



Fresh landslide
kills one in
Bandarban

Four missing

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Bandarban

A teenage girl was killed
and at least four others
were 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 pas-
sengers of a bus were cross-
ing a severely damaged
portion of the road on
foot, witnesses said.

Fire fighters with the
help of local people recov-
ered the body of the
deceased, Sing Mya Hla,
19, of Mong Swe Pru vil-
lage 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 miss-
ing, are Ruma upazila
health worker Munni
Barua, upazila post master
Jainul Alam, upazila Krish-
bank 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 Matiur Rahman.

Expressing concern over

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Dhaka can follow Shanghai's example

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

REAZ AHMAD and
RASHIDUL HASAN



Tower among rows of towering
skyscrapers.

Presently, a member of
China's urban planning specialty
review committee, Zhu Ruolin
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.

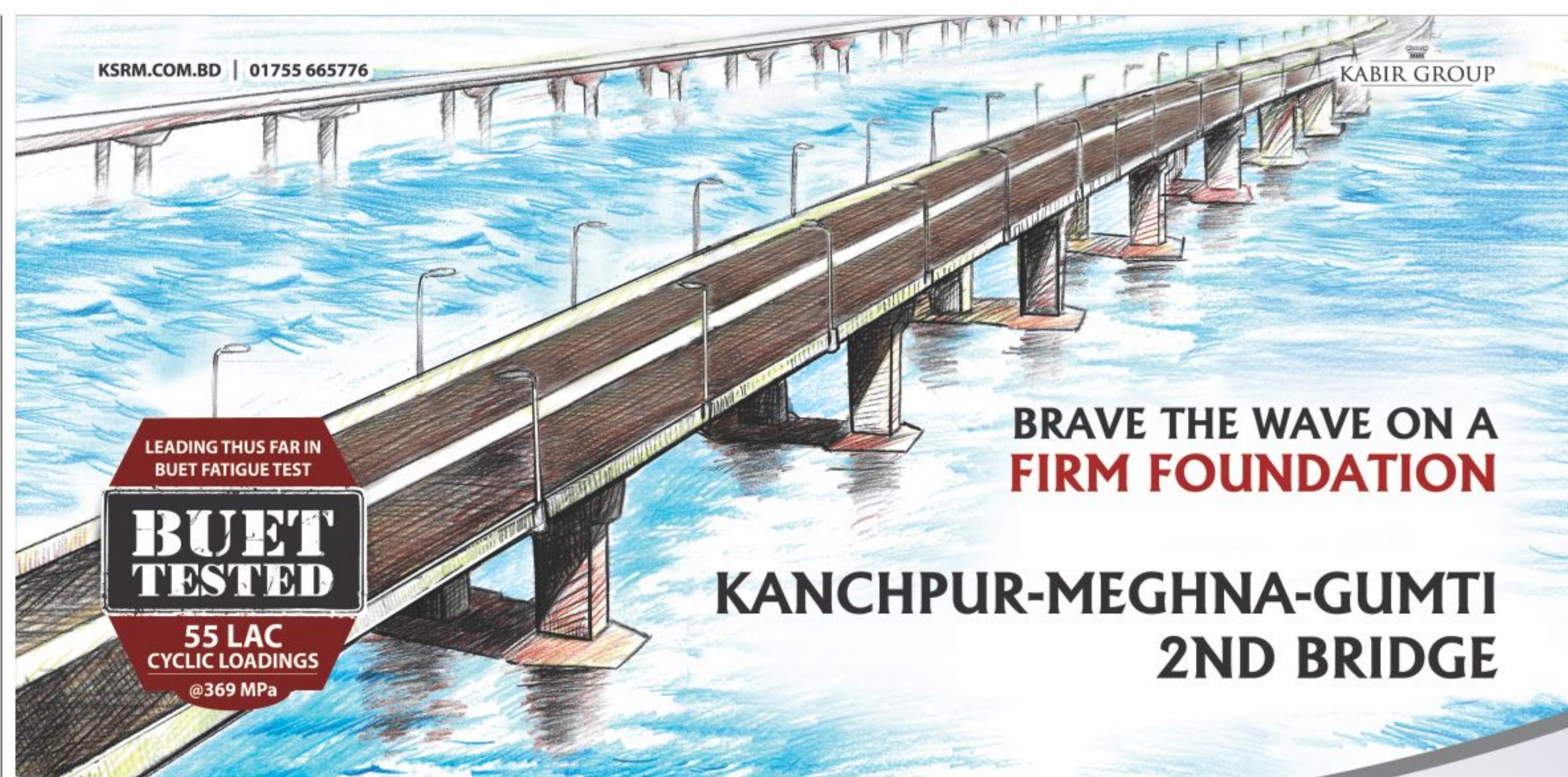
On the sideline of the conference, Zhu
spared sometime exclusively for The Daily
Star to share some of his thoughts on
sustainable urban development.

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 Ruolin, 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

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