



THE IMPOSSIBLE HUNT FOR THE TOP 20!

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PHOTOS: COURTESY

The hunt for Bangladesh's first GTV Fanta Band is on and with each new episode, we get that much closer to discovering which 5 fantastic teenagers are going to come together to create a band that changes their lives forever. The newest episode will be all about how the judges are going to achieve the impossible to bring the number of participants from 100 to 20.

"We are listening and watching top 100 participants, and they're all so talented. It's going to be very difficult to choose only 20 from them," says Jon Kabir, one of the judges of the GTV Fanta Band.

The jury also consists of Elita Karim and Fuad al Muqtadir, and joining them on the newest episode to help them on this huge task will also be Sharmin Sultana Sumi of the band Chirkut as a guest judge.

The judges happen to be idols to these participants who have been listening to their music for as long as they can remember. As if the pressure of making it to the top 20 isn't enough, the idea of having to perform in front of their idols add to the plate as well!

Fuad, of course, thinks there is nothing to be afraid of. "To those participants who are nervous about performing in front of us, I just want to say that you shouldn't be nervous and that this isn't the end of the world," he says. In fact, Fuad seems nervous himself about the rejections that he has to deliver to find the top 20. "Of course, we can't take all of the participants to the top 20 and I'm very cautious about the negative impact that the rejection can have on their self-worth. I just hope that they don't give up and realise that this one competition isn't going to stop them from being great artists."

And honestly, nothing can stop these participants from doing their best, not even the nerves. Venus Mercy, a 9th grader from Heed International School says, "I definitely feel scared of what's coming but no matter what happens, I'm proud of myself for coming so far."

100 is a big number, and each participant with their families and well-wishers are going to bring a large tense crowd to the auditions. The energy and tension is hard to



imagine! It is absolutely amazing to see how the participants are coming with so much support and love from their families, friends and schools.

14-year-old Ahnaf Islam is nervous about his audition but confident as well as he talks about how his mother is helping him practice especially for the auditions. 14-year-old Md. Nazmul Hasan from Uttara especially mentions his music teacher for encouraging him to participate.

To pump things up even more, this new episode will have a new power-up for fantastic performers – the Fantastic Card! Only a few of the 100 participants will win this desired card to get a ride straight into the stage round.

The GTV Fanta Band sets out to create and groom Bangladesh's first teen pop band with the simple belief that nothing speaks to this generation of fun, modern youngsters like the beats of music. "Today's teenagers are born in the era of internet and accessibility, and their dreams of stardom seem even more possible with a competition like this one," says the guest judge of the day, Sumi.

The dreams and fates of 100 talented and confident teenagers will be on the balance in the newest episode of GTV Fanta Band. Any 5 of these 100 teens can be the next Fanta Band! Be sure to find out how the judges are going to hunt for the top 20 only on GTV this Saturday!

| ENDEAVOUR |

HERITAGE

The Central Railway Building (CRB) in Chittagong city is one of the few remaining buildings that tell the history of two hundred years of British colonial rule in Chittagong.

The gigantic red coloured building at the heart of scenic, lush rain-tree covered hilltop attracts many visitors daily for its architectural beauty and historic past.

According to Shamshul Hossain, historian and author of "Eternal Chittagong", a book on the history of Chittagong, the British rulers took over the control of Chittagong from Nabab Mir Kashim in 1760 and ruled it until 1947. During their reign they built several buildings to facilitate their administrative works. One of those buildings is CRB.

"This huge building is currently being used as the Headquarters of Bangladesh Railway (east zone) and covers around 20 acres of land", says Railway Estate Officer (Headquarters) Abdul Bari.

The building was established in 1872 as the headquarters of then Assam-Bengal Railway. The original building was a two storey structure that had thirty four rooms in the ground floor and thirty three in the first", says Kamrul Ahsan, chief engineer of Bangladesh Railway (east zone). Later in 1918 the building's southern wing was extended up to a three storey structure and in the east and north it was raised up to four-storey height.

A portion of the building was damaged by aerial bombing during the liberation war of 1971 but it was rebuilt maintaining its original design. There is a two storied carriage porch in the centre of south-block of the old building with two beautiful gothic arches. There is a foyer inside the structure that is topped by a hemispherical dome. Besides, in the south-west corner of the old building, there is a tower that has a



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PHOTOS: PRABIR DAS

THE SYMBOL OF CHITTAGONG'S COLONIAL HISTORY



spiralling staircase and a small dome on top which resembles Mughal architectural style.

Shahadat Hossain, a regular visitor of this historic site says "The building is like a huge labyrinth. When I first entered into the building, I became puzzled to see hundreds of rooms and huge corridor. This



historic building and its lawns should be preserved with care as many people come here to visit this beautiful architecture."

Some railway staffs said that this age old building is not in a good condition. Water seeps through the roof during the rainy season. Although according to the Antiquities Act, 1968 (amended in 1976) all buildings or establishments more than 100 years of age can be protected by the state for their historical importance, this historic building is not preserved as an

TOP 7

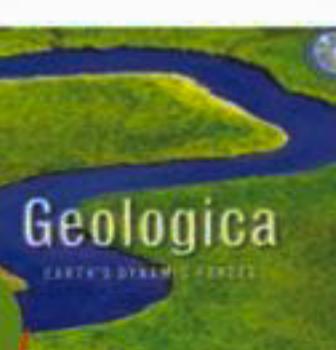
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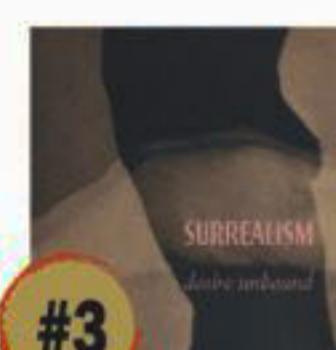
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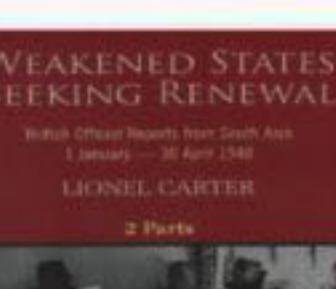
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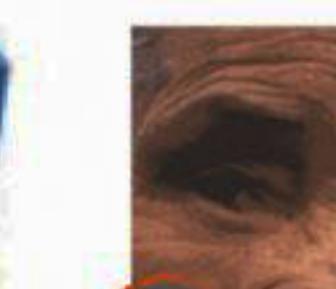
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