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Bangladeshis in S Africa face trouble

Several hundred shops vandalised, looted in recent spate of violence

PORIMOL PALMA

Mobs vandalised and looted several hundred shops of expatriates, including Bangladeshis, in South Africa in waves of anti-immigrant violence from Monday to Wednesday.

There were no reports of casualties of any Bangladeshis in the xenophobic attacks, but they are living in fear and uncertainty over their future though the situation seemed normal since Thursday, officials and Bangladeshi expatriates told The Daily Star yesterday.

According to the BBC, the attack comes at a time of high unemployment in the country. Some South Africans blame foreigners for taking away their jobs.

The unemployment rate in South Africa is nearly 28 percent, the highest since the labour force survey was introduced 11 years ago.

"I cannot think of what is my future here. All of the goods of my shop, worth Tk 25 lakh, were looted. I fled the shop only with a shirt and a pair of trousers," said Akhter Hossain, a Bangladeshi grocery shop owner in Johannesburg, the commercial city of South Africa.

Akhter, who has been staying there since 2011, said he never saw such a huge violence there, though attacks by the locals on the immigrants, especially other Africans, were common.

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Pedestrians cannot use the walkway along the bank of the Turag near the Aminbazar Bridge in Savar as ropes used for anchoring cargo vessels create obstructions to the walkway. Such illegal use of the area as a jetties is damaging the environment. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



Zimbabwe dictator Mugabe dies

AFP, Harare

Robert Mugabe, the former guerrilla hero turned despot who ruled Zimbabwe for 37 years until the military forced him out, has died aged 95, the country's president announced yesterday.

First heralded as a liberator who rid the former British colony Rhodesia of white minority rule, Mugabe used repression and fear to govern until he was finally ousted by his previously loyal generals in November 2017.

The country's former colonial ruler Britain expressed its condolences but said there were "mixed emotions" after Mugabe's death.

"Zimbabweans suffered

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Feud in JP goes on

Demand raised at presidium meeting for taking action against 2 leaders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several Jatiya Party lawmakers and presidium members yesterday demanded expulsion of Anisul Islam Mahmud and Fakhrul Imam from the organisation for allegedly playing the key role in declaring Raushan Ershad chairman of the party.

However, the party did not make any decision in this regard during a joint meeting of the presidium members and lawmakers, presided over by JP Chairman GM Quader, said meeting sources.

The meeting was held at the chairman's Banani office in the capital yesterday. Around 30 JP presidium members, including eight lawmakers, were present.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, Presidium Member Kazi Firoz Rashid said

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British PM gets Brexit boost

HC declares suspension of parliament lawful; Johnson says he won't resign

AGENCIES

Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday sought to regain political momentum after a painful week left his do-or-die Brexit strategy in tatters.

Johnson wants an early general election that could give him a mandate to take Britain out of the European Union with or without a divorce deal on October 31.

He spent yesterday morning campaigning in Scotland among fishermen who strongly backed the Brexit referendum in 2016.

Johnson received a boost when the High Court in London rejected a legal challenge against his decision to suspend parliament from next week.

But it granted permission for the case to go to the Supreme Court for an appeal scheduled for September 17.

"My legal team and I will not give up the fight for democracy," pro-EU campaigner Gina Miller told reporters.

And the upper House of Lords was set to pass legislation yesterday that would force Johnson to seek a Brexit delay from Brussels unless he can strike a deal at an EU summit next month.

Johnson has branded the bill a "surrender" that would allow the other 27 EU leaders to dictate the terms on which Britain leaves its closest neighbours after 46 years.

He sacked 21 Conservative rebels who voted for the legislation in the House of Commons on Tuesday.

The decision left him without a working majority in parliament.



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Teacher, NGO official sent to jail over rape

STAR REPORT

A Monirampur court yesterday sent a man to jail on charges of raping a third grader who later became pregnant.

Police arrested the accused -- Golam Kibria, an NGO official in Jashore -- on Thursday, a day after the victim's father filed a case with Monirampur Police Station, said Sub-inspector Rafiqul Islam, investigation officer of the case.

