

Suspected robber killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A suspected robber was killed in a mob beating during a robbery attempt in Pirojpur Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The deceased has been identified as Maharaj, 35, police said without providing further details.

Locals captured another suspect, Sabuj Hawlader, 55, of Dehergati village under Babuganj upazila of Barishal, and beat him up before handing him over to police.

The incident happened at the residence of former UP member Anukul Chandra Roy alias Dulal, at Paschim Durgapur village in the upazila.

Sub-Inspector Molla Ramij Jahan Jumma of Pirojpur Sadar Police Station said around 2:30am, while responding to a call, a police team rescued two injured individuals from Paschim Durgapur village. They were taken to Pirojpur Sadar Hospital, where the on-duty doctor declared Maharaj dead.

Meanwhile, other members of the robbery gang managed to flee with looted valuables, while locals chased them, he added.

Dulal's brother, Amalesh Chandra Roy, said five of their members, including his brother, were sleeping inside the wooden house. Around 1:30am, a group of 7-8 robbers broke into the house and at gunpoint, looted three gold chains, four pairs of earrings, two pairs of bangles, and other gold ornaments.

After the robbers entered the house, Amalesh's wife, Lipika Rani, informed him over the phone. Amalesh, who stays in Pirojpur town, said he alerted locals, who gave them a chase, captured two of them, and beat them up.

Police, on information, arrived at the scene and took the two into custody.

PLOT SALE

A plot is available for sale in the Baridihara Diplomatic Zone. Interested and genuine buyers are warmly invited to contact for further details.

Contact: 01973456904

CWASA WATER CONNECTIONS

Rusty pipelines, disrupted supply

Around 40,000 consumers suffer as decades-old system collapses

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

Md Alamgir Hossain, manager of Morium Bhaban in Chattogram's densely populated Akbar Shah area, spends three consecutive nights every week waiting by the motor switch for water from Chattogram Wasa.

As soon as supply starts flowing through the line, usually late at night, he rushes to fill the building's 10,000-litre reservoir before the flow stops after four to five hours.

"The water comes only three days a week, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, that too late at night. So, we stay awake to fill the tank," said Alamgir, who manages the five-storey building housing ten families.

Each family needs at least 500 litres of water every day. With CWasa's irregular supply, residents are forced to spend extra to meet their daily needs.

Documents obtained by this newspaper show why the shortage persists. Ageing uPVC and cement pipelines -- many installed 35 to 40 years ago -- can no longer handle the pressure required for uninterrupted supply.

CWasa has divided the city

network into six sectors. Of these, five rely on 375 kilometres of outdated pipelines spanning Barik Building to Patenga, Khulshi to AK Khan, Amin Jute Mill to Oxygen, Bahaddarhat to Mohra, and Khaja

occur in the Barik Building-to-Patenga sector, affecting roughly 15,000 consumers.

For many, the shortage means having to buy water at high prices. In Patenga, tea stall owner Belal

them. Rokeya Begum has been paying her monthly minimum bill since 2019. "I have not received a single drop. I just keep paying to maintain the connection," she said.

Nazir Hossain, vice-president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said CWasa has failed its basic responsibility. "They have been operating for six decades but still cannot ensure water for their customers," he said.

Contacted, CWasa Executive Engineer Rezaul Ahsan Chowdhury admitted the pipelines are too rusty and leak-prone to sustain pressure. "When we increase pressure, the lines burst. It's impossible to supply water without replacing them," he said.

Against the city's daily demand for 60 crore litres of water, CWasa currently produces around 49.5 crore litres a day, of which 3.3 crore litres come from deep tubewells and the rest from four surface-water treatment plants that draw water from Karnaphuli and Halda rivers.

CWasa Chief Engineer Maksud Alam said they have undertaken a project to replace all old lines by 2029. "We expect to resolve the issue once the new pipelines are installed," he said.



Road to Chaktai.

These five sectors serve nearly 40,000 customers, almost half of CWasa's 90,846 billable connections as of June this year.

Only one sector, stretching about 750 kilometres, has been upgraded recently with ductile iron pipelines. The worst disruptions

Uddin said he often buys jars from private sellers to run his business. "Each jar costs Tk 40 to 50. I have no choice," he said.

Despite having official connections, some households have never received a drop through their pipelines. Residents of Mokbul Ali Society in Patenga are among

Cancel travel agency ordinance

Demand ATAB, HAAB

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) and Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh (HAAB) yesterday demanded immediate cancellation of the Travel Agency (Registration and Control) Ordinance 2025.

The demand came from a human chain programme organised by ATAB Members' Welfare Unity Alliance in front of the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

Addressing the human chain, Mohammad Jalal Uddin Tipu, convener of the Unity Alliance, said the new ordinance -- prepared by the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism by changing the existing law would shut down around 5,000 travel agencies in the country if it is implemented.

"As a result, owners, officials and employees would lose their jobs, which would adversely affect the entire sector and the national economy," he said.

Tipu also said, "Many of the amendment proposals in the new ordinance are not consistent with reality. In particular, the ban on buying and selling tickets through other agencies will make it difficult for small travel agencies to survive."



No signs of security risks ahead of polls

Says home adviser

STAR REPORT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said the government has detected no signs of security risks ahead of the upcoming national election.

"The overall law and order is steadily improving," he told reporters after a law and order meeting held at the Secretariat.

The adviser, in the regular review, said the election remains a major factor, as political programmes, processions, and meetings will increase as polling day nears.



Shut down illegal brick kilns in Ctg in 15 days: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the local administration of Chattogram to shut down all illegal brick kilns in the district in 15 days and to submit a compliance report before it.

Eight government high officials, including the deputy commissioner and superintendent of police in Chattogram, director of the Department of Environment (DoE) in the district and UNO of its Lohagara upazila have been directed to implement the order.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Hamidur Rahman delivered the order during the hearing of a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh, seeking necessary directives to shut down the illegal brick kilns.

The HC fixed December 17 for further hearing and issuing an order on the matter.

During the hearing yesterday, the petitioner's lawyer, Manzill Murshed, told the HC that following the change of the government, most illegal brick kiln owners have reportedly resumed operations, causing severely harmful effects on the environment in Chattogram.



Rangamati hospital struggling without ICU, dialysis

RIKORS CHAKMA, Rangamati

Rashel Chakma of Kalindipur in Rangamati has been suffering from kidney disease for nearly two years and requires dialysis twice a week. His mother, Usha Chakma, said since Rangamati General Hospital has no dialysis facility, Rashel must travel to a private hospital in Chattogram for treatment.

"In his present condition, it takes a toll on him to travel to Chattogram twice a week for dialysis. It also costs around Tk 50,000 a month for his treatment. If the treatment was available here, it would have been more convenient and less expensive," she said.

Rashel's situation is not unique. Many critically ill patients from remote areas in Rangamati have to endure similar hardship as the hospital, established in 1984 to serve patients from 10 upazilas, still lacks specialised facilities including Intensive Care Unit, Coronary Care Unit, and dialysis services even after four decades.

In 2009, a five-storey CCU building was constructed at the hospital, but it has remained unused for 16 years. Since 2014, space inside the building has been temporarily used to run activities of Rangamati Medical College.



In 2019, the foundation stone for an 11-storey building was laid with plans to expand the number of beds and launch ICU, CCU and dialysis units. The health directorate and the public works department are responsible for implementing the project. However, only six floors have been constructed so far, and none could be made operational due to shortage of manpower and lack of equipment and furniture.

According to hospital sources, 200 to 250 patients are currently admitted to the 100-bed facility. Due to lack of space, many patients are treated on the floor. Additionally, around 1,000 to 1,200 people visit the hospital daily for outdoor consultations.

Dr Sawkat Akbar, resident doctor at the hospital, said ICU, CCU and dialysis services cannot be launched without required medical equipment, furniture and adequate manpower.

