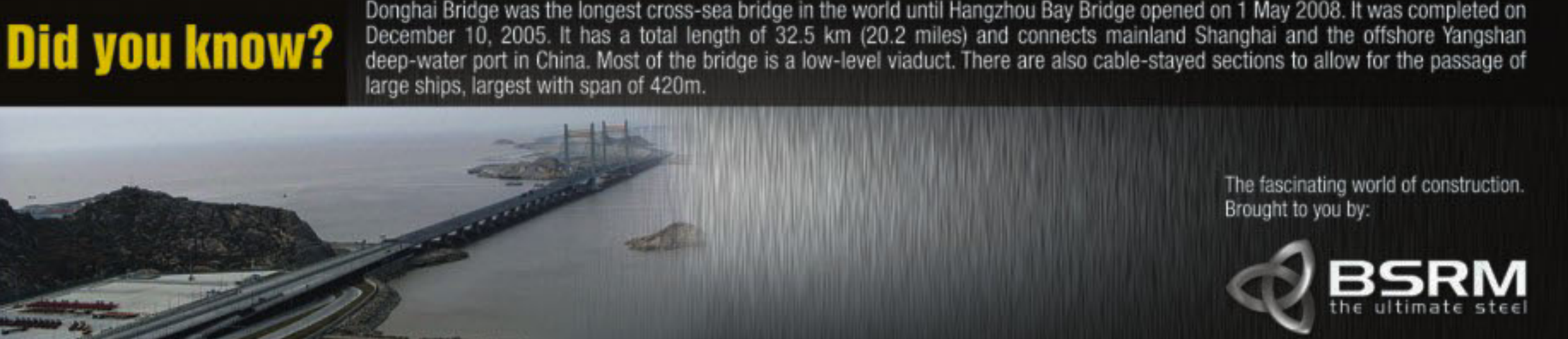


**Did you know?** Donghai Bridge was the longest cross-sea bridge in the world until Hangzhou Bay Bridge opened on 1 May 2008. It was completed on December 10, 2005. It has a total length of 32.5 km (20.2 miles) and connects mainland Shanghai and the offshore Yangshan deep-water port in China. Most of the bridge is a low-level viaduct. There are also cable-stayed sections to allow for the passage of large ships, largest with span of 420m.



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**Diarrhoea claims 1**  
*ICDDR,B sees rush of patients*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 593 patients took treatment at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) yesterday till 6:00pm while a man was brought dead from Siddhirganj of Narayanganj.

According to the ICDDR,B, 860 patients sought treatment on Sunday, 872 on Saturday and 813 on Friday. Half of the people are coming with severe dehydration.

A man, aged around 30, was brought dead from

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# Polluted water triggers outbreak of diarrhoea

**MAHBUBA ZANNAT**

The number of people suffering from diarrhoea is increasing day by day because the Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) is continuing to supply polluted water to Dhaka residents.

Eighty percent of patients at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) reported that the drinking water supplied by Wasa is foul smelling and dirty.

Each day more than 800 patients seek treatment at the ICDDR,B.

In the last fortnight, the number of patients being admitted each day has increased by around 30 percent.

The majority of patients requiring treatment at the ICDDR,B are from the capital's Mirpur, Khilkhet, Demra, Badda, Wirelessgate, Rampura areas, as well as Pagla in Narayanganj.

Shahjahan Siraj, a resident of Mirpur, Sheorapara, said, "Our water has been smelly and dirty for the last month.

"Even boiling it fails to remove the odour. "This is not only my complaint -- my neighbours are also suffering."

Babul from Khilkhet also complained of foul smelling water in his locality for the last two months.

Doctors have said that water and sanitation systems in the capital must be improved.

# Murdered for chiding pupil

*Arrestees tell of plot behind killing Sylhet college teacher*  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The fiancé of a female student plotted the murder of associate professor Harun Ur Rashid as the teacher rebuked the pupil for her affair with the youth, revealed Rab's interrogation yesterday.

Rapid Action Battalion arrested the female student, Sujina Akhtar Munni, her classmate Safia Khatun Lipi, Russell Ahmed and Alimul Islam, friends of Munni's boyfriend Kawsar, and manager of a local hotel Lokman Bhuiyan, who sheltered Kawsar, from different places of the town in last two days.

Kawsar, son of a former Union Parishad chairman in Sunamganj, was hiding in the hotel, but managed to escape the battalion's dragnet.

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**Work with opposition**  
*US Congress team urges govt*  
UNB, Dhaka

Visiting US Congressman David Price has urged the government and opposition to become united for the sake of democracy in Bangladesh.

"The government should respect democratic institutions," he said while briefing reporters at the Media Centre in Parliament.

He also urged the opposition to work constructively within the legal framework.

The three-member Congressional delegation for the first time came to Bangladesh on Sunday. The

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**Khagrachhari dist council chief quits**  
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari Hill District Council Chairman Ruhity Karbari resigned yesterday in the face of local ruling party men's agitation against him and three councillors of the council.

Ruhity handed in his resignation to Tapan Kanti Ghosh, the chief executive officer of the council, around 1:00pm.

Ruhity mentioned poor health and personal problems as the reasons behind his resignation.

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Experts say a sharp rise in diarrhoeal diseases usually occur between the months of March and May every year. Besides, smelly and dirty water supplied by the Wasa add to the woes this year. This photo taken yesterday shows diarrhoea patients under treatment at ICDDR,B.

# Dakat Shahid behind 2 old Dhaka murders

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Detective Branch of police has arrested accomplices of Dakat Shahid, who from India had instructed them to kill Dhaka City Corporation ward councillor Ahmed Hossain and goldsmith Prem Krishno Roy in old Dhaka recently.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque made the disclosure yesterday at a press briefing held at DB office in the capital.

Though Shahid fled to India in 2005 in fear of encounter from law enforcers, his accomplices are still active in realising extortion especially from traders in old Dhaka. His gang also kills victims if they refuse to pay extortion money.

DB police said Shahid, who is now absconding in Nepal, is accused in dozens of cases including murder in the capital.

The gang killed Ahmed after Md Nazim Uddin, chairman of Shubhadda union parishad of Keraniganj, hired Shahid following a dispute with him [Ahmed].

Prem also became Shahid's target due to his refusal to pay Tk 10 lakh as extortion, Shahid's accomplice Shahidul Islam Biddyt disclosed this yesterday after his arrest from Sayadabad in the capital on March 28.

DB police also arrested Shahid's another accomplice shooter Kazi Kawsar from Dhulailpar and UP chairman Nazim from Bijoynagar in the capital on the same day.

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**OnlinePoll** ✓

Do you support government's decision to shed 150-250MW of power in Dhaka from midnight to 9:00am to meet the demand of electricity for irrigation during Boro season?

Yes (54.5%)  
 No (43.3%)  
 No Comments (2.2%)

**Total votes: 960**

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you agree with BNP that Awami League's defeat in Supreme Court Bar Association election implies people's no-confidence in the government?

Please cast your vote at [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**Jamaat leaders get anticipatory bail from HC**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday granted anticipatory bail up to April 4 to five Jamaat-e-Islami leaders, including its chief Matiur Rahman Nizami and Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed.

The other three are deputy chief of Jamaat Delwar Hossain Sayedee, its city unit chief Rafiqul Islam Khan and

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**BHOLA-3 BY-POLLS**  
**Hafiz, Jasim submit nomination papers**  
A CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Awami League's Major (ret) Jasim Uddin and BNP candidate Major (ret) Hafizuddin Ahmed have submitted their nomination papers for contesting the by-election to Bhola-3 (Tajmuddin-Lalmohan) constituency.

Assistant Returning Officer Md Hasanuzzaman received their nomination papers at Lalmohan of Bhola yesterday morning.

AL candidate Nurun Nabi Shaon also submitted his nomination paper at Tajmuddin in the afternoon.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

**We Mourn**

We are extremely shocked at the sudden and untimely death of our beloved colleague,  
**Md. Jahidul Alam** (Sr. Executive Officer, City Bank).



We pray to Allah for the eternal peace of his departed soul. May Allah give strength to the bereaved family to bear this unbearable loss.

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**Prayer Timing**  
March 30

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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