

# Civics and Citizenship

Classes 9-10



NATIONAL CURRICULUM & TEXTBOOK BOARD, DHAKA

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# **Civics and Citizenship**

## **Class Nine-Ten**

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## PREFACE

Education is the pre-requisite for the holistic development in our national life. To cope with the challenges of the fast changing world and to lead Bangladesh to the doorstep of development and prosperity, a well educated and skilled population is needed. In order to build up a nation imbued with the spirit of the Language Movement and our Liberation War, the secondary education aims at flourishing the talents and prospects inherent in the learners. Besides, the other aims also include expansion and consolidation of the basic knowledge and skills of the learners acquired at the primary level in order to make them fit for entry into higher education.

The aims of secondary education further emphasise on developing these learners as skilled and competent citizens of the country through the process of acquiring knowledge at the backdrop of socio-economic, cultural and environmental settings.

Keeping the aims and objectives of National Education Policy 2010 ahead, the curriculum at the secondary level has been revised. In the revised curriculum the national aims, objectives and contemporary needs have been reflected. Along with these expected learning outcomes have been determined based on the learner's age, merit and level of acquisition. Besides, efforts have been made to raise, starting from the level of moral and humanistic values down to awareness on history and tradition, the spirit of the Liberation War, passion for art-culture and literature, patriotism, feelings for nature and equal dignity to all irrespective of religions, caste, creed and sex. Efforts have also been made to apply science in all spheres of our life in order to build a nation advanced in science. Attempts are also there to make the learner capable of implementing the goals envisioned in Digital Bangladesh-2021.

In the light of the present curriculum almost all the textbooks at the secondary level have been introduced. While introducing the textbooks, the capacity, aptitude and prior knowledge of the learners have been taken into utmost consideration. While selecting the contexts and their presentation special attention has been given on the expansion of the learner's creative faculty. Adding learning outcomes at the beginning of each chapter, hints about the achievable knowledge of the learners have been given. By adding variety of activities, creative and other questions evaluation has also been made creative.

Civics and Citizenship is an important subject in the modern world. Knowing the subject, one will achieve the qualities of a good citizen and contribute to build the nation. This knowledge will engage the student in self-employment and thus will help him to contribute to the political, social and economic development. As per the new curriculum, the book Civics and Citizenship is composed to make it suitable for the present world. The appropriate history and consciousness of the liberation war is perfectly reflected here. It is hoped that the book will help the student to be a modern man.

Considering the challenges and commitments of 21st century and following the revised curriculum the textbook has been written. Therefore we welcome with our highest consideration any suggestions, both constructive and rationale as well for the further improvement of the book. Amidst huge activities needed for introducing a textbook, this one has been written within a very short span of time frame. We will continue our effort to make the next edition of this book more beautiful, decent and free from any types of errors.

We appreciate the endeavours of those who assisted very sincerely with their merit and hard work in the process of writing, translating, editing, illustration, introducing sample questions and printing of the book. We hope the book will ensure joyful reading and achievement of expected skills from the learners.

**Prof. Md. Mostafa Kamaluddin**

Chairman

National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Dhaka.

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# Chapter One

## Civics and Citizenship

Civics is called the science of citizenship, because all matters relating to citizenship are discussed in Civics. As a citizen of the state, we all need to have a clear conception about Civics. In this chapter, different aspects of Civics and Citizenship such as family, society, State, the origin of the state and government have been discussed.

### **On completion of studying this chapter we would be able-**

- To explain notions about Civics and Citizenship.
- To explain the importance of studying Civics.
- To explain the notions of family, society, the state and government.
- To describe the origin of the state.
- To analyze the relationships amongst family, society, the state and government.

### **Civics and Citizenship**

Civics is an English word. It derives from two Latin words: Civis and Civitas. The word Civis means citizen and Civitas means city-state. In the ancient Greece, citizen and city-state were inseparable. At that time city-state comprised of small regions. Those who had directly participated in state functions, they were called citizens. As only the male had enjoyed the privilege of participation, they, therefore, were called as real citizens. Slaves, women and foreigners had no privilege of enjoying citizenship. The subject-matters of Civics were included all these citizens' behaviour and functions.

At present the notion of citizen has changed with the rise of large-scale nation states. For example, the area of Bangladesh is 1,47,570 sq. kilometers and the total population is nearly 150 million. We are all Bangladeshi citizen. Besides enjoying citizenship rights, we perform responsibilities and duties to the state. However, those, amongst us, are under 18 years of age they can not cast their votes and do not the right to be elected. In addition, foreigners have no privileges for enjoying all kinds of political rights. For instance, neither can they vote nor stand for election. Essentially, the status accorded to the citizens by the state is called citizenship. Everything related to citizenship and state is subject-matter of 'Civics and Citizenship'. British political scientist, E. M. White therefore, rightly said that Civics is such a valuable branch of knowledge which deals with the past, present and future of citizenship along with its local, national and international dimensions of humanity.

In the light of subject-matters, the discussion on Civics can be done in two senses. First, broadly Civics discusses everything related to citizenship. For example, it includes rights and duties, social and political institutions, local, national and international dimensions of citizenship. Add to this Civics also discusses about the present, past and future of citizenship. In the narrow perspective, the subjects of Civics include rights and duties.

So it can be said that the subject which imparts knowledge about ideal citizenship by continued discussions of the behaviours and functions of citizen, family, society and the state is called 'Civics and Citizenship'.

**Individual work:** Make a comparison between ancient and modern conceptions of Civics and Citizenship.

### Scope of Civics and Citizenship

The scope of the subject-matter of Civics and Citizenship is wide and comprehensive. We are going to discuss about it below:

1. **Citizens' Rights and Duties:** Just as citizens of the state we enjoy state-given fundamental social, political and economic rights, so do we have to perform responsibilities and duties to the State. For example, expressing allegiance to the state, to abide by laws, to pay tax at the right time, to educate children, serving the state and casting votes with honesty and so on. The rights and duties of a citizen are the subject matter of 'Civics and Citizenship.' Moreover, the characteristics of good citizenship, barriers of earning it and the ways to remove the barriers are discussed in 'Civics and Citizenship.'
2. **Social and Political Institutions:** Social and political institutions have been raised in order to develop and enrich citizens' lives. For example, family, society, the state, election and political party and the like. The origin, nature and functions of these institutions are also discussed in Civics and Citizenship. Besides the subject matters of Civics and Citizenship also consist of social values, law, liberty and equality, constitution and public opinion.
3. **Local, National and International dimensions of citizenship:** The place where we live in, various local institutions have been developed centering us. These institutions are as follows: Union Parishad, Pourashava and City Corporations. In the similar fashion, legislature, executive and judiciary have been in existence at the national level. The UN and the Commonwealth are international institutions. Civics and Citizenship deals with the structure and functions of these institutions and their relationships with citizens.
4. **Past, Present and Future of Citizenship:** In its remit of the discussion, Civics and Citizenship focuses on the past, present and future of citizenship. For instance, how citizenship were determined in the past, how citizens' rights and duties were in the past and what the present status of citizens is. With these three questions in perspective, Civics and Citizenship lay the guidelines for citizenship in the future.

**Team work:** Discuss the importance of studying 'Civics and Citizenship' within the team, then present it in the class.

## Family

When husband and wife live together after socially recognized system of marriage, this is called family. In other words, the organization which grows through marriage between one or more than one males and females including their children, parents and other members is called family. According to McIver, family is the small social unit gives birth children and raises them is called family. In our country, generally family comprises mother-father, brother-sister, uncle-aunt and grandfather-grandmother. But only one female or one male is not recognized as family. Essentially, family is a social unit in which its members are tied each other with the bondages of affection, attachment and love.

## Classification of Family

We all live in the family. But the nature and structure of families vary. Therefore, family can be classified based on some principles. For instance, a. lineage count and leadership; b. family structure and c. marital status.

- a. Lineage count and Leadership:** Family can be divided into two parts based on this principle, such as patriarchal and matriarchal. In the patriarchal families, posterity is known identified in line will father's lineage and father lead that family. Most of the families in our country are of this type. On the contrary, posterity is identified with the lineage of mother and mother takes the lead in that family. This type of family exists amongst Garos in our country.
- b. Family structure:** Family can also be classified into two parts according to the structure. These are: unitary and joint family. Unitary family consists of mother-father and brother-sisters. These families are small in size. In the joint families, father-mother, brother-sister, uncle-aunt and other members live together. Joint families are large families. Both types of families are seen in Bangladesh. However, at present the number of unitary families is on the rise. Joint family consists of a number of unitary families.
- c. Marital status:** Three types of families are noticed according to the principle of marriage. These are: monogamous family, polygamous and polyandry. In the polygamous family, one husband has one woman. In the mogamous family, one husband has several wives. Likewise, in the polyandry, one wife has many husbands. In our society, most of the families are single, yet there are exceptions of polygamous families. Polyandry families are not seen in Bangladesh.



<b>Individual work:</b> Students will fill in the table below.	
Principles/basis	Name of families
1. Lineage count and leadership	1. 2.
2. Shape or structure	1. 2.
3. Marital status	1. 2. 3.

### **Functions of family:**

Family performs manifold functions to make its members' lives beautiful and safe. Generally, family does the functions, such as:

**1. Biological functions:** We are born due to our parents and raised by them. So one of the main functions of a family is to give birth the children and raise them accordingly. These kinds of functions are called biological functions.

**2. Educative function:** Many of us learn alphabets we come to be familiar with before we go into school. Family provides the first opportunity to instill values in its members such as honesty, good behaviour, kindness and punctuality in its members. These are educative functions of a family. Thus the children in the family receive their primary education in the family. Therefore, family is called the eternal school or the first school of life.

**3. Economic functions:** A family has to meet the demands of its members such as food, clothing, shelter, education, medical treatment and the like. These demands are met with income earned by family members. The economic functions carried out centering family include handicrafts, fishing, agriculture, animal husbandary. The spheres of functions of a family have in many instances changed due to splendid progress in science and technology. In some spheres, it has been abated. However, family still meets the needs of its members.

**4. Political functions:** In a family, father-mother and elder brother-sister acts as guardians. We obey their guidance. They play their role to protect our rights. They do inculcate us intelligence, conscience and self-control to be good citizens. This education becomes worthy at later stage in the affairs of the state. The children in a family thereby receive political education by obeying family education and rules. Besides, we become politically conscious by listening to and taking part in discussions by elders in the family.

**5. Psychological functions:** Family fulfills the psychological needs of its members by giving them love, affection and kind behaviour. By sharing weal and woes, happiness and sadness with other members in the family, the members get solace. Say, if anyone gets upset for some reasons, it can be sorted out through discussions amongst parents and brothers and sisters. This sort of discussion helps wipe out mental agony. Besides children learn kindness, tolerance, and fellow-feeling from family. These enrich mental strength.

**6. Entertainment functions:** By having a chat, sharing jokes, singing songs, watching TV, going outings, family members enjoy their time. Though due to progress in science and technology, these kinds of functions have been somewhat reduced, however, to ensure the maximum welfare of the family members, the importance of these functions is enormous.

<b>Work:</b> Student will prepare a list of different types of functions of a family.	
Spheres of family functions	Description/examples of functions
1. Biological function	
2. Educative function	
3. Economic function	
4. Political function	
5. Psychological function	
6. Entertainment function	

## Society

Society is understood as an organized population get together to fulfill any common purposes. In other words, when a group of people is organized for fulfilling common purposes, this is called society. Analyzing this conception of society, two characteristics can be noticed, such as 1) a group of people organized ; 2) a common purpose lays the ground for this organized living. In spite of that some more characteristics are found amongst the members of the society. These are as follows; unity and mutual assistance, dependency, action-reaction; similarities and dissimilarities and so on.

Relations between man and society are inseparable. Society consists of humans. And society meets multiple needs thereby provides developed and secure social life. Human qualities and social values grow in the society. Humans make society as they perceive that society provides the ideal and civilized life. Greek Philosopher Aristotle rightly said that man is by nature social being. The one who does not live in the society; he is either a beast or a god. In reality, man from cradle to grave fosters themselves in the society.

**Work:** Divided into groups, students will determine relationships between family and society. (Help kits for group work; inseparable/mutual influence/provides security/ helps in personality development).

## State

State is a political institution. People all over the world live in a state. In our world there are 197 states consisting of small or large states. Every state has its definite territory and population. Besides in order to operate state, government and sovereignty are two important ingredients. Sovereignty means the absolute power of the state. No state can be existed without the above conditions. Professor Garner said, 'an independent population permanently residing in a definite territory, allegiant to the organized government by nature and free from external enemies is called the state.' Analyzing this definition, we get four elements of state, such as 1. population; 2. definite territory; 3. government and 4. sovereignty.

1. **Population:** Population is an inevitable element of state formation. If a population permanently resides in a definite territory, state can appear to exist. However, there is no fixed rule about how much population is required for a state formation. For example, the population in Bangladesh is 150 million, in India 1000 million and in Brunei it is 200,000. According to views of Political Scientists, a population of a state should be consistent with resources it possesses.
2. **Definite territory:** To form a state, definite territory is a must. Territory comprises land, water and sky boundaries. A state can be either small or large. For example, Bangladesh is having the boundary of 1,47,570 square kilometers. The People's Republic of China, the United States and Canada are larger than Bangladesh in terms of boundary.
3. **Government:** Government is a necessary element of a state. No state can exist without a government. Government operates all state activities. Government consists of three organs: legislature, executive and judiciary. Though the formation of government is same in all states but forms of government vary from state to state. For example, in Bangladesh we have parliamentary form of government, but in the United States it is presidential form of government. Government operates all state functions.
4. **Sovereignty:** Sovereignty is the most important and inevitable element of a state. This is the absolute power of the state. There are two dimensions to it, such as internal and external. Internal sovereignty means that state exercises its authority over individuals and associations through fiat. On the other hand, external sovereignty keeps the state free from external control.

**Individual work:** Discuss whether West Bengal, Rajshahi and Chittagong states or not.

## Origin of the state

It is hard to say when and how state originated. Political Scientists having examined the history, past political events has given some theories about the origin of the state. These theories are: 1. Divine theory; 2. Force theory; 3. Social Contract theory and 4. Historical or Evolutionary theory.

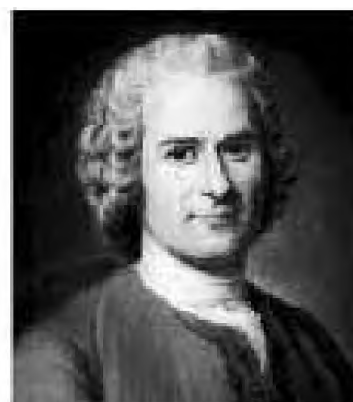
- 1. Divine theory:** This is the oldest theory related to the origin of the state. According to this theory, God himself created the state and He sent rulers to run the state in the right direction. Rulers are the representatives of God; and are only accountable to God for their deeds. Nor they are accountable to the people. Just as rulers rule as per the instructions of God, so the violation of rulers' instructions is tantamount to the violation of God's instructions. According to this theory, rulers combine the duties of Head of State and Head of Religious institution. Modern Political Scientists criticized this theory as dangerous, undemocratic and irrational. In their views, where rulers are not accountable to the people, there develops autocracy.
- 2. Force theory:** The main theme of this theory is that state has come into existence by force and it continues to exist by force. It is stated in this theory that powerful persons in the society through warfare or by applying force have established control over the weaker sections and established state. From the creation to date, this is how states have come to existence. Critics labeled this theory irrational and wrong. They said that if states would survive by force then militarily weak states failed to survive. As a matter of fact, it is not the force, rather states exist and survive on the basis of consent.
- 3. Social contract theory:** The gist of this theory is that state has come into existence through mutual contract amongst the people living in the society. The architects of Social Contract Theory were British philosopher John Locke, Thomas Hobbes and French philosopher Jean Jack Rousseau.



