

## 10 FANTA BAND STARS

With the slogan Ananda O Moja thakuk Shobar Majhe (Let there be joy and fun in everyone), renowned carbonated beverage brand Fanta has launched its much awaited talent-hunt programme popularly known as Fanta Band to discover the country's first generation of teen pop bands. It is the first talent-hunt reality show in Bangladesh that will select the best pop band formed by teenaged boys and girls. Here are profiles of ten participants from the top 20!



**Arony Ayub Joyeeta**

Age: 15 years  
Where have you come from? Mirpur, Kafrul, Dhaka.  
Education: Class-10  
School/college name: Oxford International School  
Hobbies: Painting, reading books, watching anime, singing and listening to music.  
Who inspired you to come to this contest: No one, I just thought of giving it a try.  
Favourite food: Everything known as food is delicious.  
Favourite singer/musician: All of them, each and every musician is unique from my point of view.  
Favourite game: I am not too interested in sports.



**Asif Kamal Rizvi**

Age: 18 years  
Where have you come from? Rampura, Banasree, Dhaka.  
Education: HSC 1 st year  
School/college name: Dhaka Imperial College  
Hobbies: Playing guitar, singing, playing cricket and badminton  
Who inspired you to come to this contest: Friends and family  
Favourite food: Pizza  
Favourite singer/musician: Lalon Shah, Arijit Singh  
Favourite game: Cricket



**Afrah Taheeya Ahmed**

Age: 13 years  
Where have you come from? Kafrol, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka  
Education: Class-8  
School/college name: Sir John Wilson School  
Hobbies: Drawing, reading, writing, playing piano, singing, internet browsing, painting  
Who inspired you to come to this contest: My mother  
Favourite Food: Chocolate, coffee, coleslaw  
Favourite Singer/musician: Adele, Andy Bier sack, Adam Levine, Adam Young, YUI, Ed Sheeran etc.  
Favourite Game: Animation Games, Cricket



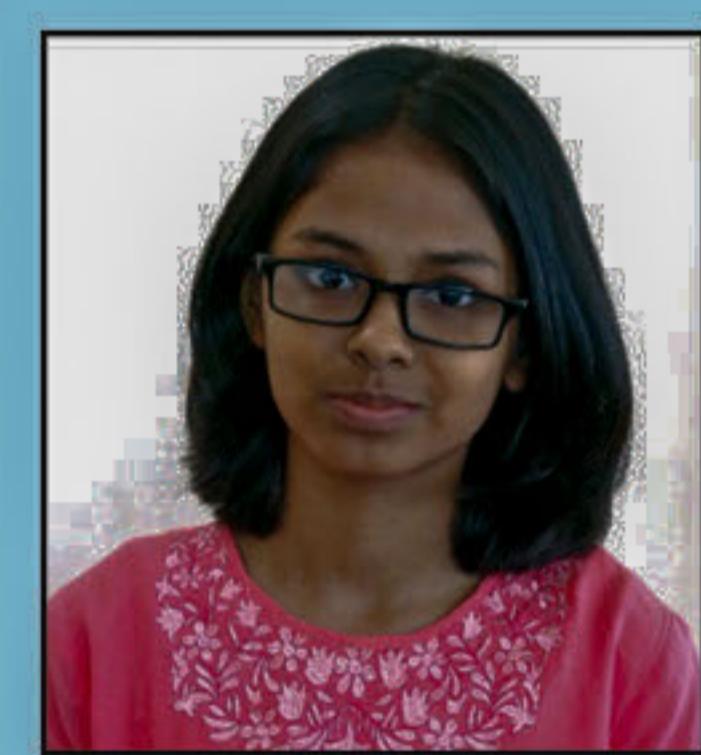
**Fauzia Fariha Anonna**

Age: 15 years  
Where have you come from? Cherag Ali, Tongi, Gazipur.  
Education: Class-10  
School/college name: Don Bosco School and College  
Hobbies: Listening to music and singing  
Who inspired you to come to this contest: My sister and my family members  
Favourite food: Junk food  
Favourite singer/musician: Manna De  
Favourite games: Action games



**Tasnim Binte Zahid**

Age: 15 years  
Where have you come from? Noddapara, Ashkona, Dhaka.  
Education: Class-10  
School/college name: Rajuk Uttara Model College  
Hobbies: Singing, dancing, playing Basketball, debate, photography, cycling, recitation  
Who inspired you to come to this contest: Mother  
Favourite Food: Italian foods  
Favourite Singer/musician: Chester Benington  
Favourite Games: Basketball, football, lawn tennis, Golf



**Jerin Ara Hafsa Neha**  
Age: 13 years  
Where have you come from? Uttara, Dhaka.  
Education: Standard-VIII  
School/college name: Don Bosco School & College  
Hobbies: Singing, drawing, playing musical instruments and photography  
Who inspired you to come to this contest: My whole family, specially my grandfather  
Favourite food: Pizza, sandwich, burger  
Favourite singer/musician: Elita, Nancy  
Favourite games: Outdoor games



