When Minds Clash

Khulna University Excels

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STEP over private universities. The real boys from the public universities are here to stake their claim.

After two months of progressively enticing action, the Battle of Minds (BoM) reached a crescendo with the final held at the magnificent Radisson Water Garden hotel in the outskirts of the city on January 24.

It was a venue worthy of the occasions as eminent personalities, teachers and the competing teams alike graced the occasion each hoping it was to be them who would be crowned champions at the end of the day.

But as the saying goes, when the going got tough, the tough got going.

Khulna University (KU), who had been in the shadows for much of the tournament, finally came to the fore, delivering an exemplary presentation on how to develop the shrimp industry in Khulna.

It was a performance that justifiably won them the title of champions and having been there or thereabouts for much of the time, it was a prize they justifiably deserved and one that they celebrated with a unique rendition of the (in) famous "who let the dogs out." One for the scrapbook, that one.

And that was just the tip of the iceberg for the public institutions.

Dhaka University's management guild (DUm) took second place meaning that the top two prizes went to the public institutions.

They were rewarded for their thorough research and good delivery about how to develop skilled labour for international markets and hence increase the flow of remittance in the country.

North South University (NSU), was the sole saving grace for the private institutions, their presentation on ways to develop the aviation industry handing them the consolation of a third place finish.

For the rest, a scrapheap dominated by renowned universities like the Independent University (IUB), BRAC and East West University (EWU) it was a bitter pill to swallow some took it well, while others pointed the finger at technical glitches that had disrupted their presentation.

One suspects that the sumptuous lunch would hardly have been considerable compensation for them.

To maintain a level of transparency, this final event was judged by three well-known personalities.

QM Shahed, representing BATB as head of their HR.