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NEWS BRIEFS

Brother kills
sister

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 18: A young woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her brother at Kaliaharipur in Sadar thana early today. Police said Abdul Mannan killed her younger sister, Feriza 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: Pourashava authorities have filed a case against 25 people for looting Saudi meat worth about Tk 50 lakh. Police said the meat allocated for the Pourashava to distribute among the destitutes were looted by a group of armed miscreants on August 8, reports UNB.

Body found in
Ramma Lake

Police yesterday recovered the body of a 12-year-old boy floating in the Ramma 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 Hazrat Ali Kazi, 19, was hacked to death by some armed people at Muladi thana area of Barisal this morning. Witnesses and police said when Hazrat Ali with his father went to a disputed land for cultivation in the morning, some armed people attacked them and stabbed Hazrat. He died on the spot.

20 rickshawpullers
injured in clash

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

Having a central student union is a fundamental right

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.

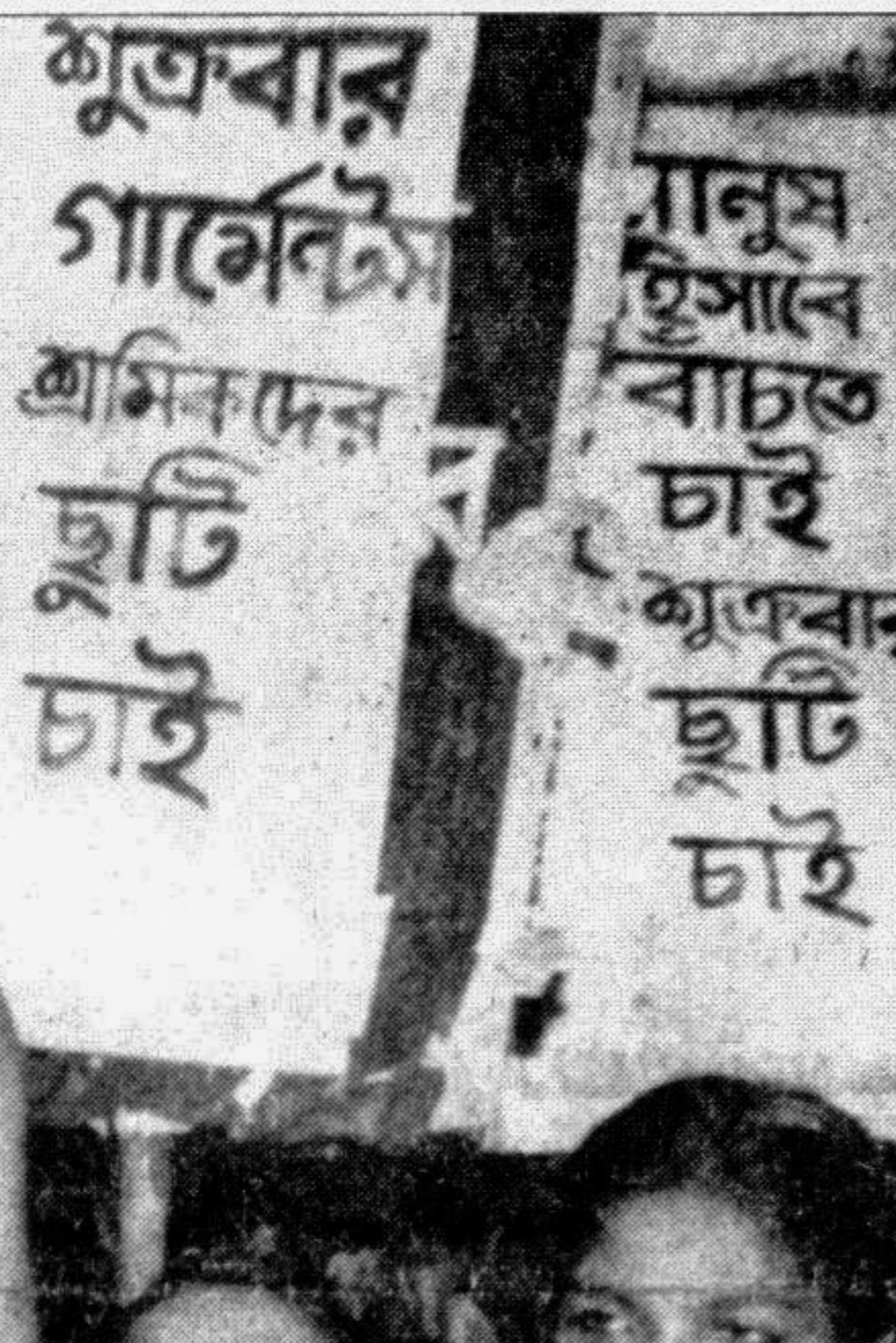
Until 20 minutes ago there was not anything unusual in the south of Iraq.

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 de-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-

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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

Garments workers' 'demand fortnight' from tomorrow

The garments workers will observe a 'Demand Fortnight' from August 20 and stage countrywide demonstration on September 8 demanding that authorities declare Friday as weekly holiday for them, reports UNB.

The National Garments Workers Federation announced the programme from a rally in front of the National Press Club yesterday afternoon. The rally was arranged to mark its 'Demand Day' yesterday.

During the demand fortnight, they will submit memoranda to garments factory owners, the labour minister, the labour directorate and the inspector of factories.

Addressing the rally, Federation General Secretary Amritul Haq Amin said weekly

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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 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 Jatiya 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

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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 Hammond 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

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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 situ-

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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 Mahmud 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.

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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 claims 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 'quicke divorce' next month in the Dominican Republic, where the couple wed in May, 1994.

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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 Muhi, 12, and Maznu, 38 of the injured, eight were

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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

death of Norwegian hostage Hans-Christian Ostro.

'If the government wants to see the other four hostages alive it should immediately release the 15 militants on our list,' said the captors of Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert.

Al-Faran recalled that the government had released jailed guerrillas in exchange for Indian hostages in the past, and asked why it would not do so now.

'Why is the government not willing to release a few Kashmiri militants in exchange for the western

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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

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traders Owners' Association of 21 South and South-Western districts called a 48-hour strike from tomorrow morning demanding rise of transport fair and reduction of price of spare parts, reports UNB.

During the non-stop strike bus, minibus, 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.