Musings about the Asians

Omar Khasru



THE big show, the 15th All Asian Intervarsity Debate, hosted by North South University (NSU), has ended. It was a gala of high quality and spirited parliamentary style debate, participated by 450 participants from a dozen countries. There was no major mishap or any tongue-biting faux pas. For a seminal event like this with logistical nightmare and organizational blunders waiting to emerge, it was actually quite smooth and well run.

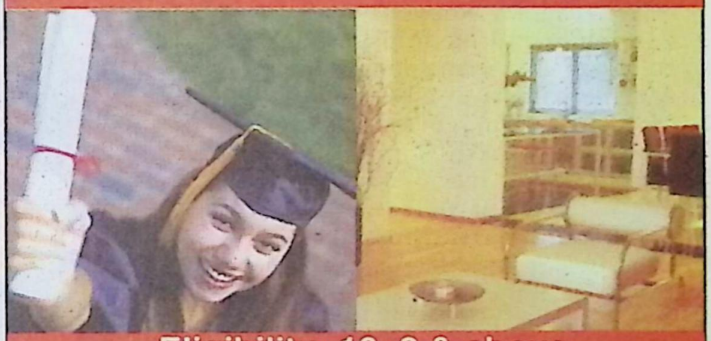
The debaters stayed at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, a significant event partner among a slew of such renowned helpful organizations. Thanks to the generosity of the hotel administration and the management acumen of the young NSU student organizers, they received the 5-star VIP treatment, both metaphorically and literally. Bangladeshi debaters were also offered the option to reside at the same hotel. Many availed of the opportunity of a weeklong fun, frill, frolic, fraternity and fellowship, with the all important debate as the focus, and national honor and institutional standing at stake.

But the event almost never took place. After the successful bid to organize the contest for the first time in Bangladesh as well as South Asia, NSU administration was having a second thought about the financial backing and managerial structure and ability to hold the pioneering event. The serious reservations prompted the contemplation to withdraw the bid.

On any inkling of doubts and trepidation, the diehard and persistent current and former members of the NSU Debate Club sprang into action with resolute 'can do' and 'never give up' stance and attitude.

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