Thomas Hobbes



John Locke



Jean Jack Rousseau

According to this theory, before the birth of State, man lived in the state of

nature. But there was no authority to punish offender who violated laws in the state of nature. As a result, anarchy and disorder were created in the social life. Men became selfish and egoistic. The strong in the society tortured the weak. Consequently, people's lives were full of pains and unbearable. In addition, with the rise of population, the aspiration and necessity for having private property began to grow among the people. In order to get rid of such anarchy people entered into signing a contract thus creating the state. People conferred power upon this authority to rule over themselves in exchange for giving security to them.

- 4. Historical or Evolutionary theory:** This theory states that state was not created all on a sudden. State has emerged through a prolonged evolution and changes of different forces and elements at different stages in the society. State emerged after the confluence of elements like kinship, religious ties, wars, economic and political consciousness and activities. Regarding this theory, Dr. Garner said, State is not the creation of God, nor the creation of force. It has rather been created out of historical evolution'. Of all the theories related to the origin of the state, historical or evolutionary theories is the most logical and acceptable. This theory gives the right explanation as to the origin of state. In reality, the state that exists at present is the result of the long historical evolution.

**Individual work:** Historical or evolutionary theory is the most important and scientific one - give reasons in its favour.

### Concept of government

Government is one of the important elements of a state. State cannot be formed without government. State is run by the government. Government performs three kinds of functions to steer the state. To do legislative, executive and judicial functions, a government has three organs, such as legislature, executive and the judiciary.

Legislature enacts necessary laws for a country. Executive governs the country by enforcing these laws. Judiciary punishes the guilty and establishes justice in the society by freeing innocents. So the government refers to that population who are associated with law making, governance and establishing justice. In a modern state, government implies the population, because government works as the agent of population.

### Relationship between state and government

In antiquity, there was no difference between state and government. The fourteenth Louis of France said, 'I am the state'. In modern times, differences are made between state and government. These are as follows:

- 1. Formation:** Population, territory, government and sovereignty- these four elements constitutes state. Government is one of those elements by which state is run.

2. **Population:** State consists of all the population in a country. And the government consists of the persons employed in the legislature, executive and judiciary.
3. **Permanence:** State is a permanent institution, but government is temporary and changeable. For the administration of state, government changes. For example, the government of Bangladesh has changed many times. But the permanence of the state never changed.
4. **Nature and characteristics:** All the states are same in nature and characteristics. But the nature and characteristics of government varies from state to state. For example- Bangladesh has parliamentary form of government whereas USA has presidential form of government.
5. **Sovereignty:** State is sovereign or the possessor of absolute power. Government is but the agent of implementation of sovereign power.
6. **Concept:** State is an abstract concept. State can neither be seen nor imagined or felt. But government is a living organ, because the persons who comprise the state are seen.

So despite the relationships between state and government, their relations are close. One cannot be imagined without the other. Government is formed only for running the state.

**Group work:** Students will determine the relationships between state and government.

## EXERCISE

### Short answer questions

1. Write down local, national and international forms of citizenship.
2. What are the educative functions of a family?
3. Write down the central theme of divine theory relating to the origin of the state.
4. What is the main theme of Historical or Evolutionary theory relating to the origin of the state?
5. What is the main theme of force application theory relating to the origin of the state?

### Descriptive questions

1. Why do people live in the society? Explain.
2. Describe the Social Contract theory related to the origin of the state.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which is the local subject of citizenship?
  - a. Pourashava
  - b. Legislature
  - c. Commonwealth
  - d. The UN
2. Which is one of the inevitable elements for running the state?
  - a. population
  - b. territory
  - c. government
  - d. sovereignty
3. According to modern Political Scientists, divine theory is dangerous, because in it the ruler is-
  - i. accountable to God for his deeds
  - ii. both Head of State and Head of Religious institution
  - iii. viewed by himself as representative of God.

### Which one is correct of the following below?

- a. i and ii
- b. ii and iii
- c. i and iii
- d. i, ii and iii

### Read the paragraph below and answer the question number 4 and 5

Nurjahan Begum makes bamboo basket and sells at the market. She makes good profit out of this job. Jamila learns how to make basket from her and makes basket by herself for the use of her family.

4. What sort of family work does Nurjahan do?
  - a. educative
  - b. entertainment
  - c. economic
  - d. psychological.
5. Which type of works mentioned below is applicable for Nurjahan-
  - a. only for enhancing self solvency
  - b. it makes the people of her village employable
  - c. it increases the production and uses of bamboos
  - d. to augment self-employment

## Creative Questions

Ka and Kha states are located side by side. Ka state defeats her neighbouring Ga and occupies it. Gha state cooperates with its neighbouring countries and gradually become stronger in a body.

- a. Which is the theory of the origin of state related to philosopher Jean Jack Rousseau?
  - b. Which is the absolute power of state? Explain.
  - c. Explain the theory in relation to the fact that Ka state occupied the Ga state by force.
  - d. The theory that explains the rise of state as strong is more acceptable. Analyze.
1. Mr. Parvez is a working couple. They keep their only son Ripon in a hostel since his childhood for study. When he comes home during vacation, his parents cannot give enough time to him as they have always been busy. Most of the time Ripon stays alone, therefore, he cannot share his weal and woes and never feel others' pleasure and pain. One day he visited Mr. Raminz's house while his son Robin opened the door and gave salam to him. With honour, he welcomed him to take seat on and went off to call his father and to get some tea and snacks for Mr. Parvez. Parvez charmed at Robin's gesture and felt pain that he could not raise his son like Robin.
- a. How many types of family exist according to the structure?
  - b. Which type of function is self-control of a family? Explain.
  - c. The function of a family has been hampered due to Ripon's lack of mental growth. Explain.
  - d. Evaluate the function of a family that has played an important role in raising Mr. Ramiz's children.



## Chapter Two

# Citizen and Citizenship

We are all Bangladeshi citizens. As citizens, each of us enjoy some rights and perform some duties. By possessing some qualities, we could be good citizens. Good citizens are assets of the state. We should all learn about good citizenship. Concepts of citizen, means to acquire citizenship, dual citizenship, concepts and characteristics of good citizens, citizen rights and duties have been discussed in this chapter.

**On completion of studying this chapter, we would be able to-**

- Explain the concepts of citizen and citizenship.
- Describe the means to acquire citizenship.
- Explain dual citizenship.
- Describe citizen's rights and duties
- Explain the relationships between citizen's rights and duties.
- Be enthusiastic to perform citizen's responsibilities and duties.

### Citizen and Citizenship

Concepts of citizen and citizenship had originated in Ancient Greece before 2500 years from today. In ancient Greece, small city states had been in existence. Those small states were called city states. In those small city states people had been directly participating in governance. Those who directly participated in city state governance were called as citizens. They had voting rights. But in the city states, women, foreigners and house-mates were not treated as citizens. In course of time, concept of citizenship has undergone changes. At present, to be a citizen no discrimination is made between individuals.

We are citizens of Bangladesh, because we are born in this country and enjoying all kinds of state-given rights (social, political and economic) and discharging our responsibilities and duties to the state. So the person who lives permanently in a state and admits his allegiance to the state, enjoys state-given rights and performs duties to the state, then he/ she is called a citizen. To some, citizen and citizenship are the same. As a matter of fact, they have different meanings. Citizen is the identity of an individual. For example, our identity is that we are Bangladeshi citizens. As a citizen of the state, the status and respect the person receives, this is his or her citizenship.

<b>Team work:</b> A chart will be made on the characteristics of a citizen.
---

## Ways to get citizenship

There are two ways to achieve citizenship, such as a) by birth and b) by approval.

**a. Methods to achieve citizenship by birth:** To get citizenship by birth follows two principles, such as birth and the place of birth policy.

