



The power to do more



NOTRE DAME TAKES HOME THE PRIZE FOR ROBO-CON

UIU hosts first robotics competition for colleges in Bangladesh

When we entered the new campus of United International University (UIU), the cavernous layer which is usually buzzing with students was quiet during the lazy Thursday afternoon. But the laziness in the atmosphere faded once we entered the room full of college students laboriously working on their computers and designing their robots for the first ever robotics competition for college students in Bangladesh. We visited the new campus near Badda to see what it was all about.

The competition took place on March 21 and 22, kicking off with workshops on coding, necessary to prepare for the competition. It showed the students how to make the robot using the software Scratch. The workshops were conducted by instructors from Villing Inc. and their sister company Venturas Ltd. who helped the students through the entire process of the competition. 11 teams with 5 members each from all across Dhaka were tasked to make their own simple line follower robot using what they learned



from the workshops. Once they had finished making their robots and designing the necessary codes, each of their creations had to fulfil the task of successfully travelling a black line track.

After tedious preparation and a tough competition from 10 other teams, 5 students from Notre Dame College, Md. Iftikhar Alam Omar, Saran Debnath, Al Mubin Khan Nabil, Al Imran and Argho Roy took home the first prize, winning

BDT 100,000 and a chance to go directly to the second round of GP Accelerator program. The prize was handed to them by the ICT minister Mustafa Jabbar.

We spoke to the founder and CEO of Venturas, Yoriko Ueda who expressed her delight regarding the contestants and the potential of Bangladeshi youth, "We wanted to help students here to become more acquainted with computer programming and to enhance their analyti-

cal ability, given where the rest of the world is headed today in terms of technological advancements. They have a lot of potential and the will to learn new things. We hope we can provide them with more opportunities like these."

Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, VC, UIU, told us how their expectations from the competition were fully met, "I was skeptical about whether or not they could learn how to code and make a robot in one day. But they surprised us all with the talent they showed and we hope to host more events like these in the future."

The two-day long competition, hosted by UIU was a collaborative initiative by UIU and Venturas Ltd., a Japanese educational technology company to help Bangladeshi college students enhance their knowledge of computer programming and IT. The event was also officially supported by Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), the competition is an important step towards making Bangladesh a digitally advanced country.

The closing ceremony included a heartfelt performance by a Japanese duo who sang Bengali and Japanese songs, while an auditorium full of young college students cheered and sang along. After this, the winners were awarded, bringing the event to a successful completion.

MOHUA MOULI

JUST IN

Walton launches new pendrives



Walton has introduced its new product, a range of 16GB and 32GB pendrives recently. The USB 2.0 and 3.0 compatible Walton pen drives support Windows, MAC and Linux operating systems. The USB 2.0 compatible 16GB Walton pen drives are priced at Tk. 650/- while USB 3.0 compatible portable storages will cost Tk. 850-1,000/-. Meanwhile, USB 2.0 compatible pen drives with 32GB capacity have a price tag between Tk. 1,000 to 1,050/- while the same capacity USB 3.0 compatible accessories will cost Tk. 1,450 to 1,500/-.

Prolink's new stylish mouse in the market

Tech Republic Limited (TRL) has brought a new series of Prolink PMW5005 wireless mouse with stylish designs in the market. This Prolink PMW5005 features a 1600DPI optical sensor and a nano USB receiver. The designs available are blast, crystal blue, confetti, futuristic and henna.

PRICE: Tk. 810/- with 3 years warranty facility

NexParc: A startup vowed to end your parking woes



Dhanmondi

Status: Available

Lake Circus Road, Dhaka, Dhaka Division, Bangladesh

Jan 10, 11:00 am - Jan 10, 02:00 pm

Hourly: ₳50

Book This Parking

Traffic, in Bangladesh, are mostly due to ill-managed congestions, poor road conditions and haphazard parking of cars in busy portions of the city. Most of the car-owners, due to lack of convenient parking spaces, has to resort to the streets. As a result, traffic congestion keeps on growing and the vehicle remains unattended unless you have a chauffeur.

To tackle this problem head on, NexParc, a startup with an app, has been working since 2016. During their initial research they found that parking related issues are mostly in Gulshan 1, Gulshan 2, Motijheel, Kakrail, Dhanmondi, Saat Moshjid Road, Panthopath, Mirpur 1, 2, & 10, Pallabi, Mohammadpur & Uttara. Once the problem areas were identified, NexParc started to work on the solution- an app where you can find your convenient parking spot. Garage owners can also rent out their empty parking spaces via the app. The founder of the app Md. Shahriar Khan informed that, using the app any user can opt for flexible or pre-scheduled parking spot. It can be rented for hours, day, week or even months depending on availability. The parking spots and users both are verified hence security is ensured all the way. And in case of any issue, NexParc has a 24x7 customer service, according to Shahriar.

TECH HAPPENING

UNICEF and Facebook join forces to make the digital world safer for children

Despite children's massive online presence, too little is done to protect them from the perils of the digital world and to increase their access to safe online content. UNICEF and Facebook have launched a year-long mass awareness campaign today. More than 10,000 students from 100+ schools, teachers, parents, key policy makers, industry leaders, top 50 internet products from ICT industry, and 2 million online visitors actively participated in the event which was organised at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

Novo Theatre with Mr. Zunaid Ahmed Palak, MP, State Minister of ICT Division as the chief guest for the opening ceremony and Architect Mr. Yeafesh Osman, MP, Minister of Science and Technology as the chief guest for the closing ceremony. The year-long campaign aims to reach altogether 25 million Bangladeshi children along with their parents and teachers to ensure Children's Internet Protection from 'Online Risks' by elaborating the issues related to children's well-being in this digital era.

GPAccelerator opens application round for 5th batch



Grameenphone Accelerator has opened the call for applications for the 5th batch of the program. The program, delivered in partnership with Startup Dhaka, invites tech based startups with a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) to apply through

www.grameenphoneaccelerator.com/apply until mid-night 7 April 2018. GPAccelerator is an innovation platform that offers a 4-month curriculum-based mentorship program through several international and local experts to help startups go to market. The selected startups receive USD 15,000 in seed funding each, around USD 11200 worth of Amazon web services credit (AWS), and office space in GPHouse. Veteran investors, industry experts and professionals help the startups with critical elements like term sheet, valuation, financial modelling to speed up their progress. The total value of all the support provided to each team is to be approximately Tk. 65 lacs.

TECH BITS
Tim Cook hits Facebook again over privacy concerns



Tesla voluntarily recalls 123,000 Model S vehicles



Uber has settled with the family of the homeless victim killed last week



Under Armour says MyFitnessPal data breach affected 150 million users



Facebook tries to prove it cares with 'Fighting Abuse @ Scale' conference

