

rising crimes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chittagong Chambers of

Commerce and Industries (CCCI)

yesterday expressed grave concern

at the alarming slide in law and order

lence, extortion and mugging are a

Prayer Timings

April 14

Azan

5-10

5-00

6-28

8-15

4-35

12-45

6-24

7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Zohr

Maghrib

Asr

The rising killing, robbery, vio-

Cartoonist Shishir Bhattacharya puts his signature on a protest banner in front of National Museum yesterday in solidarity with a movement to demand direct election to women's reserved parliamentary seats.

PM asks banks to fund RMG support industry

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the banks and financial institutions to quickly go for financing investment in establishing exportoriented garment and backwardlinkage industries at the lowest possible interest.

The prime minister made the call while she was opening a three-day TexBangla fair 2004 at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel under the auspices of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association

A total of 42 stalls have been set

freed in Iraq

up for exhibition of textiles. There are 626 textile mills as members of the BTMA, employing some 1.5 million workers, the opening function was informed.

The prime minister, however, noted that the scheduled banks had already taken a number of steps towards promoting investment at the government's instance.

"We will have to give importance to setting up backward-linkage industries to cope with the competition the country will face after phasing out of the quota free facilities SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

8 Russian hostages

US chopper crashes; GI killed; Sadr's aide released after detention

AGENCIES, Baghdad

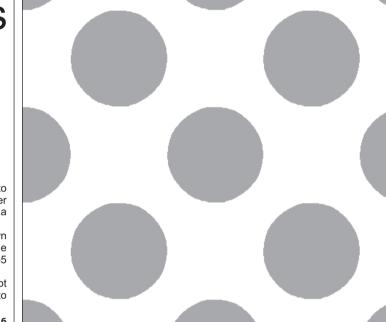
Five Ukrainians and three Russians have been freed, a day after they were seized in Iraq, where a US military crackdown has led to the kidnapping of dozens of foreigners and a flareup of violence.

A US soldier was killed and near the hotspot of Falluja, witnesses said, and a US MH-53 helicopter crashed southeast of here yester-

day and marines who rushed to secure the crash site came under attack and sustained casualties, a marine officer said.

The officer said it was not known how many people were aboard the helicopter, which can carry up to 55 people.

He said the aircraft did not belong to the Marine Corps, but to another US government agency. SEE PAGE 11 COL 6



Saved by a whisker CCCI worried at

Schoolchildren escape death as 200-kg pillar misses them by a foot

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Several children and their parents at Sunnydale School at Dhanmondi in the capital miraculously escaped death or serious injuries yesterday as a 200-kg concrete pillar from an adjacent under-construction highrise fell down less than a foot away but hit a child's mother in the arms injuring

The pillar from the sixth floor of the building fell on the tin-roofed driveway at the school on Road-13 as KG-1 students lined up on it to be picked

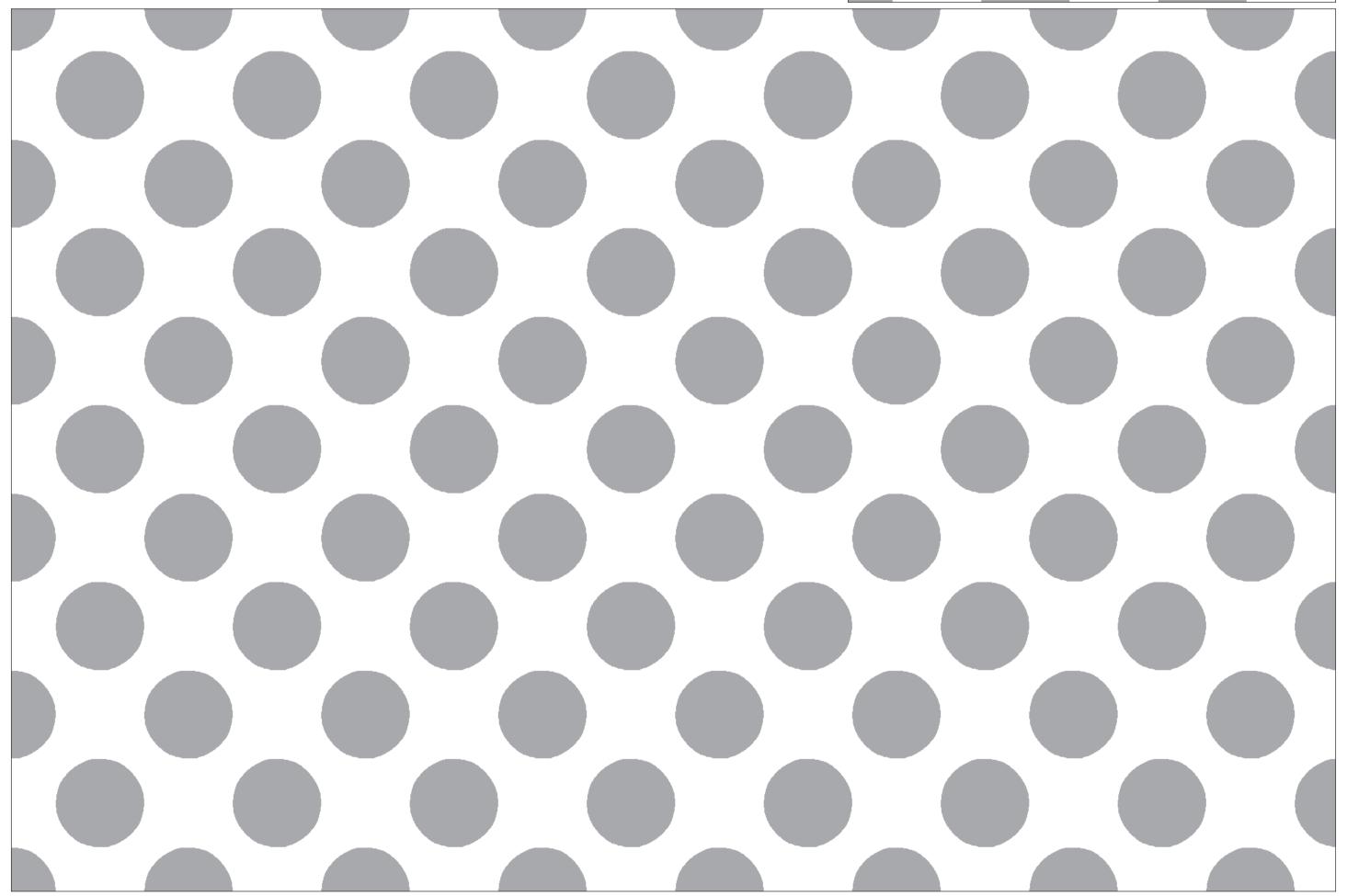
up by their parents.

The pillar crushed the tin roof and fell to the ground. Construction of the 18-storey

building by a developer is gong on without using any safety net whatso-Immediately after the incident, agitated parents caught some con-

the site and handed them over to Dhanmondi Police Station. A case might be filed against the developer for not using safety net around the SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

struction workers and an engineer at



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