

Two children drown in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two children drowned in a water-filled pit created by soil extraction for brick kilns in Chatogram's Fatikchhari yesterday.

The deceased are Farzana Akter, 9, a third-grader at a local madrasa, and Sanjida Akter, 7, a pre-primary-level student, both from the same village.

According to police and locals, the incident occurred in West Harualchhari village under Harualchhari union around noon, when the children were playing beside the pit. At a point, the duo slipped into the water and drowned.

A third child, who was with them, ran to inform family members. Relatives recovered both children and took them to a upazila health complex, where doctors declared them dead, they said.

Bhujpur Police Officer-in-Charge Bipul Dey confirmed the incident, saying the bodies were handed to the families without an autopsy since no complaint was filed.

Salauddin Ziku, a Fatikchhari journalist, said over 50 brick kilns - mostly illegal - have been set up in the upazila.

Elephant calf stoned to death in Bandarban

Says postmortem report

SIFAYET ULLAH, Ctg

A three-month-old elephant calf found dead in a reserve forest in Naikhyangchhari upazila was killed by stone blows, according to a post-mortem report.

The calf's body was recovered on the afternoon of April 2 from an illegal fish enclosure and later buried under the Rajarkul Range of the Cox's Bazar South Forest Division.

The postmortem, conducted by a veterinary surgeon at Dulahazara Safari Park, found multiple injury marks and said the animal suffered a brain haemorrhage from repeated stone blows. It added that infections from the wounds could have led to septicaemia,

contributing to its death.

Forest officials said preliminary findings suggest miscreants threw stones at the calf, and three suspects have been identified.

However, no case has been filed yet due to a jurisdictional dispute between the Naikhyangchhari Range in Lama and the Rajarkul Range.

Rajarkul Ranger Abiuz Zaman said a case would be filed once the boundary issue is resolved, while Naikhyangchhari Range Officer Tanvir Khalil Chowdhury said the site is unlikely to fall under his jurisdiction.

The calf's death triggered a heartbreaking scene, as an adult elephant pair stayed beside the body for three days, apparently mourning.



Indonesia lays to rest peacekeepers killed in Lebanon

AFP, Bandung

Three Indonesian peacekeepers killed in two separate explosions in southern Lebanon last week were laid to rest in their hometowns yesterday.

Peacekeeper Farizal Rhomadhon, 28, died when a projectile exploded on March 29 in southern Lebanon, where Israel and Hezbollah have been fighting since Lebanon was drawn into the Middle East war.

Two other blue helmets, Zulmi Aditya Iskandar, 33, and Muhammad Nur Ichwan, 26, died a day later when an explosion struck a logistics convoy of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), also in southern Lebanon.

The deadly incidents sparked calls from Indonesian authorities for an investigation and security guarantees for peacekeeping forces.

The soldiers were buried yesterday in coffins draped in the Indonesian flag during military funerals with gun salutes.

German men must inform military of extended foreign trips

AFP, Berlin

A new German military service law will require most young men to inform authorities when leaving the country for long periods, with a newspaper report on the little-noticed provision prompting widespread debate.

The defence ministry confirmed to AFP on Saturday that men from the age of 17 "are required to obtain prior approval" from the German armed forces for foreign stays lasting longer than three months.

Approval will be granted as long as "no specific service as a soldier is expected during the period in question," a ministry spokesman told AFP.

"The background and guiding principle of this regulation is to ensure a reliable and informative military service record in case of need," the spokesman added.

The ministry is drafting exemptions to the exit permit requirement and a system for approving requests, aiming to "avoid unnecessary bureaucracy," the spokesman said.

A Frankfurter Rundschau newspaper report on the regulation on Friday prompted widespread social media discussion, with many people questioning whether it was real and why there was no public debate when military service reforms were proposed last year.

No breakthrough in House yet

FROM PAGE 1

annulled. "Through amendment, the constitution can be changed."

Opposition leader and Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman questioned why a new adjournment motion was introduced when a similar one had already been placed by him.

