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NEWS BRIEFS

Brother kills sister
 SIRAJGANJ, Aug 18: A young woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her brother at Kaliharipur in Sadar thana early today. Police said Abdul Mannan killed her younger sister, Feroza Begum, 26, when she was sleeping at dead of night. Mannan was arrested soon after the killing, reports UNB.

Case against 25 for looting Saudi meat
 MAGURA, Aug 18: Paurashava authorities have filed a case against 25 people for looting Saudi meat worth about Tk 50 lakh. Police said the meat allocated for the Paurashava to distribute among the destitutes were looted by a group of armed miscreants on August 8, reports UNB.

Body found in Ramna Lake
 Police yesterday recovered the body of a 12-year-old boy floating in the Ramna Lake. The body of the unidentified boy was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy, reports UNB.

One stabbed to death in Barisal
 From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, Aug 18: One Hazarat Ali Kazi, 19, was hacked to death by some armed people at Muladi thana area of Barisal this morning. Witnesses and police said when Hazarat Ali with his father went to a disputed land for cultivation in the morning, some armed people attacked them and stabbed Hazarat. He died on the spot.

20 rickshawpullers injured in clash
 FARIDPUR, Aug 18: At least 20 rickshawpullers were injured, 10 of them seriously, in a clash with transport workers in the town today.

Iraqi defectors inform Pentagon Saddam plans to attack KSA or Kuwait

WASHINGTON, Aug 18: The US decision to bolster its forces in the Middle East was based in part on indications from two prominent Iraqi defectors that President Saddam Hussein had contemplated attacking Kuwait or Saudi Arabia. US officials said today, reports AP.

The Pentagon announced Thursday it was moving warships and military supplies toward the Persian Gulf to deter possible armed action by Saddam's military. Some US-based troops also have been notified to be ready for possible deployment.

US military officials said Thursday that while Saddam's intent was unclear, his armed forces are making moves not necessarily immediately focused on Kuwait but focused in that direction.

Kuwait said on Thursday it knew of no unusual troop movements in the south of Iraq despite US reports to Iraqi military activity directed towards the small Gulf state it occupied in 1990-91.

Until 20 minutes ago there was not anything unusual in the south of Iraq, defence minister Sheikh Ahmed Hamoud Al-Sabah said in brief remarks to Reuters.

The US moves were triggered in part by information received from two of Saddam's sons-in-law since their defections to Jordan last week. US officials said today. The defectors told briefers that Saddam had been contemplating an attack on Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, said the officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Also today, Iraq denied making any threats and dis-



Garment workers brought out a procession in the city yesterday to press for their demands. — Star photo

DESA's fourth phase project under study

Star Report

The Third-phase Infrastructure Development Project of the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) would hardly meet the fast growing demand of the consumers after 1996.

An expert with the DESA observed yesterday that the project which was actually planned in mid-'80s has in fact taken about 11 years for its implementation whereas the demand of electricity has increased manifold by this time.

The need for a fourth phase has emerged as an immediate task for meeting the ten per cent yearly increase of demand in greater Dhaka.

Meanwhile, the DESA has already submitted a proposal. Development Study for Fourth Phase, to the government. The Planning Commission has approved it and the Economic Relations Division was looking for prospective financiers, a senior official of DESA said.

Taka 728 crore 3rd Phase of Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project, jointly financed by the Government of Bangladesh, Asian Development Bank and the ODA grant, was initially designed to be completed by 1992-93.

With some problem in its primary stage the development work was delayed and later with some additions done, to the earlier plan, the

Most student bodies against holding JUCSU polls now

By Gobinda Bar

Although somewhat unusual, almost all the student bodies of the Jahangirnagar University (JU) are against the holding of the central students union (JUCSU) polls now for the sake of smooth academic activities.

The university has no central union for the students for the last two years, but all the major organisations, barring one, have shown no interest in the polls as they feel that academic activities would be hampered if the polls are held now.

Having a central student union is a fundamental right of the students but we do not support the union polls now as it might hinder the on-going academic pursuits, said Duranta Biplab general secretary of the JU unit of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League (S.P.).

