

## Expedite

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commitments and responsibility, he added. TIB also called upon governments to contribute to building the necessary professional and international capacity of relevant Bangladeshi state agencies, especially Anti-Corruption Commission, Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit, Criminal Investigation Department, National Board of Revenue and the Attorney General's Office.

It urged them to collaborate and coordinate with other host countries of Bangladesh's laundered money to take similar actions.

"The burden of responsibility to prevent, control and bring back laundered money lies mainly on Bangladesh's shoulders, but it is also no less a responsibility of countries or territories where the laundered money from Bangladesh have been invested and thereby helped the host economies," said the statement.

TIB said the richer and so-called developed countries are the main destinations and beneficiaries of the lion's share of Bangladesh's laundered money.

Iftekharuzzaman said, "Conventional hosts of money laundering like UK, USA and proverbial Switzerland have been joined in recent couple of decades by Canada, Australia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Middle East countries like UAE, especially Dubai and even many offshore island territories as attractive hosts of Bangladeshi laundered money."

In each destination of illicit transfers, there are powerful syndicates of highly skilled law firms, trust companies, offshore specialists, real estate agents, accountants, regulatory experts, and banking and financial services companies that facilitate the secret deals, he added.

## Debt, desperation

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the informal loan system has made their life miserable. "If anyone wants to witness hell on earth, come see us," she said.

Fleeing in fear of loan sharks is common in cases when people can't repay their loans and interest. But these loan sharks take everything -- belongings, homes, and other properties -- leaving them with nothing.

Manik Sarder, a 45-year-old betel nut seller from Bhashantek slum, had a microcredit NGO loan before the pandemic. When Covid-19 halted his business, he borrowed Tk 1.5 lakh at 12 percent monthly interest from loan sharks to repay his previous loan.

"I planned to take another microcredit loan to settle the high-interest one, but the NGO stopped lending during the pandemic. With no income, my debt skyrocketed, forcing me to flee," he said.

"They sold my Tk 1.20 lakh home for Tk 65,000 and seized the deed of my Tk 6 lakh land in Tongi, claiming it was fake. Now, I fear returning," he added.

"Many of his lenders come to us, and we are enduring their pressure," said Milon Sarder, Manik's brother.

Abul Hossain, a resident of Bhashantek's Abul's slum, which houses 319 families, shared that the slum has around 12 loan sharks, mostly women, who offer high-interest loans during emergencies.

"Since obtaining loans from financial organisations and microcredit NGOs involves formalities and time, people in the slum resort to these high-interest loans when they need money urgently," he explained.

Md Shukur, 33, a carpenter from Abul's slum in Bhashantek, said he and his wife had an average life before. His wife used to earn around Tk 14,000 per month by working as a construction labourer.

## Police yet

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Meanwhile, Masud's brother Md Beheshty said no one from the police had contacted them since filing the murder case on September 11.

"We have filed the case with the hope of getting justice. We expect the police will start their investigation soon," he added.

On September 7, a group of unidentified people picked up Masud from Binodpur Bazar, adjacent to the Rajshahi University, at 6:50pm when he went there to buy medicine for his four-day-old daughter.

Masud, a former assistant secretary of RU unit BCL and former member of Chhatra League's central committee, was taken to the Boalia Police Station in critical condition, from where he was taken to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

While undergoing treatment, Masud, a store officer at RU Medical Centre, succumbed to his injuries.

## Kazipara station reopens

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apart from the equipment they brought from another station and training centre.

### METRO RAIL TO OPERATE EVERY DAY

Abdur Rouf also said they will operate metro rail on Fridays from today, meaning the service will be available every day from now.

He said the train will be operated from 3:30pm to 9:00pm on Fridays from Uttara end and 3:50pm to 9:40pm from Motijheel end.

The trains will be operated at 12-minute intervals, he said.

### PROBE BODY FORMED

A seven-member committee has been formed to investigate the 11-hour suspension of metro rail services on the Agargaon-Motijheel section on Wednesday.

Md Abdul Baque Miah, director (planning and development) of DMTCI,

will head the committee.

The probe body has been asked to submit its report within five working days, the MD said.

The displacement of a

bearing pad on a pier near Farmgate Station resulted in disruption of metro rail service on the Agargaon-Motijheel section.

Although the service remained functional from Uttara to Agargaon, it remained off limits for passengers on Agargaon to Uttara section from 9:40am to 8:25pm, causing severe public suffering.

### METRO RAIL PROJECTS UNDER REVIEW

The Road Transport and Bridges Ministry is now

reviewing all the ongoing and pipeline metro projects to assess whether additional money is being spent or not, Abdur Rouf

ongoing projects.

DMTCI is currently implementing three projects -- MRT Line 1, MRT Line-5 (northern route), and extension of MRT Line-6.

Three more projects -- MRT Line-5 (southern route), MRT Line-4, and MRT Line-2 -- are now at preparatory level.

The previous Awami League government prepared a time-bound plan to build a 140km metro rail network comprising six lines in and around Dhaka city by 2030.

## No honking

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will be carried out through electronic, print, and social media.

Traffic control measures, proper parking inside the airport, and SMS notifications to drivers and vehicle owners via BRTA will also be implemented.

**Mansura Fatema Rahman passes away**

### STAR REPORT



Mansura Fatema Rahman, who graduated from the University of Toronto, passed away on September 13. She was 36, said a press release.

She breathed her last in Toronto, Canada. Her family members have requested all of her relatives, friends and well-wishers to pray for the salvation of the departed soul.



**PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 20**

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4:40 12:45 4:30 6:05 7:30

JAMAAT 5:15 1:15 4:45 6:10 8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

## Bangladesh supports

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The resolution was tabled by Palestine and was co-sponsored by 53 countries, including Bangladesh.

It was adopted through a vote, with 124 countries in favour and 14 against, with 43 abstentions. As a co-sponsor, Bangladesh voted in favour.

The resolution also called for ensuring accountability for the atrocity committed by Israel, especially in light of the Fourth Geneva Convention on the protection of civilians.

Through adopting the resolution, the UNGA also decided to hold an international conference

within one year on Palestine, with the objective to find out ways and means to establish an independent Palestinian state.

Addressing the event, Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the UN in New York, Ambassador Muhammad Abdul Muhith expressed Bangladesh's grave concern about the ongoing atrocities and high death toll in Gaza.

He called for an immediate ceasefire and emphasised that the two-state solution, based on the pre-1967 border of the Palestinian state, is the only pathway for achieving sustainable peace in the Middle East.

## Seek treatment

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has been seen among doctors when administering antivenoms.

Also, people often have doubts about the efficacy of anti-venom, and it is crucial to address these concerns for effective treatment for snakebites, he added.

Prof Robed Amin, general secretary of Toxicology Society of Bangladesh, said, "Bangladesh has already developed a draft strategy for snakebite prevention and control -- a pioneering effort as no other country has created a specific strategy for this issue."

"The draft strategy, currently awaiting finalisation by the health ministry, is focused on four

key areas -- community engagement, ensuring access to anti-venom treatment, strengthening the health system, and fostering partnerships," said Prof Robed, also a former director general of the DGHS.

Around 4.03 lakh people are bitten by snakes and 7,511 of them die from it every year in Bangladesh, according to a 2023 study by the Non-Communicable Disease Control Unit of DGHS.

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## Petition seeks

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