Conference at the American Centre

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"Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul. Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal." Some faces with such belief were found at a conference arranged by The American Centre, for the students who are willing to do their graduation at the American universities.

The American Centre on and off holds such conferences and seminars for students with big dreams to go to America and try out their luck in the field of higher education. The American Centre, the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy of the United States of America, Dhaka (formerly USIS), seeks to promote improved mutual understanding between the United States and Bangladesh and to provide free and open access to information about the U.S. to Bangladeshis. Different State Universities sends their delicates to different countries to brief on their admission process which one can also get online. But for personal counselling they answer questions in person.

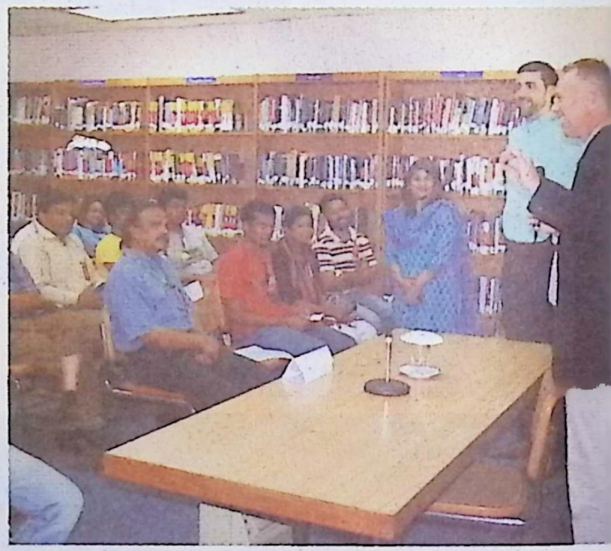
One such conference was held lately where Gregory Roberts, the Dean of Admission Department from the University of Virginia was present, to answer questions for the undergraduate students. Many questions were asked by the students regarding their O/A level grades, school transcript, financial aid, different tests such as SAT, IELTS, GRE, GMAT that they need to take, when to apply for the universities etc. Mr. Gregory said, "University of Virginia specifically does not provide any financial aid for international students. But in some Cases if the student portfolio fulfills our expectations then we may sometimes offer the aid. Well that is a rare occasion."

The university mainly demands the academic background of the student along with some essays, which have to be written to describe particularly the students' lifestyle. For any queries regarding the University Of Virginia and its courses, mail can be sent to Mr. Park Muth at ppm@virginia.edu. or Google for their link.

The Daily Star spoke to few students who are willing to apply for graduation programs in many different universities at U.S.A, one of them said, "It's a great opportunity that we are getting. Speaking to the representatives themselves is like a big help. That makes things quite easier for us to deal with. It is a very good initiative of the American Centre."

Another student said, "I was totally into wrong ideas about universities abroad. I am glad that I have cleared up my confusions."

The American centre has some more seminars coming up next month for the undergraduates. Besides, every Monday from 3:00-4:00pm, a counselling session is held at the centre to help out the undergraduate students and on Tuesday from 3:00-4:00 pm the session continues for the graduates.



The American centre provides 3 types of membership for their members currently. The Daily membership is available at tk.50, monthly membership at tk.200 and yearly membership at tk.500. The advantage of having a membership card is that it allows you to access to the American Centre Library, computer lab and gives an opportunity of individual counselling. For the students who cannot to make it to the Dhaka centre are free to chat with the counsellors online every Thursday from 11:00am-12:00pm.

Ishrat Jahan, the education outreach coordinator of the American centre says, 'Its not that we are only providing counselling for graduation or post graduations but we also go to schools to see individual progress if somebody contacts with us. We also help undergraduates to try out the mock tests which help them to gain self-confidence.'