



A proud mother embraces her son Nolok Babu after he emerges as the Close Up 1 at Hotel Sonargaon in the city last night while Beauty, second runner-up, looks on. Razib became first runner-up. The final round of 'Close Up 1 - Tomakei Khujiche Bangladesh', a star search programme, organised by the NTV ended on the night of Victory Day.

## Nolok becomes Close Up 1

BDNEWS, Dhaka

From nowhere, he has come a long way to become the Close Up 1 - 2005 for the first time.

He is Nolok Babu - the newest star in the music world. From the narrow roads of Jamalpur district to the stage in Dhaka, he stood straight.

Nolok was crowned Close Up 1 last night after his long struggle of seven months and checking and cross-checking by three judges as well as voters by people.

Finally, the best judges were mass people who sent SMS and voted for Nolok online awarding him 7,85,391 votes to become the best in the competition titled 'Close up one - Tomakei Khujiche Bangladesh'. He secured a total of 91 marks.

He never received any formal training or had any knowledge about the grammar of music. Music is in his heart.

At a colourful award giving ceremony held at Sonargaon Hotel in the city, Nolok received Tk 10 lakh and a Nissan Sunny car, apart from other prizes.

Of the two other finalists, Razib became the first runner-up although he was believed to be the most competent candidate who got the highest mark from the panel of three judges.

He bagged 3,13,946 votes from the SMS messages and online voters.

Beauty, the 'Lalan Kannya' (Daughter of Lalan), became the second-runner-up. She got 3,20,328 votes.

The competition, a highly acclaimed star search programme, was organised by the NTV, a private TV channel. Its final round took place on the Victory Day.

The judges - Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, Kumar Biswajit and Samina Chowdhury - requested the new stars to continue their practice to enrich the Bangla music.

NTV Chairman Mosaddek Ali Falu MP, Country Director of Unilever Sanjeev Mehta, Asiatic Marketing Communications CEO Aly Zaker and Deputy Managing Director Asaduzzaman Noor MP gave away the prizes.

## PM's MOTORCADE Station master, deputy blamed in probe into Ctg incident

BDNEWS, Chittagong

A railway stationmaster and his assistant have been accused of negligence of duty yesterday for holding up the prime minister's motorcade for four minutes on Tuesday.

A three-member committee of Bangladesh Railway which was formed to probe the half of prime minister's motorcade in the port city's Shososhahar level crossing submitted its report yesterday accusing the two.

The committee in its report accused Stationmaster of Shososhahar Railway Station Abul Hossain and Assistant Stationmaster Anwar Karim Sikder of their negligence of duty.

The railway authority initially had put Abul Hossain and Gate-man Abul Kashem on suspension but the committee report relieved the gate-man of the charge, a committee member said.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia along with her entourage was going to the inaugural ceremony of a newly installed 83,300 digital line exchange at Nandankanan from Chittagong cantonment. Locals near Shososhahar level crossing stopped her motorcade around 3:15pm seeing a Chittagong University shuttle train on its way.

The inquiry report stated though the railway authority informed Abul Hossain about the prime minister's visit but he was found neglecting his duty.

"The two railway officials have been charged for failing to ensure adequate support to the uninterrupted journey of the VVIPs," the committee said.

## PM's SPEECH AT BNP GRAND RALLY No plan of action to curb militancy : B Chy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the prime minister's speech on Wednesday's grand rally in the city has increased people's frustration as she failed to give any action plans before the nation to curb militancy.

"Although the grand rally of the ruling BNP was organised in protest against the bomb blasts by the militants, the PM uttered not a single word against them. She didn't tell whether the government would bring any sedition charge against the militants," said Prof Chowdhury while speaking as chief guest at a discussion organised by Bikalpa Chhatra Dhara, student wing of BDB, at Dhaka Reporters Unity auditorium.

Shafiq Alam Pradhan was the main speaker at the discussion where BDB Secretary General Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan and

Organising Secretary Mahi B Chowdhury MP also spoke.

Prof Chowdhury said the PM cannot threaten to bring sedition charge for criticising the role of the government in the context of its passive stand against militants.

"She has to understand that everyone has the rights to criticise the activities of the government. If she cannot understand the difference between criticism against the government and the state, how would she run the state?" asked the BDB president.

Referring to the statement of JMB Commander Ataur Rahman Sunny about the involvement of an MP of the ruling coalition, Prof Chowdhury said, "The countrymen want to see what action the PM takes in next 24 hours against that MP to curb the militant activities."

Bikalpa Chhatra Dhara Convener M Monwar Ali Pasha presided.

## Make ACC effective Conscious citizens' confce urges govt

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The two-day annual conference of Conscious Citizens' Committees was held at Koita in Manikganj on December 21 and 22.

The committees are formed in line with the ideals of the Transparency International, Bangladesh (TIB).

The conference urged the government to sign the Anti-Corruption International Charter immediately and make the independent Anti-Corruption Commission effective.

They also expressed concern over the unbridled corruption in the country and its negative impact on socio-economic life of the general people. The issue of taking multifarious steps to resist corruption was also emphasised at the conference.

The participants called upon the

political leaders to create an atmosphere so that the parliament, law enforcing agencies, the judiciary and the administration can function neutrally, independently and effectively.

About one hundred representatives of 30 citizens' committees from six divisions participated in the conference.

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman moderated the conference.

TIB Trustee Board Chairman Samson H Chowdhury, Prof Khan Sarwar Murshid, Prof Muzaffar Ahmad, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, M Hafiz Uddin Khan and Sultana Kamal took part in the conference.

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