

Jalan Silang sombre after migrant worker raid

KUALA LUMPUR: Jalan Silang, which used to be filled with foreigners, appeared to be on “pause” after Thursday’s police raid on one of the most crowded areas in the capital city.

A check by *the New Straits Times* showed that the street which is called “mini Dhaka”, a term coined by locals due to the influx of foreigners in the area, appeared sombre and it was not business as usual.

A migrant worker, who declined to be named, admitted that his friends were avoiding Jalan Silang after what happened on Thursday.

“I think they are still afraid to come here and some of my friends even refused to go to work today (yesterday) despite having legal documents,” he said.

A local food stall owner said “they’re not here anymore” — referring to the absence of foreigners around the locality.

Businesses continue to operate but the number of customers or passers-by has decreased.

Yesterday, it was reported that two children were among 1,101 foreign migrants detained in a raid conducted by various agencies led by the police’s General Operations Force in Jalan Silang here.

Kuala Lumpur police chief Datuk Seri Allaudeen Abdul Majid said the operation, which involved 1,138 officers from the agency, was conducted to curb the influx of foreigners in and around Jalan Silang.

They allegedly owned businesses and worked without permits in the city centre.

He also said that the authorities



Foreign migrants being rounded up during the operation led by the General Operations Force in Jalan Silang, Kuala Lumpur, on Thursday. PIC BY HAFIDZUL HILMI MOHD NOOR

had confiscated 100 cartons of cigarettes worth RM22,000, 90 cartons of alcoholic drinks worth RM48,000, and unapproved medicines worth RM34,530.

On whether the owners of the premises would be reprimanded for leasing their place to undocumented foreigners, Allaudeen said the Kuala Lumpur City Council would look into the matter.



A much muted Jalan Silang as seen yesterday. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH