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The Daily Star

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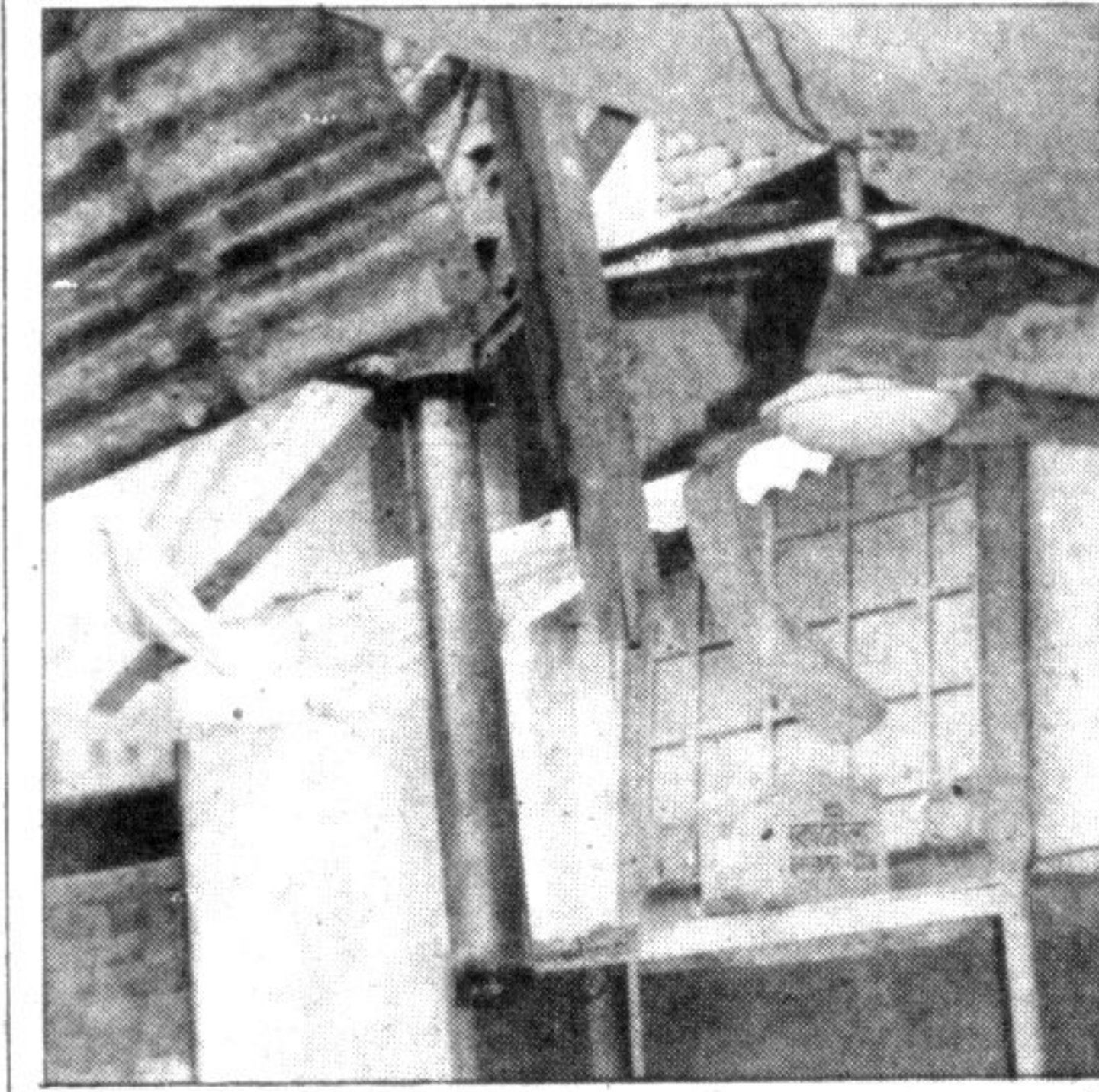
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Scuffle over 'toll collection' at city rly station

Two killed as Ansars fire on vendors



Top: One of the persons (C) injured when two Ansars opened fire following a scuffle on a train at the Airport railway station in Kurmitola yesterday morning; and bottom: A part of the station which was ransacked by a rampaging mob after the firing. — Star photo

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were shot dead and three others seriously wounded when Ansars fired indiscriminately near the Airport railway station in the city's Kurmitola yesterday.

