



The rubble of a destroyed building is pictured following overnight Israeli bombardment on the village of Maarake in southern Lebanon yesterday. The Israeli military said that it had completed the deployment of ground troops along a "defence line" in southern Lebanon, where it is fighting Iran-backed Hezbollah. PHOTO: AFP

WEST BENGAL SIR 91 lakh names likely to be deleted from electoral rolls

THE STATESMAN

With the judicial adjudication process for voters in West Bengal concluded on Monday midnight, the Election Commission of India (ECI) has estimated that the total number of deleted voters in West Bengal has risen to approximately 91 lakh.

However, the number might increase nominally after the process is completed.

As per the figures provided by the office of the chief electoral officer, West Bengal, of 60,06,675 cases referred for judicial adjudication, the process has been finalised for 59,84,512 cases. Again, out of the figure, the number of voters who have been deemed "excludable" and hence "deleted" by the judicial officers stands at 27,16,393.

Before the notification of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) was issued for West Bengal in November last year, the total number of voters in the state stood at 7,66,37,529. In the final voters' list published on February 28, the deletion figure rose to 63,66,952.

"Now, with 27,16,393 cases found excludable by the judicial officers, the total number of deleted voters in West Bengal in the entire SIR exercise has increased to 90,83,345," explained an officer from the CEO's office.

Murshidabad has the highest number of deleted names, with 4,55,137, followed by North 24 Parganas with 3,25,666, and another minority dominated district, Malda, with 2,39,375.

The two-phase Assembly polls in West Bengal will be held on April 23 and April 29. In the first phase, voting will be held for 152 Assembly constituencies, and in the second phase, the remaining 142 seats will have polling. The results will be declared on May 4.

12 killed in fresh Ukraine, Russia strikes

AFP, Kyiv

Russian artillery and aerial attacks killed nine people in Ukraine -- including a child -- in strikes across the country yesterday, officials said.

Those strikes came as Moscow, which invaded Ukraine more than four years ago, said a Ukrainian drone had hit a house in Russia, killing a child and his parents.

Russia's invasion has cost hundreds of thousands of lives and forced millions of people from their homes in the bloodiest conflict in Europe since World War II.

The two sides have stepped up deadly long-range drone and missile attacks in recent months, mainly targeting energy infrastructure, with Moscow aiming to dent Ukrainian resolve and Kyiv targeting Russian energy revenues.

Russian shelling in the southern city of Kherson -- captured by Russia and then liberated in 2022 -- killed four people and wounded several others, a regional official said.

The official, Oleksandr Prokudin, likened the Russian shelling on Kherson to "hell" and posted video showing bodies strewn on the street and bloodied victims.

The attack in Kherson came just hours after a Russian drone attack on a passenger bus in the frontline city of Nikopol killed four people, President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

Israeli airstrike kills at least 10 near Gaza school

REUTERS, Cairo/Gaza

An Israeli airstrike killed at least 10 people and wounded several others outside a school housing displaced Palestinians on Monday, health officials said, the latest violence to overshadow the fragile US-backed Gaza ceasefire deal.

Before the strikes, some Palestinians had clashed with members of an Israeli backed militia, who they said attacked the school in an attempt to abduct some people, medics and residents said.

In the midst of the clashes, east of the Maghazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip, Israeli drones fired two missiles into the area, killing at least 10 people and

wounding several others, they added.

It was not immediately clear how many civilians had been killed in the strikes, which hit in a closely packed neighbourhood of mostly displaced Palestinians.

Ahmed al-Maghazi, an eyewitness, said their area was attacked by members of the Israeli-backed militia who operate in the territory adjacent to where the Israeli forces are in control, before the militia opened fire.

"The residents tried to defend their homes, but the occupation forces targeted them directly," he told Reuters.

Earlier on Monday, an Israeli airstrike killed one Palestinian and

wounded a child as they travelled on a motorbike in Gaza City, medics said.

Medics said that Israeli forces killed another Palestinian when they opened fire on a vehicle in central Gaza, taking Monday's death toll to at least 12.

The Israeli military said they fired at the "unmarked vehicle", which continued to accelerate toward troops despite "warning shots".

The World Health Organization's chief, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said a contractor in Gaza was killed during a security incident, prompting the organization to suspend medical evacuations from Gaza via Rafah to Egypt until further notice.

Taiwan opposition leader makes rare visit to China



AFP, Shanghai

Taiwan's main opposition leader landed in China yesterday for a rare visit aimed at building cross-strait "peace", as the Taipei government warned Beijing would seek to stop US arms sales to the democratic island.

Kuomintang (KMT) chairwoman Cheng Li-wun, who is the party's first leader to visit China in a decade, has insisted on meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping before she visits the United States -- Taiwan's main security backer.

The KMT supports closer relations with China, which claims Taiwan is part of its territory and has threatened to use force to seize it.

But Cheng, whose unexpected rise to the top of the KMT drew a congratulatory message from Xi in October, has been accused by critics, including inside the party, of being too pro-China.

The KMT leader landed at a Shanghai airport yesterday, where she was presented with a bouquet of flowers before being driven away in a convoy, live video from Taiwanese media showed.

Cheng then travelled to the eastern city of Nanjing, where Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said she thanked Xi and China for the warm reception.

She is expected to visit the memorial of Chinese revolutionary Sun Yat-sen in the city today.

Cheng will be in China for six days, also visiting Beijing, where she hopes to meet Xi.

China severed high-level contact with Taiwan that year after Tsai Ing-wen of the Democratic Progressive Party won the presidency and rejected Beijing's claims to the island. Cross-strait relations have worsened since then, with China ramping up military pressure with near daily deployments of fighter jets and warships near Taiwan and regular large-scale military drills.

Iran war jeopardises US global leadership Says Italy minister

REUTERS, Rome

The Iran war has put US global leadership on the line, Italy's Defence Minister Guido Crosetto said, expressing fear about the "madness" of nuclear escalation.

Like some other Nato allies reluctant to join US President Donald Trump's attacks on Iran, Italy last week denied permission for US military aircraft to land at the Sigonella air base in Sicily en route to the Middle East.

"This war is also putting the United States at risk in its global leadership," Crosetto told Italian daily Corriere della Sera in an interview published yesterday.

Crosetto, a close ally of Italian PM Giorgia Meloni who has a good ties with Trump, said he worried the conflict could take an even worse turn and cited the 1945 US nuclear bombings of Japan in World War Two.

"Just think: it was human beings like us who decided that even Hiroshima and Nagasaki were acceptable means of ending a conflict. Unfortunately, we still possess nuclear weapons, and those who do not have them are seeking to acquire them. We have learnt nothing," he said.

"The risk is madness, and what we are experiencing is a conflict in which every action triggers a reaction at a higher level".



People attend the funeral of Palestinians who, according to medics, were killed in an Israeli strike, at Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah in the central Gaza Strip, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN Storms, floods kill at least 188 people

AFP, Kabul

Heavy rain, storms and floods have battered Asian neighbours Afghanistan and Pakistan for more than two weeks, killing at least 188 people, disaster officials in both countries said yesterday.

In Afghanistan, which already faces a severe humanitarian crisis, rain, floods, landslides and lightning strikes killed 123 people since March 26, a spokesman of the national disaster management authority said. Between Sunday and Tuesday alone, 46 people died across several provinces, he added.

In northern Pakistan, the death toll has risen in recent days, reaching 47 people including 27 children since March 25, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provincial disaster management agency told AFP.

And in southwestern Balochistan, at least 18 people have died since March 20, according to the latest figures from local authorities.

The severe weather has also caused widespread damage and blocked major roads.

RUPANTARITA PRAKRITIK GAS COMPANY LIMITED

(A company of Petrobangla)

Plot#27, Nikunja-2, Airport Road, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.

Corrigendum Notice

Ref. No. 28.19.0000.701.40.11.26/594

Date: 07-04-2026

Subject: Invitation for the Enlistment (IFE) as a Potential LNG Supplier for Supplying LNG on Spot Basis.

This is to notify all concerned that the following amendment has been made for Ref. No. 28.19.0000.701.40.11.26/589 dated 19-03-2026 regarding the Invitation for the Enlistment (IFE) as a potential LNG supplier to supply LNG on Spot basis: Description

Description	Amendment Particulars
Application Closing Date, Time	The application closing date has been extended to 23 April 2026 at 12.30 pm (BST) instead of 09 April 2026 at 12.30 pm.

All other terms and conditions of the original notice/documents shall remain unchanged. This corrigendum shall be treated as an integral part of the original IFE documents.

This notice is available on websites: www.rpgcl.org.bd; www.petrobangla.org.bd; <https://emrd.gov.bd> and www.bppa.gov.bd.

RPGCL/PR-276

Engr. Md. Anwarul Islam
Managing Director
Tel: +8802-41040229
Email: md.lng@rpgcl.org.bd
Website: www.rpgcl.org.bd

GD-753



Sonali Bank PLC

Information Technology Division
(IT Procurement & Maintenance)

Head Office, Dhaka

Memo No.: HO/ITD (IT P&M)/purchase/

Date: 02/04/2026

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following package:

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Tender	Last Date and Time of Tender Security Submission	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	1251307	Procurement of Radmin Software for Sonali Bank PLC.	19-Apr-2026 15:00 PM	19-Apr-2026 15:30 PM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no office/hard copy will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to respective time schedule.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

GD-756

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager