

Suspected
robber killed
in mob
beatingOUR 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 Baridhara 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's 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 Chakta.

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