**Marufa Jannat Trisha**  
Age: 18 years  
Where have you come from? Cox's Bazaar  
Education: HSC 2nd year  
School/college name: Cox's Bazaar Women's College  
Hobbies: Singing  
Who inspired you to come to this contest: Mother  
Favourite Food: Chicken  
Favourite Singer/musician: Lata Mangeshkar  
Favourite Games: Cricket



**Md Zahidul Hassan (Tonmoy)**  
Age: 15 years  
Where have you come from? Ibrahimpur, Dhaka  
Education: Class- IX  
School/college name: Adamjee Cantonment Public School  
Hobbies: Playing Guitar, Singing  
Who inspired you to come to this contest: It was basically me; and then my parents.  
Favourite Food: Pizza  
Favourite Singer/musician: Arijit Singh and Tahsan  
Favourite Games: Football



**Oindriza Reza Nodi**  
Age: 17 years  
Where have you come from? Mirpur Road, Dhaka.  
Education: Class-12 (A2)  
School/college name: Sir John Wilson School  
Hobbies: Watching YouTube, videos, singing, playing guitar, dancing, reading books, playing basketball  
Who inspired you to come to this contest: My Music teacher (Bob Vivian Cadet)  
Favourite food: Pizza, Coca-Cola  
Favourite singer/musician: Ed Sheeran  
Favourite games: My Talking Tom, Anime/RPG games.



**Projapoti Barua**  
Age: 13 years  
Where have you come from? Banani, Dhaka  
Education: Class-7  
School/college name: Sir John Wilson School  
Hobbies: Reading, writing, singing, internet browsing, learning languages  
Who inspired you to come to this contest: My Music teacher (Bob Vivian Cadet)  
Favourite food: Pizza, Coca-Cola  
Favourite singer/musician: Ed Sheeran  
Favourite games: My Talking Tom, Anime/RPG games.

### INITIATIVE

In a span of 30 years, from a pitiable inward-looking agricultural country, China has developed itself into a global manufacturing force, a powerhouse to be reckoned with. Its investing and producing at home and exporting to developed markets has promoted it to the world's second-largest economy. Currently facing a slowing economy at home, China's leader has found new methods and channels to maintain its desire for growth – using the Silk Road.

The Silk Road was a network of trade routes, formally established during the Han Dynasty. The use of the road had been initiated from Chang'an (now Xian) in the East and ended in the Mediterranean in the West, linking China to the Roman Empire. As China's silk was the chief trade product, German geographer Ferdinand von Richthofen named it the Silk Road in 1877. It was not just one road but rather a series of major



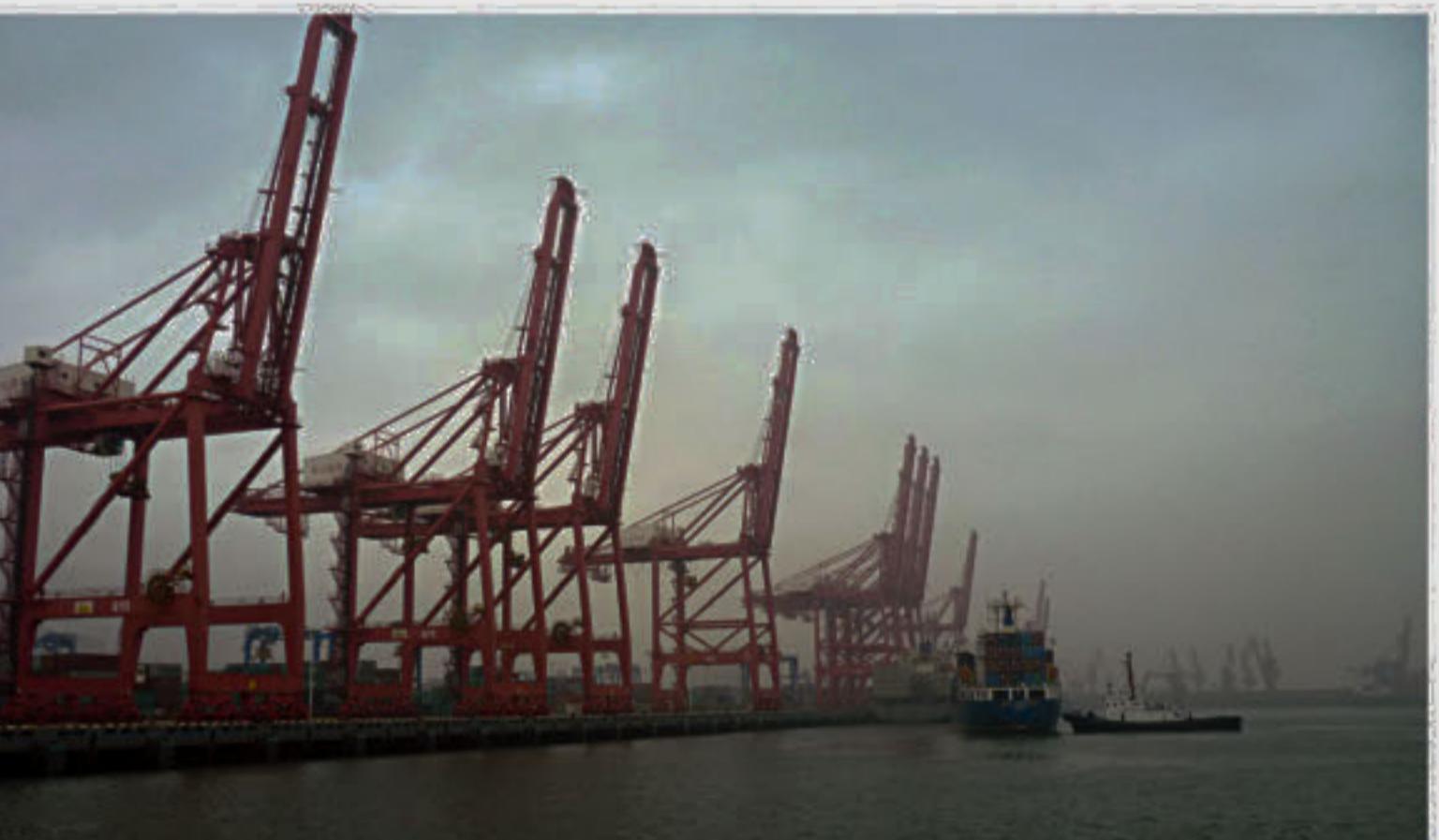
Development plans for Nanjing city.