Hearing the case, the Chief Judicial Magistrate Court of Monirampur sent Kibria to jail, he added.

According to the case statement, the 10-year-old girl used to live at her maternal grandfather's house after her parents got divorced. She was then sent to Kibria's house to work as housemaid because of the family's poor financial condition.

During her stay at Kibria's house, the girl was raped several times and she later became pregnant. Although the girl shared her experience with her maternal grandmother, she did not pay heed to it. After six and a half months, the victim's father was informed about her condition. He then took the girl to Jashore General Hospital where she was undergoing treatment, the statement added.

Family members told The Daily Star

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Off-duty easyJet pilot saves the day



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

A father keen to go on his holiday to Spain stepped in and flew an easyJet flight to Alicante when it transpired the service was a pilot down.

Michael Bradley, who happened to be an easyJet pilot himself, offered to fly the plane to avoid a delay of several hours.

An announcement he made over the tannoy before the flight took off from Manchester airport was filmed and shared on social media by one of the passengers.

"My wife who's on row 15 with my little boy – hopefully he's asleep by now, I should keep it down or else I'll get told off – she rolled over and punched me in the back of the head and said 'our flight's delayed by two hours because they are minus one captain for the flight.'

"So just before we went through security I thought, I wonder if this is worth a phone call. I think it is because I'd like to go on holiday."

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AL leader killed in Khulna

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A union-level Awami League leader was murdered in Khulna's Dighalia upazila last night.

The deceased is Tipu Sheikh, 50, of Padmabil village.

He was the immediate past general secretary of Gazirhat Union Awami League, said the upazila AL president, Sheikh Mofidul Islam.

Locals said Tipu was attacked by some unidentified people when he was returning from a local market around 6:00pm. The attackers first hit him in the head with a brick, and then chopped off his legs below the knee before fleeing.

He was rescued by locals but he died on the way to hospital.

Party insiders said Tipu may have been killed by his rival faction in the Awami League.

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Tools seized in Ukhia part of support to hosts: IOM

UNB, Dhaka

After a safety review by the local authorities, the International Organisation for Migration yesterday clarified that it donated the tools recovered from an NGO's storage depot in Ukhia.

"The tools are part of household kits given to vulnerable members of the host community for agricultural and livelihood activities," said an IOM press release.

Earlier on Thursday, 5,000 tools were recovered

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This moment, on the morning of the second day of the one-off Test against Afghanistan, was one of the few reasons Bangladesh players had to smile about yesterday. The man jumped the barbed-wire fence at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram and repeatedly offered skipper Shakib Al Hasan his floral tribute, only to be later escorted out of the ground and to the police station.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

More than 100 teens picked up

Cops launch drive against 'teen-gang culture'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday picked up over 100 teenagers from the capital's Hatirjheel area in a drive against the growing "teen-gang culture".

"Receiving several complaints from the guardians about eve-teasing, Hatirjheel police picked them up from different spots," said Hafiz Al Faruq, additional deputy commissioner (Tejgaon Industrial Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, adding that the action was taken as part of their regular drive against the teen-gang culture.

Police were verifying their offences, he said.

"If we find anyone innocent, we will hand him or her over to guardians after receiving an undertaking," the police official added.

Hatirjheel is a lakefront in Dhaka and a popular spot for hangout among the teenagers and the youths.

On Wednesday, Mohsin Ali, 17, a tenth-grader of Child Heaven International School, was hacked to death in Mohammadpur area over internal conflict among the teen gangs in the area.

Dhaka's teen gang culture first hit the headlines after a ninth grader Adnan Kabir was beaten to death in Uttara in 2017. The law enforcers carried out a crackdown on such groups who engaged in different criminal activities across Dhaka city.

According to law enforcement agencies, over 50 of such gangs are active in different parts of the city, including Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Mirpur and Uttara.

They frequently get engaged in violent clashes with hockey sticks, cricket stumps and sharp knives either to

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PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 7

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:35 12:45 4:30 6:20 7:45
JAMAT 5:10 1:15 4:45 6:25 8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION