

## Nilufer Zafarullah chairman of IUB's ESTCDT

STAR REPORT

Nilufer Zafarullah has been elected chairman and Md Tanveer Madar vice chairman of the Education, Science, Technology and Cultural Development Trust (ESTCDT), the founding trust of Independent University, Bangladesh and Chittagong Independent University for 2021-2022, says a press release.



Nilufer is currently the chairperson of Midland Bank Ltd. An architect by profession, she has contributed to education and development sectors remarkably for more than 25 years. Nilufer was a lawmaker in the 9th and 10th parliament.

Tanveer Madar started his own logistics and allied companies in 1987 as managing director and later formed an association of the International Freight Forwarders as its general secretary. He is now the chairman of Hellmann Worldwide Logistics.



Healthcare workers arrange vaccine boxes during a nationwide trial run of Covid-19 vaccine delivery systems, at a temporary vaccination centre in Mumbai, India yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Pakistan PM accuses Shia protesters of 'blackmail'

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan yesterday accused Hazara Shia protesters of blackmailing him, as they refused for a sixth day to bury the bodies of miners killed in a brutal attack claimed by the Islamic State group.

The 10 miners from the minority community were kidnapped near a remote coal mine in the southern province of Balochistan on Sunday by IS, a Sunni extremist group.

Shiite protesters, numbering up to 3,000, have since blocked a road on the outskirts of Quetta, capital of the oil- and gas-rich province, demanding better protection as well as a visit from Khan.

"No country's prime minister should be blackmailed like this, otherwise everyone will start blackmailing the prime minister," Khan said in Islamabad.

He said he would only visit Quetta once the funerals had taken place.

The community's refusal to bury the bodies is symbolic in Muslim-majority Pakistan, where according

to Islamic culture people should be buried within 24 hours, before the next sunset.

Ethnic Hazaras make up most of the Shia population in Quetta, the capital of Balochistan -- the country's largest and poorest region, rife with ethnic, sectarian and separatist insurgencies.

Hundreds have been killed over the past decade in attacks by Sunni militants, who consider them heretics. The Central Asian features of Hazaras have made them easy targets.

Several solidarity protests have taken place across Pakistan this week and Pakistani Nobel Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai has offered her support.

"I am short of words to express my grief over the brutal killings of Hazara miners. This is not the first time that this has happened. But I hope it is the last," she tweeted.

"I request that PM @ImranKhanPTI meet with the victims' families as soon as possible."

IS is affiliated with the local militant group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, which previously had links to Pakistan's Taliban.

## Fake NID for Tk 1.5 lakh

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brokers involved in processing documents for bank loans. They usually target loan defaulters seeking fresh loans.

If the Credit Information Bureau (CIB) report of the client is found to be unsatisfactory and so he is declared ineligible to get a loan, the brokers take him to another group of brokers who work at the EC offices.

The client and the bank-related brokers then make a deal with the EC office brokers and the process begins to make a second NID card with the help of some data entry officials.

The brokers get a commission on the loan once it is released.

DB officials involved in the investigation said they have already found evidence of Tk 14 crore in loans being collected from different private banks using forged NID cards in the last one year by different people with the help of the syndicate.

Madhusudan Das, assistant commissioner of DB police, coordinating the investigation, said this is a high priority case and they

received information of loans being taken from different banks with forged documents.

"We have sought assistance from Bangladesh Bank for CIB reports. We will conduct a drive against these people who forged documents after we get the reports," he added.

Meanwhile, on December 22, the NID wing handed over a broker to Rapid Action Battalion after he was found trying to reduce an NID card holder's age by 10 years.

The arrestee was identified as Bahadur, who had promised to change the date of year of an applicant named Nur Jalal Sheikh in exchange of Tk 1.5 lakh.

Nur said he already paid Tk 1.05 lakh to Bahadur as he badly needed to reduce 10 years from the NID card to secure a permanent job, reads a statement of the NID wing.

On August 30, EC filed a case against the JKG Health Care chairman Dr Sabrina Arif Chowdhury for obtaining a second NID card.

The biggest case of NID fraud was reported from Chattogram in 2019 when several people were arrested

for making NID cards for Rohingyaas. Besides, a syndicate was found selling land of one MA Wadud in Kushitia after forging his NID card in the same year.

