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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, Babaganj thanas of Barisal remained static.

Water-level in the rivers of Kirtankhola and Arial Khan in Barisal, Sandhya in Jhalakathi, Andharmanik and Lohalia in Patuakhali, Tetulia in Bhola Bishkali 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

## Stormy debate in JS

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On the sixth parliament. Tofael said it would remain as a 'stigma' so long it existed in the Constitution. 'We're not demanding that the sixth parliament be blacked out.'

Tofael's comments sparked off noisy protests from the Opposition and many of its members including Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury rose on their feet. In his bid to go back to the day's business, the Speaker repeated that a very constitutional point was raised and he would give his decision later.

But Prof B Chowdhury rose again and pointed that both Col. Akbar and Tofael gave political statements. He requested the Chair to allow Salahuddin Kader Choudhury to speak on the issue.

Salahuddin Kader Choudhury said, 'It's true that I was with the then Opposition. But when my opinion was sought on the matter, I said the idea of caretaker government was not found even in jungles of Africa.'

He also argued that Article 70 could not be applicable in the case of Saifur Rahman. Participating in the debate, Agriculture and Food Minister Begum Matia Choudhury and another Treasury bench member, Begum Sajeda Choudhury, criticised S K Choudhury for his 'changing parties' and opinion time and again.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party and Maj. Hafizuddin Ahmed of BNP also took part in the debate.

**Pakistan owes**  
From page 1  
them, over five lakh were given Bangladeshi citizenship upon their appeals in 1972 and 5,39,669 preferred to be repatriated to Pakistan, he said.

According to a survey carried out by the Rabita-Al-Alam-Al-Islami in 1992, 2,38,093 non-Bangalees were willing to return to Pakistan, added the minister.

He told the House that soon after his taking charge of the foreign ministry he sent a message to Pakistani authorities through the Pakistani High Commissioner in Dhaka urging them to renew the repatriation efforts.

When his attention was drawn to the fact that some people coming from Pakistan were detained at the Zia International Airport recently for having forged travel documents, Samad Azad said, 'I have asked our envoy there (Pakistan) to send a report immediately.'

## BNS Barkat

From page 1

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 all 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.

## BNP nominations

From page 1

zaman Dipu, Khulna-1, Gazi Abdul Bari, Laxmipur-2, Moudud Ahmed, Sylhet-4, Advocate Nurul Haq, Chittagong-1, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, Chittagong-13, Mamta Begum, Sirajganj-1, Mahabubul Islam Talukder (Lebu Advocate) and Saripatpur-1, Sarder A K M Nasir Uddin (Kalu).

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 Paca Wollgramm has come from nowhere to see off a string of fancied boxers. Victory in his gold medal bout against

South Africa, who reappeared in the Olympics at the Barcelona Games in 1992 after decades in apartheid isolation, won two Atlanta golds in swimming, courtesy of breast-stroke specialist Heyns.

Earlier today, Italian Antonio Rossi took the first gold of the day in the men's kayak singles over 500 metres despite a restless night.

He was so thrilled to have won gold on Saturday that he could not get to sleep.

Czech Martin Doktor also won a second gold, in the 500 metres canoe singles.

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.

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# 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 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 farmers.

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 byelection.

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 electioneering rally at Abu Torab High School ground.

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

## Closing show today

From page 1

colleague wounded in a drive by shooting as they returned out of uniform, to their temporary accommodation in an Atlanta suburb. The incident did not appear to be linked to the Olympics.

In the Marathon, Thugwane, a security guard at a mineworkers' hostel, clocked two hours 12 minutes 36 seconds — just three seconds ahead of South Korean Lee Bong-Ju and eight ahead of Eric Wainaina of Kenya.

It was the closest finish in Olympic men's Marathon history and the first black South African Olympic gold.

His win was all the more remarkable because he had recovered from being shot and injured in a car hijacking in March.

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## JS standing body discusses possible amendments to Rules of Procedure

The first meeting of the standing committee on Rules of Procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad was held at the standing committee room number one yesterday with Chairman of the committee, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury in the chair, reports BSS.

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.

Yesterday's meeting dealt with the possible amendments to the rules of procedure to materialise the government's decision of appointing members as chairman of the standing committees relating to ministries.

## Garments sector

From page 1

hall, the seminar was inaugurated by Commerce Secretary A H Mofazzal Karim and chaired by FBCCI president Salman F Rahman.

