

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

Election

FROM PAGE 12
Bangladesh currency. The petrochemical complex will facilitate the utilisation of natural gas deposits in Bangladesh.
PM APPRAISED OF REMITTANCE DIFFICULTIES
Dr AFA Sayeed, member, community relations commission, UK who is currently on a visit to Bangladesh met Bangabandhu yesterday and presented a memorandum on behalf of the Bangalees in the UK.
The nine-point memorandum highlights, among other things, the inconvenience faced by the Bangalees in remitting their earnings to Bangladesh which takes two to four months to reach the destinations. The memorandum also deploras the present arrangement of entry in Bangladesh Airport where incoming Bangalees are treated like captive home-coming crowds. The government is also requested to make provisions for the right of dual nationality to enhance the morale and stability among the Bangalees in the UK.
Source: January 10, 1973 issues of Dainik Bangla, Bangladesh Observer and Dainik Ittefaq

Fake NID for Tk 1.5 lakh

FROM PAGE 12
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 Rohingyas. Besides, a syndicate was found selling land of one MA Wadud in Kushtia 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 citizens to 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.

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.

Poorest nations can expect

FROM PAGE 12

"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."
As for the new mutations of the

virus detected in Britain and South Africa, WHO experts have said that while they seem more transmissible, there is no indication that the current vaccines would not work against those variants -- and the vaccines are easily adaptable in any case.
"The evaluation about whether the existing vaccines will be impacted at all is under way," said O'Brien.
However, "the kinds of changes being seen in these variants are not felt to be likely to change the impact," she added.
'NEUTRALISES KEY MUTATION'
German company BioNTech said yesterday a preliminary study shows that its vaccine works against the key mutation in coronavirus variants uncovered in Britain and South Africa.
Tests have shown that "antibodies from people who have received the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine effectively neutralise SARS-CoV-2 with a key mutation that is also found in two highly transmissible strains," said the German company 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.

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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
FROM PAGE 12
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
FROM PAGE 12
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.

Let Bangladeshi
FROM PAGE 12
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 Rohingyas 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 Rohingyas.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Chuadanga
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>).

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GD-43

Mirza again
FROM PAGE 12
from unidentified mobile numbers and fake IDs.
"A conspiracy is on to kill me," he claimed, adding that all the conspirators are involved in AL politics.
He also raised questions about the fairness of elections and some lawmakers in greater Noakhali.
At yesterday's rally, Mirza said, "The Awami League will get three to four [parliamentary] seats in greater Noakhali region if a fair election is held."
AL candidates would be defeated in rest of the seats, he said, adding that it would be hard for the defeated AL leaders to find a way to escape.
"I must tell this. Otherwise, they will not correct themselves," he added.
He said unscrupulous government officials in the administration should be held accountable for their actions.
Although people's right to food has been ensured in the country, their right to vote is yet to be established, Mirza added.
He urged AL President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to take stern action against party leaders if they are found involved in corruption, drugs abuse or guilty in scandals involving woman.
Mirza also pledged that if he wins the mayoral polls, he will ensure gas connections in the municipality within next three months.
Local AL leaders attended the rally.

2020 ties with 2016
FROM PAGE 12
year-to-year temperatures, 2020 would be the warmest year on record," Zeke Hausfather, director of climate and energy at the Breakthrough Institute in Oakland, California, reported AFP.
During an El Nino, which occurs every two to seven years, warm surface water in the tropical Pacific Ocean can boost global temperatures. La Ninas -- such as one currently underway -- have the opposite cooling effect.
"2020 stands out for its exceptional warmth," said C3S Director Carlo Buontempo.
"This is yet another reminder of the urgency of ambitious emissions reductions to prevent adverse climate impacts in the future."
In 2015, the world's nations vowed to cap global warming "well below" 2C, and 1.5C if possible.
A subsequent report from the UN's climate science advisory panel, the IPCC, left no doubt that 1.5C was the safer threshold.
With just over 1C of warming so far, the world has seen a crescendo of deadly droughts, heatwaves, flood-inducing rainfall, and superstorms made more destructive by rising seas.
2020 witnessed a record number, for example, of hurricanes in the Atlantic that the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) ran out of letters in the alphabet to name them.
Some regions last year experienced warming well beyond the global average, according to the Copernicus report, based largely on satellite data.
Europe's average surface temperature across 2020 was a searing 2.2C over the pre-industrial benchmark -- and nearly half a degree above 2019, the previous record year.
Warming in the Arctic region was even more spectacular, with northern Siberia and parts of the Arctic itself nearly 7C above mid-19th century levels.
Wildfires across Siberia lasting well into the autumn released a record quarter billion tonnes of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, equivalent to the annual emissions of Spain, Egypt or Vietnam, and a third more than in 2019, the previous record year.
CO2 LEVELS UP '50 PERCENT HIGHER THAN 18TH CENTURY'
CO2 levels in Earth's atmosphere peaked at 413 parts per million, nearly 50 percent more than in the early 18th century, before fossil fuel burning began to load the skies with heat-trapping greenhouse gases, C3S reported.
These unprecedented levels were reached despite a seven percent drop in emissions due to pandemic lockdowns.
Global emissions were on a steady upward trend through 2019, and it remains unclear whether humanity will return to "business as usual" or begin to ratchet down carbon pollution quickly enough to avoid catastrophic climate impacts.
Even if all nations fulfil pledges submitted in annex to the 2015 Paris Agreement, the planet would still heat up more than 3C by century's end.
"The world has been warming at a steady rate of around 0.2C per decade since the 1970s due to human emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases," noted Hausfather.
"If we continue at our current rate we will pass 1.5C in the mid-2030s."