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## ACC lacks neutrality in probe

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

The High Court yesterday severely rebuked the Anti-Corruption Commission for foot dragging and showing weaknesses in investigating cases over the BASIC Bank loan scam.

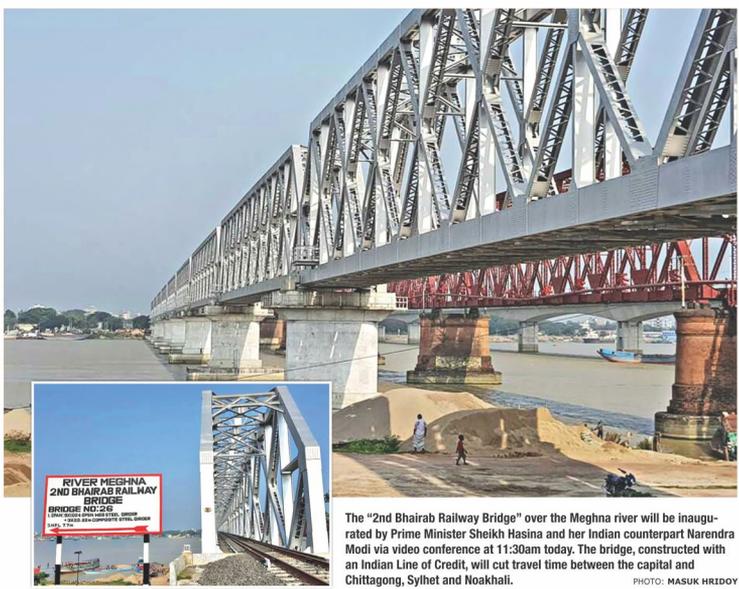
The commission lacks neutrality, transparency and competence in dealing with the cases, the court said, adding that the ACC is applying the "pick and choose" policy as "it keeps detaining and releasing people" in connection with the cases.

The bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Shahidul Karim made the remarks while hearing three petitions filed by Md Selim, former general manager of Internal Credit Division of BASIC Bank. In the pleas, Selim sought bail in three cases filed in 2015 for misappropriation of money and irregularities in approving bank loans.

During the hearing, Justice Enayetur told ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan that the commission was yet to arrest "any of the beneficiaries of the loan scam".

The commission has kept the investigation of the cases pending for more than two years and therefore, the culprits have been given the scope to get away, the judge said, adding

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The "2nd Bhairab Railway Bridge" over the Meghna river will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi via video conference at 11:30am today. The bridge, constructed with an Indian Line of Credit, will cut travel time between the capital and Chittagong, Sylhet and Noakhali.

PHOTO: MASUK HRIDOY

## Housewife raped, killed in Pabna

**2 schoolgirls raped in Jessore, Barisal**

**STAR REPORT**

A housewife was raped and strangled and two minor girls were raped as police arrested three alleged rapists in Pabna, Jessore and Barisal districts.

Aleya Khatun, 43, wife of Ardos Ali Mollik of Pakhathi village of Santia upazila, went missing on November 1 after she had gone out to collect firewood, reports our correspondent in Pabna.

Police on Tuesday arrested her brother-in-law Tutul Mollik in this connection. During primary interrogation, Tutul confessed to killing her after rape. Following his confession, the law enforcers recovered her body from Kumbiri area in the afternoon, said the officer-in-charge of Santia police.

Her body was sent to Pabna Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy yesterday.

Victim's daughter Shabana Khatun filed a case with Santia police.

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## Now university teacher 'missing'

**Assistant professor of North South University is among 9 people without trace since August 22**

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

A North South University teacher has gone missing from the capital on Tuesday afternoon.

Mubashar Hasan, assistant professor at the political science department, came out of the university around 4:30pm. Police said he last talked to someone on his mobile phone at 6:41pm when he had been near Lions Eye Hospital at Agargaon.

His disappearance, the latest in a series of such incidents in the country, has alarmed many people while his family members, colleagues and friends anxiously demand his safe return.

A total of 11 persons, including a journalist and a businessman, had gone missing or got abducted from the capital since August 22. Only two of them had returned.

"Mubashar is a nice man, a very good teacher and an excellent researcher," said Prof Abdur Rob, dean of the School of



Mubashar

Humanities and Social Science at the NSU.

Rob added that he was a reputed researcher, who spoke on misinterpretations of Islam at many seminars at home and abroad. He even addressed a seminar at the police headquarters.

Mubashar, who also researched about political Islam, graduated from Dhaka University's journalism department. He worked as a journalist for an online news portal in Dhaka for two years before leaving the country for higher studies. He got a masters and a PhD from universities in the UK and Australia. He has a daughter.

Mubashar's father Motahar Hossain said his son left their Banarseth home for NSU at 7:00am on Tuesday.

Mubashar told him around 4:00pm over phone that he would return home after finishing some tasks.

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## Food supply gets more challenging

**Says WFP country director**

**PORIMOL PALMA**

UN food agency sees tough days ahead as it struggles to raise funds for continuing food support for over 800,000 Rohingyas amid conflicts in various parts of the world.

"We are knocking at the donors' doors on a daily basis. But there are so many emergencies in this world," said Christa Rader, country director of World Food Programme (WFP) in Bangladesh.

Of the US\$77 million sought by WFP for six months until February 2018, the international community has confirmed only US\$22 million and pledged US\$24 million more.

The WFP call is part of the UN appeal for US\$434 million, and donors have so far pledged US\$ 344 million in total.

"We hope towards the end of this year some donors will commit some money for the Rohingyas if some money is left over," she said in an exclusive interview with



Christa Rader

## Myanmar hits back at UN statement

**Says it could harm Rohingya repatriation efforts**

**STAR REPORT**

Myanmar yesterday hit back at a UN Security Council statement critical of its handling of the Rohingya refugee crisis, saying it could "seriously harm" efforts to repatriate the Muslim minority from Bangladesh, reports AFP.

On Monday the top UN body called on Myanmar to rein in military operations that have pushed more than 600,000 Rohingyas into Bangladesh since late August, sparking a dire humanitarian crisis.

The statement expressed "grave concern" over rights violations such as killing, sexual violence and torching of homes and property, "including by the Myanmar security forces".

Other UN agencies have previously described the army crackdown.

Myanmar says it is targeting Rohingyas rebels, as tantamount to ethnic cleansing.

Responding to the Security Council on Wednesday, the office of Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi said the statement "ignores the fact that the issues facing Myanmar and Bangladesh today can only be resolved bilaterally, in an amicable manner, between two neighbouring states."

The statement "could potentially and seriously harm the bilateral negotiations between the two countries which have been proceeding smoothly and expeditiously", it added.

After weeks of tension over the billowing crisis, Myanmar and Bangladesh have begun talks on how to repatriate the refugees.

According to AFP, the two sides have yet to finalise a deal, with Myanmar last week accusing Bangladesh of delaying the process, while a

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## STONE EXTRACTION Police sue 8 over deaths in landslide

**OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet**

Police on Tuesday night filed a case against eight people in connection with the death of five children and an adult in a landslide in Kanaighat upazila earlier that day.

Ahmed Solaiman, owner of the hillock where the incident took place, and seven others were accused of neglect that resulted in the landslide and loss of six lives, said Muhammad Shamsul Alam Sarkar, additional superintendent of police.

On Tuesday morning, a group of children started extracting stones from a dangerous cliff of the hillock on the banks of the Lovachhora river in Bangla Tila area.

A few hours later one of the children's father rushed to stop them from extracting stones but could only save his son. Others were

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Rohingyas on a makeshift raft drifting towards Shah Porir Dwip in Teknaf from Myanmar yesterday. Dozens of them floated into the country throughout the day.

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