

Four die from electrocution in 2 districts

STAR REPORT

Four people died from electrocution in separate incidents in Habiganj and Kishoreganj yesterday, according to reports from our local correspondents.

In Habiganj, UAE expat Md Ain Uddin, 50, and his son Rashed Mia, 17, died while attempting to repair the electrical connection of a water pump at an under-construction house in Bahubal upazila.

Md Iqtar Mia, officer-in-charge of Bahubal Model Police Station, said Ain Uddin and his son came in contact with a live wire and suffered severe electric shocks.

Locals rescued them and rushed them to Bahubal Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared them dead on arrival, the OC added.

On the other hand, in Kishoreganj, a woman and her daughter-in-law died of electrocution while working in a cowshed at Ukhrashal village in Katiadi upazila around noon. The deceased were Mehera Khatun, 50, and her daughter-in-law Khaleda Akhter, 32.

According to family sources, Mehera and Khaleda accidentally touched a power line while working.

Achamita Union Parishad Chairman Matiur Rahman said the injured were taken to Bhagalpur Zahurul Islam Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared them dead.



The Department of Environment, DMP, DNCC, BRTA, Gulshan Society, and Green Voice NPO join a gathering to mark World Environment Day 2026 under the banner of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. They highlighted the harms of unnecessary horn use and called for reducing noise pollution to protect hearing, especially among children. The photo was taken beside the Gulshan-2 intersection in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: MEHEDI HASAN

Dhaka, Ankara seek Violence against women, children



PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Khalilur Rahman.

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to develop our cooperation in various fields, especially in the defence industry,” Fidan said.

Defence cooperation between Bangladesh and Turkey has expanded in recent years, particularly in the purchase and joint production of military hardware.

The two countries also signed a memorandum of understanding on the protection of cultural property.

Khalilur thanked Turkey for supporting his candidature for the presidency of the UN General Assembly and proposed a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) or an interim Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two countries.

He also urged Turkish investors to take advantage of Bangladesh’s dedicated Special Economic Zones, citing opportunities in textiles, pharmaceuticals, shipbuilding, renewable energy and especially in defence manufacturing.

Khalilur proposed that Turkey establish an international-standard hospital and nursing institute in Dhaka.

On the Rohingya crisis, he said the safe, dignified and sustainable repatriation of Rohingyas to Myanmar remained Bangladesh’s top priority. Turkey pledged to keep the issue on the international agenda and continue supporting a permanent and fair solution.

Fidan also expressed deep concern over escalating instability in the Middle East and called for an end to Israeli aggression and the occupation in Lebanon to ensure regional peace. He said the conflict is negatively impacting the global economy and energy security.

“Establishing stability, security, peace and prosperity in our region is among the most fundamental priorities of Turkey’s foreign policy,” he said.

Fidan arrived in Dhaka on Thursday night and visited a Rohingya camp with Khalilur yesterday. He is scheduled to call on Prime Minister Tarique Rahman today.

Khalilur’s first bilateral visit abroad as foreign minister was to Turkey on March 14. He returned in April to attend the Antalya Diplomacy Forum.

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women and girls faced violence in May, up from 294 in April.

Rape cases rose to 83 from 68 in April. Of the victims, 57, or nearly 70 percent, were under 18, compared with 30 child victims in the previous month. Gang rape cases increased to 17 from 13.

Six rape victims, including four children, died after being assaulted.

Among the cases highlighted in the report was the rape and killing of eight-year-old schoolgirl Ramisa Akter in Dhaka’s Pallabi on May 19, which sparked nationwide outrage.

Reported sexual harassment cases fell slightly to 76 from 79 in April, although the number of child victims increased from 40 to 42.

Domestic violence remained severe. In May, family-related violence left 63 women dead and 31 injured, while 45 women died by suicide. In April, 64 women were killed, 36 injured, and 36 died by suicide.

Child abuse also increased. HRSS recorded 215 children subjected to abuse in May, compared with 191 in April. Among them, 56 children died and 211 suffered physical or psychological abuse.

The organisation also raised concerns over child health services, saying that more than 600 children nationwide died over the past three months after developing measles-like symptoms. It cited inadequate vaccination management, shortages and limited access to advanced treatment.

The report further cited the deaths of six

newborns at Ad-Din Medical College Hospital in Dhaka’s Moghbazar on May 27, alleging hospital mismanagement.

Border areas remained unsafe for civilians, according to HRSS.

Along the Bangladesh-India border, the report documented six incidents involving India’s Border Security Force (BSF) in May, leaving four Bangladeshis dead and 20 injured. In April, two people were killed and two injured in similar incidents. At least 14 people were reportedly detained by the BSF in May, up from eight in April. HRSS also said at least 166 people were pushed into Bangladesh through various border points during the month.

Along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border, three people were killed and one injured in landmine explosions allegedly caused by mines planted in the area. The report also recorded four incidents in which 18 people were detained by the Arakan Army.

Mob violence increased sharply. HRSS documented 66 incidents of mob attacks and public beatings, leaving at least 31 people dead and 68 injured. In April, 44 such incidents resulted in 22 deaths and 39 injuries.

In contrast, political violence declined.

HRSS recorded 64 incidents of political violence in May, resulting in five deaths and 289 injuries, down from 98 incidents, six deaths and 533 injuries in April.

According to the report, most of these incidents stemmed from political rivalries, internal factional disputes, territorial dominance and extortion-

related conflicts.

Freedom of expression also faced restrictions, with 11 incidents recorded in May. These led to the detention of six individuals and the filing of seven cases involving 12 accused.