Hundreds of villagers, enraged at the killings, went on a rampage at the railway station around 8:20 am, hurling stones that left scores of people hurt.

Two members of the Bangladesh Ansars and VDP who were on duty on the 10 Down Surma Mail — a Sylhet-Dhaka train — opened fire after scuffles with vendors who were travelling on the train without tickets. The Ansars were reportedly collecting tolls from the vendors, witnesses said.

The Ansars responsible for the killings were arrested by the Railway police when they reached the Kamalapur station by the same train.

They were also suspended, said a Railway spokesman.

Jasimuddin, 28, a fish-vendor, died on the spot while a chief security officer of the Trust Guard Company Sikder Fazlul Haque, 35, who was passing by the rail crossing, died on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). A bullet pierced through Jasimuddin's head while Sikder was hit on the chest.

Three seriously injured persons — Alamgir Hossain, 22, Quayum, 30, and Mustafa, 32, — who also suffered bullet-wounds, were admitted to the DMCH. Alamgir is a hawker and the two others were passers-by, reports our DMCH correspondent.

During a scuffle on the parked train, some hawkers dragged one Ansars' constable after the firing. — Star photo

Credit insurance scheme soon

By S Y Bakht

The government is going to launch a credit insurance scheme soon for banks lending money to the small and medium investors.

This was disclosed by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman while addressing the formal inauguration ceremony of the Securities and Exchange Commission yesterday.

The minister said that the credit insurance scheme would be initiated by Bangladesh Bank and would provide a guarantee to the banks which lend money to small and medium investors.

He urged the bankers to provide funds to small and medium investors, to help offset the 'inherent fault in the capitalist system, which looks after the interests of the rich rather than the poor. The small investors have to be helped,' he said.

However, Rahman criticised the bankers for seeking government guarantees or insurance.

See Page 12 Col 7

Prime Minister opens SEC 'Unite to develop capital market'

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday appealed to all for casting aside party interests and disputes and to work unitedly for creating a conducive environment for development.

"Peace, discipline and stability are the pre-conditions for an environment conducive to development," she said. "Unless these pre-conditions are fulfilled there won't be any development, investments won't increase and the all-engrossing poverty won't be reduced."

The Prime Minister was delivering her inaugural address at the opening of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) at the Jiban Bima Bhavan here.

In a conciliatory tone, Begum Zia called on all sections of people to work together for the common goal of development.

"We believe in the policy of partnership for developing the country and that partnership will be among all (political) parties, all professionals and among all people since, irrespective of positions and opinions, we all want development," the Prime Minister said.

She continued to add: "We believe, development is a national issue and for that national effort is needed. So come, let us cast aside party interests and disputes and unitedly create an environment conducive to development."

See Page 12 Col 4

Decision on six new banks after Saifur's return

Star Report

A final decision on allowing six new banks in the private sector will be taken after Finance Minister Saifur Rahman's return from Japan, according to a source in the Finance Ministry.

The minister left last night on a five-day visit to Japan.

The six banks have been selected out of a list of 45 applications. After discussion with the Finance Minister, the matter will be sent to the cabinet for its decision.

The banks which have been primarily selected are the BRAC Bank, Hajj Bank, Dutch-Bangladesh Bank, Northern Bank Ltd, Bangladesh Social Investment Bank, and Prime Bank Ltd.

When asked if the Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI), a defunct investment company, would be allowed to operate as a bank, the source said: "It will be decided after the minister's return."

See Page 12 Col 7

Akhtaruzzaman Babu asked to appear before Ctg election tribunal Nov 17

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 14: The Chittagong Parliament Election Tribunal and the 2nd Additional District Judges Court today ordered Awami League MP Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu to appear in person before the tribunal here on November 17 for giving his statement.

The order came following a recent election case filed by the losing BNP candidate in the February 1991 polls Advocate Kabir Chowdhury challenging the election of Akhtaruzzaman from the Anwara-West Patiya constituency on grounds of election malpractice, court sources said.

However, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury, an accused in the case, failed to appear before the tribunal here on November 17 for giving his statement.

See Page 12 Col 6

46.55 pc pass DU Degree exams

By Staff Correspondent

The results of the B.A. B.Sc. and B.Com. (Pass and Subsidiary) examinations of 1992 held under the Dhaka University were published yesterday.

The rate of pass is 46.55 per cent. A total of 111 examinees were placed in the first division out of the 34,316 successful students. The number of candidates who appeared was 73,711.

The rate of pass among the students of the Arts group is 44.62 per cent, while it is 43.59 among the Science students and 51.32 per cent among the Commerce students.

A total of 1,757 examinees, out of 2,441, passed BA (Subsidiary) Examination with a percentage of 71.97.

Some 1,086 students, out of 2,566, became successful in the BSc (Subsidiary) Examination with a percentage of 42.32 while 1,023, out of 2,226, passed B.Com. (Subsidiary) with a pass percentage of 45.95.

A total of 148 examinees took part in the BSc (Pass) Home Economics Examination, of whom 146 came out with success, 48 obtaining first division. The percentage is 98.64.

The pass percentage in B.Music Examination is 78.04, in which 41 examinees took part and 32 passed. None got first division.

A total of 275 examinees, out of 477, passed BA Certificate Examination with a percentage of 57.65.

See Page 12 Col 8

Prokrichi's hunger strike today

By Staff Correspondent

The non-administrative civil servants and the professionals in government service including the engineers, agriculturists and doctors (PROKRICHI) will stage an eight-hour 'mass hunger strike' today to press home their 17-point charter of demands for administrative reforms.

The hunger strike will begin at 9 this morning at the Institute of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) premises in the city.

Sources in the central coordination council of the agitating civil servants and professionals said more than 800 government officials are expected to take part in today's hunger strike.

Meanwhile, Mohammad Abu Hena, Chairman of the Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) Coordination Council, said: "The government will take necessary steps to address the concerns of the civil servants and professionals."

See Page 12 Col 6

Nawaz absent in swearing in ceremony

Dangers of destabilising Pak democracy over: Leghari

ISLAMABAD, Nov 14: Pakistan's new President Farooq Ahmed Leghari vowed today to strengthen democracy and national cohesion, amid optimism that the new setup augured well for political stability, reports AFP.

Speaking to reporters after his induction, Leghari also promised to seek improved relations with the United States.

Leghari, 53, a former close lieutenant of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, was elected by the 464-member parliamentary electoral college Saturday, with opposition candidate Wasim Sajjad defeated by a 106-vote margin.

The victory gave a political boost to Bhutto and lent a considerable degree of stability to her coalition government, politicians and analysts here said.

The 53-year-old Oxford graduate, Sunni Muslim and big landlord from the key province of Punjab, is widely respected for his moderate views and clean political record.

"The dangers of destabilising democracy are over," Leghari said in his first comments after he was administered the oath by Chief Justice Nasim Hasan Shah.

The ceremony was attended by Bhutto, chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force, opposition members and Sajjad, who has reverted to his previous post of chairman of Senate after serving as Acting President for nearly four months.

Leghari said he would keep the presidency aloof from party politics and play his constitutional role for consolidation of equitable democratic system.

He is expected to help Bhutto amend the Constitution. — AFP Photo



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto chats with newly-elected President Farooq Ahmed Leghari during the swearing-in ceremony in Islamabad yesterday. — AFP Photo

Mob burns vehicles as Student dies in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent

A mob demonstrated on the streets, set five vehicles on fire and damaged at least seven others after a student was killed in a road accident at Shanir Akhra in the city yesterday afternoon.

Zahurul Islam, 18, died on the spot when a speeding Chittagong-Dhaka coach ran him down at Shanir Akhra at 2:30 pm yesterday.

Following the demonstration, the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Shanir Akhra, Demra was blocked to traffic for five hours until police brought the situation under control last night.

Agitated people set fire to four buses and a truck on the spot and damaged seven other vehicles by pelting brick-bats.

Islam, a resident of Dhanla, Demra, had passed the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations from the Commerce group this year.

