

# The Daily Star

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Plus 48-page 20th Anniversary Supplement

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Your Right to Know

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## DIVE INTO UNCERTAINTY

Shahedul Anam Khan points out the UN's dilemma in Libya

PAGE 14

## TO PARIS WITH LOVE

Month-long Bangladeshi cultural festival opens in France on March 31

PAGE 11

## IN OR OUT?

Virender Sehwag's participation in today's quarterfinal against Australia unsure

PAGE 19



# Govt now eyes elevated U-loops, underpasses

### Study shows ride from Azimpur to Gabtoli to take 15 mins

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The government has undertaken a Tk 775 crore project to construct elevated U-turns and underpasses for an uninterrupted traffic flow between Azimpur and Gabtoli.

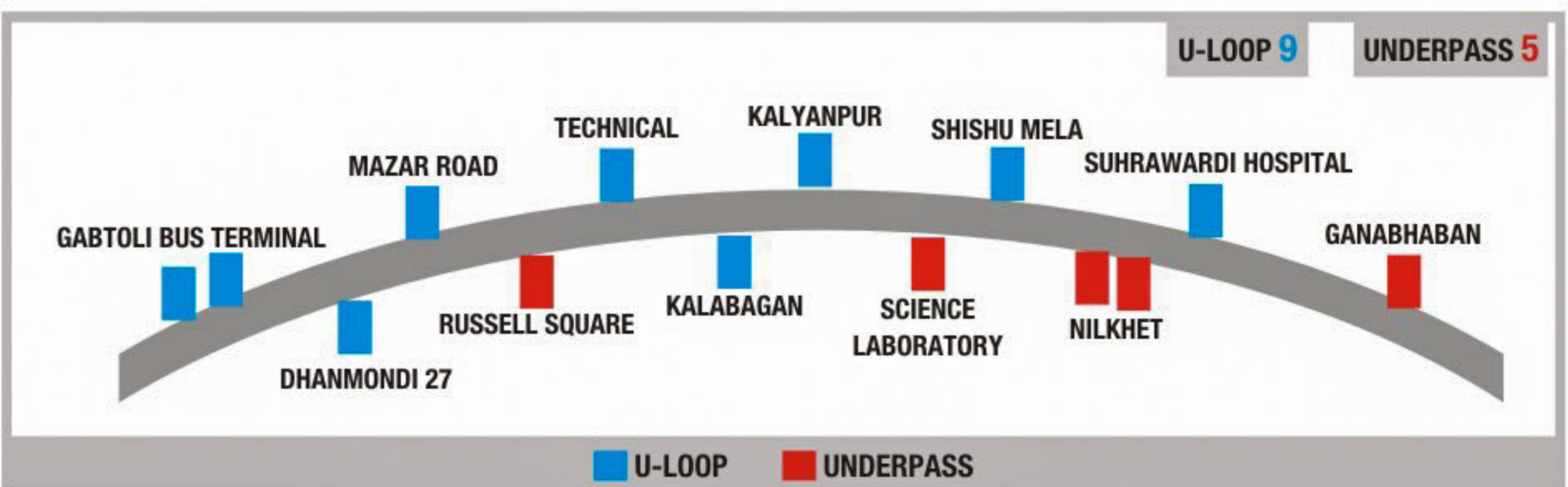
Once the project is implemented, a ride from Azimpur to Gabtoli will take only 11 minutes instead of current 78 minutes, suggested a study by Buet experts.

It will help ease congestion on the 8.5-kilometre route, where the traffic

speed is now eight km per hour, it said.

Titled Bangabandhu Memorial Corridor, the scheme is now under scrutiny at the Planning Commission. After elevated expressway and metro

SEE PAGE 12 COL 1



## YUNUS ISSUE

### Muhith wants honourable solution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance ministry has denied press reports that Finance Minister AMA Muhith ruled out any initiative by the prime minister to resolve the dispute centering Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank.

The reports were not accurate, said a finance ministry statement adding the finance minister has actually sought an honourable solution to Prof Yunus issue from the beginning and he is still at it.

"The proposal for an understanding was given from the government and that still holds," said the

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5

## Dist councils to get chairmen without polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in parliament yesterday the government will appoint chairmen of all zila parishads (district councils) in the country to strengthen the local government system.

This means the government will not hold elections to zila parishads.

The constitution provides that local government in every administrative unit shall be composed of persons elected in accordance with law.

Hasina said, "There will be one chairman, 15 members and five reserved seats for women in each zila parishad." Work is going on to constitute zila parishads.

In response to lawmakers' queries, the leader of the House in scripted answer said zila parishads have the authority to carry out 12 mandatory jobs and 68 optional jobs including infrastructure development, poverty alleviation, uplift of women, self-employment, development of education, public health and sports, and social welfare.