**1. Birth policy:** According to this policy, citizenship of their children is determined by their parents' citizenship. In this case, wherever the children are born, their citizenship is determined by their parents' status of citizenship. For example, a Bangladeshi couple gave birth to a child in the UK, he or she will be a Bangladeshi citizen as his or her parents are Bangladeshi citizens.

**2. Place of birth policy:** According to this policy, whichever the country's citizen parents are, citizenship of their children is determined by the country in which the children are born. For example, if children of Bangladeshi parents are born in the USA, they would be US citizens. In here, citizenship is determined by the primacy of state is accorded to. According to this policy, children of any parents are born on a ship or inside the embassy of other country they would be citizens of that country which owns the ship or the embassy mentioned above. It can be noted here that most of the countries in the world follow the principle of birth policy in granting citizenship. Bangladesh is one of them. On the contrary, the USA and Canada follow the principle of place of birth policy in granting citizenship.

**Getting citizenship by approval:** By fulfilling some conditions, citizens of one country can achieve citizenship in another by approval. Generally, the conditions that needs to be fulfilled to get citizenship of another country are as follows: 1. to marry a citizen to that country; 2. to be employed in government job; 3. to prove honesty; 4. to know language of that particular country; 5. to purchase assets of that country; 6. to live in that country for a long time; 7. to join the army. These conditions may vary from country to country.

If a person fulfills one or more of such conditions, he is eligible to apply for citizenship. When his application is approval by the government, he becomes a citizen of that country. The citizens in Bangladesh and in many other countries in the world such as the USA, Canada, the UK and Australia have been enjoying citizenship by approval. In addition, citizenship is also granted on humanitarian ground. For example, if a person takes shelter in any other country due to persecution, that country may grant his/her citizenship upon his/her application for citizenship.

<b>Team work:</b> Briefly discuss about the ways of getting citizenship.
--

## Dual Citizenship

When a person is simultaneously holding citizenship of two countries is called his/her dual citizenship. Generally, one person gets an opportunity to get citizenship in one country. As two principles aforesaid relating to birth exist regarding the achievement of citizenship, in some cases it may result in dual citizenship.

For instance, Bangladesh follows birth principle to grant citizenship while the USA follows both birth and place of birth principle. So when children of Bangladeshi

parents are born in the USA, they become US citizens according to place of birth principle. Again they become Bangladeshi citizens according to the birth principle. This is called dual citizenship. But after being adult he or she has to become either of a Bangladeshi or a USA citizen.

### Good Citizens

All citizens in a state are not good. Those amongst us are intelligent, could solve problems with ease, could distinguish between good and bad and stay away from bad deeds and those who are self-controlled and could sacrifice petty interests to the cause of larger ones, these people are called good citizens.

In the light of above discussion, we find three main qualities of good citizens, such as 1. intelligence; 2. conscience; and 3. self-control.

1. **Intelligence:** Intelligence is one of the best qualities of a good citizen. Intelligent citizens can identify multifaceted problems of family, society and state and take right decisions to solve these problems. The success of a democratic state depends upon the intelligence of good citizens. Therefore, intelligent citizens are the best assets of the state. Every state should make their citizens intelligent by imparting education to them.
2. **Conscience:** Citizens of a state have to be conscientious. By dint of this quality, citizens can comprehend justice-injustice, honesty-dishonesty and good-bad. Just as conscientious citizens on the one hand enjoy state-given rights, so they perform duties and responsibilities properly to the state and stand by justice. For example, Conscientious citizens remain allegiant to the state, abide by law, pay tax in due time, cast their votes for competent and honest persons in the elections.
3. **Self-control:** Good citizens should have self-control. In other words, keeping him/her self above all kinds of greed, he/she discharges all duties and responsibilities with honesty and dedication. To give up petty interests to the cause of greater social interests is self-control. Those amongst us are having this quality he expresses his opinion freely and without hesitating. He/she is tolerant to other peoples' right. In addition, every citizen must keep him/herself above corruption, nepotism and partisan attitude. Thees democratic values emerges.

**Group work:** Student will distinguish between citizens and good citizens.

### Citizen Rights

We get ideas about some rights from the pictures given below. Besides these, there are some more rights the citizens are entitled to.



Right to education



Right to have a family



Voting rights

Rights are some of the privileges recognized by society and state. By enjoying these rights, citizens could develop their personality. Without these rights, people cannot comprehend their personality. The main aim of rights is to ensure universal welfare of the individuals. Rights are important to nourish the mental, social and economic growth of citizens of the state.

Sometimes we understand rights as doing whatever the individuals wish to do. But doing whatever one wants to do as his/her wish is not rights. Rights are given by the state for the betterment and development of all citizens. In the name of rights, we should not do anything harmful to others.

**Individual work:** Write two features of rights.

### Classification of rights

There are two kinds of rights such as, 1. Moral rights; 2. Legal rights

1. **Moral rights:** Moral rights comes from people's conscience and social morality or justice. For example- the weak has the moral right to get assistance. This is not enacted by the state. As a result, it has no legal basis. In addition, if someone violates this rights he/she can not be punished. Moral rights vary from one society to another.
2. **Legal rights:** Legal rights are those recognized by laws of the state. Again, legal rights can be divided into social, political and economic rights.
  - a. **Social rights:** We enjoy some rights in the society to live in peace and happiness. these rights are called social rights. For example, right to protect life, freedom of movement and expression, right to have a family, right to education, equal treatment before law, right to property and freedom of religion.
  - b. **Political rights:** Right to vote, right to be elected and redressing of all complaints sought by application are called political rights.

**Group Work:** Prepare a chart on the classification of rights.

**Pair Work:** Describe the differences between social and political rights.

- c. **Economic rights:** To develop the standard of living by enjoying the economic rights given by the state is economic rights. Say, right to work according to competence, right to receive proper wage, right to enjoy leisure and the right to labour union.

### Law on Right to Information

Law on Right to information is a landmark law in order to protect the fundamental rights of the people. Adopted in Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad, President gave his consent to this law on 5 April 2009 (22 Chaitra 1415). Then the law was made public. Before this law comes into effect, the information that were kept secret, henceforth, people

could know those information and enjoy their rights. It will help establish institutional oversight, making their work disciplined and truthful. To establish rule of the people, Law on Right to Information is necessary. So, all the citizens should know this law.

'Information' refers to any kind of memento, book, design, map, data, order, circulars, document, sample, letters, report, statement of account, project proposal, film, audio-video, drawings, any instrument made of electronic process, machine readable documents and physical structure and informative matter or Xerox of it irrespective of their characteristics. These are related to the organization, structure and official activities of any authority. However, official note or Xerox copy of official note is not included into this category.

As per 2(cha) of this law, right to information means that the right to receive information from any authority. Under this law, every citizen is entitled to receive information from any authority. Upon request from any citizen, the authority is bound to give information. In order to ensure the right to information, every authority must preserve a list of information along with the contents of information properly.

### **Censored information**

There is a list of information that the authority is not bound to give. These are: 1. information posing threats to security, integrity and sovereignty of Bangladesh; 2. matters relating to foreign policy by which relations with foreign countries or international, regional organization can be developed; 3. secret information received from the foreign governments; 4. any information that might harm third party's intellectual property; 5. any information that might harm to any individual or organizations; 6. any information that might increase crimes hampering the enforcement of ongoing laws; 7. any information that might hamper the judgment of criminals or endanger the security of the people; 8. any information that might encroach upon privacy of individuals; 9. any information that might threaten ones's life or physical security. 10. any secret information provided by any individual that helps law enforcing agencies ; 11. information on any sub-judice matter and on which the court imposed restrictions or exposing the matter will be deemed as contempt of court; 12. any information about the matter under-investigation which can hamper investigation if revealed; 13. any information that might hamper the process of investigation, influence the arrest and punishment of the criminals; 14. any information regarding compulsion of publishing anything within a definite time-limit; 15. Technical or scientific research outputs that need to keep secret for strategic and commercial reasons; 16. any information relating to the purchase or related activities before completing the purchase activities; 17. any information that might violate the special rights of Members of Parliament (MPs); 18. any secret information on any individual protected by laws; 19. any advanced information concerning exam question papers and marks given.

