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## EUPHORIA AND DESPAIR

Sharif As-Saber analyses reasons for Bangladesh's failure in cricket

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North Korea advises observing pets for earthquake warning

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Dr Sanjida Khatun talks about inspiring cultural nationalism in Bangladesh

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# Warplanes pound Libyan defences

Air strikes toll 'rises to 64;' Gaddafi vows to retaliate, his forces kill 94 in Benghazi

AGENCIES

Western air strikes pounded Muammar Gaddafi's defences and allied warplanes patrolled Libyan skies yesterday, lifting the siege of Benghazi and allowing rebels to surge forward and retake lost ground.

The aerial assault stopped in its tracks the advance by Gaddafi's troops into Benghazi and left the burned and shattered remains of his tanks and troop carriers littering the main road outside the rebel stronghold.

ernment soldiers lay scattered in the desert.

The US military said the first stage of coalition raids under a UN Security Council remit to enforce a no-fly zone over Libya had been "successful" and Gaddafi's offensive on the rebel stronghold of Benghazi stopped in its tracks.

"Operations yesterday went very well," the US Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, told NBC. "He [Gaddafi] hasn't had aircraft ... flying the last couple days. So effectively that no-fly



Vehicles belonging to forces loyal to Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi explode after an air strike by coalition forces along a road between Benghazi and Ajdabiyah yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



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Dear readers, we are happy to provide you today with the third instalment of the 500-page supplement series marking the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Daily Star. Today's 48-page supplement focuses on "Economy and Development". We hope you will find our effort worthy of your attention.

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

## WORKERS IN LIBYA Fate of 30,000 air-struck

PORIMOL PALMA

The hope of an improved situation for around 30,000 Bangladeshis still in Libya has been shattered, as the international forces on Saturday began air strikes in various parts of the North African country to enforce a ceasefire.

The expats are in real trouble now as going out has become risky amid fighting, while looting is a usual phenomenon on way to Tunisia from where

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# Home in 3 days

Minister visits camp, assures of quick repatriation

MORSHED ALI KHAN from Choucha, Tunisia-Libya border

ON TUNISIA-LIBYA BORDER



MORSHED ALI KHAN writes from the spot where thousands of Bangladeshi workers have taken shelter after fleeing the Libyan upheaval

All stranded Bangladeshis at the Choucha camp in Tunisia would be flown home within the next three days, said Minister for Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain during a brief visit to the camp yesterday.

The visit was the first by a top Bangladesh government representative since the crisis started.

As the Bangladeshi repatriation process slowed down drastically, hundreds of stranded Bangladeshis crowded around the International Organisation for

Migration (IOM) office yesterday morning asking everyone when their names would be called for repatriation. At one point, several hundred people stood by the main road waiting for the visiting Bangladeshi minister to tell them when exactly they would be going home.

Mosharraf on his arrival said Biman flights would start today to take the 2,100 Bangladeshis home from Choucha camp. The IOM would also help with the repatriation, he said.

When asked about IOM fund constraint, the minister said the Government of Bangladesh has paid the IOM for the

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## Arab League unhappy

Russia slams; China, India regrets

AFP, Tripoli, Moscow, Beijing, New Delhi

Dissenting voices, including from the Arab League which had backed the no-fly zone, arose yesterday as the scale and method of "Operation Odyssey Dawn" became apparent.

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## Speaker upset

He decries MP diatribes at JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday decried the use of indecent and vulgar words in the House and said senior lawmakers should feel embarrassed about fellow parliamentarians, who use indecent words in speeches.

The speaker came down hard on the chief whips of both the treasury and opposition benches for allocating time to those lawmakers, who speak foul of the opponent.

It is very unfortunate that both the sides -- the treasury and opposition benches -- encourage those lawmakers

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## Bhutto in Dhaka

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

Dr Kamal Hossain's recollections of the day, as also those of other days in March 1971, throw good light on the momentous events which were to lead to Bangladesh's

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Bangladeshi workers line up beside a road in Tunisia near the Libya-Tunisia border to hear from their Minister for Labour and Employment Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain.

PHOTO: MORSHED ALI KHAN

## Room still there for compromise

Blake says about Yunus' removal after meeting PM; Muhith says Yunus could be a fellow at GB

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert Blake yesterday said "there is still room for compromise" in resolving the issue arising from the removal of Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus as the Managing Director of Grameen Bank he founded.



Robert Blake

"Such a compromise will also allow us to continue very good progress that we made in our bilateral relations," Blake told journalists after an hour-long meeting with Foreign Secretary Mijarul Quayes at the Foreign Office.

Blake, on a four-day visit to Bangladesh, met with the foreign secretary after a call-on with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina earlier in the day.

"I had a very good, productive and constructive meeting

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## WEALTH REPORT SUBMISSION Letter ready for ministers, MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ministers and lawmakers may be given letter today asking them to submit wealth statements to the Cabinet Division within 15 days, finance ministry sources have said.

The letter signed by Finance Minister AMA Muhith was sent to the Cabinet Division yesterday.

Talking to journalists after a meeting with development partners at a city hotel yesterday, Muhith said, "The Cabinet Division will receive their wealth statements by September [each year]. It will notify by October if one does not submit the wealth statement."

The wealth statements will not be published, but people will be able to see those if they want to. "The statements will remain at the Cabinet Division. They [people] have to collect [copies of] those from there," said the finance minister.

The process of collecting the copies could not be known immediately.

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