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## 19 more robbers lynched on Noakhali chars

### Two-day death toll in frenzied public wrath hits 27

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Mobs of locals in South Char Clerk, Urir Char, Munshi Hat and Bayar Char lynched 19 alleged jungle bandits yesterday, taking the number of such fatalities in two days of frenzied attacks to 27 until 9:45 last night.

"Angry crowds caught 14 of yesterday's victims from Char Clerk Banglabazar, Munshihat and

Bayarchar and killed them as they were fleeing their forest hideouts hemmed in by police and coastguards," said Noakhali's Deputy Commissioner (DC) Mostafa Kamal Haider.

Police with the help of locals caught four others from deep forest yesterday morning, but the suspects were snatched by mobs roaming the area and beat them to death.

A mob caught Mehadi Hasan, allegedly a robber, at 1:00am from Urir Char when he was fleeing and killed him near Char Clerk Banglabazar.

"Even when police went to save one of the arrestees, locals beat the policemen," the DC said.

Yousuf Kerani, Nooruddin, Mosharrif Hossain, Habibullah, Baker Hossain, Mainuddin and Dada Bhai were also among the

dead. The identity of the rest, allegedly operatives of infamous Nabya Chora gang, could not be established immediately.

Outraged locals of Char Clerk cluster village caught an alleged gang and beat eight of them dead on Sunday.

The district administrator linked most of the victims to infamous gangs operating in the coastal areas and suggested that people in the

seaboard villages knew their outfits well.

A combing operation of 360 police and coastguard personnel in the region will continue until police can arrest the operatives of Nabya Chora in South Char Clerk and Jahangir Dakat in Nalar Char and Nangalier Char, the DC said.

He hoped that the about 15 to 20 alleged robber remnants of Nabya

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## Major cabinet reshuffle ahead of new year likely

### Around 15 cabinet and state ministers may lose job; portfolios of some others may be changed

REZAUL KARIM

Axe may fall on over a dozen ministers in a major cabinet reshuffle ahead of the new year for poor performance and reported involvement in corruption.

Highly placed sources at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) and Ministry of Home Affairs said intelligence agencies have submitted a report card on 15 ministers and state ministers on their performance and corruption and other irregularities, as well.

PMO sources indicated a major

reshuffle is highly likely by end of the month and three to four cabinet ministers and around a dozen junior ministers may be dropped, while portfolios of some others may as well be changed.

They said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia recently summoned several policymakers and senior ministers on receipt of the intelligence reports apparently to check them out.

Key officials at the PMO have been in touch with different political and bureaucratic sources to enquire about whether the allegations

against the ministers and state ministers were true.

An influential PMO official admitted they have received strong evidences of corruption by several cabinet members. Besides, performances of a number of ministers and state ministers are not up to the mark even though they have been in office for more than two years, he added.

The PMO official said there has been tremendous pressure from the ruling BNP policymakers and senior cabinet members for further down

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## Minister snubs demand for declaring Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharef Hossain Shajahan yesterday rejected a demand for declaring the Ahmadiyya sect non-Muslim, a rallying cry that led religious bigots to stage a hate-filled demonstration on Friday and declare a tough movement ahead.

"None less than Allah can do it," he said of the demand, adding: "As the minister concerned, I have no power nor am I entitled to do so."

The minister's concern came after the anti-Ahmadiyya Hizafate Khatme Nabuwat Andolon threatened a broad movement if the government did not declare the Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim by next Friday.

"Now they (anti-Ahmadiyya group) are demanding it... once the demand is met, they will want to capture a mosque, then a church...," the ministers said.

Earlier, police foiled a bid to

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PHOTO: AKM MOHSIN

Winter has brought in mists and chill. The further north one travels the more bite of winter they feel. This picture taken on a Dinajpur road at 10:00am yesterday shows mists partially blocking vision, making travel hazardous.

## Dhaka shuts Baghdad mission over terror threat

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh has temporarily shut down its Iraqi mission in Baghdad in the face of overall insecurity and several threats of terrorist attacks.

Sarwar Hossain Mollah, Bangladesh's ambassador to Iraq, was discharged of his duties and moved to Jordan following threats of attacks and indiscriminate rocket and missile firings in the Iraqi capital, Reaz Rahman, state minister for foreign affairs ministry, told the news agency yesterday.

"The diplomatic staff in Baghdad were in a state of great insecurity," Rahman said adding that overall security situation there remained fraught with uncertainty.

Meanwhile, Bulgaria and the Netherlands have closed their

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## Municipal chairman killed in Rajshahi

### BNP leader knifed to death in Bogra

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An Awami League (AL) leader was killed by suspected underground operatives in Rajshahi while a BNP leader was knifed to death in Bogra yesterday.

In Rajshahi, suspected operatives of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) gunned down Taherpur Pourashabha (municipality) chairman and joint convenor of local AL Alo Khondoker at Taherpur yesterday evening.

Alo was on his way home at Bishupur when a group of 10

opened fire on him near Taherpur College, killing him on the spot. The gang also slit his throat in a desperate bid to confirm his death, police said.

The killers chanted slogans in favour of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party as they left the scene.

Police are unsure about the motive behind the murder although Rajshahi AL has hinted that the murder could be a sequel to his enmity with local BNP leaders over bidding for construction work.

Seeking anonymity, a family

member of the victim said Alo had 12 criminal and civil lawsuits against him.

Police have launched raids to catch the killers of the AL leader. No case was filed last night.

The BSS from Bogra reports: Noor-e-Alam alias Liton, a BNP leader, succumbed to his injuries at Bogra Government Mohammad Ali Hospital in the early hours of yesterday after suffering stab injuries at Dupchachia Sunday night.

Sources said Liton, joint secretary of Dupchachia thana unit of the

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## BSF guns down 2 in C'nawabganj

BSS, Rajshahi

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) gunned down two Bangladeshi farmers at Kironganj village under Shibganj upazila in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

A team of BSF personnel of Sukdevpur camp in Malda fired at farmers Shikim Mian and Bobu Mian when they were working in paddy fields inside Bangladesh territory at about noon, witnesses said.

Bobu Mian died on the spot and the BSF party dragged his body to Indian territory while Shikim Mian died on way to his residence, Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said.

Local BDR sent a protest letter to its Indian counterpart and demanded return of Bobu's body.

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## Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited

Share Department, Head Office, 40, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.

### Notice for 20th Annual General Meeting (Adjourned)

This is to notify that the 20th Annual General Meeting (Adjourned) of the Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited will be held on **Friday, 12th December, 2003 at 10:00 a.m.** at 196, Motijee C/A, Dhaka for the transaction of the following agenda.

#### Agendum: 1. Election of Directors

All the Concerned Honourable Members of the Bank are requested to attend the meeting in time.

Date: Dhaka  
24th November, 2003

By order of Board of Directors  
**Md. Shouquat Ali**  
Secretary

N.B.

- The rules and regulations of election will be available at Registered Office of the Company / meeting place.
- The right of access into the meeting place are reserved for Shareholders / Attorneys / Proxys. Attendance of the Shareholders / Attorneys / Proxys will be recorded upto 11:00 a.m.

www.islamibankbd.com

## Pricewaterhouse gets job to run Agrani Bank

### Cabinet body okays budget

REZAUL KARIM BYRON

The government yesterday approved appointment of Pricewaterhouse Coopers of Hong Kong as the consultancy to reform and run the Agrani Bank management.

The cabinet committee on purchase approved a three-year Tk 36 crore budget for Pricewaterhouse Coopers. The proposal to appoint the consultancy will now be sent to the prime minister for her nod.

The new team will supervise administrative, organisational and

other activities of the bank under the guidance of the board chairman," said Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman after the committee meeting.

This is the first time a nationalised bank will be placed under a private management for reforms.

Sources in the cabinet division said Pricewaterhouse has already named the new nine-member management team of Agrani Bank. Four of them including the chief executive officer are Bangladeshis

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