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8



The Daily Star

40yrs of independence, 20yrs of independent journalism

Dear readers, today we have the pleasure to present you with the fourth instalment of our 20th anniversary supplement series. In this 48-page special issue we focus on "Agriculture, Industry and Business." We hope you will enjoy reading it.

EDITOR



## Liz Taylor no more

AFP, Los Angeles

Legendary Hollywood actress and violet-eyed beauty Elizabeth Taylor, who captured hearts in "National Velvet" to launch a film career that spanned five decades, died yesterday aged 79.

Taylor had been in Los Angeles for several days.

SEE PAGE 12 COL 6

## Air strikes target ground troops

### Defiant Gaddafi pledges victory; questions over Western command

AGENCIES

Ground troops loyal to Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi who are threatening rebel-held cities are now being targeted by coalition air strikes, the US military said yesterday.

"We are putting pressure on Gaddafi's ground forces that are threatening cities," Rear Admiral Gerard Hueber, US chief of staff for the Libya mission, told journalists. Asked if that meant air strikes, he replied: "Yes."

International forces have launched new air strikes near Libya's rebel-held western city of Misrata yesterday, witnesses say.

Prior to the Misrata strikes, US Rear Admiral Peg Klein said warplanes, which had been suppressing Libya's air defences, would now be sent out to attack Gaddafi's tanks.

"Some of those cities still have tanks advancing on them to attack the Libyan people," said Klein, commander of the expeditionary strike group aboard the USS

SEE PAGE 12 COL 3

## Mujib wanted confederation

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

On March 24, 1971, the Awami League leadership stayed busy all morning working out the finer details of the economy-related issues pertaining to the Awami League's position on a transfer of power. Meanwhile, the regime, in the guise of carrying on negotiations with Bangabandhu and his team, was essentially giving the finishing touches to the planned military action against the Bangalee population.

In the evening, according to Kamal Hossain, as

SEE PAGE 12 COL 5



Bangladeshi workers at the Choucha camp on the Libya-Tunisia border waiting for a flight to return home.

PHOTO: MORSHED ALI KHAN

## More join camp

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

The government's promise to take all stranded Bangladeshis home in three days from the Choucha camp appears a far cry with more displaced people arriving here from Libya and fewer aircraft taking them home.

Yesterday, a Biman flight in the morning and a Jordanian flag carrier chartered by the IOM have taken home 555 stranded Bangladeshis. These flights have not helped much in reducing the

number of stranded Bangladeshis at Choucha camp as between March 20 and March 21, 527 Bangladeshis entered Tunisia through the Ras Jdir border and into Choucha camp.

"We heard a Biman flight might be here tomorrow morning (today)," said Chongrak Khemwiro of the IOM at the airport.

Aid workers here said until last Friday it was obvious that the

SEE PAGE 13 COL 8

## Influx from Libya on rise

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The influx of Bangladeshi workers from Libya has increased again since the air strikes began in the North African country on March 19 following a UN Security Council Resolution.

The foreign ministry said around 200 to 300 Bangladeshi nationals have been crossing over from Libya into Tunisia every day since the air strikes began.

There are currently about

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1



Shahid Afridi celebrates getting a West Indies wicket at Sher-e Bangla National Stadium in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

## Pakistan fly into semis after 12yrs

### Windies bowled away

MOHAMMAD ISAM

Pakistan made it to the World Cup semifinals for the first time in 12 years yesterday and in the process, made sure promises were kept and some faith restored in their cricketing prowess.

The 10-wicket victory against West Indies, who made only 112 all out in 43.3 overs, in front of a 'partisan' full-house crowd at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium was the perfect tonic for a team that had much to prove to the cricketing world after a regrettable past year. The win also meant that Pakistan completed their end of the bargain in setting up a



potentially massive semifinal clash against bitter rivals India on March 30 at Mohali.

Before that date with destiny, it was leg-spinner Shahid Afridi's variation that sliced through the

West Indies line-up, a display so clinical that it was hardly a surprise that he did his trademark celebration at the start of his fifth over.

The experienced Caribbean duo of Ramnaresh Sarwan and Shivnarine Chanderpaul, given the duty of rebuilding the innings after they had collapsed to 16 for three in the sixth over, added 42 off 18.3 overs before Afridi tempted

SEE PAGE 13 COL 5

## Don't call Zia a killer

### Speaker asks ruling party MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speaker Abdul Hamid yesterday asked the ruling party lawmakers not to call Ziaur Rahman a killer, and urged the opposition not to undermine the judiciary while speaking in parliament.

"Nobody can use the word killer or murderer in parliament. It's my ruling," the Speaker said to

SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

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