government has set a target to purchase 35.55 lakh bales of raw jute during the current financial year (1996-97), reports UNB.

State Minister for Jute and Textile AK Faezul Haq stated this here today while formally inaugurating the countrywide jute purchasing drive. This year's purchase target is 9.97 lakh bales higher than that of the previous year (1995-96), said a FDI handout today.

The State Minister inaugurated the purchase centres of Nabarun Jute Mills, Karim Jute Mills, Bangladesh Jute Mills and Latif Bawani Jute Mills at Khankhanapur and Nolia, Jamalpur.

The government has opened 126 purchase centres across the country under the various jute mills of BJMC and more jute purchase centres would be opened gradually according to the need of supply and demand of jute. Faezul Haq said.

The State Minister directed the concerned officials to remain alert so that the jute growers get real price of their produce. He warned that no irregularity or corruption would be tolerated regarding jute purchase.

2 held for alleged involvement in murder

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were arrested yesterday in connection with the killing of a young man, Sayeed, in Dholaiapur area under Demra thana in the city on Thursday night.

The arrested are Nazrul Islam alias Munna and Rezaul Karim alias Sumon, police said. An unidentified gang stabbed to death Sayeed, 30, and left him near a pond in his locality, East Dholaiapur, at about 9:30 pm. Some of the gang members called him out from his residence at about 5 pm, police sources said.

Police recovered the body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy. Demra police suspected that the killing was a sequel to a previous clash among the victim's friends.

A case was filed with Demra thana in this connection.

PM declares at Gopalganj Neglected areas to get priority in development

From Nazmul Ashraf

GOPALGANJ, Aug 2: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said here today that her government would give priority to development of the neglected areas of the country.

The opposition-dominated areas had been neglected in the past 21 years due to 'discriminatory policies of the governments during the period,' she told a joint meeting of top officials of the district, local leaders of her ruling Awami League, and elite of the town at the Circuit House.

'Our government will ensure a balanced development of all areas and for this special attention will be given to those areas, that faced discrimination by the former govern-

ments,' the Prime Minister said. She sought cooperation from the civil servants as well as her partymen in accomplishing her new government's other priority tasks like poverty alleviation and eradication of illiteracy from the society.

The Prime Minister told the government officials that as public servants they must discharge their responsibilities with utmost sincerity and honesty and assured them of her government's backing in this regard.

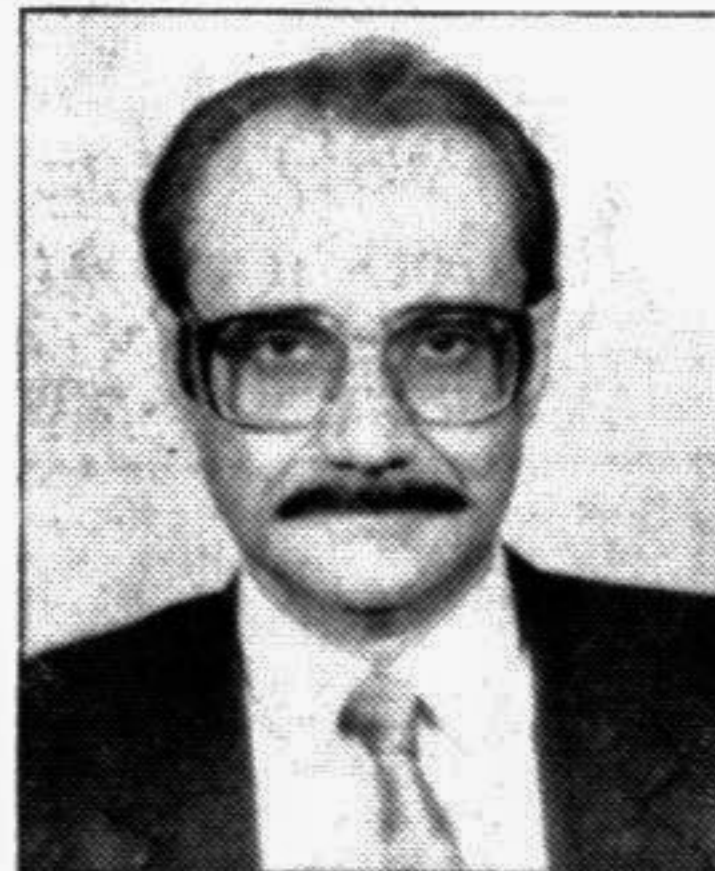
The AL chief also instructed her partymen to devote themselves to bringing about people's welfare. 'Don't think in

the way that we've got back power. You've many things to do,' she reminded her party's leaders and workers. 'Learn from the past.'

Sheikh Hasina also called upon various social forces to cooperate in the government efforts for improving the lot of the masses.

Hasina alleged that in the past development activities were carried out only in the areas of their (those in power) choice and partymen were recruited in government services. 'We'll never do so. Quality will be considered for any job in the Republic from now on.'

She blamed the successive See Page 12 col 6



Nooruddin Al Masood dead

Nooruddin Al Masood, Secretary to the President, died of a heart attack at the Suhrawardy Hospital early yesterday morning. He was 56, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter.

Masood was suffering from acute heart problem for a long time.

A civil servant of erstwhile See Page 12 Col 7

63 lakh affected in 39 dists Flood situation in Barisal alarming

More than 63 lakh people belonging to 13,06,301 families in 162 thanas under 39 districts have been affected by the current spate of flood, report agencies.

Relief Control Room sources said here last night that crops on 6,13,560 acres of land have been fully or partly damaged due to flood and crops on 1,78,931 acres washed away.

The calamity has so far claimed 35 lives, destroyed 1,37,543 houses fully and 5,08,972 houses partially, the sources added.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: Flood engulfed vast areas in the southern districts under the Barisal division.

Flood situation and erosion by the rivers in the districts of Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali and Barguna took a serious turn,

according to local officials and sources in the affected areas.

The vast tract of cropland and many homesteads in Bisharkandi, Iluhar of Banari-para thana of Barisal and Singerkathi, Gazipur Ullankathi and Mirajgoni in Babuganj thana were inundated while erosion by the Arial Khan continued. Shikarpur ferryghat is also threatened by Sandhya river erosion.

Some portion of Balukashi embankment of Agailjhara thana has been washed away. Nazirpur, Batamara, Chabipur and Kachua of Muladi thana are now almost under water.

Nearly 600 acres of cropland in Kalurgha under Patharghata thana of Barguna district have been submerged. Many homeless people have taken shelter on Kakchira See Page 12 Col 7



The Sammilita Sangskritik Jote presenting Krishnakali — a dance drama of Rabindranath Tagore at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium on the occasion of Jote's third biennial conference yesterday. — Star photo

Police hunt for child-lifters on

Star Report

Police is looking for an organised gang of child-lifters which bought a 10-year-old boy from two teenaged boys for Tk 500 from Sukrabad area in the city two weeks ago.

Two boys lured Jewel, son of Jahanara Begum, a widow, from their Sukrabad residence at around 9 am on July 19 and sold him some unidentified persons in the old part of the city the same day, police said. The boy remained untraced till last night and police fear that he is in the grip of an organised gang.

Mohammadpur police ar- See Page 12 col 6

Two beheaded bodies found

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Aug 2: Two beheaded bodies were found by police early yesterday morning near a beel of the village Teligram under Sadullapur union of Pabna Sadar thana.

The bodies were identified as Abul Kashem, 28, member of Sadullapur union parishad, and Tayed Ali 25, of village Kachpara of Charatapur union under same thana.

According to their relations, deceased Abul Kashem had been working in the Islamic militant organisation Hamas protested outside their jail in Tulkarem to press for their release.

A Palestinian Authority official said that at one point, the protesters tried to break through the gate to free the inmates by force. Police opened fire to keep the crowd at bay, killing one man and wounding 20 to 25 people, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said three of the See Page 12 Col 8

Terrorists meet their match!

A slum woman, showing great courage, snatched a pipe-gun from a group of armed terrorists as they attacked her ramshackle quarter in Pallabi of the city early yesterday police said, reports UNB.

Farida Begum 30, wrenched the pipe-gun from one of the attackers as he tried to shoot at her seriously wounded husband, Tofazzel, for the second time.

Her recently married younger sister Jesmine and elderly mother Shambharaj were also injured in the attack at Farida's house at the Ragnagar slum in Pallabi thana at about 3 pm yesterday.

Farida later handed over the loaded pipe-gun to police at the office of local MP Kamal Ahmed Majumdar in the afternoon. The MP, who was present at the office, announced a Tk 1,000 reward for the brave woman.

'We are determined to curb terrorism in the area,' Majumdar told UNB over telephone, urging the government to encourage such acts of bravery by similar rewards to people resisting the terrorists.

