

Battle of Minds 2021 kicks off

The most anticipated business case competition in the country, Battle of Minds (BOM) is back with its 18th edition. While this global competition was mostly virtual due to the pandemic last year, it brought about exciting new modalities, including an opportunity to secure seed funds for the global winners. Additionally, the competition opened up to include current university students and graduates and startups for the first time. This raises the scope for innovation and the stakes have never been higher to find the young leaders of tomorrow.

This year, Battle of Minds reached out to more than 18 universities across the country, hosting 10 Roadshows from 6th June to 10th June. The finest BAT managers packed the accelerating week with their experiences and stories. More than 1800 students participated in the Roadshow and the Virtual Lobby. Listening to BAT managers, many of them graduates of these universities, added a personal touch that expanded the students' enthusiasm.

Each team participating in this year's BOM will choose one of the challenge categories- Farming, Culture, Energy, and Waste. To help guide and further motivate them, BOM invited expert panellists to speak live on BAT's Global Careers page.

Amongst the reputed external speakers were Solaimon Alam Grameenphone CDSO, Sebastian Groh Founder of Solshare, and Fahad Ifaz CEO of iFarmer, just to name a few. The Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Dr Abdur Rouf alongside Dr Lutful Hassan vice-chancellor, Bangladesh Agricultural University expressed their enthusiasm for the next generation to fully utilize the Bangladeshi agricultural industry.

While their expertise ranged from farming to work culture, all the panellists agreed that the Bangladeshi youth have the scope to bring about innovative changes that will lead to a better, sustainable tomorrow and that Battle of Minds is the perfect talent development platform to help them to do so.

Over the next few weeks, teams will battle it out for the local championship and then represent Bangladesh in the global platform and 25 international teams.

Battle of Minds
ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE

Facebook tests alerting users to extremist posts

A Facebook test of pop-up boxes asking people whether they think friends are becoming extremists raised concerns Friday among US conservatives who felt their voices might be stifled.

Facebook spokesman Andy Stone said in a Twitter exchange that the alerts sprang from an initiative at the social network to combat violent extremism and dangerous organizations.

"Redirect Initiative" features are intended to route people using hate- or violence-related search terms toward resources, education or outreach groups aimed at more harmonious outcomes, according to Facebook.

For example, Facebook said that searches related to white supremacy in the United States get directed to a Life After Hate group that provides crisis intervention. Images of the alerts shared on Twitter showed messages asking whether users were worried someone they knew was becoming an extremist or if they had been exposed to extremist content.

People could opt to click on a link to "get support" or simply close the pop-up box. Virginia state politician Nicholas Freitas, a Republican, was among those who shared an image of the Facebook alert on Twitter.

"I have a real concern that some leftist technocrats are creating an Orwellian environment where people are being arbitrarily silenced or banned for saying something the 'thought police' doesn't like," Freitas said in the post. Facebook and other online platforms have been under pressure to stop the spread of misinformation and stops leading to real-world violence.

The social media giant recently



beefed up automated tools to assist group moderators striving to keep exchanges civil in a time of clashing viewpoints. Automated systems at Facebook check for posts in groups and news feeds that violate the platform's rules about what content is acceptable.

Facebook in June banned former US president Donald Trump for two years, saying he deserved the maximum punishment for violating platform rules over a deadly attack by his supporters on the US Capitol.

Trump was suspended from Facebook and Instagram after posting a video during the attack by his fired-up supporters challenging his election loss, in which he told them: "We love you, you're very special."

The punishment was effective from January 7, when Trump was booted off the social media giant, and came after Facebook's independent oversight board said the indefinite ban imposed initially should be reviewed.

"Given the gravity of the circumstances that led to Mr. Trump's suspension, we believe his actions constituted a severe violation of our rules which merit the highest penalty available under the new enforcement protocols," Facebook vice president of global affairs Nick Clegg said in a post.

Facebook also said it will no longer give politicians blanket immunity for deceptive or abusive content based on their comments being newsworthy.

EDITOR'S NOTE

From startups to radiology to Netflix: we got you covered

Choosing partners is important, especially if you are embarking on a startup journey. For this week's feature, we talk to successful entrepreneurs on the issue of finding the right co-founder for businesses.

This week, we also ponder on an interestingly unusual question. Can AI replace radiologists in their job? Check out page 7 to find out.

We also talk about the essentials before starting a podcast, alongside our regular tech and automobile updates. Lastly, we bring you a list of contents that you need to look out for on Netflix this month.

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Nissan pulls the plug on their Skyline badge

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After 64 years of having the same name badge starting from the first ever sedan from Nissan, it is arguably one of the most iconic and well recognized named cars from Nissan; starting from this year, they will be dropping the Skyline name from their existing models having the badge and overall, focus less on sedans as a whole to develop SUVs and fully electric vehicles also known as EVs.

The skyline name first ever appeared in 1957 on the Prince Motor Company (later to be named Nissan) ALSI-1 series sedan which was marketed as a luxury car at the time but the name mainly started to spread during the 1960s when the 2000GT, also known as the Hakosuka in



Japan, was introduced. The relatable boxy shape of the car with smooth flowing lines rendered the name more relevant. When the Kenmeri was introduced in the early 70s, it was popular right off the bat where it sold around 650,000 units and the more performance based Kenmeri GTR was introduced at the same time.

The Skyline had the GTR emblem

until the R34, which presumably is the most popular and favored GTR and is a holy grail for many enthusiasts. Nissan dropped the Skyline series chassis when the GTR R35 was introduced in 2007 and at that time, the Skyline badge would be used at the Infiniti division of Nissan where they produce relatively fast, luxury cars; most notably, the Infiniti Q50 had the badge.

As of 2021, due to declining of sales of the Infiniti Skylines, Nissan decided to remove the "Skyline" from the Infiniti Q series sedans, perhaps to protect the pedigree the badge has and decided to focus less on developing sedans and in developing better SUVs and Electric vehicles where they already unveiled the Nissan Ariya, which is a fully electric SUV.