

Khaleda asks engineers to play effective role in uplift

UNB, Chittagong

Khaleda Zia yesterday urged engineers to work more effectively to innovate cost-effective, production-friendly and sustainable home-grown technologies to meet the country's growing development needs.

"To face the global challenges, the domestic industries will have to increase skill and standard of services as well as to increase productivity and reduce cost through proper management," she said.

Inaugurating the 49th Conference of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, at the IEB Chittagong Centre, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said cost-effective production strategy will have to be

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US mission plans own diplomatic post office in Dhaka

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The US embassy wants to set up a diplomatic post office (DPO) in Dhaka as part of a US government initiative to restructure its diplomatic mailing system worldwide.

The embassy recently requested Bangladesh government to take the necessary steps towards this end.

The embassy officials on March 2 sat in a meeting with foreign ministry officials to discuss the DPO and to launch the process for its introduction, ministry sources said. They also informed the National Board of Revenue (NBR) about the move.

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PM avoids Nasir at Ctg, fuels rumours

Official at PMO dismisses resignation report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Khaleda Zia's avoiding meeting Mir Nasir during her visit to Chittagong yesterday fuelled speculation that the defeated mayoral candidate would be forced to resign as the state minister for civil aviation and tourism.

A top official of the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) however the same day dismissed the rumour. He said the government has no plans to remove Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin from office for defeat in May 9 Chittagong City Corporation polls.

The PMO official described the newspaper reports that hinted at Nasir's removal as 'absolutely false'.

Khaleda, prime minister and BNP chairperson, came here to inaugurate the 49th annual convention of the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) at IEB Chittagong Centre Auditorium. She arrived in Chittagong by a helicopter at around noon and went to the convention venue at 12:40pm.

Mir Nasir, who flew in to Chittagong from the capital early in the morning, had been waiting at the convention centre to meet the prime

minister since 11:30am. He along with other ministers and BNP leaders was sitting in the front row.

Khaleda instead of having any talk with him or others went straight to the dais. On making the inaugural speech, she went to a nearby refreshment room and shortly afterwards made her exit.

Mir Nasir reportedly tried to get some time from the prime minister. But neither he nor any of the ministers and leaders of the ruling BNP had any scope to meet her, said sources.

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9 US troops, 100 Iraqis killed

REUTERS, Baghdad

The US military said yesterday nine of its troops were killed in an offensive against insurgents and foreign fighters in western Iraq, and guerrillas struck again in Baghdad, leaving at least five people dead.

Backed by air power, US Marines, sailors and soldiers have been trying to root out guerrillas in the rebellious Anbar province to weaken an insurgency that has escalated attacks since a new Iraq government was announced April 28.

The US military estimated about 100 guerrillas were killed in the assault dubbed Operation Matador.

The assault, which entered its seventh day, is designed to root out guerrillas in one of their most active areas near the Syrian border.

Insurgents struck again in the capital when a suicide car bomber blew himself up next to an Iraqi police patrol in central Baghdad, killing at least four people, police sources said.

The blast echoed across central Baghdad and thick black smoke

rose from burning vehicles in what has become a daily scene since Iraq announced a cabinet.

In a second attack, insurgents hurled grenades at a police convoy in western Baghdad, killing one policeman.

Guerrilla suicide and car bombings have killed more than 400 people in violence that has piled pressure on Iraq's new leaders to deliver on promises of stability.

Although the bombings have targeted mostly police and security

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Sea quake hits Sumatra again

AFP, Jakarta

An earthquake measuring 6.9 on the Richter scale rocked parts of Indonesia's Sumatra island yesterday, renewing fears of a tsunami but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

The quake prompted residents in Nias island, where about 900 people were killed in a powerful quake on March 28, to run out of their homes in panic, said an AFP reporter in the island's main town Gunung Sitoli.

Rinto Mardiono, of the Meteorology and Geophysics Agency, said the quake struck at 12:05 pm (0505 GMT), with its epicentre in the Indian Ocean 50km northwest of Padang, the capital of West Sumatra province.

"It's a deep earthquake so it won't likely cause a tsunami," Mardiono told AFP.

In the neighbouring country of Malaysia, meteorologists reported

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2 Gopalganj 'extremists' remanded

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The two Islamist extremists arrested early Friday from Gopalganj Sadar upazila were put on four-day remand yesterday.

Following confessions from the two arrested, Raihan Sikdar, 27, and Belal, police teams have been sent to Tekerhat and Mostafapur in Madaripur district, Trishal in Mymensingh district, Uttara in the

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DECORATORS OF PM'S DAIS

Indian HC staff visit 9 detainees in Comilla jail

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

First Secretary of the Indian High Commission Niraj Singh and Assistant Consular ZK Mukharjee visited Comilla district jail yesterday to see the nine Indian nationals detained there for about two months.

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PHOTO: STAR

Osmani Udyan in the capital has lost much of its charm as transport workers have turned a part of it into a parking lot for buses and minibuses, as shown in the photo taken yesterday.

EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS

Hasina demands judicial inquiry

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Sheikh Hasina has demanded a judicial inquiry into the extra-judicial

killings by Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in the name of 'crossfire'.

She rejected the government

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7 cops sued for killing man

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven policemen including the officer-in-charge (OC) of Kafrul Police Station were sued yesterday for "killing" a youth in Agargaon in the capital on May 8.

Shamsul Haq Talukder, father of the victim, Mohammad Sohel, filed a case against the policemen with

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