Mutual Trust Bank - The Daily Star Debate Contest 2009

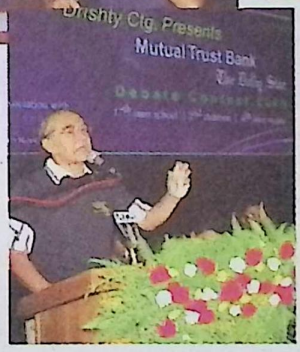
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THE debate competition held in Chittagong for the past 17 years has clearly reached a new height this year, featuring the 17th Inter-School, 2nd Children and 6th Inter Varsity Bengali Debate Championship, organized by Drishty Chittagong.

Preface to the War of Wits

The inter-school debate championship was introduced on the first year of the establishment of this annual tournament. This year, sixteen institutions attended the inter-school championships, with names including Chittagong Government High School, Chittagong Collegiate School, Silver Bells Girls' High School, Agrabad Girls' School, and City Government Girls' High School among others. The second Children debate was an addition to the contest since last year. Students from sixth standard and lower are the participants; from different schools, namely Chittagong Government High School, Silver Bells Girls' High School, and Agrabad Girls' School among others





Along with these institutions, eight teams from different universities from Dhaka and Chittagong attended the sixth Inter-Varsity championship.

The Workshop

Drishty Chittagong, conducted a workshop earlier this month on debating techniques and soft skills. It was conducted by prominent debaters from Chittagong at the RPATC auditorium, which was attended by all of the School participants. The model debate participated by Drishty members, to demonstrate the fun behind the strict rules of the parliamentary model of debate, was enjoyed by the participants.

Opening Day

Held at the Theatre Institute of Chittagong (TIC) auditorium, the debate competition was inaugurated by The Daily Star Editor, Mahfuz Anam. Special guests present at the ceremony were Resident Editor of The Daily Prothom Alo, Abul Momen, Chittagong District Commissioner, Farid Ahmed Chowdhury, Managing Director of Equity Property Management, Ltd. Dr. Kazi Aynul Hoque, and Mutual Trust Bank Executive, Nazrul Islam.





The opening day brimmed with young minds; 78 debaters in the inter-school and children categories roaming all over the two galleries where the debates were going on simultaneously. A total of 8 debates were held on Day 1 of the contest, starting with 'this house believes that (THBT) hang till death is not an acceptable punishment,' in the inter-school category, where the children's category debates started with the motion 'all educational institutions should ban physical punishments.'

Journey to the Finals

The initial round was followed by the quarterfinals on Day 3, held at RPATC auditorium, for both of the aforementioned categories, and was observed is the most festive of moods.