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# The Daily Star

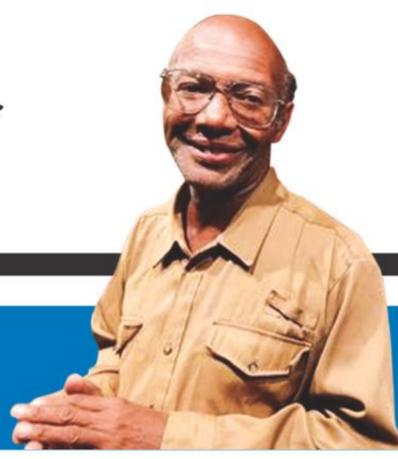
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**WITH TODAY'S ISSUE**

**Showbiz**

**"KUMBH MELA"**

The 2-hr Indian documentary on real stories stuns Toronto film festival

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**HONESTY PAYS OFF**

US homeless man returns lost money; gets a six-figure amount

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## Airlines plan big

To invest \$1 billion to procure 22 aircraft by next year, hoping to expand business

**SHARIFUL ISLAM**

The aviation industry is likely to see an unprecedented boom as both the public and private airlines are expected to invest around \$1 billion in the sector by next year.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines and four other local airlines will either purchase or lease at least 22 aircraft with the sum, said officials at the civil aviation authority and the airlines.

National carrier Biman plans to acquire eight aircraft, Regent Airways five, NOVOAIR four, United Airways three and US-Bangla Airlines at least two.

This investment is aimed to tap around 10 percent annual growth of passengers and eight percent that of cargo over the next seven years, as the Bangladesh economy is marking a steady growth of over six percent, said executives of the Civil Aviation

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billion dollars in the air

Bangladeshi airliners to add **22** aircraft by 2014

Passengers to almost **double** in the next seven years

<b>NOVOAIR</b> to get One Airbus- 320 (180 seats) One MD-83 (160-167 seats)	<b>Local airliners</b> now tap only <b>one-fifth</b> of \$440m market	<b>Biman</b> to get Two Boeing 777-300ER (419 seats) Two Boeing 777-200 (320 seats) Two Boeing 737-800 (162 seats) Two turbo-props <b>Regent</b> Four Boeing 737-800 (120 seats)
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**United Air**  
One MD-83 (167 seats)  
One ATR 72 (64 seats)

**US-Bangla Airlines**  
Two Dash 8-Q 400 (68 to 70 seats)



Winners of the Junior Climate Champions 2013, organised by HSBC and The Daily Star, pose with their awards at Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad Hall of Bangla Academy yesterday. More photos on page 5.

PHOTO: STAR

## 18 win HSBC-Star junior climate awards



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eighteen winners out of 1,500 schoolchildren bagged awards yesterday in the first-ever Junior Climate Champions competition, organised jointly by the HSBC and The Daily Star.

The awards were presented at a grand gala ceremony at the capital's Bangla Academy.

Coming from 200 schools across the country, the winners participated in this intense national level competition in three categories -- quiz, extempore speech and poster designing.

The Daily Star and HSBC initiated the contest aiming to create awareness among the young minds on climate change and its effects on the country and the globe.

The contestants were split into two groups, with students from class six to eight in the junior and students of classes nine and ten in the senior group.

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## PM hopeful of AL's win in next polls

Asks opposition not to confuse people thru' propaganda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday firmly said people would again vote Awami League to power as they want peace and development in the country, not terrorism, militancy, corruption and money laundering.

She was addressing a meeting with her party's grassroots leaders of seven organisational districts. The meeting was held to pick prospective candidates for the next parliamentary elections.

Presidents and general secretaries of Comilla North, Comilla South, Chittagong North, Chittagong South, Chittagong Metropolitan, Pabna and Rangpur district units of AL and all its thana, upazila and municipality units were present in the meeting.

The premier said, "People will surely vote for Awami League for their welfare, peace and development. Only Awami League can ensure these."

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## Aid for farmers, pride for country

Fertiliser applicator invented by Bangladeshi scientist lessens farmers' pain; getting popular in several African countries

PORIMOL PALMA

Since the 1980s, farmers in the country have been applying *Guti* urea to their crops for increased yield and low production cost. They have been successful in this endeavour, but for that they have to bear high labor cost and suffer agonising back pain, as farmers need to bend down, at times for hours, to apply *Guti* urea.

But all that seems to be over now, after a Bangladeshi scientist has developed a fertiliser applicator that will reduce both the labour cost and farmers' woes in applying *Guti* urea (granular urea).

Easy to use and a time saver, the injector-type tool has already earned reputation in the global market.

"This device can apply some 60 *Guti* urea briquettes at a time, allowing a farmer to place briquettes on a 10-decimal paddy field in an hour," said Dr Abdul Wahab, innovator of the 1.5kg plastic device.

"It is light and easy to handle. I used the applicator in Aman field this year," Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, a farmer at Avaynagar in Jessore, told this correspondent by phone.

It is also cheap, Tk 450 a piece.



## Indian rights group to seek compensation for Felani

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

A human rights group in Indian state of West Bengal is going to file a writ petition, seeking compensation for the family of Bangladeshi teenage girl Felani Khatun who was shot dead by the BSF.

Rights body Banglar Manabdhikar Suraksha Mancha (MASUM) will file the petition with the Supreme Court, seeking compensation for the victim's family as well as punishment to the BSF constable, Amiya Ghosh, who got acquitted from

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## Changed RPO must ensure free, fair polls

Roundtable told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday asked the government as well as the Election Commission to bring some changes to the RPO to ensure a free and fair election.

They alleged that the EC had unsuccessfully tried to undermine its own power and now urged the government to introduce some amendments to the Representation of People Order (RPO) without discussing it with the stakeholders.

Election Working Group, a non-government organisation working on polls, organised the roundtable on the proposed amendment to the RPO in the capital's CIRDAP auditorium.

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## Jatrabari flyover ready to serve

Opens next month to ease messy traffic condition in city

TAWFIQUE ALI

The much-awaited 10-kilometre-long Jatrabari flyover is set to open for public from early next month.

"We are going to open the main flyover for public use from early October," Md Abu Alam Shahid Khan, secretary to Local Government Division, told The Daily Star.

"It will take until December to complete the construction work of a number of ramps of the flyover," he said.

The official deadline for opening the main flyover was June this year.

But it was delayed time and again due to the presence of underground and overhead cable lines of utility services along the project's pathway, he added.

The last segments of the flyover were mounted on September 13, with the construction of 315 pillars. So far over 90 percent of the total project work has been accomplished.

The 5.5-km long main flyover stretches from Dhaka-Chittagong highway (Kutubkhali) to Nimtoli through Jatrabari, Sayedabad, Kaptanbazar and Gulistan.

Though the total length of the flyover was estimated at 11 km, including its extended segment at Palashi, it would now terminate at Nimtoli, said Salman Obaidul Karim, managing director of the concessionaire Belhasa Accom and Associates Ltd.

During a visit from the site's Gulistan end to Jatrabari last week, this correspondent found that the last-minute works

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An aerial view of Mayor Mohammad Hanif Flyover, set to be inaugurated early next month.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHME