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PHOTO: STAR

DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz speaks at the inaugural ceremony of The Daily Star 4th Inter Hall English, 7th Inter Hall Bangla Debate and 2nd Inter University Public Speaking Competition 2007 at Teacher-Student Centre yesterday.

## The Daily Star INTER HALL ENGLISH DEBATE OPENS 'Debate helps bring positive changes to people's mind'

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Debate is a form of art which possesses enormous power to bring positive changes to people's mind, attitude and interaction with others, said speakers at the inaugural ceremony of a debate competition in the city yesterday.

The three-day-long The Daily Star 4th Inter Hall English Debate Championship, the 7th Inter Hall Bangla Debate Competition and 2nd Inter University Public Speaking Competition 2007 were formally inaugurated at the auditorium of the Teachers Students Centre of Dhaka University (DU).

DU Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz was present as chief guest at the inaugural function which was also attended by Pro-Vice-chancellor AFM Yusuf Haider,

Moderator of DUDS Prof Atiqur Rahman and Editor and Publisher of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam.

"We are still lagging behind due to lack of English knowledge and expertise," said Prof Faiz.

He said the English debate can play an important role in overcoming the barriers in speaking English.

"Debate helps participants to be self-confident and achieve success in life," said Prof Haider.

He said in the present knowledge-based industrial society, English debate should be encouraged like Bangla debate to increase the power of logic.

"If we can take the culture of debate by heart, it is sure that massive changes will take place in our personality gradually," said Mahfuz Anam.

He said, "We all need to think

and speak rationally on the basis of right information and debate can play an important role in this regard."

Organised by Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS), all the competitions begin simultaneously from today.

A total of 16 Bangla and English debating clubs of Dhaka University will participate in the debate competition while 20 public and private universities will take part in the Public Speaking Competition.

The competitions will be held at Munir Chowdhury Conference Room of the Teachers Students Centre (TSC) and DUDS Room from 9:30am to 6:30pm.

The prize distribution ceremony of the competitions will be held at TSC auditorium on Monday at 5:30pm.