## ONE BELT, ONE ROAD: DISCOVERING JIANGSU

NAZIBA BASHER

PHOTOS: NAZIBA BASHER

trade routes that helped in building trade and cultural relationships between China, India, Persia, Arabia, Greece, Rome and Mediterranean countries. It reached its potential during the Tang Dynasty, but was rejected in the Yuan dynasty, established by the Mongol Empire, as political powers along the route became more dispropotioned.



Taicang port



XCMG factory



Reporters from different countries.

Thailand for the Discover Jiangsu Trip. Located in the eastern coastal areas of the Chinese mainland, Jiangsu province has built a group of cities with its neighbouring Shanghai and Zhejiang provinces, situated at the intersecting point between the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road, Jiangsu province will play a very important role in the country's opening up and the Belt and Road Initiative.

Touring different cities in Jiangsu, namely Nanjing, Xuzhou, Lianyungang and Suzhou, the reporters were introduced to their development of economy, trade, culture and tourism within the province. It had successfully portrayed to the international community the importance of the role played by the Yangtze River Delta area.

Throughout the journey, the reporters noticed the remarkable ecological civilisation development and urban-rural combination, as they witnessed large, well-structured roads and fly-overs with clusters of trees planted almost at every corner having Nanjing city being known as the 'green city' of China. The province has also had triumphs in industry upgrading and transformation, as it is home to some of the biggest development industries like Suning Group in Nanjing city, XCMG in Xuzhou city, Jiangsu

Recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping put forth the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road initiatives in September and October 2013, while he was visiting Central and Southeast Asian countries. The Belt and Road Initiative has accentuated the development of a community of common interests and common destinies, based on win-win strategies and a principle of shared success. It is a blueprint of all-round advancement that will break the

borders of continents and oceans. The initiative involves more than 60 countries, representing a third of the world's total economy and more than half the global population.

As a part of the initiative, China Daily, the widest circulated English language newspaper in China, with financial support from the Chinese Government, invited 18 journalists from Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Philippines, Uzbekistan, Laos, Nepal and

Sierbang Petrochemical Project in Lianyungang city, and Hengtong group in Suzhou city, to name a few. The ports in Nanjing city and Lianyungang city can both boast to be powerhouses in the development of Jiangsu, and ultimately China- with Nanjing port reaching 191 million tons of cargo just in 2012 and Taicang port being the biggest port on the Yangtze river and Jiangsu province, and having the largest timber import in China.

Culturally also, Jiangsu has taken notable leaps as it now has three UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites and eight items on the world intangible cultural heritage list, including Zhouzheng Garden, the Imperial Tombs of the Ming Dynasty, Kunqu Opera and Yangzhou paper-cutting artworks. To have culture and history ingrained into the locals of the province, all public libraries, cultural centres and art galleries are open to all for free.

The One Belt One Road could have as much impact on China's internal economy as it will have internationally. China's top agenda is to rouse the domestic economy via exports from industries. With everything checked off the list and Jiangsu Province working in full-throttle, China's One Belt, One Road initiative can break bounds and assure many countries, including China itself, of mutual prosperity.