He said the hospital also has a shortage of staff, particularly in 3rd-4th grade posts, while four out of its 31 sanctioned doctor posts remain vacant.

Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
PKSF Bhaban, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar
Dhaka-1207 Phone: 02-222218331-31, Website: www.pksf.org.bd

Ref. No 53.23.0000.001.03.095.25.7130

Date: 23 November 2025

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)

A. Basic Information (Procuring Entity, Assignment, Procurement Method, Source of Fund, etc) for the Consulting Firms:		
1	Name of the Organization	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF)
2	Procuring Entity Name & Designation	Md. Mashiar Rahman, Deputy Managing Director
3	Expression of Interest for Selection of	A consulting firm for conducting the Final Impact Evaluation of Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People-European Union (PPEPP-EU) Project.
4	EOI Ref No and Publishing Date	53.23.0000.001.03.095.25.7130; 24 November 2025
5	Package No.	PKSF/PPEPP-EU/2025-2026/SD-03
6	Procurement Method	Fixed Budget Selection (FBS)
7	Source of Fund and Development Partner	European Union (EU)
8	Project Name	Pathways to Prosperity for Extremely Poor People-European Union (PPEPP-EU) Project
9	EOI submission place, closing date and time.	Date: 15 December 2025; Time: 2:30 PM Place: PKSF Bhaban-1, E-4/B, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Administrative Area, Agargaon, Dhaka.
B. Key Information for the Consulting Firms:		
10	Brief description of the assignment (Experience, resource, and delivery capacity required of the Consulting firm)	Please find the detailed REOI in the following website: https://pksf.org.bd/tender/
11	Experience, resources & Delivery Capacity Required	Please find the detailed REOI in the following website: https://pksf.org.bd/tender/
C. Procurement Entity Details		
12	Name and Designation of the Official Inviting EOI	Md. Mashiar Rahman, Deputy Managing Director
13	Address of the Official Inviting EOI	Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation (PKSF) PKSF Bhaban-1, E-4/B, Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207, Bangladesh
14	Contact Details of Official Inviting EOI	Telephone: 02-222218331-33, 02-222218335-39 Fax: 02222218341, 02222218343 e-mail: mashiar_rahman@yahoo.com
The Procurement Entity reserves all the rights to accept or reject all EOI proposals.		
(Md. Mashiar Rahman) Deputy Managing Director & PE		

Hill market turns popular in Cox's Bazar



PHOTO: STAR

MOKAMMEL SHUVO, Cox's Bazar

Near the Burmese School in Cox's Bazar town, several vendors from indigenous communities, most of them women, were seen on both sides of the road in a simple, modest market setup.

These vendors come on Tuesdays and Saturdays from different hilly areas of neighbouring Bandarban district with leafy vegetables, fruits, sweet potatoes, sticky rice, pumpkins, and hill-style rice cakes.

Tang Tho, a vendor, said the items are either grown in their own fields or collected from their local areas.

Vendors said they arrive at

dawn by CNG-run autorickshaws.

There is very little use of polythene at the market. Items are packaged using banana leaves tied with strips of banana tree bark and kept in bamboo baskets. Buyers bring their own bags.

Here, goods are not sold at any fixed rate based on weight; rather, sellers and buyers bargain to agree on a price. The prices are usually reasonable.

Local Rakhine community members are the main buyers at this market, alongside other hill communities and Bangalees.

"Everything here is organic and chemical-free," said Fazlul Karim, a local resident.

Mache Sing, a woman vendor

from Lama upazila, said they travel long distances, so they cannot reduce the prices too much. "Usually, I earn between Tk 1,000-1,500 on a market day."

Alongside vegetables, the vendors also bring various types of hill-style rice cakes.

Some Bangalee vendors also sell dried fish at the market.

Several vendors, however, complained of occasionally facing harassment on the way.

"A few indigenous women started sitting here around 2022. Gradually this hill market became popular, with around 30-35 vendors coming twice a week," said Mong Wan Rakhine, an employee of Cox's Bazar Municipality.