Police Inspector Salam, said this was the second attack on Farida's slum dwelling by local extortionists within nine days.

Earlier, they made a similar attack on July 25 when Farida's husband, Tofazzel, was See Page 12 Col 8

Aideed dies from bullet wounds

MOGADISHU, Aug 2: Somali faction leader Mohamed Farah Aideed, whose militiamen defeated a UN peacekeeping force, has died from bullet wounds, aides said today, report Reuters. AP.

The Voice of the Masses of the Somali Republic, monitored in the Kenyan capital Nairobi said he was buried but gave no further details of the funeral.

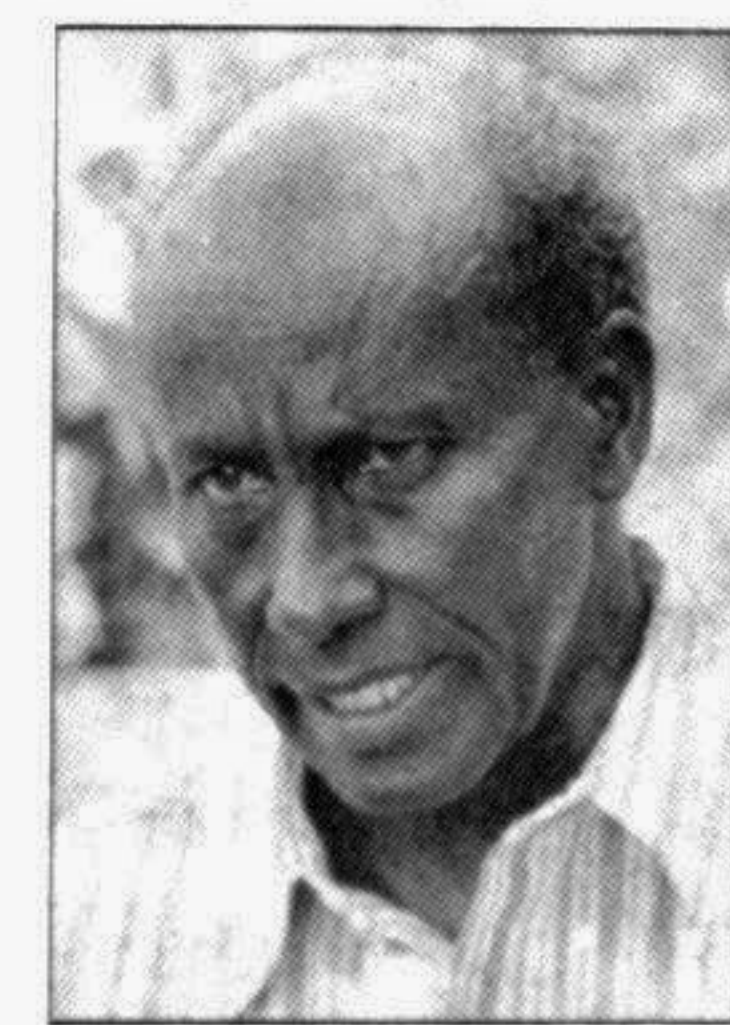
His death raised hopes for a possible end to violence in the devastated Horn of Africa country.

Aideed died at his home in southern Mogadishu on Thursday afternoon from bullet wounds, aides said.

He was reported to have been wounded during fighting with rival militiamen on Wednesday last week, but his Washington spokesman said he had been shot and wounded by assassins at the weekend.

Witnesses said the faction leader had been hit by two bullets — one in the stomach and one in the shoulder. His aides had brought in an Italian doctor to treat Aideed.

Aideed's radio, monitored in Nairobi, said leaders of the USC-SNA (United Somali Congress-Somali National Alliance) had appointed a 30-member committee to take charge of political and military issues among his followers. Thousands of weeping So-



Farah Aideed

malis poured into the streets of south Mogadishu today. The mourners lined the street leading to the Al Rahma mosque, where services for the 61-year-old general were held.

It was still too early to assess the impact of Aideed's death on the complex Somali political scene. Two major faction leaders remain in Mogadishu — Ali Mahdi Mohamed, who controls the northern half of the city — and Osman Hassan Ali Atto, who was fighting Aideed for control of the See Page 12 col 5

Protesters try to storm West Bank jail : 1 killed

TULKAREM, West Bank, Aug 2: Yasser Arafat's security forces opened fire today on Palestinian protesters trying to storm a West Bank jail, killing one and wounding several others, an official said, reports AP.

Palestinian police clamped a curfew on the town of 40,000 and called in reinforcements from neighbouring Palestinian ruled towns to contain the rioting.

The clashes came a day after protests against Arafat's Palestinian Authority in the neighbouring town of Nablus sparked by death of a detainee who had been severely beaten

by Palestinian security forces. Friday's violence erupted after relatives of suspects jailed for membership in the Islamic militant organisation Hamas protested outside their jail in Tulkarem to press for their release.

A Palestinian Authority official said that at one point, the protesters tried to break through the gate to free the inmates by force. Police opened fire to keep the crowd at bay, killing one man and wounding 20 to 25 people, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He said three of the See Page 12 Col 8

Fraud charges: Rao asked to appear in court

NEW DELHI, Aug 2: A New Delhi magistrate today ordered former Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao to appear in his court on August 17 to answer charges in a fraud case, reports AFP.

Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Prem Kumar, who has named the former premier a co-accused in the case filed by an Indian businessman, threw out Rao's appeal to defer a hearing and ordered him to appear in court on August 17.

Rao has also appealed to the Supreme Court to throw out the charges and the country's highest court scheduled to look into his plea on August 12.

The 75-year-old former premier had initially been scheduled to appear in magistrate's court today but the Supreme Court gave him a reprieve until after it hears his appeal.

Expatriate Indian businessman Lakhubhai Pathak has accused a controversial Hindu guru, Chandraswami, of accepting 100,000 dollars in a New York hotel in 1983 to secure a newspaper contract which never materialised.

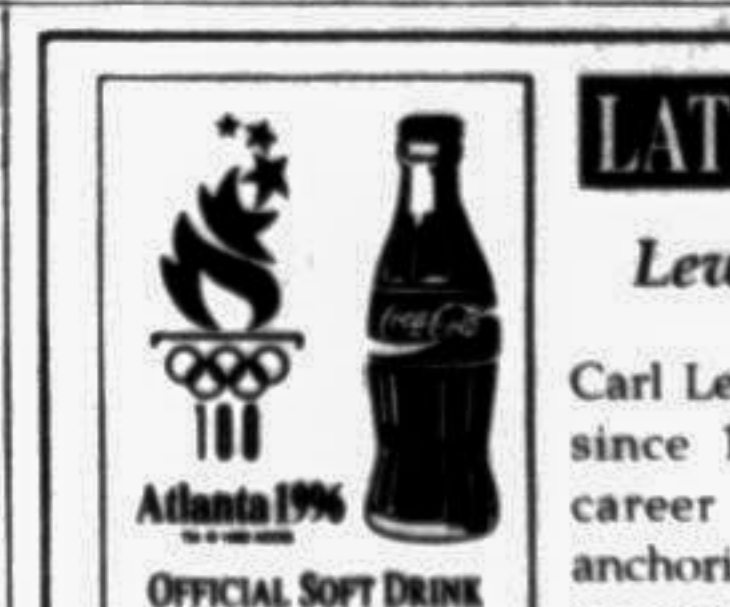
Pathak has alleged that Rao, who was then foreign minister, was present at the meeting and gave him an assurance that the deal would go through. See Page 12 Col 8

Launch hits boat in Meghna: Fisherman killed

CHANDPUR, Aug 2: A fisherman was killed and four others were injured when a passenger launch hit a fishing boat in the river Meghna today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said MV Sagar-8 hit the boat near Kanudi area in the morning. Fisherman Ruhul Amin, 60, received injuries in the accident and drowned as the boat capsized following mishap. Four other inmates of the boat also received injuries.

Later, river police recovered the body of Ruhul Amin from downstream and local people rescued the injured fishermen.



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1996 OLYMPIC GAMES

LATEST FROM ATLANTA Lewis awaits great honour

Carl Lewis, drama king of every Games since 1984, may crown his Olympic career in suitably dramatic style by anchoring the American 4x100 metres relay team on the final day on the athletics track.

Pressure for the inclusion of Lewis, who would collect an unprecedented 10th gold medal if the highly-fancied US team won has reached such levels relay captain Dennis Mitchell said yesterday he would be prepared to give Lewis his anchor role. The Games close on Sunday. Lewis's inclusion in the relay, which he anchored to victory and a world record in Barcelona, would give the Games a finale to rival the appearance of Muhammad Ali to light the flame at the opening ceremony.