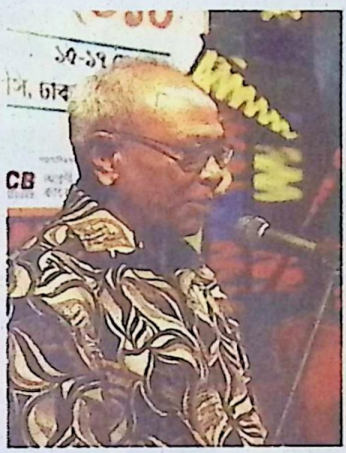
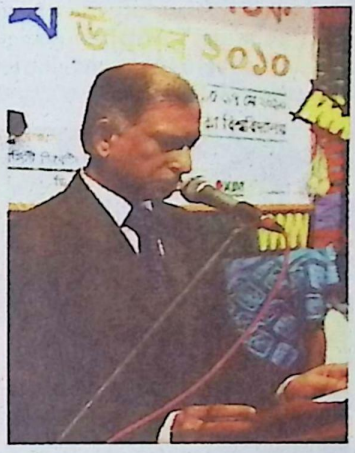
Dhaka University Debating Society, the central body of debate, with the continuation of its effort to promote debate in the national level, organised '*Janata Bank*' 4th National Debate Festival 2010 from 15 to 17 May. Debate competitions and festivals are now regular features in all parts of the country. But National Debate Festival organised by Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS) is a very special occasion for which debaters of the country wait with curiosity and eagerness. Undoubtedly it is the biggest and most prestigious debate gala in the country for which this time debaters had to wait for 6 years. The previous festival was arranged n 2004. The long awaited festival was the demand of time successfully met by DUDS.







Debaters from remote parts of the country started to gather in the DU campus from 14 May. It was a thrilling experience for many school and college students to stay in DU halls far away from their home. DUDS arranged accommodation for all the participants coming from outside Dhaka. In total more than 1700 people attended the festival, including students and teachers of more than 120 institutions, former debaters and organisers, intellectuals, media personalities, politicians and representatives of civil society.

The festival was launched with an inauguration ceremony attended by an exclusive panel of guests. Speaker of National Parliament, Abdul Hamid Advocate was the chief guest to inaugurate the 4th National Debate Festival. Panel of guests included the Vice Chancellor of University of Dhaka Dr. A A M S Arefin Siddique, Pro Vice Chancellor Dr. Harun Ar Rashid, Treasurer Dr. Mizanur Rahman, Moderator of DUDS Dr. Mahbuba Nasrin, Managing Editor of the Daily Shamokal Abu Sayeed Khan and Chairman of Janata Bank Dr. Abul Barakat. The ceremony was presided over by Al Amin Chowdhury Sumon, President of DUDS and anchored by Raqibul Islam, General Secretary of DUDS. The inauguration ceremony was followed by a grand rally that went around the campus with more than 1500 debaters and participants. Soon after lunch, the show began. The festival witnessed its first show debate with six debaters representing six different regions-Dhaka, Rangpur, Noakhali, Barishal, Chittagong and Sylhet, with their local dialects, struggling to prove that their region is the best. Then debates in Australs format, Conventional format, Jukti Bitorko and Planchet debate were staged on the very first day.

The second day started with a Barowari Debate by school, college and university debaters. The next part was a debate full of humor, titled "Rommo Bitorko". Workshop on British Parliamentary format was followed by an instant show of BP format debate. Teachers - Students debate was an interesting one with disciples arguing against teachers which is not a very common scene in our educational institutions. The evening became colourful with a cultural programme with the participation of professional artistes as well as debaters. Debaters, the artists of logic, proved that they can also sing, dance, recite and act very well. After two long days of model debates and workshops, the cultural evening was a great chance of relief for the participants. The third day commenced with the most attractive debate form, parliamentary debate. Six best debaters of Dhaka University represented their generations to stage a thrilling show of parliamentary debate. The audience was amazed with the logic and counter logic presented by the debaters. After the lunch session, Srishti-Sroshta Bitorko was staged.