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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### BNP council body meets today

An emergency meeting of the Preparatory Committee of National Council Conference of Bangladesh Nationalist Party will be held today at 8:00 pm at its central office at Naya Paltan. Conveners of all sub-committees and members of the committee have been requested to attend the meeting to be presided over by the Preparatory Committee convenor Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqi. The convenor of the Preparatory Committee will also meet the president and general secretary of Dhaka city BNP and presidents and general secretaries of all thana BNP units of the city at 8:00 pm today, reports BSS.

#### Soeharto due in Dec likely

Indonesian President Soeharto is likely to pay a state visit to Bangladesh sometime in December, diplomatic sources here said yesterday. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, during her visit to Indonesia in September last year to attend the NAM summit, invited President Soeharto to visit Dhaka. The forthcoming visit of Soeharto will be his second to Bangladesh. He last visited the country in 1979, reports UNB.

#### Lankan minister leaves for home

The visiting Sri Lankan Minister for Food, Cooperatives and Janasaviya Weerasinghe Mallamaratchi, left Dhaka yesterday for home ending his six-day visit to Bangladesh. Food Minister M Shamsul Islam saw him off at the Zia International Airport, reports BSS.

#### Demjanjuk may seek asylum in Ukraine

JERUSALEM July 30: John Demjanjuk will seek asylum in his native Ukraine within days unless the United States allows him to return, a Ukrainian official said Friday. Demjanjuk is awaiting deportation from Israel after the Supreme Court on Thursday overturned his conviction and death penalty as the Nazi mass murderer 'Ivan the Terrible', reports AP.

## Bosnian factions agree on 3-republic plan

GENEVA, July 30: Bosnia-Herzegovina's warring factions agreed today to transform their country into a union of three republics but must still decide exactly where to draw the borders, international mediators said, reports AFP.

The mediators, Lord Owen and Thorvald Stoltenberg, said negotiations would continue Saturday on the specifics of the peace plan, notably on a map dividing the country and ceasefire arrangements.

"After intensive discussion on a number of draft, with amendments agreed by all three parties, there is now a constitutional agreement for the union of republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina which will

form part of an overall peace settlement, mediators Owen and Stoltenberg said in a statement released by their spokesman, John Mills.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman, here for all-party talks on the former Yugoslavia, said an overall agreement would be signed Sunday or Monday.

Tudjman and his counterparts from the rump Yugoslavia — Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia and Momir Bulatovic of Montenegro — planned to leave Geneva this evening but will return if needed, the mediators said.

The leaders of the Bosnian delegations — President Alija Izetbegovic of the Muslim-led

government, Mate Boban of the Bosnian Croats and Radovan Karadzic of the Bosnian Serbs — will continue talks on annexes to the agreement, specifically on a human rights court, Mills said.

The new plan proposed by Owen and Stoltenberg would divide Bosnia into three republics without explicit reference to ethnic make-up.

It is a fusion of a Serb-Croat plan for a confederation of three ethnic-based states and the militarily weaker Bosnian government's drive to retain a unitary state based on a non-ethnic federal structure.

In its initial version, the new plan called for transforming

Bosnia into an entity called the United Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina. That name was changed slightly in a second draft, at the request of Bosnian presidency, to read the Union of Republics of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In a further bow to the Muslim drive to maintain a single state, the agreement says that the new entity would be recognized under international law, as Bosnia would keep its seat at the United Nations.

Meanwhile, the military commanders of Bosnia's three warring factions agreed today to implement an immediate ceasefire across the republic. Croat commander Milivoj Petkovic said.

## Govt firm to establish rule of law: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday iterated her firm resolve to do everything possible for the establishment of rule of law in the country saying, "Our policy is to ensure the independence and neutrality of the judiciary," reports BSS.

Addressing the 16th annual council meeting of the National Bar Association of Bangladesh as chief guest at a hotel in Dhaka, she said the establishment of rule of law was essential for consolidating the hard-earned democracy.

"Rule of law is a safeguard to democracy. Only rule of law can ensure stability of democracy, development and prosperity," the Prime Minister said.

Referring to her government's continuous efforts for the establishment of rule of law, Begum Zia said that in the meantime, self-respect of the

judiciary had been restored. The government, she said, had taken up the task of reforming laws of the colonial era and updating the existing laws to ensure equal rights for all under the rule of law.

Begum Zia sought cooperation, advice and suggestions of the lawyers in this regard.

The Prime Minister told the lawyers that her government was equally attentive to the need for a modern, fair judicial system and reforms of the laws.

She said a bill to separate the judiciary from the executive was also under examination by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law and Justice.

Presided over by Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, president of the National Bar Association of Bangladesh, the function was also addressed by See Page 12 Col 4

## Govt distributes Tk 19 cr worth flood relief

By Staff Correspondent

The government, as part of its post-flood rehabilitation programme, has supplied relief materials worth about Tk 19 crore to the flood affected people in 32 districts.

The relief so far distributed included 7510 tonnes of rice, 150 tonnes of wheat, 11440 pieces of sarces, 11400 pieces of lungis, 5400 bundles of CI sheets, government officials said.

The government has also distributed Tk one crore nine lakh and 50 thousand as gratuitous relief and Tk one crore as house-building grants.

Meanwhile, the overall flood situation continued to improve Friday as waters in all the rivers continued to recede. Only the See Page 12 Col 3

## JU files cases against 21 students

By JU Correspondent

Criminal cases have been lodged by the Jahangirnagar University authorities against 21 students for their alleged involvement in Thursday's violence which led to the institution being closed *since die*.

The Registrar of the university filed the cases with the Savar Police under the Anti-Terrorism Act against the students, all belonging to the Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), police sources said.

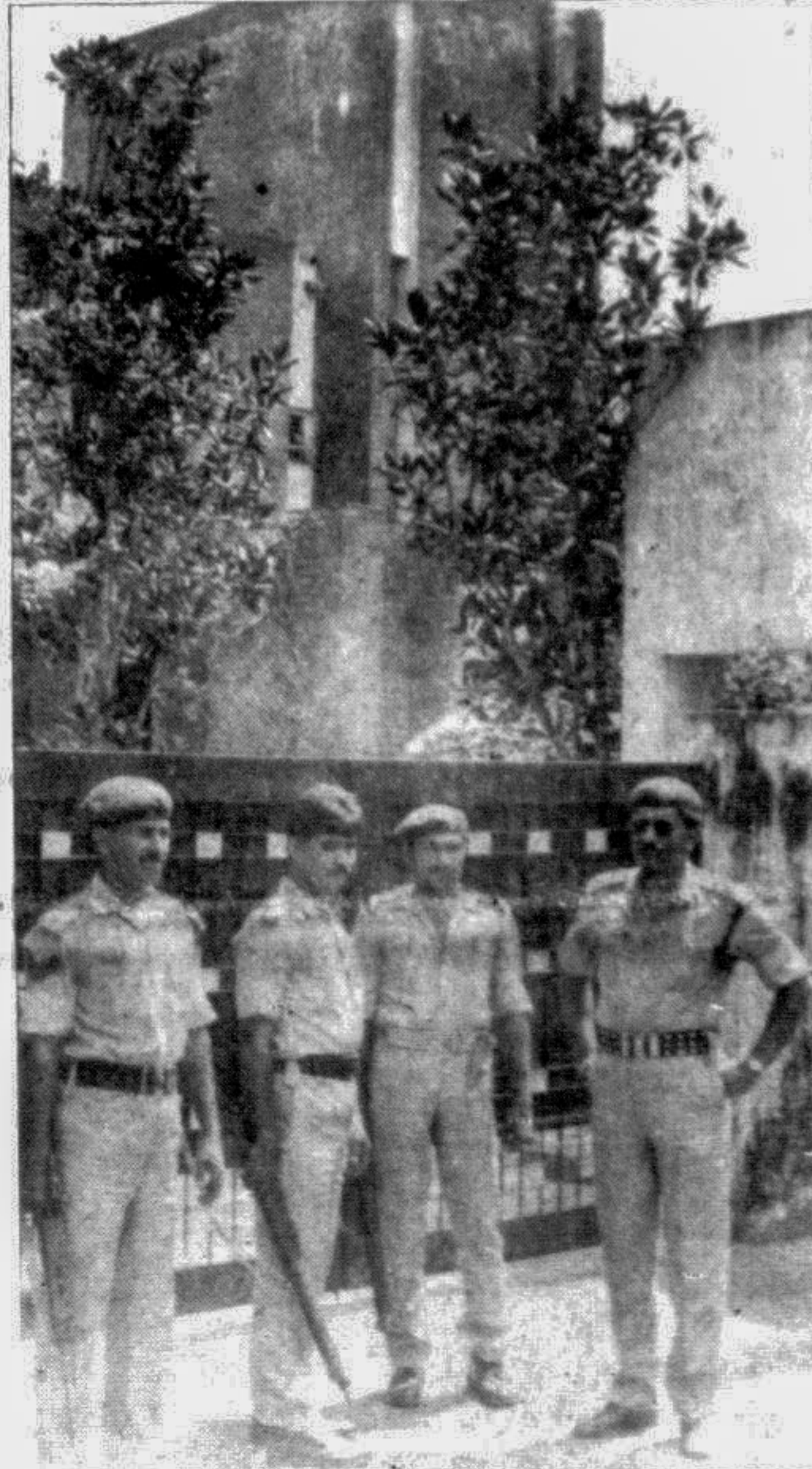
The list of accused contains six members of the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (JUCSU) including the Vice President Masud Hachan Talukder Liton and general secretary Shamsul Tabriz Mithu.

