

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 Mehara Khatun, 50, and her daughter-in-law Khaleda Akhter, 32.

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

Achamita Union Parishad Chairman Matur 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

Violence against women, children

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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.

Delhi trip

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South Delhi, while preparations for the treatment were underway at a private hospital.

Bacchu Mia, another brother-in-law of Nurul, said, "Everything was going smoothly. On Wednesday morning, Nurul went downstairs to the hotel restaurant for breakfast while the other family members remained in their room. Suddenly, a fire broke out. Nurul suffered severe burns and later died at the hospital."

Family members and relevant sources said the fire broke out around 8:30am on Wednesday at the Flourish Stay hotel in Malviya Nagar. The flames quickly spread throughout the building, causing panic among guests, many of whom became trapped inside.

Nurul, Mosharraf, Rehana, prospective kidney donor Umme Johora, and her daughter were rescued from the burning building and taken to a hospital.

Relatives said Nurul owned a food manufacturing company, Amin & Brothers, in Chattogram. News of his death has cast a pall of grief

over Sangishwar village in Chaudhagram, where family members, neighbours and well-wishers are calling for the swift repatriation of his body.

Chaudhagram UNO Shahadat Hossen said the government would provide necessary assistance through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to bring Nurul's body back to Bangladesh. Authorities are also monitoring the treatment of the injured family members.

The Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi said it was working to facilitate the quick repatriation of the deceased Bangladeshi national.

According to Indian media reports and information from the Bangladesh High Commission, the building housed a restaurant on the ground floor and a hotel on the upper floors. At least 22 people from various countries were killed and 28 others injured in the fire. The victims included nationals of India, Mozambique, Liberia, Nigeria, Uzbekistan, and Bangladesh.

Dhaka, Ankara seek



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.

EC likely to get

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"We calculated the likely expenditure for 495 upazilas, 330 municipalities, and 13 city corporations before placing the demand," Fouzder said.

He added that Union Parishad polls cost almost as much as national elections, as those are held in four to five phases.

"Within the remaining four months of ongoing fiscal year, the EC may conduct polls to municipalities, city corporations, district councils, and pending upazilas. If held in two phases, more than 250 upazilas could be covered within this allocation," he also said.

BREAKDOWN OF EC'S DEMAND

Of the Tk 5,500 crore sought from the 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.

US Senate passes

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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 Republicans about defending Trump's priorities ahead of midterm elections expected to be dominated by voter concerns over the cost of living.

The bill had been delayed for weeks after senators rebelled over the Justice Department's proposed \$1.8 billion "anti-weaponization" compensation package, which critics attacked as a "slush fund" that could allow people convicted over the 2021 attack on the US Capitol to receive taxpayer money.

Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche told lawmakers this week that the administration would not move forward with the fund. But Trump continued to praise it, calling it "beautiful" and saying he would have to "ask the lawyers" whether it was dead or merely paused.

That ambiguity pushed some Republicans to try to write the fund's demise into law.

"When you're explaining, you're losing. There's no way to explain the \$1.776 (billion) fund. So the only way you can explain it is explain that you got rid of it," North Carolina Senator Thom Tillis told reporters.

The amendment votes did little to derail Trump's

agenda but showed the limits of party discipline, with multiple Republicans defecting on measures targeting the anti-weaponization fund, future ballroom funding and Trump's move to install a loyalist housing official atop US intelligence.

Democrats also used the process to try to redirect immigration enforcement money toward housing and other affordability concerns, arguing that Republicans were prioritizing Trump's deportation agenda over the cost of living.

And in what was seen as a separate rebuke of Trump policy, several Republicans also backed a Democratic effort to circumvent House leadership with a vote to impose new sanctions on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine and provide \$8 billion in military financing loans to Kyiv.

Republicans countered that the money was needed to restore immigration enforcement funding after the earlier DHS shutdown left the issue unresolved.

The earlier stopgap measure funded much of Homeland Security through September 30, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Coast Guard, the Transportation Security Administration and the Secret Service.

But it excluded ICE and Border Patrol, setting up the separate fight that ended with yesterday's vote.

The result gives Trump a major legislative win on immigration while underscoring a recurring problem for Republican leaders: even with control of Congress, they must still manage internal resistance to the political baggage attached to some of the president's priorities.

Seven killed

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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 Kapasia 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