"If one motion already exists, why has another been introduced? Can such an adjournment motion even be tabled? If not, this motion has no claim to discussion. I demand that it not be taken into cognisance."

In his ruling, Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad said that under parliamentary practice both adjournment motions had been discussed.

Shafiqur proposed forming a special parliamentary committee to convene the Constitution Reform Council, which he discussed in parliament on March 30.

He stressed that the opposition is not against amendments, pledging full cooperation in constitutional reform and lawmaking.

Shafiqur rejected allegations that they want to discard the constitution, saying they seek changes to build a just society free from fascism.

"We want a future Bangladesh where no fascism can return under the pretext of the constitution or law. We want to bury fascism," he said.

Law Minister Md Asaduzzaman addressed questions over the method of implementing the July charter, saying

the procedure is already outlined in the charter itself and no additional mechanism is required.

Referring to the charter as a reflection of the people's will, he said every layer of the document is rooted in the constitution. "Every amendment is a reform, but not every reform is an amendment," he noted.

He further described the July National Charter Implementation Order 2025 as a fraud against the constitution, arguing that any law which appears valid but lacks proper legal authority is entirely invalid.

National Citizen Party lawmaker Akhter Hossen accused the BNP of refusing to accept the outcome of the consensus commission, which had agreed on a roadmap for implementing the July charter.

"But today, it is with deep regret that I must say the BNP is refusing to accept that outcome. The horse of reform has already galloped far ahead, but now attempts are being made to rein it in."

He outlined five stages: charter, orders, ordinances, referendums, and the Constitution Reform Council. "The ruling party members present here do not speak of orders, ordinances, referendums, or the reform council -- they only speak of the July charter."

He recalled that the joint charter was signed outside parliament, noting that earlier copies carried no dissent and demanding investigation into who added dissenting notes.

"The home minister and law minister repeatedly refer to the notes of dissent. This is not a matter up for debate. The steps for implementing the July charter have already been completed in the consensus commission. Therefore, I humbly urge that the proposal brought today should not be accepted," he said.

Bangladesh Jatiya Party MP Andaleev Rahman Partha said provisions of the July charter should be incorporated into the constitution in accordance with constitutional norms.

"So I feel that there is some playing with words going on here, misleading the nation, and, as I said earlier, attempts are being made to pit us against July," he said.

Twice on Sunday afternoon, microphone malfunctions in parliament disrupted proceedings and frustrated lawmakers. As a result, the session was briefly suspended before the adjournment motion discussion could begin. Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad directed an investigation into the technical failure.

Later, near the end of the discussion, another glitch occurred while Salahuddin was speaking, forcing him to continue his remarks without a microphone.

During the Maghrib prayer break, as NCP MP Akhter Hossen was leaving the House, he apparently got into an altercation with several individuals in the gallery. The details of the incident, however, remain unclear.

EC weighing

FROM PAGE 12

The machines are currently stored at multiple locations, including 86,233 units at Bangladesh Machine Tools Factory (BTMF).

Asked whether the EC would pay the Tk 70.40 crore claimed by BMTF as warehouse rent for the machines, Masud said, "We don't know about this [warehouse rent] at all. We haven't received anything in writing. So, I doubt whether we will take responsibility for this. The possibility of not taking it is higher."

BMTF had earlier written to the EC on December 15, asking it to clear the areas and vacate the warehouse.

Masud said, "We'll discuss these matters with the government. How we will dispose of them, or whether the EVMs can be used for any other purpose, the government may decide. The government can dispose of them, or it may ask us to do so, and we will, but we first have to fix a method for doing so."

The EVM project ran for five years and was later extended by another year before expiring in June 2024.

Ahead of the 13th national election, the Electoral Reform Commission recommended against using EVMs. In August last year, the EC had proposed and later amended the Representation of the People Order to not use the machines in polls.

Md Abdul Alim, member of the now defunct Electoral Reform Commission, said EVMs had earlier proved flawed in counting votes.