### **Request for receiving information**

Any person may ask the concerned authority to provide information in written or by sending an e-mail. In that request, the points need to be included are: 1. Requestor's name, address, fax and e-mail numbers if applicable, 2. Correct and clear statement of

the information asked for; 3. to locate the information asked for, it is important to add associated information; 4. describe how the requestor wants to get it. In other words, requestor must mention how he/she wants to get information such as by a visit, receiving a Xerox copy of a note, taking notes or by another approved methods.

### **Methods to provide information**

After receiving the request placed by a requestor, the concerned officer will have to provide it by no less than 20 days. If the information asked for, involves one or more than one units or authorities, in that case, information has to be provided by not less than 30 days. If the assigned authority fails to provide information within that stipulated time, he/she has to appraise the requestor about the reasons for inability to give information by 10 working days since the date of the submission of application.

<b>Team work:</b> Describe the importance on the Law on the Right to Information.
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### **Duties of a citizen**

As citizens have rights to the state, so they have duties to. Without discharging duties, only enjoying rights cannot be expected. By giving different rights by the state to the citizens, citizens become loyal and responsible to themselves. Citizens's lives grow by state-given rights. In exchange, the duties of citizens include to be loyal to the state, pay tax on regular basis, obey laws and perform state-given other duties.

### **Classification of duties**

Citizens perform responsibilities in order to enjoy rights. These are called duties. Citizens' duties are divided into two parts: moral duties and legal duties.

- a. **Moral duties:** Moral duties stems from peoples' conscience and social morality or justice. For example, to be educated, casting vote with honesty, serving the state and come forward to assist world humanity. As these duties comes from citizens' conscience and social morality and justice, these are called moral duties.
- b. **Legal duties:** Duties sponsored by the state-laws are called legal duties. To be loyal to the state, law abidance and paying tax are legal duties. These duties are recognized by state-laws. Every citizen must obey legal duties. If failed to do so, one must be punished. Legal duties are inevitable for the welfare of the state and citizens. Some of the duties are discussed below.
  1. **Allegiance to the state:** Allegiance to the state is the expression to protect independence and sovereignty of the state, respect for the fundamental principles of the state. In other words, allegiance to the state means the sacrifice of life - if necessary- for the existence, integrity and development of the state.

2. **Abide by laws:** Law protects our life, property and liberty. Law is equally applicable to all. In absence of law, social life becomes anarchic. Citizens' life without law can not be imagined in the spheres of society and state. State enacts laws to ensure rights of the citizens and freedom. So it is the duty of citizens to abide by laws.
3. **Pay tax:** To operate the state, government needs resources. For this reason, government imposes direct and indirect tax on the citizens. Therefore, it is the duty of every citizen to pay tax regularly and properly.

**Individual work:** Show differences between legal and moral duties.

### **Relations between rights and duties**

Though rights and duties are two separate words, they have close mutual relationships. The relationships between these two concepts are described below:

**First,** To enjoy rights depends on the performance of duties. For example, voting is an important citizen's right- it is the duty of a citizen to cast his vote. Rights and duties are correlated. So it can be said that discharging duties lie in enjoying rights.

**Second,** ones rights refer to another person's duties. For example, I have the right to walk on the road, it means that I shall walk and let others to do so. Again, when I shall walk on the path, others would let me do so. Thus the relations between rights and duties are intimately related.

**Third,** we enjoy social, economic and political rights given by the state. In return, we have to perform duties For example, to be allegiant to the state, abiding by laws, paying tax - all these are duties. By performing duties we enjoy rights given by the state.

**Fourth,** as members of the society we enjoy the right to education. By applying such education we develop the society. To receive education is our right, but to apply it is our duty. In sum, we may say that rights and duties arise from social consciousness. One cannot take effect without the other. Thus it can be said that rights are embedded in duties.

**Work (Debate):** Rights can not be enjoyed without performing duties.

## EXERCISE

### Short Answer-Questions

1. What is called a good citizen?
2. Describe 'self-control' as one of the important qualities for a good citizen.
3. What is called legal rights?
4. What are the relations between rights and duties?

### Descriptive questions

1. What is citizen and citizenship? Describe the ways to earn citizenship.
2. What is duty? Prepare a list of duties and describe them.

### Multiple choice questions

1. Which one of the rights is included in social rights?
  - a. right to enjoy property
  - b. voting rights
  - c. right to wage
  - d. right to be elected
2. Which one of the rights varies from society to society?
  - a. social
  - b. political
  - c. economic
  - d. moral
3. To enjoy rights required
  - i. rightly apply voting rights
  - ii. to assist government works
  - iii. to assist others to tread the path

### Which one is correct below?

- a. i and ii
- b. ii and iii
- c. i and iii
- d. i, ii and iii



**Answer questions 4 and 5 after reading the following paragraph:**

Mr. Hafiz has a match factory in Manikganj. He pays tax to the government on his income from his factory every year.

4. What is Mr. Hafiz's responsibility called?
  - a. moral rights
  - b. legal rights
  - c. moral duties
  - d. legal duties
5. Which one of the following mentioned below is related to Mr. Hafiz's responsibility stated above?
  - a. Economic prosperity of the state
  - b. Protection of independence of the state
  - c. Protection of citizens social rights
  - d. Establishment of citizens political rights

**Creative questions**

1. In the A Union, 80% of the total populations are literate. In the election of that Union, people elected the person X as chairman as an honest and competent candidate. They chose him out of the candidates X and Y. After being elected, chairman preferred a competent applicant as a teacher in a school of his locality to his brother's son.
  - a. How many years ago did the concept citizen originate in ancient Greece?
  - b. What is dual citizenship? Explain.
  - c. Which one of the types of duties is noticed amongst the people in the Union 'A'?
  - d. X person is a good citizen- Give your opinion.
2. Mr. Pijush Chakravarty passed computer engineering and went to Canada. He learned Canadian language, he joined the government service in Canada and showed honesty in service. Upon his application, Canadian government granted his citizenship. On way back to Canada by plane from Bangladesh, his wife gave birth a child on board
  - a. On which date the President gave assent to the law on the Right to Information after the law was adopted earlier on?
  - b. What is understood by citizen rights? Explain.
  - c. Which country's citizen Mr. Rahul is? Explain.
  - d. Is Mr. Pijush Chakravarty only a citizen of Canada? Give reasons in favour of your answer.

## Chapter Three

# Law, Liberty and Equality

State enacts laws so that its citizens can live in peace independently. It is impossible to establish equality without law. The essence of law is that all are equal before law. As citizens of the state, it is important for all of us to know about the characteristics, classification and sources of law. Also important to know about the nature of liberty, classification, means of protection of liberty, concept of equality, relationships among law, liberty and equality and to know the importance of the rule of law in our civic life.

**On completion of studying this chapter we would be able -**

- To explain law, liberty and equality;
- To describe the sources of law;
- To analyze the relationships among law, liberty and equality;
- To analyze the importance of rule of law;
- To be loyal to and abide by laws.

### **Law**

Law is understood as rules and regulations recognized and approved by society and the state; which regulates external human behaviour. Laws are made for the welfare of the people. Law determines the relationship between one with other individuals, between individuals and the state, between the states with the states. Laws are enacted and applied by the state or sovereign authority. Violation of law is liable to be punished. Some fundamental characteristics are noticed in law. In what follows it is being discussed.

- 1. Statutes:** Laws are a collectivity of customs, rules and regulations.
- 2. Related to external behaviour:** Laws regulate people's external behaviour and activities. For example, illegal activities are punished. People refrain from committing crimes owing to fear of punishment.
- 3. State Approval and Recognition:** The norms of society which are approved by the state become law. State authority acts behind the making of laws. Without the approval and recognition of state, no rules and regulation become laws.
- 4. Savior of individual liberty:** Law acts as savior of individual liberty. For this reason, laws are said to be the basis of individual liberty.
- 5. Universal:** Laws are universal. These are equally applicable to regardless of national, religious, racial, communal, male-female, rich and poor. All people in the society are deemed as equal in the eyes of law.

<b>Group Work:</b> Why people should abide by laws - Explain
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## Classification of Law

Generally Law is classified into three parts such as a) government law; b) private law and c) International law

1. **Government Law:** The laws that are enacted and applied to keep individuals relations with the state called government law. It is also divided into the following parts.
  - a. **Criminal laws and penal code:** To carry out the role of judiciary, these kinds of law are enacted. If individual's rights are violated, his or her rights are protected by this law.
  - b. **Administrative law:** These laws are enacted to control the activities of the executive and personnel related to it. Different administrative functions are performed according to these laws.
  - c. **Constitutional law:** These laws are mentioned in the constitution. The state is governed by the constitution.
2. **Private law:** The laws that are made and implemented to maintain relations of individuals with other individuals are said private law. For example, contracts and deeds. These kinds of laws play supportive role in keeping social order.
3. **International law:** The laws that are made to maintain relations of states with other states are said international law. International law deals with new how states will behave with others, how one state deals with a citizen of other state and finally how international crises can be solved.

## Sources of Law:

There exists a number of sources of law. These sources are described below:

1. **Custom:** Rules that have been in vogue in a society for long are called custom. Before the emergence of state, people's behaviour were controlled by custom. After the emergence of state, customs that receive state approval, turn into laws. Many laws in the United Kingdom have been created ban on custom.
2. **Religion:** Religious edicts and scriptures are sources of law. Every religion has its own rules followed by their adherents. These edicts help to administer the social life beautifully and orderly. As a result, many aspects of these religious edicts have become laws by state approval. For example, Muslim Law, Hindu Law etc. In our country, family laws and laws related to property have issued from the said two religions.
3. **Books of legal experts:** When we read English stories, novels or newspapers, we consult with English dictionaries or Encyclopedia to find out the meaning of an unknown word. Similarly, when judges found difficulty in giving their judgements, they had elicited help from the commentaries of other legal experts. These judgements later became law. For example, 'Law of the Constitution' by Professor Dicey and 'Commentaries on the Laws of England' by Blackstone.

4. **Judgements:** When judges find it difficult to give their judgements by using prevailing law, they depend on their intellect and conscience to interpret the prevailing law and thus give a new judgements. These judgement were later followed by other judges as laws. So judgements are sources of law.
5. **Sense of Justice:** In the court, sometimes no law exists so as to give judgement to a case. In that case, judges resolve these cases by using their sense of justice. Later on, these became law.
6. **Legislature:** In modern times, legislature is the source of law. In keeping with public opinion, legislatures of different countries enact laws, amend old laws suitable to the changing context.

**Individual work:** A chart on the sources of law will be made.

### **Rule of Law in Civic Life**

Rule of law means nobody is above law, everybody is subject to law. In other words, everybody is deemed equal in the eyes of law. The opportunity to get equal treatment by all the people in the eyes of law is said rule of law. Supremacy of law means everybody is subordinate to law. Equality by law is understood as people get the opportunity to be treated by law as equal regardless of their identities such as nationality, religion, gender and profession. As a result, rich-poor, weak-strong get equal rights. If the primacy of rule of law persists on, government shall refrain from the abuse of law and the people shall abide by legal regulations.

The importance of rule of law is unlimited. Anarchy arises in the society from the absence of law. Civic freedom, democracy, social values, equality do not exist in the society where rule of law is absent. Rule of law is inevitable for establishing equality, freedom and fundamental rights.

Good relationship between rulers and ruled is created by rule of law. Government become stable and peace is established in the state. Suspicion, movement and revolution become inevitable. Disorder, conflict weaken the strong basis of the society. The differences between rich and poor, weak and strong take deeper root in the society.

Therefore, rule of law is necessary for social equality, civic rights, democratic society and stable state system. Rule of law is an indicator for a civilized society

**Group Work:** State few problems in civic life that arise from the absence of rule of law.

### **Liberty**

Generally, liberty is understood as whatever one does at his own wish. In real sense, liberty does not mean this sort of unlimited freedom. Because, unlimited freedom creates anarchy in the society. For example, if somebody is allowed to do anything at his own wish, it might harm to others resulting in the conflicting environment. So liberty in civics is used in different sense. In this sense, liberty is to act at one's will within the limit without interfering or creating obstacles to others' activities.

Liberty refers to such opportunities and environment where no one harms to other, everybody enjoys rights. Liberty helps individuals to grow his/her personality and eliminate all the obstacles to enjoy rights.

### Forms of Liberty

Liberty has different forms such as- 1. Personal liberty; 2. Social liberty; 3. Political liberty; 4. Economic liberty and 5. National liberty.

1. **Personal Liberty:** Personal liberty is understood as liberty which does not harm to others if enjoyed. For instance, to practice religion and maintain family secrecy. This sort of liberty is of individual's personal matter.
2. **Social liberty:** Social liberty includes the right to protect life, to enjoy property and to take on a legitimate profession. This sort of liberty leads to the growth of civic life. To protect rights for the people living in the society, social liberty is required. This liberty has to consume in such a manner so that it does not harm others.
3. **Political Freedom:** Political freedom includes voting, the right to be elected, the right to obtain security in abroad. This sort of freedom creates opportunities for individuals to participate in governing the state. Political liberty is very much important in democratic system.
4. **Economic freedom:** Economic freedom refers to taking on a profession according to one's competence and also to get due wage. Citizens enjoy economic freedom so as to get financial benefits. Other freedom can not be enjoyed without this freedom. Economic freedom is necessary for staying free from exploitation by other social classes.
5. **National freedom:** Bangladesh is an independent state and free from interference by other state. This status of Bangladesh is known as national freedom. As a result of this freedom, a state remains free from the control by other state. Every independent state enjoys national freedom.

**Group work:** Means to protect freedom to be explained.

### Law and Liberty

Political scientists differ themselves as to the relationships between law and liberty. Many of them said that the relationships between law and liberty are intimate. Again some of the political scientists said that law and liberty are mutually antagonistic. As a matter of fact, this relationship is not mutually antagonist; rather intimate. In what follows, it is being discussed.

1. **Law protects freedom:** Law acts as protector of freedom. For example, we have the right to live. We enjoy the right to live because of law. John Locke rightly said, where there is no law, there is no freedom.
2. **Law is the guardian of freedom:** Law acts as guardian of freedom. Just as parents keep their children in safe from dangers, so laws protect freedom from all kinds opposing forces.
3. **Law is a condition of liberty:** A single law is single piece of freedom. All can enjoy freedom as there exists the control of law. According to Willouby, freedom is protected as there exists the control of law.

- 4. Law enlarges freedom:** Law enlarges freedom of citizen. Law creates the necessary conditions for a peaceful and orderly life. In performing these acts though law controls freedom, but in reality freedom is enlarged because of that.

So it can be said that the relationship between law and liberty are very close. Not all laws protect liberty. For example, the laws of Hitler. Because, his laws were against humanity. But laws that are based on people's consent are deemed as protector, guardian, condition and basis of freedom.

## Equality

Equality means equal. Etymologically, equality is understood as equal status of all in the society. But not all the people in the society are equal and they are not born with equal competence. In real terms, equality is understood as such a social environment in which irrespective of their ethnic, religious, racial identities, all people receive equal opportunities and by utilizing these opportunities they could develop their own skill. In such a society, nobody enjoys exclusive privileges. Essentially, equality implies three things **First:** abolishing privileges for a particular individual or a class. **Second:** to manage adequate privileges for all; **Third:** to enjoy equal opportunities according to competence.

## Forms of Equality

Human being require multiple opportunities for multifaceted development. To enjoy this multiple opportunities equality can be divided into different parts for example, 1. Social equality; 2. Political equality; 3. Economic equality; 4. Legal equality; 5. Natural equality and 6. Personal equality.

- 1. Social Equality:** Social equality means social opportunities equally enjoyed by all the members in the society regardless of their ethnic religious, racial and gender identities. No individual or a particular class is allowed to enjoy special privileges.
- 2. Political equality:** It refers to the opportunities in taking part in activities of the state by all. For political equality, citizens enjoy the right to express opinion, the right to be elected and the right to vote.
- 3. Economic equality:** It means the opportunities to a job according to one's competence and to get just wage. Economic equality includes to get rid of unemployment, to take on a legitimate profession.
- 4. Legal equality:** To stay everybody equal in the eyes of law despite their varying identities like ethnic, religious, racial is legal equality. Legal equality must protect someone's arrest without offence and keeping him not imprisoned without due process of trial.
- 5. Natural Equality:** Every human being is born free and equal. But in reality every human being cannot be equal physically and mentally. For this reason, the concept of natural equality is almost out of order these days.

- 6. Personal Equality:** Personal equality implies the elimination of barriers such as ethnic identity, religion, race, lineage and status amongst the human being.

**Individual Work:** Students will prepare a list of the types of equality.

### **Relations between Equality and Freedom**

There are two opinions exist among Political Scientists regarding the relations between equality and freedom.

**These are:** 1. equality and freedom are complementary and 2. equality and freedom are mutually antagonistic. The genuine relationships between these two will be revealed by explaining these opinions.

- 1. Mutually dependent:** Equality and freedom are mutually dependent. Just as freedom can not be imagined without equality, so equality can not be thought of without freedom. So it can be said that the more a state would be based on equality, the more freedom will be ensured.
- 2. Basis of democracy:** Equality and freedom act as the basis of democracy. Just as equality is required to establish rights of the people, so freedom is required. If equality and freedom does not co-exist, democratic rights would not be possible to enjoy. Equality eliminates differences between the top and the bottom, freedom offers the right to enjoy all the opportunities.

Finally, it can be said that equality and freedom are substitute and complementary. Equality based society can not be possible unless we enjoy political, social and economic, freedom. With these freedom, people participate in state functions and enjoy the right to movement and freedom of right to life. Freedom is required for enjoying all the opportunities equally by all living in the society. So it can be said that equality means freedom and freedom means equality.

## **Exercise**

### **Short Answer Questions**

1. What is liberty?
2. What is called equality?
3. The main source of law is legislature - Explain.
4. Why people abide by the laws?

### **Descriptive questions**

1. Explain the classification of freedom.
2. Explain relationships between law and liberty.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. How many types of law?
  - a. 2
  - b. 5
  - c. 3
  - d. 6
2. What is the main theme of law?
  - a) All are equal in the eyes of law.
  - b) Regulate external behaviour.
  - c) Saviour of individual freedom.
  - d) Related to rules and policies.
3. The purpose of enacting government laws-
  - a) To save relationship between individual and individual.
  - b) To save relationship between individual and state.
  - c) To run the judiciary.

### Which one of is correct below?

- a. i and ii
- b. ii and iii
- c. i and iii
- d. i, ii and iii

### Read the following paragraph and answers of question number 4 and 5

Recently, the Ka court resolved the dispute with Myanmar over the maritime boundary through their mutual understanding.

4. By which law, Bangladesh resolved his dispute?
  - a. Government
  - b. Private
  - b. Constitutional
  - c. International
5. The resultant effect of the said law-
  - a. A state behaves well with another state;
  - b. The relationships between state and individual continue.
  - c. Different states will run their administration properly.
  - d. Independence of judiciary shall be protected.



## Creative Questions

1. Shamol Mitra is a member of the parliament. In order to stop eve teasing in his constituency he placed a bill in the parliament which was passed by the voice vote. Mr. Arco Baru is the chief of the higher court in that country. While giving judgment to a case of an accused, he finds no evidence from the prevailing law. Depending on his wisdom and sense of judgment, he then determined the punishment.
  - a. Whose book is commentaries on the laws of England?
  - b. What is International Law? Explain.
  - c. What kind of source is that where Shamol Mitra placed the bill? Explain.
  - d. The method of judgment given by Mr. Arca Barua is one of the important sources of law - Analyze.

# Chapter Four

## State and System of Government

State is a political institution. And government is one of the important elements of state. As representative of the state, government administers the country. There are different types of states and governments. Different countries choose different types of governments for the differences in their social and political needs. In this chapter, we will know different types of state and systems of government.

**On completion of studying this chapter, we would be able -**

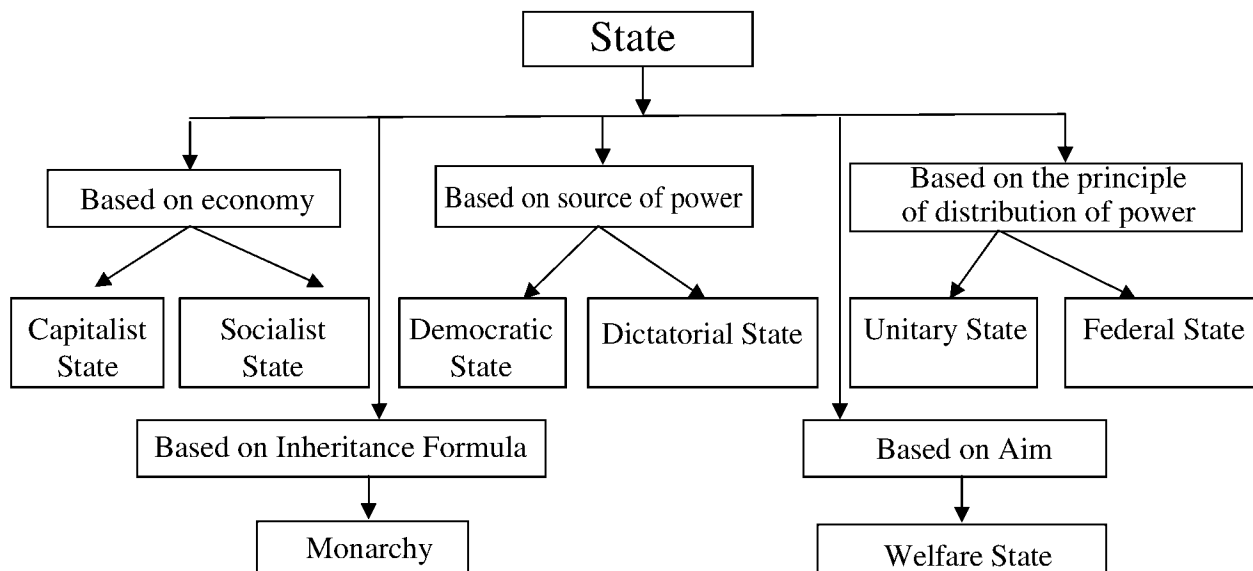
- To describe various types of states and forms of government;
- To explain the position of citizens and their relationship with their government;
- To determine the differences between democracy and dictatorship;
- To be inspired to learn and apply democratic behaviour in real life.

### State and Government

Many a time 'State' and 'Government' is synonymously used. But there are fundamental differences between these two. State is a complete and stable institution. It possesses sovereignty or absolute power. Government is one of the four elements (population, territory, government and sovereignty) of state. Although state is formed with the same elements, all states and governments are not the same. With the change of time, the nature of government and state may also change.

### Forms of State

There are different forms of states evident in the world. In the chart below, we see the different forms of state.



## State based on Economic System

Based on economic system, states are classified into categories, such as capitalist and socialist state.

### Capitalist State

In the capitalist state, private ownership over the property is recognized. In this form of state, capital, labour and management are vested in private ownership. Government does not have control over those factors. Production and supply system is administered by open competition. In this form of state, citizens are free to own assets and to consume. Most of the states in the present world are capitalist.

