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# Speed limit set for all types of vehicles

Govt issues guideline for first time; one may face up to 3 months in jail for violation

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The speed limit for cars, buses, and minibuses on expressways would be 80km per hour, while it would be 60kmph for motorcycles and 50kmph for trucks.

Bikes and trucks can run inside city corporations, municipalities, and district towns at a maximum speed of 30kmph which would be 40kmph for other vehicles.

If anyone violates the speed limit, they will have to face punitive actions under the Road Transport Act-2018. Violators will face up to three months' jail or a fine of Tk 10,000 or both, says the act.

These are some of the provisions of the Motor Vehicle Speed Limit Guideline 2024, which the BRTA for the first time issued to reduce road crashes.

The Road Transport and Highways Division on Sunday approved the guideline.

This guideline, which sets different speed limits for different types of roads and vehicles, will come in force from today, Nur Mohammad Mazumder, chairman of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), told The Daily Star last night.

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Garment workers walking on the rail lines on their way to work near the capital's Jurain rail gate around 7:30am yesterday. The workers and many others put themselves in harm's way just to take a shortcut.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Indian foreign secy likely to fly in today or tomorrow

May discuss PM's India visit

STAR REPORT

Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra is likely to come to Dhaka today or tomorrow to explore the possibilities of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visiting India in June or July.

"His initial schedule to visit Dhaka is on Wednesday. However, that may be pushed to Thursday ...," a diplomatic source told The Daily Star yesterday.

He was scheduled to visit Dhaka on April 20 but the trip was postponed.

During his visit, Kwatra is likely to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Hasan



Vinay Kwatra

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## CLIMATE-RELATED DISASTERS 1.5m displaced in Bangladesh in 2022

Says IOM report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT


More than 1.5 million people were displaced in Bangladesh due to disasters alone in 2022, according to the World Migration Report 2024.

The report, prepared by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), ranks Bangladesh fifth in Asia for disaster-related displacement caused by climate change.

IOM Director General Amy Pope unveiled the report at an event at hotel Sheraton Dhaka in the capital's Banani yesterday.

In her speech, she highlighted that in Bangladesh, factors like climate change, demographic shifts, and global labour demands make up a complex migration landscape. This often leads to migration via irregular pathways and there are countless examples of how irregular migration can make people more vulnerable.

Pope went to say that "12 percent of the deaths of those crossing the



**Bangladeshis accounted for 12 percent of migrants who died attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to Europe this year.**

AMY POPE  
Director General,  
International Organization  
for Migration (IOM)

Mediterranean this year have been nationals of this country."

The IOM report emphasises the increasing frequency and severity of disasters in South Asia, which are likely linked to climate change. The extended monsoon season, rising temperatures, and worsening droughts are all expected to become the "new normal" for the region.

Bangladesh experienced devastating floods in 2022, the worst in 100 years, causing dozens of fatalities. The report additionally identifies Bangladesh as the sixth-largest country of origin for migrants and the eighth-largest recipient of remittances.

Remittances to Bangladesh dipped slightly in 2022 compared to 2020, according to the report. The figure fell from \$21.75 billion in 2020 to \$21.50 billion in 2022.

Globally, international remittances surged by 650 percent between 2000 and

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## More than 61pc turnout in third phase

Sporadic incidents of violence reported in West Bengal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A voter turnout of over 61 percent was recorded as curtains came down on the third phase of India's gigantic Lok Sabha elections in 93 constituencies spread across 11 States and Union Territories yesterday with sporadic incidents of violence in West Bengal.

Assam led the phase three with a turnout at 75.30 percent followed by West Bengal at 73.93 percent while Maharashtra witnessed the lowest at 53.63 percent with Bihar doing slightly better at 56.01 percent, according to the Election Commission (EC) data update.

TMC, BJP and Congress-CPI(M) alliance workers clashed with each other in various parts of Murshidabad and Jangipur seats in West Bengal.

