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Dhaka, Thimphu to share airports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and Bhutan signed an air operation agreement yesterday allowing each other to use all their airports.

As per an earlier agreement, Bhutan can use only Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka and Bangladesh can use Paro Airport, the only international airport of the land-locked country.

Officials at the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism said currently Bhutan's national carrier DRUK Air is operating several flights a week between Dhaka and Bhutan via Bangkok but Bangladesh is not operating any flight.

They also said under the new agreement both the countries are allowed to operate seven flights a week. Flights can also be operated to more overseas destinations from the countries.

At Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) head office, Caab Chairman Air Commodore Mahmud Hasan and the managing director of Bhutan Civil Aviation signed the agreement.

A Bhutanese delegation led by Minister for Communications and Information Lyonpo Nandalal Rai and a Bangladesh delegation led by GM Quader, minister for civil aviation and tourism, will visit Saidpur and Lalmonirhat airports today, reports our Lalmonirhat correspondent.

After the visit, the Bhutanese delegation will return to their country via India.

Sources said Bhutan is more interested in using Saidpur airport as this airport is almost ready for operation though no flight operation is taking place there now.

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Auto drivers demand fare hike

Threaten strike from June 5

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Auto-rickshaw drivers in the capital yesterday threatened to go on an indefinite strike from June 5 if their 10-point demand, including an increase in the auto-rickshaw fare adjusting to the CNG price hike, is not met.

To press home their demand, the CNG-run three-wheeler drivers

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

TECHNICAL GLITCHES

Biman's DC-10 stuck in Jeddah

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some 223 passengers of a Biman flight suffered a lot yesterday as a DC-10-30 aircraft remained grounded at King Abdul Aziz International Airport in Jeddah of Saudi Arabia due to a technical glitch.

An official of Biman Bangladesh Airlines said they had to

SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Urban health unwell
Essential medicare far away from people in slums, on pavements

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Jahura Begum was sitting along with her two sickly children in a pavement hut made of bamboo splits and plastic sheet at the capital's Kathalbagan Dhal.

Ailing and looking older than her 20 years of age, Jahura gave birth to her second child six months back here on the street surrounded by garbage and gutters.

The first baby, now three and a half years old, was also born here greeted by stinking sewage and flies all around.

She had none other than her mother to help her in the risky delivery of an underweight child.

"I've never bothered to take my daughter to any health centre," said Jahura's mother Renu Begum, a day labourer. "Nobody told us to go there. The treatment is expensive too."

Like Jahura, many street dwellers in the capital are deprived of the government's primary health services like taking care of communicable diseases, reproductive health of women, and child care.



Hundreds of people gather to buy flour (atta) at subsidised price from a truck at Sheorapara in the capital yesterday. The government on Tuesday started selling flour from trucks under open market sale programme.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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Huji operative arrested with arms, ammo

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a suspected operative of banned Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huji) and discovered a cache of firearms, explosives and bomb making materials in his shop on Tuesday night.

Arrested Abdul Alim, 46, son of Ainuddin Laskar of East Khajurapara in Jhenidah, is an active member of the outfit and also an arms trader, Rab says.

He was arrested with firearms and bomb making materials from Jibonnagar upazila of Chaudanga in 1998, but was later released on bail.

Produced at a press briefing at Rab-6 headquarters in the town

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PHOTO ON PAGE 9

Pressure mounts on Kahn to quit

World divided over IMF chief's succession

AGENCIES

Confined to a jail cell, his reputation in tatters and facing serious criminal charges, Dominique Strauss-Kahn is almost certainly on his way out as head of the International Monetary Fund. But the question remains is who will replace him.

US said Kahn is "not in a position

to run" the International Monetary Fund as Japan said it is too early to discuss the matter, escalating a chaos that started with his arrest over an alleged sexual assault on Saturday.

The alleged assault on a maid happened at New York's luxury Sofitel hotel on May 14.

Strauss-Kahn - who denies the claims - has been put on suicide watch in the city's infamous Rikers Island prison.

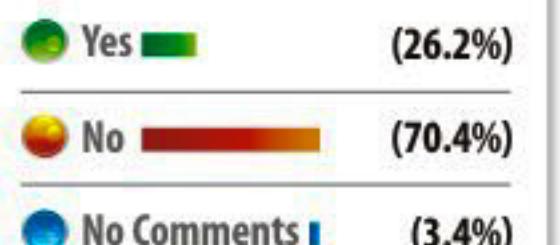
Addressing the Harvard Club in New York on Tuesday, Geithner, US treasury secretary, said the most important thing for the IMF was that it found a leader to fill Strauss-Kahn's shoes.



Strauss-Kahn



ONLINE POLL
Do you support the government decision to increase the transport fare?



TOTAL VOTES: 439

TODAY'S POLL
Do you agree with just-retired chief justice ABM Khairul Haque that the verdict on the caretaker government is not contradictory?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING

May 19

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-36	6-40
Esha	8-00	8-30

Islamic Foundation

যে কোন লাইসেন্স, রেজিস্ট্রেশন, পারমিট প্রদান বা নবায়নকালে এবং পানি, বিদ্যুৎ, টেলিফোন সংযোগ প্রদানকালে প্রাণ সমুদয় অর্থের উপর উৎসে মূল্য সংযোজন কর (মূসক) কর্তন/আদায় বিষয়ে সাধারণ জ্ঞাতব্যঃ

"সবাই মিলে দেব কর, দেশ হবে স্বনির্ভর"

১। মূল্য সংযোজন কর আইন, ১৯৯১ এর ২০১০-১১ অর্থবছর হতে সরকারি, আধা-সরকারি, স্বায়ত্তশাসিত ও স্থানীয় কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক নিম্নলিখিত কার্যক্রম সম্পাদনকালে ১৫% হারে উৎসে মূল্য সংযোজন কর আদায়/কর্তন প্রবর্তন করা হয়েছেঃ

(ক) যে কোন লাইসেন্স, রেজিস্ট্রেশন, পারমিট প্রদান বা নবায়নকালে প্রাণ সমুদয় অর্থের ওপর; যেমন-রুট পারমিট, আমদানি/রঞ্জানি পারমিট, ড্রাইভিং লাইসেন্স, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, সিএডএফ লাইসেন্স, গাড়ি রেজিস্ট্রেশন ইত্যাদি ।

(খ) প্রদত্ত লাইসেন্স, রেজিস্ট্রেশন, পারমিটে উল্লিখিত শর্তের আওতায় রাজস্ব বন্টন (revenue sharing), রয়্যালিটি, কমিশন, চার্জ, ফি বা অন্য কোনোভাবে প্রাণ সমুদয় অর্থের ওপর বা প্রাণ বা প্রাপ্ত পণ এর ওপর ।

(গ) পানি, বিদ্যুৎ, গ্যাস এবং টেলিফোন সংযোগ প্রদানকালে সংশ্লিষ্ট সংযোগ প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান উক্তরূপ সুবিধা গ্রহণকারী ব্যক্তি/প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে প্রাণ সমুদয় অর্থের ওপর ।

২। উৎসে কর্তন/আদায় ব্যর্থ হলে যে দিন কর্তন/আদায় করার কথা ছিল, তার পরদিন হতে কর্তনযোগ্য পরিমাণের অনাদায়ী অর্থ ও তার উপর ২% হারে সুদ কর্তনকারীকে সরকারি ট্রেজারীতে জমা করতে হবে ।

৩। কর্তন বা জমা প্রদানে ব্যর্থতার জন্য কর্তন বা জমা প্রদানের দায়িত্বে নিয়োজিত ব্যক্তি এবং সংশ্লিষ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা ২৫ হাজার টাকা পর্যন্ত ব্যক্তিগত অর্থদণ্ডে দণ্ডিত হবেন ।

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জিডি-২৩২০



Jahura with her two children (one not in picture) and elderly mother live on the pavement near Kathalbagan in the capital. She gave birth to her second child right here with only her mother helping her. The sticks and plastic sheets they call home do not even qualify to be called a shanty. Healthcare for the urban poor seems to be a far cry for most floating people like Jahura. A study among 4,000 urban poor shows that nine percent births takes place on pavements.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL