The Paily Star

TIES WITH PAKISTAN India rejects troops pullout before talks AFP, New Delhi

Indian officials yesterday rejected calls for an early withdrawal of troops from a Himalayan glacier or from the rest of Indian Kashmir, saying militancy was spreading from the disputed territory to else-

where in the country. The comments came ahead of talks next week with rival Pakistan over the presence of troops on the 6,300-metre (20,700-foot) Siachen alacier, dubbed the world's highest battlefield. India and Pakistan each hold

part of Kashmir but claim it in full Defence Minister Pranab SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Section 144 as 14-party, Jubo Dal announce rally at same place STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Local administration imposed Section 144 in Dupchanchia pourasava vesterdav afternoon as the 14-party opposition alliance and its front organisations and Jubo Dal. youth front of the ruling BNP, called meetings at the same place and time.

Local 14-party alliance called a public meeting at 3:00pm on the Poura Mukta Mancha premises protesting high price of essentials, harassment of Awami League followers and filing 'false' cases against the 14-party leaders and activists in Bogra district, officer-incharge of Dupchanchia Police Station said.

Local Jubo Dal also called a SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

MADHYAPARA HARD ROCK MINE Petrobangla to take it over from DPRK firm

Sources said MGMCL's three of

the five rock crushing machines

arrived in early May and it will

Repair work of underground electricity lines going on for the last two weeks near Karwan Bazar in the capital

this year.

KONGKON KARMAKER, from Dinajpur

Petrobangla's subsidiary Madhyapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGMCL) is scheduled to take over the responsibility of completing the Tk 1,275 crore Madhyapara hard rock mining project this month from the North Korean company Namnam, which has proven itself to be utterly incom-

petent. According to MGMCL sources

while the dug up road poses threat of accident.

Namnam is leaving the project in require at least four months to set such a bad shape that MGMCL will those up. Bulldozers, rock loaders and shovels are still to arrive from not be able to start production immediately since it will have to fix China manifold technical problems first.

Namnam on May 4 issued a Sources said about six percent letter informing Petrobangla that it project work is still to be completed. will complete the project between As per the latest government May 15 and May 25 this year and the approval, Namnam was to hand plant will be commissioned on May 27, and then it will go into trial proover the completed project on May 5 duction for 72 hours.

But it failed to develop the site within the latest timeframe SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

NY FLIGHT US govt official apologises to Bangladesh ambassador UNB, Dhaka

The US government and the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA) have apologised for mistakenly barring Biman's New York-bound flight from entering American airspace on Sunday, as Biman Bangladesh Airlines is considering legal options to seek compensation from the FAA.

Robert Sturgell, deputy administrator of the FAA, called Shamser M Chowdhury, Bangladesh ambassador in Washington, over telephone on Tuesday and apologised SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

Iran offers EU its own nuke deal Tehran scorns European incentives

AFP, REUTERS, Tehran

Iran yesterday offered greater European access to its economy if its nuclear programme was accepted, the exact opposite of a deal currently being put together by the European Union.

"The incentives raised by the Europeans will not replace our rights. They have to recognise our rights," foreign ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi was quoted as saying by the IRNA news agency. "We are ready to propose eco-

nomic incentives to the Europeans to obtain our rights, and the market of 70 million Iranians is a part of this," Asefi added.

The EU-3 of Britain, France and Germany plan to offer Iran trade and technology benefits in exchange for the country agreeing to halt sensitive uranium enrichment work.

The Islamic regime has already rejected the EU-3 proposal -- before it has even been finalised -- and on Wednesday hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadineiad ridiculed the idea of getting "nuts and choco-

consortium, at Dhaka Sheraton

High Commissioner in Dhaka Abdul

Malek Bin Abdul Aziz, Vice-

President of the Federation of

Bangladesh Chambers of

Commerce and Industry (FBCCI)

Dewan Sultan Ahmed were

ing the existing Dhaka-Chittagong

The government is now expand-

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Kazi Solimul Haq MP, Malaysian

late" in exchange for "gold". Asefi, however, said that "as long as we haven't seen the proposal, we cannot comment"

Accepting EU incentives that urge Iran to stop making atomic fuel

would be like trading candy for gold, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said yesterday. Britain, France and Germany the European Union's three biggest

Hasina vows to

continue her

fight against

misrule

UNB, Dhaka

powers, plan to offer Iran a SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

WHO confirms bird flu in Indonesian family REUTERS, Jakarta

infected with bird flu, the World Health Organisation confirmed yesterday, after the case triggered widespread fears of human-tohuman transmission.

There is no immediate evidence the H5N1 flu virus passed easily among at least seven members of the family in North Sumatra province. But experts said on Wednesday nothing could be ruled out and more testing was crucial. In a day of fast-moving events, the WHO also said a caterer from

Surabaya city in East Java had died of bird flu, while Indonesia's health SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Alternative Dhaka-Ctg highway proposed Malaysian consortium keen to invest \$884m

Hotel

Present

Azimat Consortium of Malaysian is vying to construct an alternative four-lane highway between Dhaka and Chittagong and the proposal is lying with the government for negoti-

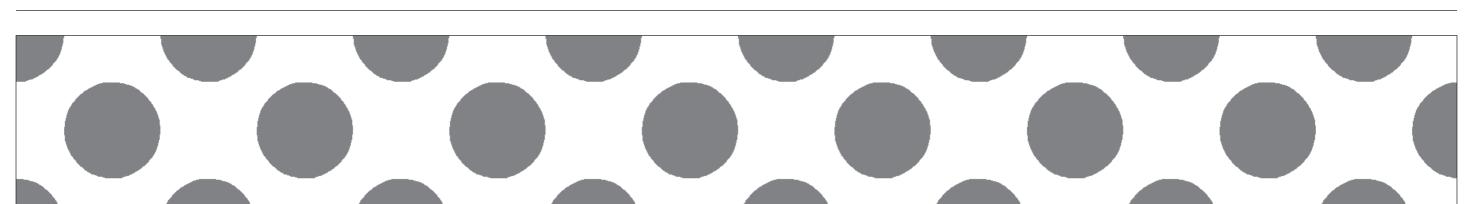
The group has proposed to build the 198-km highway at a cost of \$884 million on build, own, operate and transfer (BOOT) basis. It will run through Narayanganj, Munishiganj, Matlab, Chandpur, Laxmipur, Sonagazi, Feni, Mirersharai,

leading Malaysian builders has proposed that the self-financing

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina project will be completed in five yesterday vowed to continue her years after the approval. The disclofight to free the country from what sure came at a presentation yestershe said was misrule of the coalition day by Mannan Bin Amir, chief government executive officer (CEO) of the

"I must free the country from SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

| Prayer Timing May 18 | | |
|----------------------------|-------|--------|
| - | Azan | Jamaat |
| Fajr | 4-10 | 4-45 |
| Zohr | 12-45 | 1-15 |
| Asr | 5-00 | 5-15 |
| Maghrib | 6-36 | 6-40 |
| Esha | 8-00 | 8-30 |
| Source: Islamic Foundation | | |



HOTO: STAR

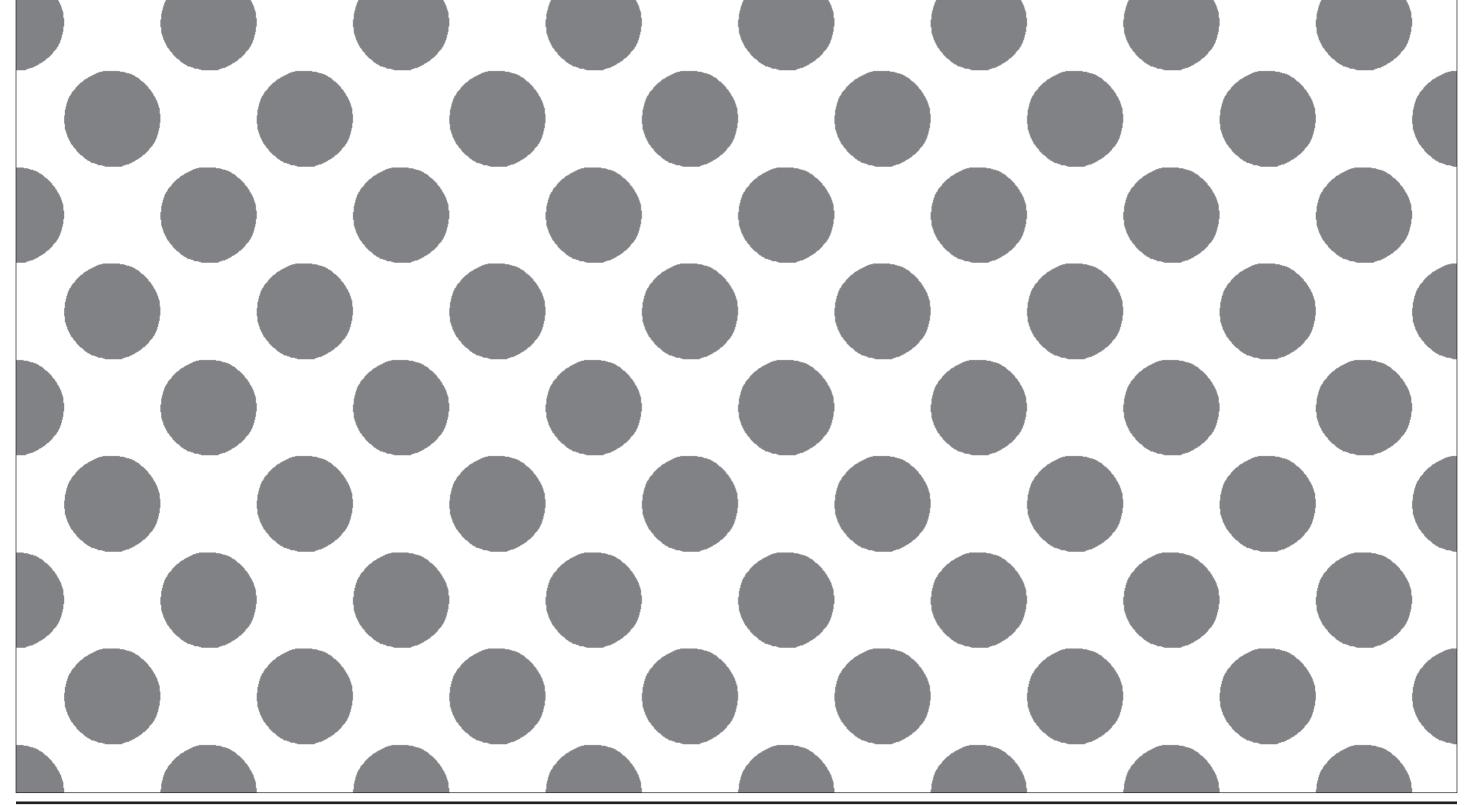
BSS, Dhaka

At least five members of an Indonesian family have been

ation.

Hathazari to Chittagong.

The consortium comprising four



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