"Many EVMs have already broken down and are lying unused. That is why moving forward with these machines is not logical... These were purchased, used in elections, and are now lying idle... This is a waste of public money. The election commission should quickly decide what to do with these."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Department of Environment
Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh Project
9th Floor, Room: 903, Poribesh Bhaban New Building
E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.doc.gov.bd

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Selection of Consultant Firm/ Organization (National)

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
2. Agency	: Department of Environment (DoE)
3. Procuring Entity Name	: Project Director
4. Procuring Entity District	: Dhaka
5. Expression of Interest for	: Consultant Firm (National)
6. Title of Service	: Development of Biodiversity Register for Halda Biodiversity Heritage and Morjat Baor Ecologically Critical Area (ECA)
7. EoI Ref No	: 22.02.0000.045.14.01.5.25-521
8. Date	: 05 April 2026
Key Information	
9. Procuring Method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)
Funding Information	
10. Budget and Source of Funds	: Global Environment Facility (GEF)
11. Development Partners	: GEF-UNDP
Particular Information	
12. Project Code	: 223053500
13. Project Name	: Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh Project
14. EoI Closing Date and Time	: 26 April 2026, 02:00 pm
Information for Applicants:	
15. Eligibility of the Consulting firm/organization:	
a) The consulting firm must have minimum 10 years of experience in biodiversity conservation, natural resource management, ecosystem assessment, or related areas.	
b) Experience in conducting biodiversity assessments, biodiversity registers, or ecological studies.	
c) Successful completion of at least two similar assignments in the last 10 years.	
d) Submission of latest audit reports showing financial capacity.	
e) Submission of bank solvency certificate and financial statements.	
f) Submission of VAT registration, Tax identification certificate and updated tax payment documents.	
g) Valid trade license and registration documents.	
16. Other Details (if applicable): The Terms of References (ToR) for the services including the scope of works, deliverables, team composition with educational qualifications, and experiences are available on the DoE's official website (www.doc.gov.bd). Applicants are advised to provide all the necessary information and proven documents with a cover letter. One original and two copies of the EoI must be submitted in a sealed envelope and be clearly marked the title of service for the EoI.	
Procuring Entity Details	
17. Name of Official Inviting EoI	: Farhana Mustari
18. Designation of Official Inviting EoI	: Project Director, Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh Project
19. Address of Official Inviting EoI	: Department of Environment 8 th Floor, Room: 903, Poribesh Bhaban New Building E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
20. Contact details of Official Inviting EoI	: Phone: +880-22222218305, Email: fimmunni@yahoo.com
21. Place of submission of EoI	: Office of the Project Director, Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh 8 th Floor, Room: 903, Poribesh Bhaban E/16 Agargaon Administrative Area Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
22. The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all EoIs.	

The Department of Environment (DoE) is implementing a project titled "Implementing Ecosystem-based Management in Ecologically Critical Areas in Bangladesh". The project aims to apply an ecosystem-based framework for managing Morjat Baor Ecologically Critical Areas (ECAs) in Jhenaidah and proposed Biodiversity Heritage Halda river in Chittagong in Bangladesh to enhance the conservation of globally significant biodiversity and support local livelihoods. The Project period is July 2024 to June 2029.

F. Mustari
Farhana Mustari
Project Director
Telephone: No. 2222218460
Email: fimmunni@yahoo.com

Dhaka Wasa turns

FROM PAGE 3

operational, the projects are expected to add nearly 95 crore litres of water daily.

However, both remain far from completion even after years of work.

According to the Wasa sources, only around 50 percent of the Gandharbpur project has been completed over the past decade, while progress on the Saidabad Phase 3 project stands at just about 20 percent.

This slow pace has significantly contributed to the growing supply gap in the capital, they said.

Experts, however, view the new "emergency" project as a stopgap measure.

Former Wasa chairman Ghulam Mostafa told The Daily Star that concerns over excessive groundwater extraction date back to 2009-10. He noted that the water table is falling by about one metre each year, driving up costs and risking a deeper crisis.

Wasa officials insist the project is a necessity as water demand in Dhaka is rising rapidly, while large projects face delays.