Tanver Hossain also said that 'formation of blocs like NAFTA, EEC and ASEAN had led to increased intra-regional trade at the cost of countries like Bangladesh.'

Suggesting preferential trade arrangement between the Western economic bloc and SAPTA, he said, 'Countries like Bangladesh and India would maximise gain from preferential trade arrangement. The gains from Uruguay Round are likely to be less than gains from having preferential arrangement with NAFTA, EU, ASEAN etc.'

Mofazzal Karim said if the country failed to establish backward linkages in the textile sector, the sector which shared 65 per cent of the export earnings and employed more than eight lakh people would plunge into crisis after 2005 as the quota system would be phased out.

'But the current pace of investment is so low, we are not sure if the necessary amount would be invested within the stipulated timeframe and our export-oriented industry would be able to avoid the setback,' the Commerce Secretary added.

Prof Shamsuddin Ahmed, a consultant in the study, said the country's share in world trade in clothing would increase to 1.75 per cent in

2000 from 1.63 per cent in 1995 and then would decline to 1.49 per cent in 2005.

'It appears that Bangladesh will maintain only the existing shares during the period 1995-2005, if the clothing exports from Bangladesh grow at the rate of 10 per cent annually during 1995-2000 and five per cent during 2000-2005, implying an annual growth rate of 7.5 per cent during the next 10 years,' Prof Ahmed said.

'The adverse effect on job creation in textile industry can be averted if the existing quantitative restriction on imports of textile products are withdrawn in January 2005,' he added.

Dr Makbul Ahmed Khan, project coordinator of the TSMU said that implementation of ATC would likely to have an adverse effect on employment of child labour in the textile and clothing sector in Bangladesh.

Salman F Rahman said that the country required a consciously devised policy based on cooperation between the government and private sector to face the adverse situation.

Prof Ayubur Rahman Bhuiyan said the country does not have adequate physical infrastructure and skilled manpower to have this massive investment.

Nurul Haq Sikder of BGMEA, however, said that his fellow entrepreneurs are determined to maintain the export earning since they have been able to raise their foreign exchange earning to two billion from zero dollar.

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**PHILIPS**

## WB for action in 11 sectors

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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, it pointed out.

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 mandate 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 laid down 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 the temptation to announce 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.

It added that 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 textbooks, particularly in science and technology, should be upgraded and examination and assessment system should be improved.

## Hearing today Writ challenging declaration of Shahabuddin as president-elect

A writ petition filed by Advocate Abu Baker Siddique challenging the declaration of former Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as the President-elect of the People's Republic of Bangladesh by the Chief Election Commissioner will be heard this morning before a High Court division bench, reports BSS.

After filing the writ, petitioner's counsel Barrister Asrarul Hossain yesterday mentioned the case before the bench comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Haq and Justice Mohammad Abdul Matin, allowed the prayer and fixed today for hearing the petition.

Attorney General Barrister K S Nabi and Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan were present in the court.

### TOURISM SERVICE WEEK '96

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9-8-96	8 Hrs. Dhaka-Mainamati-Comilla Dhaka Tour (for all age)
Friday	Spots - World War II Cemetery, Salban Bihar, Famous Khaddar (Home spun textile) and Roshmalei (special kind of sweet in thick milk) in Comilla town. Tour Price - Tk. 350.00 per person Starting Place & Time - Dhaka Sheraton Hotel at 8.00 a.m.
10-8-96	4 Hrs. Dhaka City Tour (for child under 12 yrs.)
Saturday	Spots - Parliament House, Bangabandhu Memorial Museum, Dhaka Nagar Museum & Freedom Fighters Museum Tour Price - Tk. 100.00 per child Starting Place & time - Parjatan Head Office (near Bijoy Sarani) at 10.00 a.m.
11-8-96	4 Hrs. Excursion to Dhaka Zoo (for child under 12 years)
Sunday	Tour Price - Tk. 100.00 per child Starting Place & time - Parjatan Head Office (near Bijoy Sarani) at 10.00 a.m.
12-8-96	4 Hrs. Dhaka City Tour (for all age)
Monday	Spots - Dhaka Nagar Museum, Lalbagh Fort, Bangabandhu Memorial Museum and Parliament House
13-8-96	Tour Price - Tk. 100.00 per person
Tuesday	Starting Place & Time - Dhaka Sheraton Hotel at 10.00 a.m.
14-8-96	4 Hrs. Dhaka - Sonargaon - Dhaka Tour (for all age)
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