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Vehicles remain stuck in a traffic jam in the capital's Farmgate area yesterday, as a gathering of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal leaders and activists at Zia Udyan to mark the BNP youth wing's 48th founding anniversary disrupts traffic on several major roads. PHOTO: **PRABIR DAS**

Urban slum children face rising climate risks: speakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Children in urban slums face growing health risks from climate change, including heatwaves, waterlogging, and mosquito-borne diseases, compounded by poor housing, unsafe water, and inadequate sanitation, speakers said at a seminar yesterday.

The seminar, titled "Urban Child Health at Risk from Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions", was organised by Children Watch Foundation at The Daily Star Centre in the capital.

Poor housing, unsafe drinking water, and inadequate sanitation further increase children's vulnerability.

SHAH ISRAT AZMERY
Chairman of Children Watch Foundation

Delivering the keynote, Shah Israt Azmery, chairman of Children Watch Foundation, highlighted findings from a 2025 survey conducted in selected slums in Dhaka, Rajshahi and Satkhira.

The survey found that 54.5 percent of households considered children the family members most affected by climate-related risks.

Heatwaves were identified as a major stressor by 51.87 percent of respondents, while 30.48 percent reported waterlogging. Dengue and chikungunya were the leading health concerns, cited by 69 percent.

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Proposed cyber law focuses on gagging online voices

Speakers warn of restrictions on free expression

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prominent citizens, lawyers, and politicians yesterday criticised the proposed Cyber Protection (Amendment) Act, terming it a "government protection law" designed to gag citizens.

Rather than curbing cybercrimes such as hacking and cyberterrorism, the amendment aims to restrict free expression online and make it easier to arrest government critics, they said at a citizens' dialogue at BDBL Bhaban in Karwan Bazar yesterday.

The event, titled "Cyber Protection, or Gagging? In Whose Interest Are New Limits on Free Expression and Law Amendments Being Set?", was jointly organised by Voice for Reform, Nagorik Coalition, Human Rights Support Society (HRSS), ZRF, DSA Victims Network and Bangladesh America Alliance.

Presenting data related to the act, rights activist Nabila Idris said 63 percent of those arrested over Facebook

63 % of those arrested over Facebook posts since the election had been detained for making "so-called derogatory remarks" or harshly criticising the PM, ministers, or their associates.

NABILA IDRIS, Rights activist



SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

JULY KILLING

Judgment in case against Hanif tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-2 will deliver its verdict tomorrow in a crimes against humanity case against Awami League Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif and three other party leaders over the killing of six people in Kushtia during the 2024 July uprising.

The three-member tribunal, headed by Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury, announced the date yesterday.

The other accused are Kushtia district AL president Sadruddin Khan, general secretary Azgar Ali, and Kushtia city AL general secretary Ataur Rahman Ata.

All four accused are absconding.

Earlier on October 5, the prosecution concluded its arguments and sought the maximum punishment for all four accused, while defence argued that their clients are innocent.

ICT-2 framed three charges against them on November 2, 2025.

IN BRIEF

174 Bangladeshis return from Libya

41 ill, 36 previously detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty-one of the 174 Bangladeshis repatriated from Libya early yesterday were physically ill, while 36 had been held at a detention centre in Tripoli after being intercepted at sea, said Bangladesh embassy in Libya.

The returnees arrived in Dhaka at 5:40am via Buraq Air flight UZ-222, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

Of the 174 returnees, 36 had been detained at the Tajoura detention centre in Tripoli after being intercepted at sea. The remaining 138 returned home voluntarily amid dangerous conditions in the Libyan capital, according to the embassy.

Most of the returnees had reportedly entered Libya with the help of human traffickers, intending to reach Europe across the Mediterranean Sea, the foreign ministry said. Some alleged that they had been abducted and tortured during their stay in Libya.

HSC results deferred to Oct 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of this year's HSC and equivalent examinations will be published on October 31, two days later than previously announced. The results were initially scheduled for October 29.

The Bangladesh Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee announced the revised date in a notice issued yesterday.