The university is burdened with a heavy session jam and it will only increase the problems and create frustration among the students, he added.

But JU unit president of the ruling BNP backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Sabir Hossain told this correspondent that they were demanding the polls because cultural activities and students' rights were being neglected in the absence of a central union.

The JUCSU was dissolved in August 1993 following an assault on some JU teachers in which the then JUCSU leaders were allegedly involved.

Once reputed as a session-jam free university, JU academic sessions are now two years behind the schedule. So most of the students and students' bodies are in favour of completion of the honours

AL special council Sept 10

Awami League is going to hold a special council session of the party on September 10 to discuss the country's latest political situation and decide its future course of action, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the party presidium with Sheikh Hasina in the chair at her Dhanmondi office last night.

The meeting sources said the special council will be summoned to take stock of the latest political situation and brief the councillors about the party's guideline to gear up the current agitation for realising the demand for caretaker government.

The meeting was also

Ex-JP minister Giasuddin joins BNP

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed her party's determination to uphold constitutional politics and maintain the constitutional process at any cost, reports UNB.

"BNP does not only speak of democracy, it practises democracy within the party and has established it in the country," she told a huge gathering of newcomers to BNP at 30 Hare Road in the city.

Former BNP MP Masud Rumi dead

Advocate Syed Masud Rumi, a former BNP MP and convenor of the Kushtia District Development Council, died at the Combined Military Hospital in Dhaka yesterday morning. He was 51, reports UNB.

Rumi had been suffering from heart ailment since long.

He left behind his wife, six sons, a daughter and a host of friends, relatives and admirers.

His body was taken yesterday afternoon to Kushtia where he will be buried today following a namaz-e-janaza after Jhor prayers.

BNP Chairperson Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed profound shock at the death of Rumi, a veteran leader of the party.

Begum Zia prayed for the departed soul and conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved family of the deceased.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali also condoled the death of Syed Masud Rumi.

Attack on garments factory: None held

By Staff Correspondent

None was arrested till last night in connection with Thursday's armed attack on the Shajib Garments at Khilgaon in the city in which one person was shot dead and another grievously injured.

A group of four armed 'mastans' forcibly entered the factory and fired shots indiscriminately. They wanted to meet the Production Manager of the factory but were resisted.

Police suspected that the gang members hailed from the locality and were involved in extortion and other terrorist activities in the area. Police was deployed in the factory following the incident.

"Local mastans often assault us when we resist them

Young man stabbed to death

By DMCH Correspondent

A young man was stabbed to death at Tikkapara in Mohammadpur area in the city yesterday.

Mohammad Selim, 20, was stabbed in the chest and back by three unidentified persons at about 1:30 pm. He was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died later, medical sources said.

Police said the incident was sequel to an earlier enmity. Selim, who had studied upto class 'nine, was the eldest of two sons of his rickshawpuller father Abdul Barek.

None was arrested in this connection till last night.

Floods engulf more areas in N-dists

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation continued to worsen in the northern region of the country yesterday with more areas submerged and road links in many areas disrupted due to incessant rains and swelling of rivers.

According to reports received in the city, fresh areas in many thanas of the already affected districts of Pabna, Sirajganj, Natore and Gaibandha were inundated. The situation in Nawabganj and Rajshahi districts and also in the north eastern region, however, remained unchanged.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports: The flood situa-

Croats capture Drvar as talks continue

BELGRADE, Aug 18: Croatia claimed to have captured a Serb-held town today as US diplomats held a second round of talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, the man many blame for starting war in the former Yugoslavia, reports AP.

Croatian radio reported that Croat forces had taken the western Bosnian town of Drvar, where they had been fighting Serbs all week. There was no independent confirmation of the report on Drvar, which Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic had pledged to use every possible means to defend.

In Zagreb, UN spokesman Chris Gunness said the report of Drvar being taken by the Croats is "very likely to be true... since we assessed the town has been surrounded by the Croats in the last 24 hours."