According to HRSS, one person was detained over a Facebook post critical of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman, while six others were detained for allegedly criticising leaders and activists of the ruling BNP. Two people were arrested on allegations of hurting religious sentiments and making derogatory remarks, and another person was detained in a separate incident.

The report also noted that 12 individuals were accused in five separate cases filed under various provisions of the Cyber Security Ordinance 2025.

Journalists faced continued hostility.

HRSS recorded 39 incidents involving harassment or abuse of 78 media professionals during May. Among them, 42 were injured, 18 assaulted, nine threatened and one detained. Eight journalists were named in two separate cases.

The organisation also documented three attacks on members of minority communities, injuring five people, vandalising six homes and involving one case of land grabbing.

Two separate attacks on shrines in Kushtia and Dhaka were also recorded.

At least seven inmates died in prisons across the country in May, while law enforcement agencies recovered 28 unidentified bodies from different areas during the month.

US to win Iran

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Tyre killed seven people, a source from the civil defence told AFP yesterday, despite a ceasefire in the Israel-Hezbollah war.

One strike near Jabal Amel hospital killed four people, wounded seven and lightly damaged the facility, while another in a residential area killed three and wounded five, including two children.

Israeli military issued new evacuation warnings for nine southern Lebanese towns and villages, with Lebanon’s state-run National News Agency reporting people were fleeing.

Hezbollah said yesterday it launched three attacks on Israeli military positions in southern Lebanon over a 24-hour period. In statements issued via Telegram, the group reported a rocket salvo targeting Israeli soldiers on the outskirts of Wadi al-Hujayr, an area east of the coastal town of Tyre near the Litani River.

US Senate passes \$70b for ICE

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week to send it to Trump’s desk.

The package follows a record partial shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) earlier this year, when Democrats refused to support new money for immigration enforcement without restrictions on tactics such as raids in sensitive locations and the use of masks by officers.

Republicans rejected those demands, instead choosing to fund ICE and Border Patrol through the fast-track “budget reconciliation” process, which allows them to bypass Democratic opposition if they can keep their own members united.

The Senate vote came after an hours-long amendment marathon known in Washington as a “vote-a-rama,” a chaotic process allowing lawmakers to force votes on politically sensitive issues before final passage.

For Trump, the process meant renewed scrutiny of controversies that have alarmed members of his own party, including a proposed “anti-weaponization” fund for allies who claim they were unfairly targeted by the government and \$1 billion that had been earmarked for security around his planned White House ballroom.

The underlying immigration bill no longer included the ballroom money, but both issues became symbols of a broader unease among

NCP unveils Tk 8.52

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and Tk 39,745 crore for defence. Interest payments are proposed to be reduced to Tk 1,10,450 crore.

The NCP said revenue would be increased mainly by expanding the tax base rather than raising pressure on lower and middle-income groups.

The shadow budget also proposes raising the tax-free income threshold to Tk 4.5 lakh a year. For women and senior citizens, the threshold would be Tk 4.75 lakh, and for persons with disabilities and third-gender taxpayers, Tk 5 lakh.

The party also claimed Tk 46,000 crore could be saved through improved expenditure efficiency, including better ADP project selection, reduced interest costs, lower subsidy leakage, improved payroll and procurement efficiency, and reduced operational expenses.

The shadow budget could influence the

national budget if the government aims to make it more inclusive and people-centred, Atiq Mujahid told the Daily Star.

“If the government has the goodwill and wants to make the budget inclusive, pro-people, and beneficial for the state, then our shadow budget can have a major effect,” he said.

He said their proposal contains several “unique” recommendations that are usually absent from conventional budgets.

He also said the government borrows about Tk 1.43 lakh crore from banks and claimed the proposal shows ways to increase revenue, reduce interest payments, and lower borrowing costs.

He further said the proposal on electric vehicles could help reduce fuel costs significantly.

He added that although the budget size is increasing, its impact remains limited due to inefficient allocation.

EC likely to get

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government, the EC asked for Tk 2,900 crore for Union Parishad polls, Tk 330 crore for city corporation elections, Tk 300 crore for municipalities, and Tk 2,000 crore for Upazila Parishad elections.

EC officials said polls for large city corporations require Tk 30–35 crore each, while smaller ones cost Tk 20–22 crore.

Bangladesh currently has 13 city corporations, 500 upazila parishads, 61 district councils, and 4,581 union parishads.

No local government elections have been held in more than two years, leaving the commission with a significant backlog as the tenures of many bodies have already expired.

According to EC data, 3,632 union parishads will be up for elections by the end of August, while 343 more are set for polls by December.

Due to various complications, 104 union parishads are currently unfit for elections, including 79 over legal disputes, 18 due to boundary issues, and seven due to complications with voters’ lists.

Meanwhile, the EC is drafting uniform rules for elections to the five tiers of local government bodies since existing codes of conduct differ across these tiers.

The process is expected to be completed by mid-June, and the EC will finalise the code of conduct within June.

Seven killed in road

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Josna’s husband Kawsar Mia, 50, and their daughter Adiba, 4, were injured and referred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for advanced treatment.

OC Md Abu Taher Dewan of Khatihata Highway Police Station said the pick-up driver and his helper fled the scene. Police were trying to identify and arrest them.

In Gazipur’s Kapazia

upazila, an SSC examinee named Md Mridul Sarkar, 17, died on the spot as he lost control of his motorcycle and was thrown onto the road, suffering a severe head injury.

The accident occurred around 4:00pm at Amtali intersection on the Amraid-Rayed Bazar regional road, said OC Md Nasir Ahmed of Kapsasia Police Station. Legal procedures were underway, he added.



Smoke billows from southern Lebanon following an Israeli strike, as seen from Nabatieh, Lebanon, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS