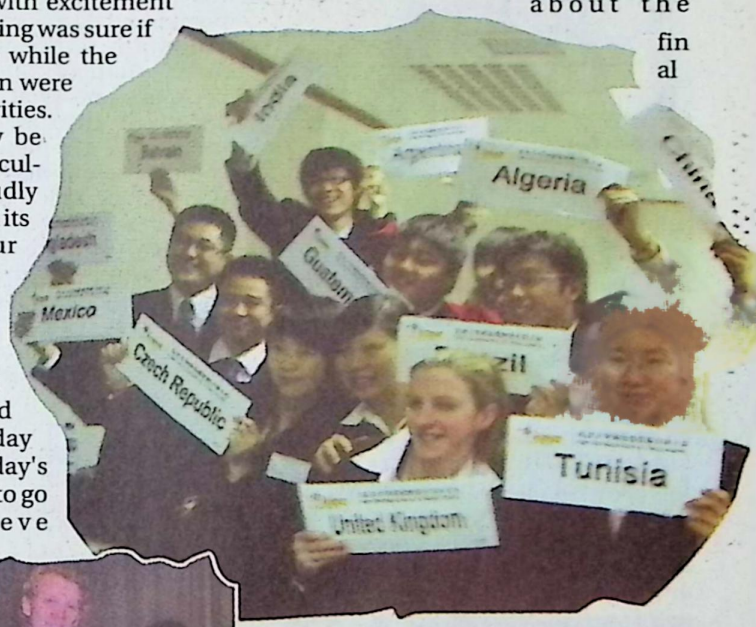
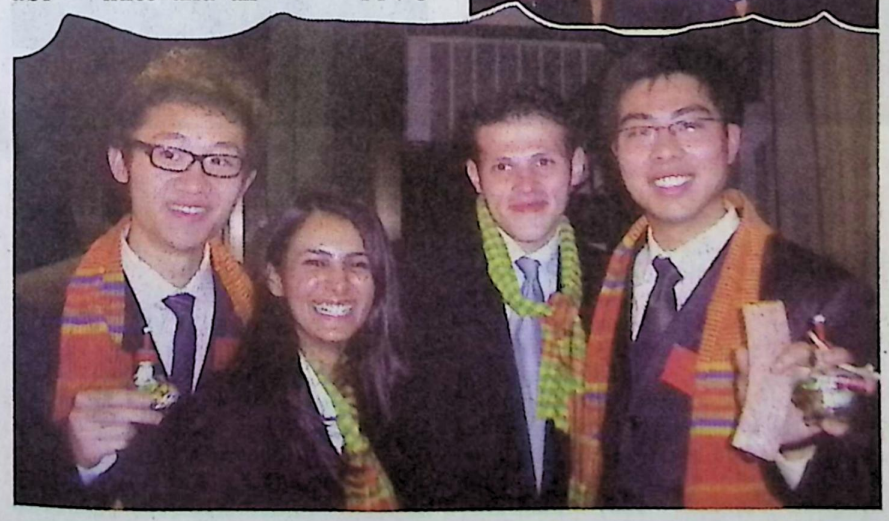
The initial shock and trauma of having a member down in such a close nit delegation only brought the team closer together. It was with good team spirits and morale that the next day eight members forged on in session. Resilience became the stand out quality of the team. Taking turns missing sessions to look after their sick member didn't stop each member from being integral if not a driving force in each of their committees working towards active diplomacy in reaching a resolution. Over and above having to attend committee sessions the Bangladesh delegation also had agreed to put on an impromptu cultural function at the International Night. One of the few international teams putting on a show, festivities were kicked off early during session that day as delegates were gifted ethnic Bangladeshi gifts, wooden flutes and 'gamchas'. It would also be the first night since one of their team member's illness that the entire team would be out together. Proud and confident the entire team made it to International Night happy to have the team together. What happened next was a mixture of exuberance and just not having enough time to contract stage fright. With little to no preparation Nafiz accompanied by myself and Nusrat sang "Mon Tore" a song by the band Bangla and hopefully not too badly. If that wasn't enough the female heavy team made use of their abilities and all five women on the delegation put on a little dance in sarees to the popular Habib song Krishno. Whether it was the singing and dancing or our costumes, sarees for the women and kurtas for the men that stole the show can't concretely be said but it was definitely met with excitement and awe. One thing was sure if only for a little while the entire delegation were run away celebrities. So it can safely be said that our culture was proudly identified for all its wonder, colour and uniqueness.

Having showcased other talents the team moved on the next day into the final day's session rearing to go and achieve everything they had set out to do. Set backs and excitement aside the real goal of reaching resolutions through diplomacy and constructive debates would be the real prize. The friendly non-competitive environment created by the organisers would bring about the final result resolutions which everyone had a say in and believed in not just from the perspectives of the countries they represented but also for themselves. Perhaps the greatest gain or lesson at the end of the day was at the UN system works if you want it to and if you are willing to use as an active means to solutions we need across the world. Indeed it can only be hoped that with the next generation of diplomats learning to cross barriers and cultures to bridge ideas and ideologies maybe the UN and the world can look forward to more effective and better diplomatic solutions.







It was with high spirits and possibly some of the same optimistic feeling for the future having made such good friends along the way that everyone entered the Presidents hall where it all began for it to finally end. The electricity in the air wasn't from competition rather camaraderie and genuine joy at seeing fellow delegates receive awards for their efforts.