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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally commissioning BNS Barkat, the newly acquired patrol craft in Chittagong yesterday.

— PID photo

Water recedes from Anwara, Sandwip

## Flood situation in Barisal static

From Staff Correspondent

**BARISAL**, Aug 4: The overall flood situation in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola and Pirojpur districts remained unchanged.

In Barguna, flood water has receded from the town area today. The situation in low-lying areas of Hizla, Mehendiganj, Babuganj thanas of Barisal remained static.

Water-level in the rivers of Kirtankhola and Arial Khan in Barisal, Sandhya in Jhalakathi, Andharmanki and Lohalha in Patuakhali, Tetulia in Bhola Biskhali and Baleswar in Barguna district registered fall today but the Meghna in Bhola still following above danger mark, according to official and local sources.

Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong reports: The flood situation in the coastal areas of Anwara and Sandwip islands improved today with the recession of tidal water from the affected areas.

According to officials, the

people who took shelter in safer areas have now started returning to their homes.

But some of the homeless people were still staying at the cyclone-shelters. Nine unions of Anwara and the Sandwip island were submerged by tidal water while over 10,000 people were affected.

Besides some 200 houses were damaged when tidal water entered there through the breaches of the embankment.

The district administration has requested the Water Development Board to repair the breaches of the coastal embankment.

According to the local Red Crescent Society, there has been an outbreak of diarrhoeal disease among the flood affected people in Anwara.

But the Civil Surgeon office and the district administration said, no such reports were available with them.

— PID photo

**BNS Barkat**

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said the present government was pledge bound to fulfil the hopes and aspiration of the entire nation out of this scant wealth.

Sheikh Hasina recalled the glorious relief and rehabilitation activities of the naval force during natural calamities like flooding, tidal surge, cyclone and epidemic since the independence.

"In discharging our duties we all have to remember that you and we are servants of the people — not the master," she said urging them to attain confidence, spirit of cooperation, fellow-feeling and allegiance to the people.

"Government's duty is to determine the national target and frame the strategies and plans to achieve the goal for serving the people and your duty is to perform institutional tasks within your own periphery," she said.

The PM assured all out cooperation of the government in performing their duties smoothly.

Earlier, on her arrival, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam received the Prime Minister at the Quarter Deck. A smart contingent of BN personnel presented her with guard of honour. She signed the visitor's book and planted sapling near the parade ground.

Later, the Prime Minister drove to the local naval jetty and formally commissioned BNS Barkat — a patrol craft of the Bangladesh Navy.

It has been named after Shaheed Barkat who embraced martyrdom during the historic language movement in 1952.

Plenty of other medals were

on offer on the last day of the Games — in boxing, showjumping, rhythmic gymnastics, women's basketball, men's handball and men's volleyball.

There are 11 titles still at stake. The United States are well clear at the top of the medals table on 42 golds, ahead of Russia and Germany.

In the boxing, a super-heavyweight from the tiny Pacific island of Tonga aims to end the Games with a sensation.

Super-heavyweight Paes Wolfgang has come from nowhere to see off a string of fancied boxers. Victory in his gold medal bout against

### None involved

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embassy, Brazil, A K M Mohiuddin Ahmed, Minister, CDA, Bangladesh embassy, Baghdad, S M B M Noor Chowdhury, Commissioner, Bangladesh embassy, Hong Kong, Ahmed Sharif Hossain, Minister, Bangladesh embassy, Riyadh and Mohammad Khairuzzaman, Minister (CDA), Bangladesh embassy, Manila.

He said of those six officers only Mohammed Khalruzzaman reported to the ministry on July 8 last.

### CID report

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Parliament. He admitted that investigating into the death had already been delayed but contended that it would not be logical to take steps in this respect before receiving the CID report.

The home minister said the government would also take steps to stop harassment of passengers in the airport, a common allegation from travellers coming from abroad.

He informed that different agencies are working in the airport and coordination among them is a must. He said the prime minister has already directed the concerned ministries to ensure proper coordination as soon as possible.

### PIA passengers

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the hospital while the rest were given first aid.

A batch of 73 passengers of a PIA flight coming from Karachi were detained at the ZIA for not having valid travelling documents and of them 19 were sent by the return flight of the same airline on the same day.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that some people coming from Pakistan were detained at the ZIA for not having valid travelling documents and of them 19 were sent by the return flight of the same airline on the same day.

Samad Azad said, "I have asked our envoy there (Pakistan) to send a report immediately."

# The Daily Star

Hasina tells Mirersarai rally

## Struggle for people's rights to continue

**MIRERSARAI**, (Chittagong) Aug 4: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said she would continue her struggle for establishing people's rights and cleansing society of corruption, reports UNB.

"We have established voting rights of the people, and now my struggle will be for their economic emancipation," she told a huge election rally at Jorarganj High School ground in Mirersarai thana this afternoon.

Thanking the people for voting Awami League to power, Hasina sought cooperation of all in building a corruption-free, happy and prosperous Bangladesh as dreamt by Father of the Nation.

Criticising her political opponents, she said corruption by the past government in 21 years had ruined the economy of the country.

A government which indulges in corruption can't make a corruption-free society, she told the gathering, charging the previous BNP government with plundering national wealth through corruption.

If I don't indulge in corruption, the ministers and the MPs can't commit any corruption," she said.

Referring to the killing of 18 farmers and 17 workers during the BNP rule, Hasina alleged it resorted to killing, repression and oppression whenever people raised voice against corruption.

Five thousand mills and factories were closed down throwing thousands of workers

out of job in last five years, she said, adding that her government would create jobs by setting up small and cottage industries and agro-based industries.

The Prime Minister said the past government did not keep any of its election pledges during five years in power. Awami League will go by all its promises, she reaffirmed and pointed out the Tk 100 crore earmarked in the new budget for subsidy to the party.

Stressing the need for expansion of education to eradicate poverty, Hasina said illiteracy was a serious problem for which her government had taken decision to free the country from the curse within next 10 years.

Hasina, who went to Mirersarai by a private car, flying the party flag, called upon the people to vote for Awami League nominee in the coming by-election.

She said her government would equally develop all parts of the country giving priority to the backward areas.

The meeting was presided over by thana unit president of Awami League Mohammad Ali and also addressed by Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Mayor of Chittagong ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was present.

Later, the Awami League chief addressed another election rally at Abu Torab High School ground.

She went back to the capital by a Biman flight in the evening ending her daylong tour of Chittagong.

It said controls on the few products that still remain are no more justifiable since the controls are ineffective even as protective instruments as they mainly benefit smuggling.

Controls should be replaced by the lowest tariff rates negotiable with the industries and consistent with the rest of the tariff structure.

About giving better incentives for export, the Bank said the government should take actions to overcome the obstacles that have caused Customs to delay making special bonded warehouse facilities to most types of export and to further develop the scheme so that it can be used by established firms that serve both export and home markets.

About the stalled privatisation programme, the Bank said the Privatisation Board should be upgraded both in its management and technical capabilities.

The Board's work should be supported through a clear cabinet policy statement on generic issues such as compensation for retrenched staff and legal difficulties in making sales.

It said the government should set a firm deadline of 1998 for completing the privatisation process, with intermediate targets at six-month intervals for specific groups of enterprises.

About promoting foreign investment, the report said the government should address the root causes of image problem from the inefficiency and inconsistency in dealing with foreign entities.

Chalking out a detailed action agenda for the banking sector, the report said loan recovery system should be tightened and amendments should be made to legal framework.

It said the private banks should be restructured and the central bank should be prepared to take a series of clearly defined steps to deal with banks that systematically fail to comply with their contracts and, if necessary, liquidation.

The WB stressed a timetable for privatisation of each NCB and develop a strategy for dealing with the debt of state enterprises.

To infuse new vibrancy in the agriculture sector, the report said the government

should concentrate on consolidating the gains from liberalised agricultural markets to improve productivity and growth.

About the actions in the sector, it said locally produced urea should be priced in line with world prices so that domestic sales are as profitable as exports.

It said seed production and distribution need to be fully privatised.

Restrictions on private sector trade and storage of foodgrains should be abolished and to supply the needed finance to the agriculture sector, financial sector reform should be extended to cover the formal rural financial institutions.

This should include removing the interest rate ceiling on agricultural credit and expediting legal reforms for rural loan recovery.

The Bank suggested.

Political interference in rural financial institutions should be stopped and the legal and regulatory environment should

be improved to use moveable property and accounts receivable as loan collateral.

Stressing the need for maintaining macro stability, the report maintained that to contain inflationary pressure, the government should seek to limit the domestically financed part of the fiscal deficit to no more than 1.5 per cent of GDP in fiscal 1997 with the help of more rapid aid disbursements and by checking the overall fiscal deficit from 6.8 per cent in fiscal 1995 to well under six per cent.

It said the government

should act quickly to accelerate improvements in all areas of tax administration and restrain current expenditures by resisting public wage increases.

The government's monetary policy must not support excess demand pressure and therefore, inflation, just as it must not crowd out the private sector credit needs in support of a resumption of growth.

Bangladesh Bank should

resist the expansion of bank credit to the government and state enterprises, the report

went on.

The government should

phase out the statutory liquidity ratio which imposes an unnecessary burden on banks and limits their risk management.

The government should

follow a pragmatic and flexible real exchange rate policy to maintain stability and ensure competitiveness, it maintained.

About human development,

it stressed greater investment in developing the professional capabilities of teachers and put greater emphasis on learning outcomes at all levels of education.

The government should

accredit all teachers based on minimum education levels and training and should establish common pay scales and career opportunities for qualified teachers, it added.

The report also stressed

the need for a national policy to deal with rapidly rising demand for secondary education,

and increase investments in pre-service and in-service education for teachers.

The curricular and textbook

and technology, should be upgraded and examination and assessment system should be improved.

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## WB for action in 11 sectors

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The meeting discussed various aspects relating to necessary amendment to the rules of procedure in order to harmonise them with the current parliamentary system.

A Sangsad press release said the government in principle has decided to make any member of the House as president/chairman of the Standing Committees relating to different ministries instead of minister concerned, state minister or deputy minister to ensure the accountability of the government