Meanwhile, all the university students yesterday vacated the dormitories as per Thursday's decision of the university Syndicate.

From early Friday morning special transports were arranged for the students leaving the campus. Though the official deadline for vacating the halls was 10 am the last special bus left the campus for Dhaka at 3 pm.

Provosts and other hall officials were absent during the departure of the students since they are all abstaining from their duties since Thursday morning in protest against the attack on the teachers.

The teachers have said they See Page 12 Col 5



Police guarding the residence of the JU Vice Chancellor yesterday. — Star photo

## AL, DUTA deplore attack on teachers

By JU Correspondent  
Different political and other organisations have deplored last Thursday's attack on the teachers of the Jahangirnagar University.

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman expressed his deep concern over the violence that forced the closure of the university.

Referring to the armed vandalism, reportedly led by the students' organisation of the ruling BNP, Awami League leader, in a statement Friday, questioned the very existence of government in the country.

"After such an incident, how See Page 12 Col 8

## DUCSU, JCD slate JU attack

Dhaka University Students Union (DUCSU) Vice-President Amanullah Aman, MP, and General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokon yesterday slated the incident at the Jahangirnagar University and demanded punishment of the offenders, reports BSS.

The DUCSU leaders in their statement regretted that the syndicate had asked the authority to postpone the activities of the JUCSU and hall unions. They urged the authority to withdraw this suggestion and permit JUCSU and hall unions to function as usual.

Chhatra Dal President Fazlul See Page 12 Col 4

## Cong-I introduces bills to ban religion-based politics

NEW DELHI, July 30: The Indian government pressed Thursday for the divorcing of religion from politics, a day after an opposition no-confidence motion in Parliament failed to oust the ruling Congress (I) Party, reports AFP.

Home Minister SB Chavan introduced a bill amid loud protests from the Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Indian People's Party and other opposition parties.

The BJP was at the forefront of the campaign which resulted in the demolition of the Babri Mosque in the northern town of Ayodhya by Hindu extremists on December 6.

It has demanded the construction of a Hindu temple on the mosque site as part of its electoral plank in overwhelming Hindu India.

More than 2,000 people died in Hindu-Muslim riots which swept across India after the demolition of the Mughol-built mosque.

The proposed legislation would amend the Constitution and allow Parliament to ban any organisation found guilty of promoting animosity on the grounds of religion, caste or race.

A second bill would allow India's autonomous Election Commission to ban political parties with religious names

from contesting elections.

Observers said the bills aim to prevent the BJP from using the Ayodhya temple issue as its future electoral plank and to block several militant Hindu and Muslim organisations from taking part in polls.

Reacting sharply to the government move, BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani urged the ruling party to withdraw the bills, describing them as undemocratic.

"The bills are fraught with dangerous consequences and would sound the death knell of democracy in the country," said the president of the BJP, the largest opposition party in Parliament.

## Baluchistan municipal bodies suspended

ISLAMABAD, July 30: Pakistan's caretaker administration has suspended elected municipal bodies in the south-western province of Baluchistan as part of efforts to ensure free elections in October, officials said today, reports AFP.

The funds of the local councils have been frozen and district officials have been asked to take charge of their functions, a provincial government announcement said late Thursday.

Similar action is expected to follow in Punjab, the country's most populous and politically important province. Two other regions, Sindh and North West Frontier Province, are already without elected municipal bodies.

## Quit country, Dr. Kamal asks Jamaat leaders

RAJSHAHI, July 30: Democratic Forum leader Dr Kamal Hossain today castigated the Jamaat-Shibir clique for "spearheading the politics of terrorism and trading in religion," reports UNB.

"They have no right to do politics in the soil of this country they have killed thousands of innocent people and violated women during the Liberation War of 1971," he told a public gathering of the Forum at the Zila Parishad auditorium this evening.

The Bengali Muslims will never accept the use of religion as "a weapon in politics", he added.

Dr Kamal accused the Jamaat-Shibir axis of initiating

"politics of terrorism and cutting tendons" and asked the Jamaat leaders to leave the country. "Otherwise, the patriotic people will oust you from this soil," he warned.

He also blamed the Jamaat for distributing arms among its activists in the name of "protecting Islam" and said clandestine arms manufacturing factories of the Jamaat had been unearthed in Cox's Bazar and Rajshahi.

The Democratic Forum leader wanted to know why Jamaat leader Golam Azam was so interested to stay in Bangladesh when those opposing the Liberation War 'like General Niazi had opted for See Page 12 Col 7

## Huda cancels meet of JP dissidents

By Staff Correspondent

Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, a former Speaker and presidium member, has cancelled the meeting of 'like-minded' Jatitya Party members he had planned to hold at his residence on August 4.

The decision to call off the meeting, to which members of the media were even invited, was circulated late Friday night in a statement signed by Huda himself.

In the same statement, Huda added that any adverse comments made against acting chief of the party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, were 'wrongly attributed to him.'

Shamsul Huda Chowdhury's decision to call off the special meet of 'dissident' or disgrun-

ted JP members was learnt to have been taken following assurances given by other ranking leaders of the JP presidium "to accommodate the grievances of the JP leaders led by Shamsul Huda."

The former Speaker, after a prolonged break, participated in the presidium meeting on Friday, presided by Mizan Chowdhury.

Huda, who had refused to attend the presidium meetings on the previous two days, yesterday delivered a speech where he called for democratisation of the central leadership of the party and a call to distance itself from the Awami League. He also called for settling organisational matters within the

party forum.

Yesterday's meeting of the JP presidium was addressed, among others, by Moudud Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hussain, Sheikh Shahid, Anisul Islam Mahmud, Major General (Retd) Mahmudul Hasan, A T M Fazley Rabbi, Rezauddin Ahmed Bholia Miah and Khaledur Rahman Titu among others.

The members of the JP presidium were tight-lipped about the individual stand taken by the different members, but one ranking leader said, "The detractors in the party have been appeased for now, and the JP has survived what looked to be an 'imminent split' on Aug 1."

Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, who had earlier claimed that

the proposed Aug 1 meeting "would see the start of a long struggle in the Jatitya Party," spoke in what seemed to be a reconciliatory tone while talking to The Daily Star late last night.

He said he was happy that the JP presidium members had given a patient hearing. He reiterated that some concrete steps should be forthcoming to 'democratise' the party's central leadership and prevent it from towing a pro-Awami League line.

The former Speaker, however, cautioned, "I cannot be hopeful. If in the days ahead (the party) breaks, it will break. I have always followed a conciliatory role and have never in- See Page 12 Col 1

## Health Ministry projects behind target

By Chapal Bashar

Progress of development projects under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have remained far behind the target for fiscal 1992-93.

The physical progress of most projects was a little over 70 per cent on an average while only 80 per cent of the allocated funds was utilised, according to a well-placed source.

The source said delay by the donors in giving their concurrence to the projects' implementation as well as complications regarding the appointment of project consultants were the main reasons for the gap in performance.

The ministry has 100 development projects — 68 in the

health sector and 32 in the family welfare sector.

An amount of Taka 611.85 crore was allocated for these projects during the last fiscal year, of which Taka 351.20 crore was project aid while the Government of Bangladesh provided Taka 260.65 crore. Of the total fund, only Taka 488.80 crore was spent until 30 June last.

The implementation of each project requires the concurrence of the concerned donor at almost every step under the terms of agreement of the aid. Often it takes an inordinately long time to obtain such concurrence which delays the project. See Page 12 Col 7

## Ansar shoots 2 inmates dead

KUSHIA, July 30: Two Ansars were killed and another was wounded at GK project Ansar camp at Bheramara in Kushtia district on Thursday night when a camp inmate opened fire following a dispute over alleged entry of gay girls, reports UNB.

Police and Ansar sources said the trouble ensued when the camp residents protested the presence of two gay girls who were earlier brought into the camp by some inmates.

In the melee, Ansar Abdul Jalil allegedly opened fire killing Shahadat Hossain (40) on the spot.

Rezaul Haq (22) succumbed to his injuries at the Kushtia General Hospital where he was rushed with injured camp commander, Tota.

Police arrested four Ansars, including Abdul Jalil, and the two gay girls.