



Fresh landslide kills one in Bandarban

Four missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A teenage girl was killed and at least four others went missing in a landslide triggered by torrential rain in Bandarban yesterday morning.

The incident took place at Dolian Para on Bandarban-Ruma road around 9:30am when passengers of a bus were crossing a severely damaged portion of the road on foot, witnesses said.

Fire fighters with the help of local people recovered the body of the deceased, Sing Mya Hla, 19, of Mong Swe Pru village in Ruma upazila, said Officer-in-Charge of Bandarban Sadar police Md Rafiq Ullah.

Her brother Chain Kya U said another sister of his was still missing.

Those, who went missing, are Ruma upazila health worker Munni Barua, upazila post master Jainul Alam, upazila Krishi bank officer Goutom

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A smiling student shows another on a mobile phone how she did in her HSC exams at the Viqarunnisa School and College yesterday. It was not all smiles for everyone though, as this year's results marked a sharp drop in pass rate and the number of high achievers.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Poor show in English does the damage

HSC pass rate drops to 66pc; number of GPA-5 achievers also falls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The results of this year's HSC examinations saw a significant fall in both the success rate and the number of highest achievers due to the introduction of a new evaluation method, students' poor performance in English and shocking performance of students of Comilla board.

The overall pass rate of Higher Secondary Certificate examinees under eight general education boards dropped by more than 5 percentage points to 66.84 percent. The number of students having achieved the highest grade -- GPA 5 -- also came down to 33,242 from last year's 48,950.

The combined pass rate under all the 10 education boards, including madrasa and technical boards, also declined to 68.91 percent from last year's 74.70 percent. Similarly, GPA-5 achievers under the 10 boards fell to 37,969 from last year's 58,276.

"There is nothing to be surprised.... We are getting the right assessment now, thanks to new evaluation method," said Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid as he announced results at a crowded press conference at the ministry.

The method named "standardisation of answer scripts" was first introduced for Secondary School Certificate examinees this year. And subsequently, the results showed a

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ANOTHER STORY AND MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 5

GULSHAN CAFÉ ATTACK Sohel 'admits' he supplied bombs

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Sohel Mahfuz, a key "Neo JMB" leader, yesterday confessed before a



magistrate that he had supplied all the bombs used in the Holey Artisan Bakery attack in the capital's Gulshan on July 1 last year, court sources said.

In the confessional statement, Sohel said he himself made some of the bombs, collected the rest from India and supplied those to the attackers, court sources said.

Metropolitan Magistrate Ahsan Habib recorded the statement for over three hours and sent Sohel to jail.

In the statement, Sohel said he was not present at the place of occurrence when the deadly attack was carried out.

He, however, confessed

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He can't see with right eye

Doctors say; still hopeful about Siddiqur's left eye

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

He cannot see with his right eye at the moment. The left eye responded to light once or twice when doctors removed the bandage yesterday. There is still a chance, however slim, that his left eye will recover, but nothing can be said for sure about the other eye.

This is how doctors described the condition of Titumir College student Siddiqur Rahman, 23, whose both eyes were damaged in police action last week.

"The condition of his right eye is worse [than the left one]. Until Saturday, he couldn't see with the left eye either. But today [yesterday] he once said he could see a

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Siddiqur's mother Solema tries to comfort her son at a city hospital yesterday.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Noab calls for repeal of section 57

Asks not to enact similar law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) has urged the government not to enact any law that could impede freedom of expression and freedom of press.

It also demanded repeal of "controversial" section 57 of the Information and Communication Technology Act for "its widespread misuse" and demanded withdrawal of all cases filed against journalists under the section.

Noab made the call through a proposal adopted at a meeting held at Bangla daily Prothom Alo office on Saturday.

"Intervention in freedom of expression is indeed an attack on the newspaper industry," Noab said in a press release signed by its president Matiuur Rahman.

Expressing concern over

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Dhaka can follow Shanghai's example

Planner of the city's expansion Zhu Ruo lin tells The Daily Star how Pudong was built

REAZ AHMAD and RASHIDUL HASAN

Before landing at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, Zhu Ruo lin saw Dhaka from a bird's eye view and also took some photographs.

After getting into a car on his way to a city hotel, he went through the photographs and found many similarities between the present day Dhaka and Shanghai of the early '90s.

Zhu Ruo lin, whose time as Dean of the Pudong Planning and Design Institute saw Shanghai's eastbound growth across Huangpu River and its emergence as the world's most populous city, said Dhaka can be transformed into a developed city like his own home town.

The modern financial district of Shanghai, located east of the Huangpu River, Pudong, is China's answer to Manhattan. Pudong, which was little more than a patchwork of paddy fields a few decades ago, now boasts one of the world's leading bourses - the Shanghai Stock Exchange, as well as the city's international airport and the futuristic Oriental Pearl



Zhu Ruo lin

Tower among rows of towering skyscrapers.

Presently, a member of China's urban planning specialty review committee, Zhu Ruo lin came to Dhaka for the first time at the invitation of the World Bank to attend an international conference on development options for Dhaka towards 2035, held on Wednesday.

On the sideline of the conference, Zhu spared sometime exclusively for The Daily Star to share some of his thoughts on sustainable urban development.

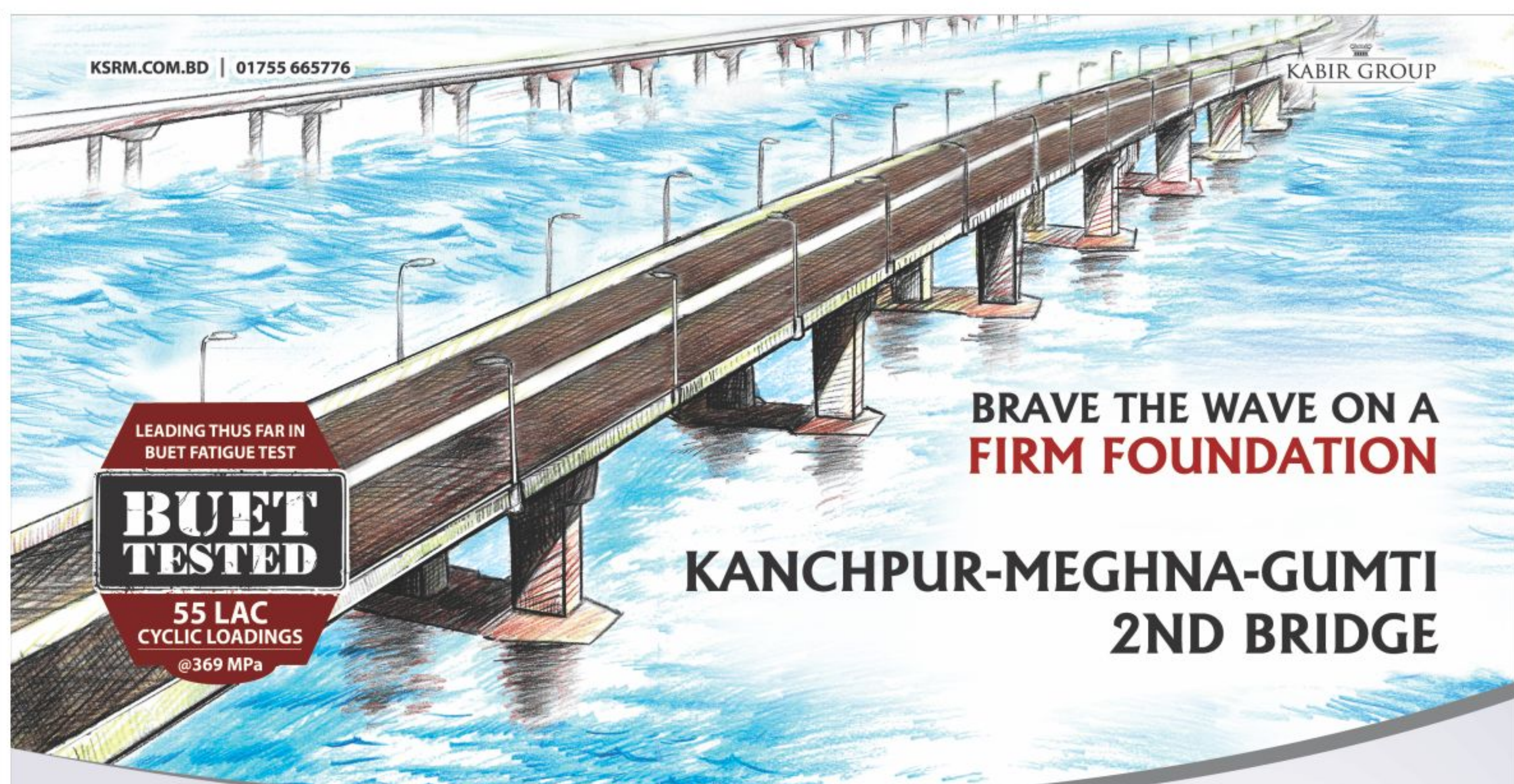
And nothing probably could have been a happier coincidence than gaining from Zhu's knowledge at a time when Dhaka has the opportunity for an eastbound expansion like Shanghai of the '90s.

Zhu shared the experience on how Pudong helped transform Shanghai into one of the modern cities of the world within a span of two and a half decades.

Shanghai's multi-billion dollar facelift began in the 1980s, during the early stages of China's economic opening to the world.

In 1990, Communist Party leaders in

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