The Bangla competition was based on the Parliamentary Format while the English one was in the World's Format. And the topics were of truly brain stirring, so to say. Examples of some of these topics are: '*Ekattur poroborti shomoye amader shongskriti jono shompriktota hariyechhe*' (In the post-1971 era, our culture has lost its touch with the mass), '*Bangaleer smritibhrom-I juddho oporadhider rajneetite punorbashito korechhe*' (It is Bangalee's loss of memory that has established the war criminals in politics), 'This House believes in cultural hegemony', 'This House should rewrite the rules', 'This House should identify religious hatred, not economic issues, as the root cause for conflicts' and so on.







In the Bangla debate contest, Dhaka University, IBA, Chittagong University, East West University, Stamford University, Islamic University of Technology, Jagannath University, Jahangirnagar University, Daffodil University, Eden College, and AIUB faced tough contests in four rounds (including quarter final and semi final) before AIUB-B and Stamford University met each other in the final. Eventually AIUB-B emerged champion defeating Stamford University in an exciting power-play on the topic "*Priye, holi khelar din noy oddo!*" (Sweetheart, this is not the time for merriment!).

The English debate contest, all through in the World's Format, witnessed equal thrill among teams from IBA, NSU, Islamic University of Technology, Jagannath University, Jahangirnagar University, East West University, Chittagong University, Stamford University and AIUB in similar four rounds (including quarter final and semi final). Ultimately the final was held between two teams from NSU as 'Government 1' & 'Government 2', and AIUB-B as 'Opposition 1' & IBA-A as 'Opposition 2'.

Topic? 'This House needs an Einstein'. Creativity at its peak, no doubt about that. NSU-A i.e. the 'Government 1' was the champion while AIUB-B, i.e. the 'Opposition 1' became the Runner up.

A newer role of the English department

Amid such exuberance of AIUB's debating culture, Dr. Charles C. Villanueva, the vibrant student-friendly Dean of Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, had his rightful assertions. Acknowledging the nourishment of debate club by the Business School faculties long back, he emphasized that it is time that oratory activities in the campus gained further momentum under the direct supervision of the English department.

'As the Dean I strongly feel that it is in the interest of AIUB community that English department must become the focal ground of creative and aesthetic modes of expressions comprising activities like Oration, Proclamation, Dramatic Monologues, Extemporaneous Speaking, Drama etc. I already have some unique plans to implement with the active support of all English faculties which will enhance our debating culture to a much more superior standard,' he said. 'See, what else does ARTS stand for other than aesthetics, creativity and culture?'

The final ceremony

Father Bakul S. Rozario CSC, Vice Principal & Debating Club Coordinator of Notre Dame College; Mr. Shamim Reza, ex-debater and now Faculty of DU's Mass Communication & Journalism department;