



Govt publishes draft list of 708 people killed in uprising

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday published a draft list of 708 individuals who lost their lives during the student-led mass uprising in July and August 2024.

This list is available at <https://medical-info.dghs.gov.bd/>, according to a public notice signed by Umme Habiba, deputy secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

The list, compiled from various public and private hospitals and district sources, identifies martyrs from the anti-discrimination student movement, the notice said.

In case there are any names of victims missing from the list, the ministry has urged family members, heirs, and representatives to contact their local deputy commissioner, civil surgeon, upazila nirbahi officer, or upazila health and family planning officer with appropriate documents.

The list will be available for public

SEE PAGE 6 COL 3



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

A good number of vehicles impounded by the Shahbagh Police Station for various offences over the years are now abandoned in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan. These vehicles, rusting under the open sky, occupying valuable space, represent a loss to both state and personal levels.

Shakib fined Tk 50 lakh for stock manipulation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) yesterday fined cricketer Shakib Al Hasan Tk 50 lakh for manipulating the share price of Paramount Insurance in 2023.

Between August 17 and September 19 last year, the share price of Paramount Insurance rose about 84 percent, found a BSEC investigation.

Shakib was fined for breaking securities rules by involving in a serial trading of Paramount Insurance, said a top official of BSEC.

Serial trading, which is prohibited by the securities rules, refers to the purchase and sale of shares between the accounts of the same beneficiary owner (BO) aimed at impacting the share price.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Sending money home to be easier

Expat welfare adviser unveils new facilities for migrant workers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expatriates will now be able to send remittance directly to Probashi Kallyan Bank, said Prof Asif Nazrul, adviser to the expatriate's welfare and overseas employment ministry, yesterday.

Initiatives are also underway so that they can repay loans from abroad, he said, adding that 12 private banks can give expatriates loans from now on.

He shared the updates with reporters at a press briefing in the ministry.

Prof Asif added that booths of Probashi Kallyan Bank will be available at branches of Sonali and Agrani banks in remote areas.

Mentioning that expatriate workers often face difficulties, Prof Asif said, "Embassies don't work sincerely. There will be arrangements for lodging complaints in such situations. Their activities will be regularly monitored, and steps will be taken if there is any negligence."

He added that all costs for sending remittance to money exchange houses will be paid by the banks concerned.

The one-crore-taka limit on wage earners' bonds has been lifted, making it easier for expatriates to send remittance comfortably.

Only approval from Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) and the embassy now will be required to send workers abroad. There will be no need for ministry approval, saving 30 days, he said.

The adviser said sub-agent registration will be implemented, saying that reducing their influence will lower migration costs.

Recruiting agencies will be rated based on their performance, which will increase competition.

Prof Asif said the government has prepared a list of

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Touhid meets Jaishankar, talks about better ties

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain discussed issues of mutual interest with Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Monday evening in New York.

This was the first high-level interaction between Bangladesh and India since the fall of the Hasina-led government on August 5.

On the sidelines of the 79th United Nations General Assembly, Touhid and Jaishankar talked about strengthening the long-standing ties between the two neighbours.

Bangladesh's foreign ministry in X yesterday said the meeting focused on the two countries partnership.

Jaishankar tweeted, "Had a meeting with Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain of Bangladesh in New York this [Monday] evening. The conversation focused on our bilateral ties."

Bangladesh's ties with India strained after the interim government took over last month.

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus wrote to India for a meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, but the meeting could not be held as Modi was scheduled to leave New York before Yunus' arrival there.

BB won't print taka or sell dollar to tackle crisis

Says Governor Ahsan H Mansur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The central bank will not print money or sell dollars from reserves to solve the problems in the financial sector, said its governor Ahsan H Mansur yesterday.

Now, efforts are being made to provide funds from other banks to those in need of liquidity, he said at a roundtable discussion styled "Where do we want to see the banking sector?" organised by Bangla daily Prothom Alo at its office in Dhaka.

"This step will play a role in controlling inflation. If you can reduce people's anger and suffering, it will be a great achievement. Even if temporary relief is obtained by printing money, the problem will not be solved. Human suffering will increase."

Subsequently, the Bangladesh Bank has decided not to print money or sell dollars from the reserves.

Even though there will be temporary difficulties in the business sector due to the strict monetary policy taken to bring down inflation, it will benefit the overall economy.