Brig Gen Mohammed Saidul Islam, director general of NID wing, said, "Exemplary punishment is meted out to those who are involved in this irregularity, regardless of the organisation he or she belongs to. There is an inquiry committee to check the crime and the commission takes action on the basis of the recommendations of the committee."

He told The Daily Star that to stop such crimes, they were working to make facial recognition and iris scanning mandatory for citizensto receive fresh NID cards.

Officials in the NID wing said staffers responsible for giving input of any NID file into the server now have to provide their digital signature every time for each file after it is prepared by a data entry operator.

Besides, there has been a shuffle among EC officials after the recent arrests, they added.

## Poorest nations can expect

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"That's how countries in Africa and South Asia, and other countries around the world of these 92 that are less able to afford vaccines, are actually going to get vaccines."

VACCINES PIPELINE

The WHO granted emergency validation to the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine on December 31, paving the way for countries worldwide to give swift approval to its import and distribution.

According to the WHO's overview of candidate vaccines, 63 have been tested on humans, 21 of which reached final-stage mass testing.

A further 172 candidate vaccines are being developed in laboratories with a view to eventual human trials.

"There is a really big pipeline of vaccines that are coming through," said O'Brien.

"We are in active review of the data on other vaccines and we do expect to be emergency-use listing additional vaccines in the coming weeks and the next months."

"We have 15 manufacturers that have contacted us believing that they have the data that are required to meet these highest standards."

of the vaccine it developed with US group Pfizer.

The EU has struck a deal to double its supply of the BioNTech/Pfizer coronavirus vaccine to 600 million doses, European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen said yesterday.

Authorities in the 27-nation bloc have been hit with rising criticism that the vaccine rollout that started December 27 has been too slow, especially compared with countries such as the United States or former EU member Britain, reports AFP.

Britain's regulators and France's national health authority gave the green light to a job developed by US firm Moderna yesterday.

In India, the second phase of the nationwide vaccination drive against Covid-19 took place across 737 districts yesterday. The first massive dry run was held on January 2.

The Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan recorded its first virus death after 10 months of seeking to isolate itself from the pandemic, with a 34-year-old man dying after testing positive on December 23.

ARTHRITIS DRUGS

Treating critically ill Covid-19 patients with Roche's Actemra or Sanofi's Kevzara arthritis drugs significantly improves survival rates and reduces the amount of time patients need intensive care, study results showed on Thursday.

The findings, which have not yet been peer-reviewed, showed that the immunosuppressive drugs - Actemra, also known as tocilizumab, and Kevzara, also known as sarilumab - reduced death rates by 8.5 percentage points among patients hospitalised and severely ill with the pandemic disease, reports Reuters.

Meanwhile, China has sealed off two cities south of Beijing, cutting transport links and banning millions of residents from leaving, as authorities move to stem the country's largest Covid-19 outbreak in six months.

The pandemic has so far broadly been brought to heel by Chinese authorities since its emergence in Wuhan in late 2019, with small outbreaks swiftly snuffed out using mass testing, local lockdowns and travel restrictions.

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
to a fabulous mother-in-law. Your 13 great grandchildren miss you a lot.  
Shehnaz, Tasneem, Riya, Nina & Shabu

**Nasa's new telescope**  
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Its final aim, and arguably the most important, of the spacecraft is to look for water ice and frozen organic molecules, which could help scientists better understand how often life sustaining materials form in other bodies, and therefore give a better idea of where alien life could develop.  
SPHEREx is set to launch between June 2024 and April 2025, before setting off on its two year-long mission.  
During that time, it will map the entire sky four times using spectroscopy - breaking near-infrared light into individual wavelengths - to detect not just what a material looks like but what it is made of.  
This is because chemical elements absorb and radiate wavelengths of light differently; it is the same technique used to detect the \$10 quintillion asteroid.  
The map built from SPHEREx's information will also be able to estimate an object's distance from the Earth, meaning that it will be three-dimensional. "That's like going from black-and-white images to color; it's like going from Kansas to Oz," said Allen Farrington, the SPHEREx project manager at Nasa's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

**RMG worker**  
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any money for family expenditures.  
At one point, the conversation turned into a feud and became violent as Sumon told Habibullah that he could not even provide milk to his infant child, she said.  
Sumon went out of the house making the statement but Habibullah followed him and stabbed him to death just outside their house, she added.  
The incident happened around 12:30am yesterday. Hearing Sumon scream, locals rushed to the spot and sent him to Narayanganj General Hospital where doctors declared him dead.  
Aslam Hossain, officer-in-charge of Fatullah Model Police Station, said the body was sent to morgue for autopsy.  
Sumon's brother Mohammad Rubel filed a case against Habibullah. Meanwhile, police arrested the accused and placed him before a district court last evening.  
The district's Senior Judicial Magistrate court recorded Habibullah's confessional statement and sent him to jail.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Executive Engineer  
Education Engineering Department  
Chuadanga  
[www.eedmoe.gov.bd](http://www.eedmoe.gov.bd)

Memo No. 37.07.1800.009.00.001.21/305 Date: 07/01/2021 Eng.