NEWS BRIEFS

Saifur leaves for Japan

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman left Dhaka last night for Tokyo on a 5-day official visit to Japan. During his stay in Tokyo the Finance Minister will hold meetings with the Chief Cabinet Secretary of Japan, Japanese Finance Minister, Vice-Minister for International Economic Affairs, Vice-minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs. Rahman is expected to return home on November 19, reports BSS.

Chapa murder case

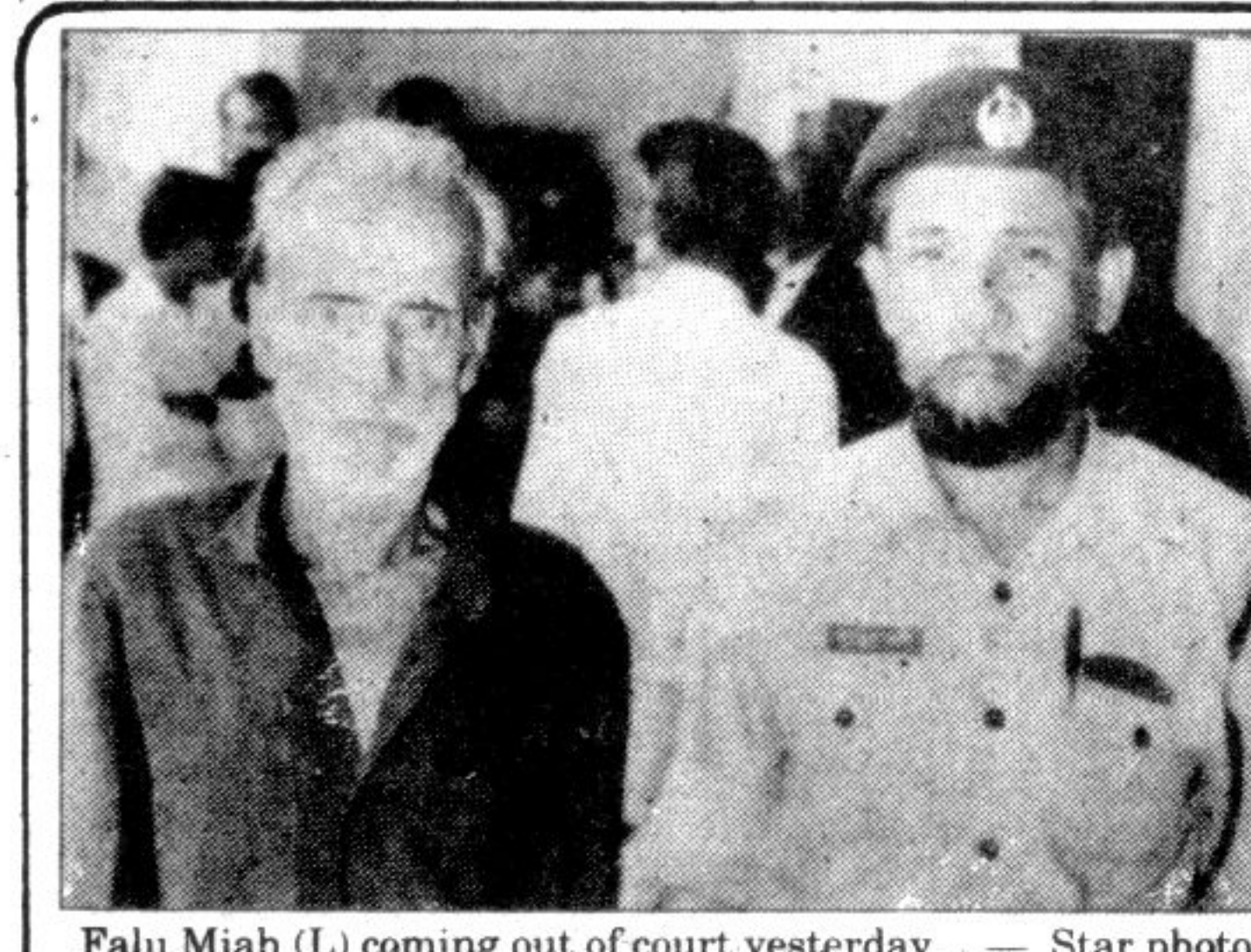
BARISAL, Nov 14: The hearing of the sensational Chapa murder case resumes tomorrow in the court of District and Sessions Judge, reports UNB.

