


# Mr Speaker, I beg to differ.....

## Sparkle of Arguments: 1st UU Inter University Debating Championship 2007

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ARGUMENT, counter-argument, logic, silent round tension, socials, break night, grand dinner it almost seemed as if the World University Debating Championship (WUDC) is being hosted in Bangladesh! In the last few days people felt the heat of Worlds in our city. For the first time in Bangladesh, Uttara University (UU) hosted debating tournament solely based on World Universities Debating Championship format with all of its sparkling segments. 45 teams from 13 institutions participated in this ten day long event from 3 to 12 September 2007. Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka won the UU Bengali IV (Inter Varsity) title while Mastermind clinched on the UU English IV championship. East West University and Islamic University of Technology acquired the Runner's up title in Bengali and English IV respectively.

The tournament started on 3rd September with a lively and interactive briefing session on WUDC debating format conducted by prominent WUDC expert Mr Shameem Reza, Assistant Professor, University of Dhaka. Mr Reza in his briefing showed a copyrighted television video of a WUDC final and also clarified most of the arguments presented in that debate.

The main tournament was divided into two segments, UU Bengali IV and UU English IV where five common rounds were set for the Bengali and four for the English IV. Teams in those initial rounds competed with each other based on a WUDC practiced method - *Power Pairing*. In this method all the top teams in the point table compete with each other while lower teams are arranged to fight among them. Once a top team gets defeated, moves to the bottom portion of the table and in the next round they fight with the comparatively weaker teams that increases their chance to win and get back their position again in the elite part of the table.

Maintaining the tradition of worlds, last two rounds of each segment were silent. Result of these two rounds was suppressed from the participants as well as from the audience until the break night. Break night, one of the most exciting events of debating competition was introduced for the first time in university level debating in Bangladesh at Uttara University on 8 September 2007. Though last two years, Bangladesh Debating Council (BDC) in their Pre-World School Debating Championship arranged this event but in the university level it was the first occasion to have a break night.