

Bangladeshis

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"Computers and some heavy machinery were stolen but we do not know how much the damage will cost at the moment," said Baik Joo-Hyeon.

"We don't know if this is directly related to the civil unrest in the country," he said of the attack.

Shafiuuddin Biswas, a Bangladeshi worker in the port city of Darnah, east of Benghazi, told BBC Bangla Radio that there are around 450 Bangladeshis among around 2,000 workers taken "hostage" by armed men.

The workers who used to work for a South Korean company came from Bangladesh, Vietnam, Nepal, Thailand, Philippines and Ghana, he said.

Shafiuuddin said the hostage takers herded the workers into different buildings from the company's worksite three days ago and their demand is not clear.

"Here we have no food, no toilet," Shafiuuddin said. "Law and order has totally collapsed. Police are not working here."

Bangladesh Ambassador ABM Nuruzzaman, however, said they have no authentic reports of any casualties in Benghazi or Tripoli or any group holding Bangladeshi workers hostage in any part of Libya.

The diplomat said there is a sense of uncertainty about food and jobs of not only Bangladeshis, but also of

other nationals working in the African country.

Talking to The Daily Star over the phone, Nuruzzaman said the embassy has already opened a control room to monitor the situation and asking the companies to ensure the workers' safety.

He said they were facing problems in contacting both in and outside Tripoli, as Internet and fax services were closed.

About reported holding of Bangladeshis, a foreign ministry spokesman in Dhaka yesterday said they have not received any confirmation, reported BSS.

"We have contacted the Bangladesh ambassador to Libya and he said he was not informed about such incident or any casualty of Bangladeshi in the African country," he added.

"We have alerted the Bangladeshi nationals living in those countries to move cautiously against the backdrop of the movement," he added.

Zafar Ahmed Khan, the expatriates' welfare secretary, said the ministry instructed the Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli to take every measure to ensure safety of the Bangladeshi nationals.

Libya is witnessing a protest against Colonel Muammar Gaddafi's rule since February 16. The violence that left an unknown number of people dead and injured spread to the capital city of Tripoli on February 20.

Workers clash

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more than half an hour, police and witnesses said.

They also vandalised at least four vehicles.

On information, police rushed to the scene and baton charged to disperse the workers who hurled brickbats at police.

Violent movement on the highway resumed at about 2:45pm after the law enforcers brought the situation under control, said Forkan Sikder, officer-in-charge of Rupganj Police Station.

Workers said Mazharul, son of Yad Ali of Borabo area in the upazila, died due to the negligence of the factory authorities and for lack of proper treatment.

They said they demonstrated as the authorities refused to compensate his family.

Muggers

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a laundry shop sustained stab injuries on his right leg, while his younger brother Asadul Talukdar, 27, employee of a private firm was stabbed in the chest.

Both were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Two muggers waylaid their rickshaw at about 6:00am as they were heading for a bus stop to board a Patuakhali-bound bus, the injured told reporters at DMCH.

The thugs stabbed them and made away with Tk 14,000 and two mobile phones, they added.

Both the victims were residents of Kalabagan in the capital.

Khaleda

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decoration and interior design of the house which belongs to Tanveer Islam, son of former state minister Maj (retd) Quamrul Islam.

On a one-bigha plot of land at Gulshan-2, the house has seven bedrooms, a living room, a lawn and a garden.

After leaving her former house at Dhaka Cantonment on November 13 Khaleda was looking for a house. She has chosen Tanveer's house to live.

Some senior leaders of the party, however, expected her to take the official residence at the city's Mintoo road. But Khaleda declined the offer.

Khaleda lost the cantonment house on Shahid Mainul Road following a legal battle.

Language breaks

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Two distinguished Indian guests -- Minister for Minorities Development and Madrasa Education of West Bengal Abdus Sattar and former Lok Sabha member Amitava Nandy -- were present.

Addressing the occasion Abdus Sattar said "I've come here to respond to the call of the mother tongue. I'm overwhelmed to see the friendly people celebrating the day together."

Later he handed over a truckload of sweets to chief guest Sheikh Afi Uddin MP (Jessore-1) to be sent to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as a goodwill gesture.

Amitava Nandy said people of this soil could set such a rare example of sacrificing lives for their mother tongue and hoped such gathering would bring the people of two neighbouring countries even closer.

Lauding the role of Indian people and government in Bangladesh's journey to independence, the chief guest said Language Movement had led to the independence of Bangladesh.

The nation will remember the heroes of the soil who sacrificed their lives to establish Bengali as the state language, added the chief guest.

Several social, cultural and political organisations joined the celebrations reciting poems and singing.

Language Movement veteran Sayed Shamsul Haque, Anwar Ali, convenor of International Mother Language Day Udgapan Parishad and Golam Mostafa, director of Benapole port, also spoke at the function.

There are only four judges in the Appellate Division now, as seven out of total 11 have retired.

The four sitting judges are Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, Justice Shah Abu Nayem, Mominur Rahman, Justice Md Muzammel Hossain and Justice SK Sinha.

UK Foreign Secretary William Hague earlier told the

Aussie pace

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taking two wickets and Lee and Tait one apiece.

Zimbabwe, however, had reasons to be pleased with the performance of their spinners, who did not allow the Australian batsmen to score freely with their disciplined efforts.

But their top-order batsmen failed to back the bowlers, offering no resistance to the Australian pace trio of Johnson, Tait and Lee with tailender Graeme Cremer top-scoring with a fighting 37.

Lee was the first to strike when he removed Charles Coventry, who top-edged an attempted pull to be caught by the bowler. The Zimbabwean made 14, including a flat six over point off Lee.

Johnson had Tatenda Taibu caught by Shane Watson in the slips and trapped Craig Ervine lbw in successive overs, while Tait bowled Brendan Taylor before accounting for Sean Williams (28).

Australia were earlier indebted to in-form opener, and man of the match, Watson (79) and Michael Clarke (58 not out) for setting a challenging target, but could never really dominate the Zimbabwean spin attack.

Zimbabwe used seven bowlers, including five spinners who sent down 39 of the allotted 50 overs.

Left-arm spinner Price, who shared the new ball with seamer Christopher Mpofu, who hit the stumps at the non-striker's end from deep midwicket.

SCORES IN BRIEF

AUSTRALIA: 262 for 6 (Watson 79, Haddin 29, Ponting 28, Clarke 58 not out; White 22, Hussey 14, Smith 11; Mpofu 2-58, Price 1-43, Utsey 1-43, Cremer 1-41)

ZIMBABWE: 171 (Taylor 16, Coventry 14, Chigumbura 14, Williams 28, Utsey 24, Cremer 37; Tait 2-34, Johnson 4-19, Krejza 2-28)

Result: Australia won by 91 runs.

Man-of-the-match: Shane Watson.

Hussey (14) and Steven Smith (11) playing supporting roles.

Australia managed just 65 in the opening 20 overs, their best coming when Watson and Haddin smashed two fours apiece in a Mpofu over in a rare show of aggression.

Skipper Elton Chigumbura promptly turned to spin.

Utsey provided the breakthrough when he trapped Haddin lbw, with Zimbabwe asking for a review of the umpire's decision after the batsman had initially been given not out.

Watson was also ruled out lbw off Cremer following a referral, but not before he had set the stage for the final onslaught.

Ponting looked set when he was run out after a superb piece of fielding by Mpofu, who hit the stumps at the non-striker's end from deep midwicket.

Dayamairi in Balaganj upazila on Dhaka-Sylhet highway around 11:30am, killing all five in the auto-rickshaw on the spot.

Locals caught truck driver Bimal Das, 50, and handed him over to law enforcers. Later police seized the truck from the spot.

Watson, who smashed one six and eight fours in a 92-ball knock, added 61 for the opening wicket with Brad Haddin (29) and 79 for the next with Ponting (28).

Clarke provided the late flourish with a 55-ball knock as Australia plundered 90 runs in the closing 10 overs, with Cameron White (22), David

Watson and Utsey 14.

Off-spinner Prosper Utsey and leg-spinner Cremer bagged one wicket apiece, giving away 84 runs in a combined tally of 20 overs.

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city



Esteem for the language martyrs, love for books and some added flavour of holiday become recipe for yesterday's brimming crowd at Amar Ekushey book fair.

Big day draws largest crowd

RAKIB AHAMMED

The Amar Ekushey Boi Mela witnessed a huge crowd yesterday as thousands of people dressed in black and white gathered in the fair on the International Mother Language Day.

Gates of the fair were opened at 8:00am so that people who had arrived at the Central Shaheed Minar to pay their tribute to the martyrs of Language Movement in 1952 could visit the book fair.

Locals caught truck driver Bimal Das, 50, and handed him over to law enforcers. Later police seized the truck from the spot.

Women draped in black and white sarees and men in panjabis were seen waiting in long queues in front of the Bangla Academy.

"I brought my daughter to the Shaheed Minar early in the morning and came to browse through some books," said Tamizuddin, a resident of capital's Bokhshi Bazar

area.

Publishers also seemed satisfied as they experienced a high sale.

"We are expecting to reach our maximum daily sale today, just like previous years" said Sohel, a seller in the Mowla Brothers' stall.