

On Board to Pursue their Goals

Pre-Departure Orientation 2018 at the American Center

RASMIA RAHMAN AMREEN

The United States Embassy Dhaka organised a debriefing session for those Bangladeshi students who are heading for the United States of America to pursue higher studies this Fall. The programme was conducted at the American Center on July 19, 2018. The US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat attended the session by EducationUSA. She partook by sharing her reflection and thoughts with the student attendees regarding the journey they are about to make.

According to their website, EducationUSA is a US Department of State network of over 425 international student advising centres in more than 175 countries. By providing accurate, comprehensive and current information on all accredited US higher education institutions, EducationUSA assists students applying to these universities.

Besides guiding students through the application procedure and holding informative seminars weekly, the centre also provides individual student counseling sessions by experts.

The Pre-Departure Orientation 2018 programme saw a gathering of excited faces and vibrant youths; students who await to move to a new country and take on the challenge. While the Cultural Affairs Officer was seen talking about the whole experience of moving to the USA for a higher degree and settling in, the young students paid full attention to his



US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat photographed with the student attendees and EducationUSA team

PHOTO: PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION, US EMBASSY, DHAKA

guidelines. Also, these undergraduate, masters and PhD pursuing students were asked questions on the USA. Those who could answer correctly were given prizes.

In her speech, the US Ambassador Marcia Bernicat mentioned that for the first time, Bangladesh ranked amongst the top 25 countries to send students to US colleges and universities. Also, Bangladesh ranks 9th in the world for the number of graduate students attending US colleges and universities.

She shared three important perspectives

– to always remember that education is a form of privilege as well as a responsibility; to be mindful that they are the cultural ambassadors of Bangladesh and should always represent the best; and to stay connected to the EducationUSA team members to receive guidance throughout the next few years as they complete their degrees.

Later on, five students studying in the USA took questions from the student attendees and spoke about their experiences-- how to cope with culture shock,

developing leadership skills, managing transport facilities, dealing with different visa issues and qualifying for a job or an internship, and more.

Towards the end of this informative session, a presentation by the representative of Teach for Bangladesh helped the students achieve a perspective of the journey they were about to make.

Finally, the two and a half hour session ended with a slideshow, featuring students in the USA who sent warm welcome messages to the future Bangladesh students.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Distant dreams becoming reality

SHABABA IQBAL

Yakutsk International Science Fair is an international competition of research works of students from Russia and other countries of the world. This year, 18-year olds Audri Priyom Bhowmik, Mashrur Ahmed Tusher and Shihab Sharar from Saint Joseph High and Secondary School, Dhaka, took home the bronze medals in this competition.

The three brilliant minds stayed in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) from July 8 to 15 for the competition. They described their stay as a fulfilling experience. "Getting to socialise with people from different backgrounds was the most rewarding part. Initially, we were intimidated to compete with people who have come up with such high-grade research projects, but it gave us a proper challenge to tackle," says Bhowmik.

Their project in the science fair was titled, "Efficient Removal of Cadmium from Water Using Magnetic Resonance and Algae Adsorption." Cadmium is a naturally occurring toxic heavy metal with common exposure in industrial workplaces, plant soils, and from smoking. Cadmium can enter water through industrial discharges, waste disposals and spills and leaching from hazardous waste sites or certain fertilisers. "African countries are seeing a rise in Cadmium levels in water, which is a chief source of life. We intended to come up with feasible and effective solutions for third-world countries so that we can bring down cadmium poisoning close to zero," explains Bhowmik, when asked what motivated them to conceive this project.

The three of them composed their own research paper as well as PowerPoint and poster presentations for the competition. They also went through tough rounds of questions and answers to defend their points.

In the midst of this competitive atmosphere, they also went on a cruise on the Lena River and attended interesting master classes led by foreign guests. "I think this programme really broadened our perspectives, furthered our interest in contests, and made us see that we can in fact turn our distant dreams into reality," says Sharar.

For the three of them, the most significant point of pride was being able to represent Bangladesh on international grounds. "We carried our national flag with us when we were called on to the stage. We've been born and brought up in Bangladesh so this was our way of giving back to the country. We hope the next generation of youngsters get inspired to do bigger and better things," asserts Bhowmik.

Envisioning a better society for the youth and women

AFSANA AZIZ NITOL

A significant percentage of the population of Bangladesh consists of youth and women, and without the inclusion of more than half of its citizen, a country cannot progress. In order to empower the youth and women in strengthening the country's development, Tanjila Mazumder Drishti, a social activist from Bangladesh, has been organising and coordinating social development projects focusing on youth and women for the past seven years.

Drishti, currently pursuing her Masters degree in Globalisation, Business and Development at IDS, University of Sussex, thinks by empowering women, we shape a pathway for an entire household to move out of poverty. "It is more than just empowering an individual. Patriarchy will slowly and steadily be won against at the grassroots level by empowering the women of the family," says Drishti.

Along with women, it is essential to inculcate the future of the country - the youth, and since 2011 Drishti has been persistently working to run appropriate youth development initiatives to produce young leaders, who acquire more than merely marketable skills. In 2014, due to her work, Drishti was chosen to lead Noble Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus's Youth Delegation to One Young World Summit 2014.

Representing Bangladesh in various international summit and the Commonwealth, Drishti believes that we, Bangladeshis, come across as a resilient group of people, which is why we have the potential to fight crisis including child marriage, unemployment, refugee crisis etc. Drishti, who is a Bangladeshi herself, and her never die spirit created opportunity for 35 talented female garment workers out of more than 2000 garment workers to pursue higher education under AIUW Support Foundation's women empowerment project, 'Pathway for Promise'. When Drishti was interviewing the



PHOTO: COURTESY

workers, one particular woman named Sabina Yasmin, stole her heart with her answer on why she should be selected for the programme. Yasmin said, "If you give me opportunity, I will study and make sure I work for the sisters in my garment." This inspired Drishti to work with those who have faced the struggle and know the sector better. Yasmin has completed first year of her bachelor education now and is in the process of launching her own menstrual health awareness campaigns for female RMG workers.

People, whom we are working for, should be working with us to help us understand their narratives and come up with better solutions. However, from Drishti's experience, she has seen that these people's voices are hardly incorporated in the city plan. Drishti worked as the youngest regional manager of BRAC in 2015, leading regional operations of the Urban Development Programme. According to Drishti, in order to mobilise young people and women in urban slum areas, we have to make the urban poor people an active part of the urban governance.

To know in full about Tanjila Mazumder Drishti's journey and work, visit www.thedailystar.net/star-youth

Sharif Adibur Rahman An Arithmetic Champion



PHOTO: COURTESY

YOUTH DESK

Sharif Adibur Rahman, an eighth grader of European Standard School, became the Grand Champion at the Aloha Mental Arithmetic International Competition 2018, held at the World Trade Center in Moscow on July 22.

He was also the first runner-up at the International Arithmetic Competition in 2015, 2016 and 2017, held in Manila, Yogyakarta, and Kualalumpur respectively. Every year nearly 50,000 students from 35 countries including Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, China, Philippines, Australia, United State of America, United Kingdom, Canada, Spain, Germany, Portugal, Croatia, Mexico, Peru, Ecuador, Russia and other nations participate in this competition.



www.youthop.com

Youth Opportunities

Future Leader Congress 2018 at UN, Thailand

With the grand theme "Becoming the Next Leader in the 21st Century", FLC 2018 offers enlightening conference attended by renowned international speakers in United Nations Young Leaders, exciting cultural exchange sessions and a comprehensive discussion on diplomatic skills that emphasises on future leader qualities.

Deadline: July 30, 2018 | Conference

Macedonian Government Undergraduate International Scholarships 2018

Scholarships are available to candidates who wish to pursue undergraduate studies in Faculty of Communication Networks and Security (CNS); Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE); Faculty of Information Systems, Visualization, Multimedia and Animation (ISVMA); Faculty of Information and Communication Science (ICS); Study Program of Digital Business Informatics (DBI); Faculty of Applied IT, Machine Intelligence and Robotics (AITMIR); and Study Program of E-Government, E-Business and E-Culture.

Deadline: July 31, 2018 | Scholarship

Vacancy at Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) 2018

Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) has 5 vacancies for 3 posts of Senior Principal Engineer, Engineer, Assistant Engineer at the Rajshahi, Joypurhat and Chattoagram districts. Interested candidates with engineering background and who meet given requirements can apply.

Deadline: July 31, 2018 | Miscellaneous

EXPERIENCE CARE CLOSE TO HOME

FALL 2018 ADMISSION
TEST ON AUGUST 17, 2018

APPLY ONLINE admission.uiu.ac.bd

FREE Shuttle service available from Notun Bazar to UIU Campus

Why you will choose UIU

- Largest green campus in Dhaka city
- Strong faculty line up with 35 full time Ph.D faculties
- Regular student exchange program with foreign universities
- Incubation center and research funding for promoting research and entrepreneurship
- Strong career counseling center for internship and job placement
- Exposure to state of the art cutting edge technology
- Flexible payment system
- 1 in 5 gets 25% to 100% scholarship based on trimester results

UNITED INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

IEB ACCREDITATION Ranked 'Good' in all Engineering Programs

CIMA ACCREDITATION for BBA in AIS Program

PLEASE VISIT US BEFORE TAKING ANY DECISION...

UIU Campus, United City, Plot # 02, Madani Avenue, Badda, Dhaka - 1212; ☎ 09604-848 848(Ext-1301-4), 01759039451, 01759039465, 01914001740