The parties lodged separate complaints related to polls violence, voter intimidation, and assaults on poll agents. The EC received 182 complaints, most of which were from Murshidabad and Jangipur.

The world's most populous nation began voting on April 19 in a seven-phase election in which nearly one billion people are eligible to vote, with ballots set to be counted on June 4.

Meanwhile, The EC directed social media platform X to take down a video post by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's BJP after Congress complaint that it promoted enmity among economically weaker groups.

The takedown order for violation of model code of

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REUTERS, Geneva

The two main crossings into the southern Gaza Strip remain shut, virtually cutting off the enclave from outside aid with very few stores stationed inside, said UN agencies yesterday.

The global agency's humanitarian office spokesperson Jens Laerke told journalists that Israel had shut both the Rafah and Kerem Shalom crossings for aid and people as part of its so-called "limited scope" military operation in Rafah where around 1 million uprooted people are sheltering.

"The two main arteries for getting aid into Gaza are currently choked off," he said, adding that UN agencies had very low stocks inside the Gaza Strip since humanitarian supplies are consumed straight away. The enclave has just a one-day buffer of fuel stocks, he added.

"If no fuel comes in for a prolonged period of time it would be a very effective way of putting the humanitarian operation in its grave," he added. A World Health Organization spokesperson said in response to a journalist's question that no exceptions were being made for sick and injured patients.

Red Crescent sources in Egypt said shipments had completely halted.

- » Gaza may run out of fuel in days
- » Qatari delegation heads to Cairo to resume truce talks
- » Death toll in enclave rises to 34,789

Meanwhile, Israeli tanks pushed into the southern Gazan town of Rafah after a night of air strikes on the Palestinian enclave.

The Gaza health ministry said Israeli airstrikes across the enclave had killed 54 Palestinians and wounded 96 others in the past 24 hours. A total of 34,789 Palestinians, most of them civilians, have been now killed in the conflict, the Gaza Health Ministry said yesterday.

More than one million people have sought refuge in Rafah, living in tented camps and makeshift shelters. Many are trying to leave, heeding Israeli orders

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POLICE BREAK UP PRO-PALESTINIAN DEMOS IN AMSTERDAM, BERLIN - PAGE 7

## Tigers clinch series in Chattogram

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh overcame late pressure from Zimbabwe tail-enders to secure a nine-run win in the third T20I in Chattogram's Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium on Tuesday to clinch the five-match T20I series 3-0.

The series will move to Dhaka with the remaining two T20Is slated for May 10 and 12 in Mirpur's Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium. Despite the series victory, there will be quite a bit of concern among the Tigers' fans regarding how the team is shaping up ahead of the World Cup in USA and the West Indies.

Yesterday, when Zimbabwe skipper Sikandar Raza sent Bangladesh to bat, those problem areas came to the fore again. Batters at the top were just not showing the kind of rhythm required to take T20Is by storm.

Recent form of Liton Das in all formats and skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto's T20I batting has been key behind the Tigers' woeful batting at the top.

Shanto has been starting well but lacking a bit of application as one of

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Mohammad Saifuddin celebrates one of his three wickets as Bangladesh defended a 165-run total to win the third T20I against Zimbabwe by nine runs at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. The win helped the hosts seal the five-match series 3-0, with two matches in Dhaka still to play.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## 'Golden Monir' acquitted in gold ornaments case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Monir Hossain, better known as "Golden Monir", has been acquitted in a case filed under the Special Powers Act over the recovery of gold ornaments after the judge found testimonies of witnesses to be inconsistent.

Additional Public Prosecutor Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday that Judge Tahsin Iftekhar of the Metropolitan Special Tribunal-15 of Dhaka delivered the judgment on Sunday.

He said four prosecution witnesses told the court that they were pressured by Rab to sign blank papers even though they were not present during the recovery of gold, arms, and other evidence.

Besides, witnesses from the police did not corroborate statements of other witnesses. So, the judge acquitted the accused, added the state lawyer.

Asked about the appeal, the prosecutor said he would decide after getting a certified copy of the full judgment.



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