and Dr. Abdun Noor Tushar, debater and media personality, were among the dignitaries whose presence brightened the award-giving ceremony.

After the winner and runner-up teams received their crests, AIUB authority honored Father Bakul with a 'Special Acclamatory Award' for his relentless, outstanding contribution in the arena of College-level debate.

AOC's Mosaddek Hossain was given the 'Best Debater' award while AOC's Md. Rafiul Islam Rafel received the 'Award for Excellence'. AIUB's former national level debater Md. Farhaduzzaman was presented a 'Special Appreciation Award' for being the role model for today's debaters.

In the end, Vice Chancellor Dr. Carmen Z Lamagna heartily thanked the authorities of the schools and colleges for sending their promising debaters for the debate workshop. She expressed her gratitude not only to the faculties, officers and AOC members for their efforts, but also to all the national-level debate personalities and the media partners for their unique support.

Dr. Lamagna did not forget to add an interesting fact. This was indeed a rarity that the losing teams were seen accepting the verdicts without any sort of nagging or dissatisfaction. Right competition in the right spirit, everyone felt.

Warriors behind the curtain

It had to be a joint collaborative exertion of a good number of people working from the background without whom, nothing would have been possible.

Mr. Hasanul A Hasan, Founder & Vice President of HR & Treasury, generously continued his role as the chief patron behind the whole affair. Mrs. Nadia Anwar, Founder & Vice President of Student Affairs, supervised and monitored every proceeding and kept motivating the AOC members till the end.

Mr. Manzur H Khan, Coordinator of Student Affairs, was the person who singlehandedly managed the stage and interior decorations. Mr. Rasidul Islam Pallab, administrative executive, a former national debater, and an intimate associate of AOC, handled the complicacies of the event with professional ease. Mr. Ziarat Hossain Khan, faculty of BBA, smilingly underwent the toil of typing, proofreading and designing "Synthesis '08", the cute-looking brochure of the event.

However, especially noteworthy should be the unconditional labour of AOC boys and girls including Mosaddek, Mamun, Rafel, Himel, Sanveer, Sakib, Joney, Sajid, Ratul, Nancy, Muzahid, Akram, Nurhan, Naila, Fahmida and Suzana. Their love, passion and dedication toward debate have been commendable to the extreme.

Dr. Abdun Noor Tushar and Mr. Shamim Reza, two celebrated debating personalities, extended their cordial support all the time.

'teerhara ei dheu-er shagor pari debo re'

The ceremony was not to be complete without brief lively concert by AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC) members. As they started with the awesome number '*Teerhara ei dheu-er shagor pari debo re*', the crowd was already at its feet, ecstatically singing in chorus. An ideal song to begin with, Bidit Lal Dey whispered into my ears. He felt, it symbolized the potential of AIUB debaters to inch towards societal leadership crushing all obstacles that would come on the way. After all, it's better to initiate the "changes" with the power of words, with reasoning capability.I recalled William Drummond's saying, 'He who will not reason is a bigot, he who cannot reason is a fool, and he who dares not reason is a slave.'

Aah...! Who wants to be a slave? Surely one day all Bangladeshis will REASON, I prayed silently.

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