

# 13 make it through semi-finals

Now, they hold their breath over whether they'll be in the finals

## Rosmah did not buy ring, says jeweller



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**PETALING JAYA:** Public speaking can unsettle some people, even those who chat too much. But Kaberi Dutta gathered her nerves and became one of 13 participants who made it through the semi-finals of The Star-ESU Malaysia Public Speaking Competition 2013. Whether or not she'll be in the finals will be known later.

"My teacher put me on the spot when she said that I should enter the competition since I talk so much. I didn't know how to get out from that corner but I have had absolutely no regrets since joining," she said.

In her five-minute prepared speech, the Kolej Tuanku Ja'afar A-Level student talked about how schools stifled creativity in students via her given theme "Ideas Are Our Greatest Weapons".

Her schoolmate and fellow semi-finalist, Jeffrey Johan Adlan Disney,



Lucky 13: The 13 participants cheering after making it through.

spoke about how "ideas are double-edged swords", as they could backfire and have unintended consequences.

"I have been working late into the night non-stop for the past week or so to prepare for this session," he said. "I was nervous and I'm still nervous! I'm going to be on tenterhooks for the next week until the finalists are announced."

The semi-finalists would be short-listed for the finals based on their

performance at the semi-finals, which assessed the substance of their speech, style and technique, general effectiveness and the ability to answer questions from a panel of judges.

Teresa Mah, Seonaidh Chai, Jagdish Bhain, Hamidah Ibrahim and chief judge Sheela Joseph from English Speaking Union (ESU) Malaysia made up the panel for this leg of the competition.

The finalists would be announced

next week and the national finals would be held on April 27 here.

The winner would represent the nation at the international competition in London next month.

The Malaysian segment is jointly organised by *The Star* and ESU Malaysia, with PKT Logistics Group Sdn Bhd as the co-organiser.

For enquiries on the competition, contact 03-79671388 ext 1240/1237/1244.

**PETALING JAYA:** US-based fine jeweller Jacob & Co has issued a statement on a ring worth RM24.5mil that Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor denied purchasing.

In a 3.5 minute video posted by blogger Raja Petra Kamarudin on his *Malaysia-Today.net* site, Jacob & Co director Philip Nassimi said the 30.11-carat natural fancy blue grade cushion diamond ring valued at US\$8mil (RM24mil) was for viewing purposes by Maira Nazarbayev.

Nazarbayev is the mother of Daniyar Nazarbayev, who is the fiance of Rosmah's daughter Nooryana Najwa.

"The ring was not purchased by Madam Rosmah nor Maira Nazarbayev," he said in the video.

In showing a slew of documents, including the House Airway Bill and US Customs and Border Protection papers, Nassimi said the ring was shipped into Malaysia on April 15, 2011 and returned to the jeweller on May 13, 2011.

"It was shipped for exhibition and inspection purposes only, not for sale, to the attention of Maira Nazarbayev in care of Madam Rosmah Mansor," he said.

He said Rosmah's name was stated in the House Airway Bill because the rules stated that valuables have to be shipped in the care of a Malaysian and not a foreigner.

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