**e-Tender Notice No. xen/eed/chu/01/Furniture(VE.NGSS)/2020-2021**  
e-Tender (LTM) is invited in the e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works. Details are given below.

Sl. No.	Package No.	Tender ID No.	Description of works	Tender document last selling (date & time)	Tender closing (date & time)
01	e-GP-EED/CHU-VER-FUR-1	534379	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture for Academic Building for 6 Classroom of Alokdia Romela Khatun Secondary Girls School Category C3 in Sadar Upazila of Chuadanga District.	24/01/2021 15:00	25/01/2021 15:00
02	e-GP-EED/CHU-VER-FUR-2	534380	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture for Academic Building for 5 Classroom of Kutubpur Secondary School Category C1 in Sadar Upazila of Chuadanga District.	24/01/2021 15:00	25/01/2021 15:00
03	e-GP-EED/CHU-VER-FUR-3	534381	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture for Academic Building for 9 Classroom of Kunia Chandpur Adarsha Secondary School Category C4 in Sadar Upazila of Chuadanga District.	24/01/2021 15:00	25/01/2021 15:00
04	e-GP-EED/CHU-VER-FUR-4	534382	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture for Academic Building for 5 Classroom of Barogangni Secondary School Category C1 in Alamdanga Upazila of Chuadanga District.	24/01/2021 15:00	25/01/2021 15:00
05	e-GP-EED/CHU-VER-FUR-5	534383	Manufacturing and Supply of Furniture for Academic Building for 9 Classroom of Harokandi Boleshwarpur Secondary School Category C4 in Alamdanga Upazila of Chuadanga District.	24/01/2021 15:00	25/01/2021 15:00

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.  
To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to abovementioned date & time.  
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

**Md. Zahadul Karim**  
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## Let Bangladeshi

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He suggested that Malaysia might consider widening its tariff concession for greater market access of Bangladeshi products.

The state minister said Malaysia is Bangladesh's trusted friend and partner with which Bangladesh enjoys strong bilateral relations since its independence. A considerable number of Bangladeshi workers and professionals are living in Malaysia and contributing immensely to the economies of both the countries.

Shahriar requested the high commissioner to extend all kinds of cooperation to the Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment and find a solution to the current migrant issue.

In reply, Hazanah Md Hasim assuring him of taking the issue of the stranded Bangladeshi workers and students to her higher authorities and hoped that it would be resolved

soon.

The state minister noted that Malaysia is an advanced economy and a development hub in the Asia Pacific region and is doing remarkably well amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Referring to the recalibration programme for regularisation and voluntary repatriation of migrant workers, Shahriar expressed gratitude to the Malaysian government for standing beside the Bangladeshi expatriates during the pandemic.

He also thanked Malaysia for its strong political and humanitarian support in favour of the Rohingyaas and sought a pro-active role from both ASEAN and Malaysia for safe and sustainable repatriation of the refugees to Myanmar.

Shahriar appreciated Malaysia's establishment of a field hospital in Cox's Bazar dedicated to treatment of the Rohingyaas.

## Pakistan jails militant

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2008 that left 166 people dead.

Delhi has long seethed at Pakistan's failure to hand over or prosecute those accused of planning and organising the attacks.

Lakhvi was detained in 2015 over the attacks but released months later. The government slapped him with a series of detention orders but judges repeatedly cancelled them. He was designated a terrorist by the

United Nations in December 2008 for being associated with LeT and al-Qaeda.

Earlier this year, Pakistan also arrested firebrand cleric and alleged mastermind of the attacks Hafiz Saeed, who heads the Jamaat-ud-Dawa, a wing of LeT.

Saeed was later jailed by a court for five years and six months on terror charges.

He has denied involvement in the attacks.