Abdul Majid, the project's focal person, said the crisis could worsen without additional supplies during this interim period. "The initiative is both interim and essential," he said.

He said Dhaka's daily water demand is about 320 crore litres, with 70 percent currently supplied from deep tube wells. The proposed project will add 57 crore litres per day.

He added that rehabilitating old infrastructure and using modern technology would improve system efficiency.

Projections show Dhaka's water demand may reach 360 crore litres per day by 2029 due to population growth and urbanisation.

To meet the demand, the project plans to replace 388 deep tube wells, install 62 new ones, regenerate 280 wells, and rehabilitate 60 others.

It also includes installing 44 iron removal plants, 250 pump houses, and expanding pipeline and

electrical infrastructure. A SCADA system will be introduced for real-time monitoring.

A feasibility study by the Institute of Water Modelling found the project viable, with a benefit-cost ratio of 1.34 and an internal rate of return of 18.91 percent.

However, experts warn that financial viability does not ensure sustainability without timely implementation and proper planning.

They say completing existing projects on time could have avoided the need for repeated interim measures, reducing costs and stabilising the system.

Urban planner Prof Adil Mohammed Khan criticised the project as "self-defeating".

He said Wasa's original goal was to reduce groundwater dependence, but failure to complete ongoing projects while returning to large-scale extraction is unsustainable.

He warned that groundwater levels have already dropped significantly, and such initiatives will only prolong the crisis. "The government should prioritise completing ongoing projects instead of allocating such a large budget for interim measures," he said.

If approved, the project will cover around 361 square kilometres across the Dhaka North and South city corporations.

Experts say isolated measures will not resolve the water crisis and call for a coordinated, long-term strategy.

Ghulam Mostafa said, "Public money is being wasted due to delays in major projects. Such interim projects will increase costs and harm the environment."

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Maintenance Division,
Chattogram
Phone: 02-334453126

Memo no: 25.36.1500.242.18.002.26/798 Date: 05/04/2026

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP system portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following work. Details are given below:

e-GP Tender ID	Last Selling Date and time	Closing Date and time
1253271	20-April-2026 10:00	20-April-2026 11:00
1253075	26-April-2026 9:30	26-April-2026 10:30

This is an online tender, where only e-tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal.

(Signature)
(Moniruzzaman Jitu)
Executive Engineer
PWD Maintenance Division
Chattogram.

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
BANGLADESH POWER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
ব্যবস্থাপক (পরিচালন) এর দপ্তর
৪র্থ ইউনিট রি-পাওয়ার্ড সিসিপিপি, যোড়শাল বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র, বিউবো, পলাশ, নরসিংদী।।
E-mail: manager.opn.ccpp4.gps@bpdb.gov.bd
ফোনঃ ০১৭৭৭-৭৬০০৫৩

Memo No: 27.11.6863.456.68.338.26-197 Date: 04/04/2026

Invitation for e-Tenders

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following goods:

Sl No.	Tender ID	Name of Goods	Publishing Date & Time	Closing/Opening Date & Time
1	1251878	Procurement of reagent grade chemicals and safety equipment (Hand gloves, Eye safety, gas mask, gum boot etc.) for Laboratory testing of 4th Unit re-powered CCPP, BPDB.	02-Apr-2026 17:00	28-Apr-2026 11:00

These are online tenders, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the e-GP System portal and no offline hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tenders, registration required in the National e-GP System portal. (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from national e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank. Further information and guidelines are available National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) contract no. (01762625528-31).

বিদ্যুৎ/জন - ৯৬৬ (২)/০৫/০৪/২৬

(Signature)
(Jenifer Shahanaz)
ID No. 7-0037
Chief Chemist
4th Unit Re-powered CCPP
Ghorashal Power Station
BPDB, Palash, Narsingdi.

PRAYER TIMING
APRIL 6

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4-40	12-45	4-45	6-21	7-45
JAMAAT 5-15	1-15	5-00	6-24	8-15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION