Bangladesh at risk of famine

Mohammed Yahya Khan to resume shipments immediately. HÖSSAIN ALI TO HÉAD BANGLADESH MISSION IN INDIA

Hossain Ali was appointed by the Bangladesh government as the head of its mission in India. But as the mission's work was now limited mainly to Kolkata the Bangladesh government wanted to open only a kind of subordinate mission in New Delhi.

KM Shehabuddin and Amjadul Huq, former Pakistani diplomats now pledging allegiance to Bangladesh, were given letters of assignment signed by Foreign Minister Khondakar Mushtaque Ahmed The Bangladesh government appointed the former as the head of the subordinate mission and Amjadul Huq as press attaché. The government asked them among other things to bring to the notice of the world the atrocities committed by Pakistani troops in Bangladesh and thereby create world opinion in her favour.

CURBS ON INDIAN ENVOY IN DHAKA GO

The restrictions imposed on the Indian

Deputy High Commissioner in Dhaka, KC Sen Gupta, was lifted by Pakistan. The relaxation by Pakistan was supposed to be applicable to all other staff members of the Dhaka mission, now closed down. A compromise solution of the two governments' differences could be expected shortly, Reuters reported.

AUSTRALIAN ACADEMICS PROTEST GENOCIDE

Eighty-five academics of the Australian National University protested to Pakistan against what they called the policy of selective genocide and indiscriminate killing pursued by Pakistan in Bangladesh.

They recognised that there should be "a grave cause" to justify foreigners in criticising a government for the manner of handling its "internal affairs", but, they said, "we consider that actions of the government of Pakistan and its army are so ruthless and so terrible as to make it impossible for people of conscience to remain silent".

Shamsuddoza Sajen is a journalist and researcher. He can be contacted at sajen1986@gmail.com

3 Bangladeshis make it to Asian Scientist Pay Tk 25 lakh

FROM PAGE 12 Foundation for her work with

magazine website.

of nanomaterials.

said on its website.

FROM PAGE 1

small-scale farmers in Bangladesh,

particularly for her efforts involving

veterinary outreach, treatment

and education, according to the

and electronic engineering at Buet,

is a recipient of the 2020 OWSD-

Elsevier Foundation Award for

Early-Career Women Scientists

in the Developing World for her

research on the properties and uses

received a national or international

prize in the preceding year for his or her research," Asian Scientist

"The honouree must have

The researcher must also provide

leadership in academia or industry,

or made a significant scientific

Samia, a professor of electrical



PHOTO: COLLECTED (From left) Dr Firdausi Qadri, Dr Salma Sultana and Prof Samia Subrina.

discovery to secure a place on the Scientist Magazine compiles a prestigious list, it added. Every year since 2016, Asian researchers.

list of Asia's most outstanding

hospitals hasalso continued easing.

May 5, which, according to experts,

should be maintained till before

and after the Eid-ul-Fitr festival,

"Continuing the movement restrictions fully may not be

novel

were

the

PM suggests

FROM PAGE 2

As co-chairs of the Global Leaders Group on AMR, the prime ministers of Bangladesh and Barbados stand ready to work with all relevant stakeholders in contributing to the fight against AMR, Hasina said.

She also said that the world is now witnessing the devastating pandemic of Covid-19.

"However, antimicrobial resistance may cause even more lethal pandemics in the future.

The prime minister mentioned that failure to tackle this hazard in time will result in a huge loss of human lives, animals, and plants.

According to an estimate by the WHO, she said, 10 million people will die every year by 2050 from AMR, and economic losses will be trillions of dollars disrupting food security and progress towards achievement of the SDGs and universal health coverage.

Turning to Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said the government has developed a six-year (from 2017 to 2022) National Strategic Plan and National Action Plan on Antimicrobial Resistance Containment (ARC).

Besides, she said, the National Technical Committee on ARC and the Bangladesh AMR Response Alliance have been formed.

Hasina said laboratory-based AMR surveillance for both human and animal health is being conducted regularly to ensure WHO categorisation. "Similarly, from 2019, we've been providing AMR surveillance data to WHO GLASS Platform."

President of the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly Volkan Bozkir convened the high-level dialogue calling for accelerated action to tackle the growing threat of AMR.

 \overrightarrow{AMR} -- referred to as a silent tsunami

-- has the potential to be the next global health crisis and has already affected the response to Covid-19.

ÂMR occurs when bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites change over time. As a result of drug resistance, antibiotics and other antimicrobial medicines become ineffective and infections become increasingly difficult or impossible to treatincreasing the risk of disease spread, severe illness, and death.

According to the UN website data, the Covid-19 pandemic has shown the ease with which infections can spread, threaten global health security and destabilise economies, lives and livelihoods. AMR is a rising pandemic and challenges the effective delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Currently, at least an estimated 700,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases. If no action is taken, drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050 and damage to the economy as catastrophic as the 2008-2009 global financial crisis; and by 2030, AMR could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty.

Prime Minister of Barbados and also Co-chair of the One Health Global Leaders Group on Antimicrobial Resistance Mia Amor Mottley, President of the 75th UNGA Volkan Bozkir, UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina J. Mohammed, Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO) Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) Qu Dongyu, Director General of World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) Monique Eloit and Deputy Executive Director of UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Joyce Msuya spoke at the opening segment of the dialogue.

Positivity rate drops to 9.39pc down from $\overline{\text{April } 17}$. in the context of the grim pandemic

situation in neighbouring India. "It is obvious that this a result of the ongoing restrictions on movement. But we cannot say the transmission is under control. The downward trend must continue for at least two weeks," Dr Mushtug 11,393

Hussain, consultant at the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said if people maintain health safety guidelines, the transmission rate will go down no matter how dangerous the Covid variants are.

Against a total of 24,928 tests conducted in 24 hours till 8:00am yesterday, the positivity rate was 9.39 percent.

The rate was 9.39 percent on March 20 and it crossed 23 percentmark on April 2. It started going The highest positivity rate of

As of yesterday noon, 58 ICU beds out of 257 were vacant while 2,028 general beds out of 3,481 were unoccupied in public hospitals dedicated to Covid-19

died of the virus in the same 24patients in Dhaka city. hour period, raising the tally to Countrywide, 685 patients coronavirus undergoing treatment in the

In this period, 2,341 people tested positive for the virus. With Covid-19 dedicated hospitals. this, the total number of novel As the data showed transmission rate is declining, coronavirus cases rose to 756,955 the government has extended the in the country. ongoing movement restrictions till

Of the 88 deceased, 52 were men and 36 women. Three of them died at homes and the rest at hospitals.

As usual, Dhaka division saw scheduled to be held next month. the highest deaths yesterday with 48 deaths followed by Chattogram with 22, according to a handout of the Directorate General of Health possible, but the health safety Services.

guidelines must be maintained, Dr Mushtuq said. The rush of Covid-19 patients at

RMG workers suffered 35pc pay cut

FROM PAGE 2

It said when many Bangladeshi factories supplying to international brands consolidated their business, many thousands of workers lost jobs and depleted their savings without having a safety net to fall back on.

"As Bangladesh's second lockdown is underway, the findings offer a cautionary tale on how brands and supply chains should respond."

UNDP Bangladesh Resident Representative Sudipto Mukerjee suggested a fundamental mind shift in terms of the role and responsibilities of the business sector.

"If we want to reverse pernicious trends that have offset much of the pre-Covid progress Development, we must commit ourselves to tackle the crisis headon and to do so together.'

Subir and Malini Chowdhury Centre for Bangladesh Studies Director Sanchita Saxena said it is extremely critical, now more than ever, to engage in research to understand the impacts of Covid-19 throughout the world.

"In Bangladesh, while the pandemic has disproportionately affected vulnerable communities, it has been particularly detrimental for the workers at the very bottom of global supply chains in the nation's many garment factories," stated

While the scale of the pandemic made in the implementation of took everyone by surprise, on the occasion.

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable lessons must be learned from the experience so that the effect of Bangladesh's second lockdown, now underway, causes the least harm to those who suffered the most the last time, said Salil Tripathi, IHRB's senior adviser -global issues, and the report's coauthor.

> Labour Secretary KM Abdus Salam shared different initiatives undertaken by the government, but said, "We also need to develop occupational health and safety culture which can create a brand image and goodwill."

BGMEA President Faruque Hassan and National Human Commission Member Rights Kamal Uddin Ahmed also spoke

families.

The HC gave the order on July 15 last year following three separate writ petitions moved on behalf of the four victims' families.

That HC order directed United to pay the money in initial payment in 15 days of formally receiving the order.

The hospital authorities filed a petition with the SC five days later, seeking a stay on the HC directive.

The apex court stayed the HC order and asked United to move a leave to appeal petition against the HC order. The hospital authorities moved the leave to appeal petition before the Appellate Division vesterday.

Aneek R Haque, one of the lawyers who represented the victims, told The Daily Star that the family of Monir Hossain, one of the five people killed in the fire, will not get Tk 25 lakh as his family had already been paid Tk 20 lakh in initial payment by the hospital as per a settlement.

He said a rule over the final compensation for the victims is pending with the HC.

The four other people killed were Vernon Anthony Paul, 75, Riyajul Alam, 45, Khodeja Begum, 70, and Md Mahbub, 50.

Khaleda to stay FROM PAGE 12

physician Zahid said the newly formed 10-member medical board suggested some new tests. A few of those would be conducted on Friday and Saturday.

"The medical board will then review the treatment plan of Khaleda Zia," he said.

The BNP chief has been suffering arthritis, diabetics, and from ophthalmological issues.

Khaleda tested Covid-19 positive on April 11 and in the follow-up test on April 24, she tested positive again.

Amid the coronavirus outbreak, the government on March 25 last year freed Khaleda from jail for six months through an executive order suspending her jail sentences in two graft cases.

She was released from the prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University the same day. Since then, she has been staying at her Gulshan residence.

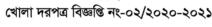
On August 27 last year, the government extended Khaleda's release period for six months. It was extended for another six months on March 15 this year.

On February 8, 2018, the BNP chief was sent to the Old Dhaka Central Jail after a court sentenced her to five years imprisonment in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case.

The High Court later doubled her sentence. Khaleda was found guilty in another graft case the same year. Her party, however, claims both the cases are politically motivated.

It's a wake-up call FROM PAGE 12

"It is very important to realise that the situation in India can happen anywhere. Meanwhile, John Nkengasong, head of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) said the situation is wake-up call for every African nation. "We are watching with total disbelief . What is happening in India cannot be ignored by our continent," he told reporters yesterday. The world's second most populous nation is in deep crisis, with hospitals and morgues overwhelmed. Each day, thousands of Indians search frantically for hospital beds and life-saving oxygen for sick relatives, using social media apps and personal contacts. Hospital beds that become available, especially in intensive care units (ICUs), are snapped up in minutes. "The ferocity of the second wave took everyone by surprise," K Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific adviser to the government, was quoted as saying in the Indian Express newspaper. "While we were all aware of second waves in other countries, we had vaccines at hand, and no indications from modelling exercises suggested the scale of the surge." India's military has begun moving key supplies, such as oxygen, across the nation and will open its healthcare facilities to civilians. Hotels and railway coaches have been converted into critical care facilities to make up for the shortage of hospital beds. India's best hope is to vaccinate its vast population, experts say, and on Wednesday it opened registration for all above the age of 18 to receive shots from tomorrow.



<u>भूषित्र</u> मुल्ति 00 Allow public transport

23.57 percent in the second wave of Covid-19 in the country was recorded on April 9. Meanwhile, a total of 88 people

মারক নং-৯৪১/ই তারিখঃ ২৯/৪/২০২১াখ্র বাগেরহাট জেলা পুলিশের ২০২০-২১ অর্থ বৎসরে বিভিন্ন প্রকল্প বাস্তবায়নের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত শর্তসাপেক্ষে মেরামত/সংক্ষার এর নিমিন্ত 'দি-পাবলিক প্রকিউরমেন্ট-২০০৮ (দ্বিতীয় সংশোধন) আইন-২০০৯ (সংশোধন) আইন-২০১০' অনুসারে সকল ঠিকাদার/প্রকৃত ব্যবসায়ীগণের

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ

পলিশ সপারের কার্যালয়

বাগেরহাট

۵.	মন্ত্রণালয়/বিভাগ	8	বাংলাদেশ পুলিশ, স্বরা	ষ্ট্র মন্ত্রণালয়, জন	নিরাপত্তা বিভাগ।			
ર.	সংস্থা	8	পুলিশ বিভাগ।					
৩.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী প্রধান	8	পুলিশ সুপার, বাগেরহাট।					
8.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী জেলা/সংস্থা	8	বাগেরহাট জেলা।					
¢.	দরপত্রের সূত্র ও তারিখ	8	of		নং-88.০১.০০০০.০০ হাং-০৪/০৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ।	৪৩.১৫৩.২০২০/		
৬.	দরপত্রের পদ্ধতি	8	উনুক্ত দরপত্র পদ্ধতি (ওটিএম)।					
۹.	বাজেট এন্ড সোর্স অব ফান্ড	8	পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা হতে প্রাপ্ত বাজেট বরান্দ সাপেক্ষে।					
። ৮.	দরপত্র প্রকাশের তারিখ	8	তারিখঃ ২৯/৪/২০২১খ্রিঃ হতে ০৩ দিনের মধ্যে।					
৯.	দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ	8	বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের পর হতে ২৫/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।					
٥٥.	দরপত্র জমা দেওয়ার সর্বশেষ তারিখ ও সময়	8	তারিখঃ ২৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে ১২.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত, পুলিশ সুপার, বাগেরহাট এর অফিস কক্ষে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাক্সে।					
35.	দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ও সময়	8	তারিখঃ ২৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ১২.৩০ ঘটিকায়, পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়, বাগেরহাট।					
ડ ર.	দরপত্র মূল্যায়নের তারিখ ও সময়	8	তারিখঃ ২৭/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ১৩.৩০ ঘটিকায়, পুলিশ সুপার এর কার্যালয়, বাগেরহাট।					
১৩.	দরপত্র সম্পাদনকারী অফিস ও ঠিকানা	8	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বাগেরহাট।					
\$8.	দরপত্র প্রান্ডির স্থান	8	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বাগেরহাট এবং খুলনা হতে দরপত্র সিডিউল পাওয়া যাবে।					
۵৫.	দরপত্র খোলার স্থান	8	পুলিশ সুপারের কার্যালয়, বাগেরহাট।					
১৬.	দরপত্রদাতার যোগ্যতা ও দরপত্রের সাথে	8	(ক) সরকারি/স্বায়ন্তশাসিত বিভাগে হালনাগাদ নবায়নকৃত ঠিকাদারী লাইসেস,					
	যে সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে	সকল কাগজপত্র জমা দিতে হবে			মূল্য সংযোজন কর নিবন্ধীকরণ, টিআইএন সহ হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্স ও			
			আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্র (খ) বর্ণিত কাজের জন্য বিগত ০৩ বৎসরে			ত ০৩ বৎসরের		
					দরপত্রের সাথে কোনরূপ			
			দাখিল করলে এবং প্রমাণিত হলে জামানতের অর্থ বাজেয়াগুকরণ সহ ঠিকাদারকে					
			কালোতালিকাভুক্ত (Blacklist) করা হবে।					
۱ ۹.	দরপত্র আহ্বান কর্তৃপক্ষের নাম	8	জনাব কে, এম, আরিফুল হক, পিপিএম।					
ንዮ.	দরপত্র আহ্বানকারী কর্মকর্তার নাম ও পদবী	8	জনাব কে, এম, আরিফুল হক, পিপিএম, পুলিশ সুপার, বাগেরহাট। ফোন নং- ০৪৬৮-৬২৭৭৪।					
১৯.	কাজের বিবরণী/কাজের নাম	8	২০২০-২০২১ অর্থ বছরে বাগেরহাট জেলার নিম্নলিখিত কাজ।					
গ্রুপ	কাজের নাম		বিন্ডিং আইডি	সিডিউলের	দরপত্র জামানতের	কাজ সমাপ্তির		
নং				মূল্য	পরিমাণ	সময়		
۶.	বাগেরহাট জেলার নতুন পুলিশ লাইন্সের ড্রিল সেড মেরামত কাজ।		ড ১৭২৯৯	@00/-	৩%	৪৫ দিন		
ર.	বাগেরহাট জেলার নতুন পুলিশ লাইসের উত্তর পার্শ্বের সীমানা প্রাচীর মেরামত কাজ।		র ১৭৩০০	¢00/-	৩%	৪৫ দিন		
૨ ૦.	বিশেষ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ							

জিডি-৮৬৫

ব্যক্তি বা প্রতিষ্ঠান নিজে স্বত্বাধিকারীর স্বাক্ষরযুক্ত প্যাডে আবেদনপূর্বক বিজ্ঞাপন প্রকাশের তারিখ হতে ২৫/০৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ বেলা ০৯.০০ ঘটিকা হতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত দরপত্র সিডিউল সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। কেবলমাত্র স্ব-স্থ প্রতিষ্ঠানের মালিকগণ দরপত্র ক্রয় করতে পারবেন। যদি ঠিকাদার উপস্থিত হতে না পারে সে ক্ষেত্রে মনোনীত ব্যক্তির স্বাক্ষর সত্যায়িত করে ক্ষমতা অর্পণপত্র আবেদনের সাথে দাখিল করে সিডিউল ক্রয় করতে পারবেন।

দরপত্র আব্বানকারী কর্তপক্ষ যে কোন সময় কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে দরপত্র বাতিলের ক্ষমতা রাখেন র্খ।

- গ । দরপত্রের সাথে জামানতের টাকা ব্যাংক ড্রাফট পে-অর্ভারের মাধ্যমে প্রলিশ সুপার, বাগেরহাট এর অনুকলে জমা দিতে হবে।
- ঘ। দরপত্র সংক্রান্ত অন্যান্য সকল তথ্যাবলী দরপত্র সংগ্রহকালে নিমুম্বাক্ষরকারীর কার্যালয় হতে জানা যাবে
- পুলিশ হেডকোয়ার্টার্স, ঢাকা হতে বরান্দ সাপেক্ষে কার্যাদেশ প্রদান করা হবে। দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ হতে ৪৫ দিন পর্যন্ত 31 দরপত্র বলবৎ থাকবে
- দরপত্রে উল্লিখিত সময়ের মধ্যে কার্য সম্পাদন করতে হবে। শর্ত অনুযায়ী প্রকল্পের কাজ সমাগু করে হস্তান্তর করতে ব্যর্থ ٦ হলে ঠিকাদারের নিকট হতে জরিমানা আদায় করা হবে।
- গহীত দরদাতা/সরবরাহকারীকে কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের পূর্বে গৃহীত দরের মোট মূল্যের উপর ১০% হারে পারফরমেন্স । ত্র সিকিউরিটি ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার প্রলিশ সুপার, বাগেরহাট এর অনুকুলে জমা দিতে হবে এবং ৩০০/- (তিনশত) টাকার নন-জুডিশিয়াল ষ্ট্যাম্পে চুক্তিপত্র স্বাক্ষর করতে হবে
- জ। সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা ও ৩০% লিকুইডমানি ২৫/৫/২০২১খ্রিঃ পর্যন্ত ব্যাংকে জমা আছে মর্মে ব্যাংক কর্তৃক দেয় প্রত্যয়নপত্র এবং বিগত ০৬ (ছয়) মাসের জমা/খরচের ব্যাংক ষ্টেটমেন্ট অবশ্যই দরপত্রের সাথে দাখিল করতে হবে

কে, এম, আরিফুল হক, পিপিএম বিপি-৭৩০৫১২১৪০০ পলিশ সপার বাগেরহাট ফোন নং-০৪৬৮-৬২২৭৪

The association chief said around open now. when the government imposed restrictions on the movement of people and public transport to contain the spread of Covid-19.

However, buses were allowed to operate in 11 cities for a week from April 7 at half capacity.

Romesh, also the managing director of Shyamoli Paribahan, claimed the transport sector incurred a loss of Tk 5,000 crore during the shutdown last year.

Although different businesses recovered after receiving financial incentives from the government, the transport sector did not get any significant incentive, he said

30 lakh transport workers and 3 lakh owners are facing a tough time due to the suspension of public transport services as they have no other income. Besides, owners purchased most of their vehicles taking loans from financial institutions.

"So we are requesting the prime minister and the government to stand by transport owners and workers, one of the major economic sectors in the country, at this tough time," he said.

Humayun Kabir, vice chairman of the association, said almost everything, including shopping malls and mills and factories, is

"I want to ask whether only the public transport spreads coronavirus," he said.

The transport owners' other demands include waiving interest of their loans, postponing payment of loan instalments till June and not declaring their loan classified till June.

They also demanded allowing transport owners to reschedule their classified loans with 1 percent down payment.

Abu Raihan, general secretary, and Suvenker Ghosh Rakesh, joint secretary of the association, among others, were present at the briefing.

Hefajat hardliner Harun arrested

the deceased to family members without autopsies the next day.

His followers also confined Hefazat chief Junayed Babunagri to the hospital morgue for about more than three hours to make him announce tough anti-government programmes if the bodies were kept for autopsy

The rift between the top leaders of Hefazat and Harun was reflected in the public speech he gave in front of the CMCH morgue on March 27.

He said, "The responsibility for the killing in Hathazari lies with the Hefazat's top leaders. We have seen your [top Hefazat leaders'] abilities in this regard. You have no power to take away the bodies from the state. I stayed here for the last 24 hours but no central leaders phoned me or asked me about the updates."

Addressing the top Hefazat leaders, he further said, "You should know that I never care about your words. We will form an alternative force with the help of young faces of the organisation.

Harun's father Mufti Izharul Islam Chowdhury, founder of the Lalkhan Bazar madrasa and former nayeb-e-ameer of Hefazat, played a significant role in spreading the Huji network across the country since the

early '90s.

leaders.

in November 2009 for their plot Earlier, the madrasa used to be to attack the US Embassy with the the training centre of Huji members help of Pakistan-based terror group and it has been under scanner Lashkar-e-Taiba. He later came out since the bomb blast in 2013. on bail counterterrorism investigators said.

Detectives at the time traced cash Seeking anonymity, a former top flow from abroad to finance the official of CMP, who investigated attacks in Bangladesh.

several terror incidents of Lalkhan The names of Harun and his Bazar, told the Daily Star, "After father once again hogged the coming out from jail on bail, Harun headlines after the blast at the madrasa hostel on October 7, 2013. started to present himself as an Three including a bomb expert Islamic scholar and enhanced his were killed in the blast, said the investigators.

After the incident, police filed three cases with Khulshi Police Station. Harun was detained on October 10, 2013 and his father on August 7, 2015, and both later got bail

Police submitted the charge sheet madrasa-based Hefazat-e-Islam and on February 10, 2014, naming nine persons including the father and

The whereabouts of Mufti Izharul Commissioner (ADC-Operation) Islam are not known. of CMP's Counter Terrorism Unit

As the court is closed due to the ongoing pandemic, The Daily Star is under our surveillance. We have correspondent could not get the updates of the trials in the cases. Court sources said the cases were sent to the Speedy Trial Tribunal in

TMC to retain power, BJP to gain big

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areas but the overall polling process has been peaceful with 76.07% voter turnout recorded till 5 pm. Nearly 8.5 million people were eligible to vote in the eighth phase of polling in the state. Winning power in the state of 90 million would be a major victory for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalist BJP, which is seeking to end a decade of rule by the state's firebrand leader Mamata Banerjee.

"In line with the Covid-19 protocols, I call upon people to cast

their vote and enrich the festival of democracy," Modi tweeted yesterday.

Packed election rallies attended by mostly maskless crowds including in the restive eastern state, along with huge religious festivals, have been blamed for India's surge in cases over the past few weeks.

Rare tombs

FROM PAGE 12

The tombs include 68 from the Buto period that began around 3300 BC and five from the Nagada III period, which was just before the emergence of Egypt's first dynasty around 3100 BC, according to a statement from the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

They also include 37 tombs from the time of the Hyksos, who first began migrating across the Sinai into Egypt around 1800 BC.

This is an extremely interesting cemetery because it combines some of the earliest periods of Egyptian history with another important era, the time of the Hyksos," said Salima Ikram, an Egyptologist at the American University in Cairo.

Officials say Harun was detained with two others from his madrasa Chattogram.

connection with a section of Hefazat

"After the bomb blast," he added,

Officials say Harun has been

working to form an "updated version

of Huji" hiding behind the Qawmi

to reorganise radical activists in his

Asif Mohiuddin said, "This madrasa

collecting some data and gathered

Contacted, Additional Deputy

Lalkhan Bazar madrasa.

information."

"we put the madrasa under watch

and several times raided it during

unrests involving Hefazat-e-Islam.