SAARC workshop on fisheries

A two-day SAARC workshop on fisheries, socio-economics and marketing begins tomorrow at the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC). Delegates from India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and host country Bangladesh will participate in the workshop, reports BSS.

BNPPP meets Nov 20

A meeting of the BNPP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) will be held on November 20 at 4:30 pm at room number 932 in the west block of the Sangsad Bhavan. Prime Minister and Leader of the House Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting which will discuss political situation obtaining in the country besides matters relating to the coming 12th session of the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.



Falu Miah (L) coming out of court yesterday. — Star photo

Falu Miah — a man that time forgot

A poor day-labourer of Savar who passed more than two decades in the Dhaka Central Jail was yesterday produced before the court of the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka after long 16 years, reports BSS.

Falu Miah, in his early fifties, last visited a court in 1977 when he was sentenced and convicted by a special military court in a dacoity case. He was put behind bars in August, 1972.

Son of late Lal Chand of village Salehpur, near Amin Bazar under Savar thana, the hapless Falu Miah has developed asthma and other complications during his more than 21 years of confinement.

Falu Miah and several similar inmates told their tales of woe to Abu Solaiman Chowdhury, the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka, during his recent visit to the Dhaka Central Jail.

Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzak Khan, on being asked by the DC, took up the matter and accordingly Assistant Public Prosecutor M Masud Ahmed Talukder filed an application before the District and Sessions judge to produce Falu Miah before the court. — Star photo

Political activities of JCD, Shibir suspended in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 14: All political activities of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and the pro-Jamaat-e-Islami Chhatra Shibir have been suspended in Sylhet until November 30.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the BNP and the Jamaat leaders last night with the Deputy Commissioner in the chair.

The meeting was convened following a series of armed clashes in the city.

See Page 12 Col 3

Over two lakh workers go abroad in 10 months

A total of 2,07,251 workers of the country went abroad in the first 10 months of the current year with government permission, reports UNB.

This was disclosed at the 15th meeting of parliamentary committee on Labour and Manpower Ministry with its chairman Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair yesterday.

The figure is 37 per cent higher than that of previous year (January-October). Some 1,51,376 workers went to different countries during the period.

The total remittance during the first 10 months of the current year stood at Tk 3,264.56 crore as against Tk 2,956 crore of the last year's same period.

STOL regulations finalised

By Asiuzzaman

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) has finalised the rules and regulations to start the short take-off and landing (STOL) service on domestic routes in the private sector by next spring, CAAB sources said yesterday.

"The regulations have been finalised and the last date for submitting applications for private airlines is November 25," one senior CAAB official said, adding that five airstrips would be ready for operation by December 31.

Initially Shamshernagar in Sylhet, Lalmonirhat, Thakurgaon, Ishwardi and Barisal are being readied with ground and communication facilities at a cost of Tk four crore, the source said.

Bogra, Mongla, Patuakhali and Feni will be taken under the project in the second phase if the private companies respond positively.

In August, the government approved a Civil Aviation Ministry proposal permitting private companies to operate STOL services to different destinations across the country where the national carrier Biman is not flying.

According to the new regulations, the intended private company should have a paid-up capital of Tk two crore. Licence fee is Tk one lakh and annual renewal charge is Tk 25,000. The companies should submit their applications in a prescribed form, available at the CAAB headquarters, at a cost of Tk 25,000.

So far, seven application forms have been sold.

In the 28-point set of regulations, the CAAB authorities have said that the interested companies should submit the specification of the aircraft to be used by them which must have a capacity of landing on a 2,150 ft by 100 ft airstrip.

A STOL aircraft can usually carry 15 to 25 passengers.

According to the regulations, the Civil Aviation Act-1984 and the International Civil Aviation Organisation-(ICAO) rules will also be applicable for the STOL operations.

Aviation sources said that one private company had been working seriously to start operation immediately if they are given the licence.

ANNOUNCEMENT

THE NEXT ISSUE OF MONTHLY The Daily Star COMPUTER SPECIAL WILL BE PUBLISHED ON WEDNESDAY, 17 NOVEMBER 1993.

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