"Reducing inflation is my main responsibility. Various measures are being taken to reduce it. Monetary policy is already tight and steps are being taken for further tightening."

When inflation will come down, the overall economy will benefit as a result, said Mansur, also a former economist of the International Monetary Fund.

Mansur, who took over the reins of the central bank from Abdur Rouf Talukder last month, is planning to form three task forces to reform the banking sector and one of them has already been constituted.

"Reducing inflation is my main responsibility. Various measures are being taken to reduce it. Monetary policy is already tight and steps are being taken for further tightening."

Besides, several measures have already been taken, including changing the board of directors of some banks.

About 10 to 11 weak banks have been brought under regular supervision to improve the situation.

"We have already started daily

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Little to show for Tk 65,000cr spent on ICT

Ministry says expenditure over 15yrs failed to meet expectations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The telecommunications and ICT sectors failed to make expected progress despite making a massive investment of Tk 65,000 crore between 2010 and August 2024, according to a recent statement from the telecom ministry.

Telecom and ICT Adviser Nahid Islam expressed concern over the outcomes and said numerous projects were launched under the "Digital Bangladesh" initiative, but the anticipated benefits have not reached the country's population.

The ICT sector has implemented projects worth Tk 25,000 crore, while the post and telecommunications sector invested Tk 40,000 crore, according to the statement.

Bangladesh's performance in global rankings highlights the challenges the two sectors faced, it said.

In the June 2024 ICT Development Index, published by the United Nations International Telecommunication Union, Bangladesh scored 62 out of 100, placing it behind Myanmar, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Vietnam, and Bhutan.

Also, Bangladesh ranked 109th out of 147 countries for mobile internet speed and 108th for broadband speed in the May 2024 Ookla Speedtest Global Index, trailing nations such as Kenya, India, and Rwanda.

Bangladesh ranked 113th out of 174 countries in the IMF's Artificial Intelligence Readiness Index and dropped five places to 82nd among 121 countries in the 2023 Digital Quality of Life Index by Surfshark, with its internet speed measured at 5 percent below the global average.

Freelancing, a potential growth area for the country's youth, is also lagging. According to CEO World's April

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

Remains of Ice Age mastodons uncovered in Peru

REUTERS, Lima

The fossilised remains of three mastodons from the Ice Age have been uncovered in the Peruvian Andes, raising questions as to how the behemoths arrived in the area.

Excavations starting in 2019 uncovered the behemoths, believed to be between 11,000 and 12,000 years old, in the valley of the town of Chambara, about 300 km east of Lima.

One of the specimens is nearly complete, and could be the most preserved mastodon in all of Peru, said paleontologist Ivan Meza.

"If the skull is found - and everything indicates that the tusks are there - that would have scientific importance at a national and global scale," Meza said.

Mastodons were similar to the also-extinct mammoth, but had flatter heads and straighter tusks. Scientists now hope to find more fossils in the area, which could shed light on how and when the mastodons arrived.



The rise in dengue cases this month has driven up demand for mosquito nets in both hospitals and households, keeping manufacturers busy this season. The photo was taken at a mosquito net manufacturing factory in the capital's Gulistan area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Crackdown on plastic bags begins on Oct 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will take legal measures in all supermarkets from October 1 and in all markets from November 1 to enforce the existing ban on the use of polythene and polypropylene bags.

Additionally, actions will be taken against polythene producers from November 1, Syeda Rizwana Hasan, adviser to the Ministry of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change, announced yesterday.

The adviser mentioned that everyone has sufficient time, and the government is also working on providing alternatives.

Rizwana made the announcements during a discussion on the challenges and possibilities of banning polythene shopping bags. The meeting was held at the office of the Mohammadpur Town Hall Market Traders' Association.

Prior to the meeting, the adviser inaugurated a clean-up campaign and distributed alternative materials to polythene in the market.

Bins and permanent notice boards were also installed to collect polythene and other plastic packaging.

The ban on plastic bags in supermarkets is not a unilateral decision by the government but has been agreed upon in consultation with supermarket owners, she said.

Alternatives such as jute, fabric, and paper bags will be provided by 20-25 companies, including Bangladesh Jute Mills Association.

Supermarkets have already placed their orders, and arrangements are in place to meet their demands.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2