

# You can now pay online for birth and death registration services



e-Payment services have recently been introduced for the payment of registration fees of births and deaths in the country.

The payment fees can now be paid through online mobile banking for new applications and corrections through the Birth & Death Registration Information System (BDRIS). However, some users have complained that they have faced technical issues since the commencement of the e-Payment services.

The system is developed and maintained by the Office of the Registrar General, Birth and Death Registration.

## Footsteps introduces new public drinking water model in Gulshan

Footsteps Bangladesh has recently introduced a new public drinking water facility at the Gulshan 2 intersection, Dhaka. This new facility was implemented in partnership with Petronas and Gulshan Traffic Police, and is a part of Footsteps' ongoing Project Trishna. This safe and clean drinking water facility is available for all pedestrians in the area, including police officers and street vendors.

"The revenue from the advertisement space in this facility will be used for frequent servicing and maintenance of the water system to ensure the highest quality of drinking water every day," said Shah Rafayat Chowdhury, Co-Founder & President of Footsteps Bangladesh. Footsteps Bangladesh began their Project Trishna in 2015 and since then has helped provide safe water access in schools, public spaces, hospitals, and households for over 269,000 people across 11 districts in Bangladesh.

## Google to delete inactive accounts after two years

Google has announced plans to eliminate inactive accounts as part of a comprehensive security initiative. In an effort to bolster user privacy and protect against potential security risks, the tech giant will delete accounts that have been inactive for a period of two years.

The move comes as part of Google's ongoing commitment to ensure the safety of its users and maintain the integrity of its platform. By removing dormant accounts, the company aims to mitigate the potential risks associated with long-abandoned profiles, including unauthorized access and data breaches.

With this security push, Google aims to strike a balance between user convenience and protection. While acknowledging the importance of account preservation, the company recognizes the necessity of maintaining a robust security framework to safeguard user

information.

To aid users in preserving their accounts, Google will implement notifications to remind individuals of the impending account deletion. This proactive measure is intended to give users ample time and opportunity to log in and prevent their accounts from being deleted.



Moreover, Google plans to provide a simplified account recovery process for users who inadvertently lose access to their accounts due to extended periods of inactivity. This measure aims to alleviate concerns about unintentional loss of data or digital assets.

Google's decision to delete dormant accounts aligns with industry-wide efforts to enhance security and privacy protocols. By encouraging users to actively manage their accounts, the company seeks to create a more secure online environment for its vast user base.

## GTA VI may just come out as early as next year



Take-Two Interactive, the publisher behind the immensely popular Grand Theft Auto franchise, has hinted at a potential release window for the highly anticipated Grand Theft Auto VI. While not explicitly mentioning the game by name, the company's projections for fiscal years 2025 and 2026 suggest an exciting milestone may be on the horizon for fans.

Citing its preparations for an "incredibly robust pipeline of projects," Take-Two expressed its anticipation for Fiscal 2025, expected to commence in April 2024. The company projects that this period will mark the beginning of a new era, characterised by the launch of several groundbreaking titles aimed at setting new industry standards.

## Vodafone to fire 11,000 employees

Vodafone, the British multinational telecom company, is planning to fire 11,000 employees over the next three years, as per a recent statement by the company's new CEO, Margherita Della Valle. According to Valle, Vodafone has been performing poorly lately, as such will sack over 10% of their current global workforce - which is about 104,000 employees as of last year.

"To consistently deliver, Vodafone must change," Della Valle, a Vodafone veteran, added in a statement. "We will simplify our organisation, cutting out complexity to regain our competitiveness," said the Italian national, recently

appointed CEO on a permanent basis after a short spell as interim boss.

Vodafone's announcement follows the axing this year of tens of thousands of jobs across the global tech sector, including by Facebook parent Meta, as soaring inflation weakened the economy.

Della Valle's predecessor Nick Read stepped down in early December after a four-year tenure marked by a steep fall in the company's share price. He left Vodafone in talks over merging its UK operations with rival Three UK, owned by Hong Kong-based CK Hutchison. Media reports say a deal worth 15 billion (\$18.7 billion) is close to completion.



### EDITOR'S NOTE

## The AI battle heats up

In the six months ChatGPT has been around, its usefulness and versatility has made it a helpful tool for many global jobs. Google's new chatbot, Bard, promises similar functionalities with a lot of potential. This week, we talk about these two chatbots and try to answer the undeniable question: which one is better?

As for other pages, check out the seven Bangladeshis who made the latest iteration of Forbes 30 under 30 Asia, in Spotlight. We also talk about password security threats and how to keep your online information safe, in Bytes and Tech Tips respectively.

Yet again, another weekend rolls around. Until then.

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