But Gen Milan Gvero, deputy commander of the Bosnian Serb army, denied the report. The Bosnian Serb news agency SRNA quoted him as saying that Serb positions on all fronts were "strong, stable and unchanged, despite constant attacks by the united forces of the enemy."

Capture of Drvar would place the Croats within striking distance of Bosanski Petrovac, the last major Serb-held town in western Bosnia, separating the Croats from Bosnian troops only 30 kilometers to the north.

In southern Croatia, Croats and Serbs prepared today for a second day of fighting in the port city of Dubrovnik. UN officials reported a worrisome buildup of thousands of Croatian troops in the Dubrovnik area, a likely staging ground for another offensive against Serbs artillery positions across the border in Bosnia.

UN spokesman Chris Gunness said as many as 10,000 troops were gathered northeast of the medieval resort town.

"The situation is extremely tense," he told reporters in Zagreb. "We believe

Kashmiri militants warn Delhi Hostages will be killed if rescue attempted

By Staff Correspondent

SRINAGAR, Aug 18: A shadowy Muslim separatist group holding four western tourists in Kashmir threatened to kill the hostages today if Indian commandos attempted a rescue operation, reports AFP.

"Once a military offensive begins the hostages will be killed," Al-Faran said following reports that British and US anti-terrorism experts had arrived in this Kashmir summer capital to assist the Indian authorities.

Al-Faran, in an Urdu-language statement distributed here, said the Indian government's refusal to release 15 Muslim militants from prison had already led to the

Turtles being exported despite ban

By Staff Correspondent

Fresh water live turtles worth millions of taka are being exported despite a ban on its export under the revised Bangladesh Wildlife (Preservation) Act, 1994, according to a wildlife expert.

Some of these fresh water turtles belong to the rare species category and their trading is banned worldwide, SMA Rashid, of the Centre for Advanced Research in Natural Resource and Management, told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to findings of the Centre, a non-government organisation, at least one metric ton fresh water

No trace yet of that BTV tape

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Television (BTV) authorities have informed the Election Commission (EC) that they are yet to find out the news video tape that allegedly contained the news about Mahmudul Hasan's joining the BNP, sources in the commission said yesterday.

The EC earlier wanted the news video from the BTV as Jatiya Party leaders in their submission to the EC claimed that they saw in BTV's news cast on December 28 last year that Hasan had joined BNP by calling on the Prime Minister.



Lisa Presley to divorce Jackson!

LONDON, Aug 18: Lisa Marie Presley plans to divorce Michael Jackson after just 15 months of marriage for taking two teen-age boys on a trip to Paris, the Daily Mirror reported Friday, reports AP.

Jackson denied the claim as "garbage."

In a front-page story billed as exclusive, the tabloid quoted an unnamed Presley aide as saying, "Lisa Marie thought she loved the guy, but now she thinks she can never get close to him."

"She was really angry when he went abroad with the small boys," the aide was quoted as telling Britain's second-largest newspaper.

Answering fans' questions on the Internet Thursday night, Jackson denied the report that his wife has contacted lawyers to get a "quickie divorce" next month in the Dominican Republic, where the couple wed in May, 1994.

4 killed in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least four people were killed and 40 others injured in separate road accidents in Jhenidah and Chittagong yesterday.

Our correspondent from Jhenidah reports: Two persons were killed and 20 others injured when a Jessore-bound bus fell into a roadside ditch near Jhenidah Judge Court at about 3:45 pm yesterday.

Witnesses said the accident occurred when the driver tried to overtake another bus.

The dead were identified as Mithu, 12, and Maznu, 38 of the injured, eight were

Transport strike in southern dists today

FARIDPUR, Aug 18: Transport Owners' Associations of 21 South and South-Western districts called a 48-hour strike from tomorrow morning demanding rise of transport fair and reduction price of spare parts, reports UNB.

During the non-stop strike bus, minibuses, truck, tank-lorry and auto tempo would not ply on the roads of the districts, the Associations sources said.

The South Bengal Motor Transport Owners' Association at a meeting in Faridpur on August 10, gave a dead-line to fulfil their demands by today. Otherwise, they threatened to go for strike.

However, the deadline was expired today without any response from the government.