### Socialist State

Socialist states are the state which do not recognize private ownership over property. In this kind of states, means of production are owned by the states. Steps are taken for the management of production and distribution under the state's supervision. This is opposed to capitalism. Socialism does not recognize individualism. There exists only one party in this type of state. State controls the mass media. There is no opportunity for the expression of opposition views. For example, China and Cuba are socialist states.

**Pair Work:** Students will prepare a chart on the differences between Capitalist and Socialist states

## State on the basis of Sources of Power

Who is the owner of power? People, individual or a group? On this basis, state is classified into two categories, such as democratic state or dictatorial state.

### Democratic State

Democratic state is defined in which the power to rule is vested in all members of the society or in the hands of the people. People, participate in this form of governance, and they form this government. This is a form of governance which is run for the welfare of the people by direct participation of the people. In the democratic state, people enjoy the right to express opinion and enjoy the right to criticize the government. In this form of 'state', government is changed through orderly held elections. In democratic state there exists more than one political party.

This form of governance ensures interests for all and recognizes citizens rights and rule of law. Bangladesh, India, the United States, UK etc are democratic states.

**Work in a pair:** To make a chart list on characteristics of democracy.

## Qualities of Democratic State System

There are many good sides of democracy. Some qualities of democracy are discussed below.

- 1. Savior of Individual Liberty:** In democratic states, people can express their opinion independently. They can criticize the government. People participate in running the government. As a result, individual liberty expands. Citizen's rights are protected in democratic state.

2. **Responsible Governance:** In this governance, people representatives are accountable to the people. They try to work for the welfare of the people so that they could be elected in the next election. As a result, responsible governance is established.
3. **Increase of Government Efficiency:** In democracy, government's stability depends on the trust of the people. As a result, government attempts to perform its duties with honesty for gaining trust of the people. This results in the increase of government efficiency.
4. **Symbol of equality and equal rights:** All are equal in democracy. In this form of governance, all enjoy equal rights and opportunities regardless of ethnic, religious and racial identities. All participate in the activities of the state equally.
5. **Increase of citizen's status:** People's elected representatives run the democratic state. As the people can participate in governance, so they can comprehend their own importance. This is how patriotism is created in them. Personality and status grow and enhance.
6. **Established on logic and consent:** Democratic system is based on consent of the people. There is no scope for the use of force in democracy. In the end, people's will and logic get primacy.
7. **Receive Political Education:** In this form of state, citizens avail of the opportunity to think of complicated political matters. People's political consciousness augments by taking part in elections and by hearing the statements of political parties.
8. **Less probability of Revolution:** Democracy is a system of flexible governance. If people wish, they could change the government through systematic procedure. There is no need of revolution.
9. **Enhancing integration with government:** In democracy, people themselves conduct governance. They, therefore, feel the state and government of their own.

### **Demerits of Democratic System**

Many positive qualities aside, there are some demerits in democracy. These are discussed below:

1. **Primacy of number than qualities or competence:** Loss and win in democracy is determined by election, so the number enjoys primacy than qualities. In other words, it counts heads, but undermines merit.
2. **Party Governance:** Democratic governance is party governance. The party wins the majority in elections forms the government. Elected party runs governance considering the interests of their own interests. People's resentment piles up.
3. **Expensive and Wastage of Money:** Government is formed by election. To conduct election, huge amount of money is required. During elections, candidates spend lot of money. Every political party spends huge amount of money on leaflet, poster and public meeting for securing public support in the election, consequently, wastage of time and resources occur.

- 4. Frequent policy changes:** In democracy, government changes periodically. Elected party in democracy forms the government for a fixed period of time and every political party adopt their program based on their policies. On some occasions, government's term ends ahead of the implementation of its program. With the changes of government, its policies changes too. It obstructs developments in the state.

### **Steps for successful democracy and democratic behaviour**

In the present world, democracy is the best and acceptable system of governance. But there are many obstacles in the way of its successful exercise or implementation. To remove these obstacles and make democracy successful, many factors are required to be fulfilled. Revoking democracy, for the success of democracy requires educated and conscious population, economic equality and social system established on justice, efficient administration and appropriate leadership. In addition to these, there are other factors that can make democracy successful. These are: tolerance, rule of law, free and independent media, more than one political parties and political tolerance. The most important element that is also required is: citizens have to be democratic in their mentalities. They have to behave democratically in personal, social and political spheres. For this reason, achieving the following qualities is necessary. These are:

- Citizens have to be tolerant to others' opinions. All have to be allowed to express their opinions. Others opinions must be respected and the mentality to be shown to accept majority opinion as opinion for all. One's own or party opinion cannot be imposed upon others by force.
- Self and partisan interests must be avoided. This is applicable to all citizens and political parties. Opposition should not work for opposition's only. All have to work for the welfare of the country.
- Besides securing own rights respect to be shown to the rights of others. Consciousness is needed so that securing one's own rights does not violate rights of others.
- Cooperation, tolerance and mutual understanding to be maintained amongst different communities and groups.
- Respect to be shown to individuality. Along with this, qualities of a good citizen have to be achieved. Citizens have to be self-restrained and conscientious.
- Election is the medium of democracy. Citizens must cooperate so that free and neutral elections can be held. Citizens have to cast their vote with consciousness so that incompetent persons cannot be elected. This is how democracy becomes stronger.
- Rule of law is the heart of democracy. For this reasons all have to obey laws. All are equal in the eyes of law. So all have to be treated equally. In other words, to provide equal rights and opportunities.

Every citizen has to be careful to learn and practice these democratic behaviour to make the democracy successful.

**Group Work:** A list of behaviour required to establish the democracy is to be prepared by the student.

### **Dictatorial State System:**

Dictatorship is an arbitrary system of governance. In this form of state, the power of governance lies not in the hands of the people but in the hands of an arbitrary ruler. Here, leader possesses all powers. He is said to be a dictator. Dictatorial rule is assisted by ministers or advisors. But they abide by the orders of rulers. Rulers' orders are laws. In this system, rulers are accountable to none. Only one political party exists. The chief of the party holds the position of head of the government. The party is run according to his wish and the party is formed comprising his blind followers.

In dictatorship, mass media (radio, television and newspapers etc) are controlled by the leader and his party. These are not allowed to be used neutrally. Rather these are only used to praise the government. In this form of government, legislature and judiciary do not have freedom. Law making and judicial functions are performed according to the wish of the dictator. One nation, one country and one leader are ideals of dictatorship. Every thing is for the state, nothing against the state is thought as the main principle of dictatorial state.

**Work in Pair:** A chart/table/concept map is to be prepared on the features of a dictatorial state.

### **Demerits of a Dictatorial State**

Dictatorship is an arbitrary system. The following are its defects.

1. **Anti-democratic:** Dictatorship is anti-democratic. It does not recognize individual liberty which is the essence of democracy. It violates fundamental rights. Thus it hampers personality development.
2. **Arbitrary rule:** Dictatorship establishes arbitrary rule. Because, dictators do not have to be accountable to any authority. His words are laws, which leave no room to foster for individual's freedom of thought and exchange of free ideas. Dictatorship, as a matter of fact, is a system of arbitrary governance.
3. **Obstacles to the creation of leadership and political consciousness:** One man dominants in this form of governance leaving no room for the development of alternative leadership. As people can not participate in such governance, so political consciousness is not created.
4. **Possibility for revolution:** The fear of revolution arises from the lack of participation in this system of dictatorial governance. Dictatorship cannot last longer due to internal opposition and the rise of mass uprising against this form of government.
5. **Anti-World Peace:** Dictatorship holds and fosters aggressive nationalism. Power and the greed for power instill war-mongering mentality in the dictator. Hitler created havoc all over the world by holding such a war-mongering mentality.

In dictatorial state, individual is sacrificed at the altar of the state. Here, individual is for the state, state is not for individuals. Therefore, no state supports dictatorship in the present world.

**Group Work:** Differences to be determined between democracy and dictatorship.

## **State based on the principles of the distribution of power**

Based on the principle of the distribution of power, state can be classified into two categories, such as unitary state and federal state.

### **Unitary State**

In an unitary state, all powers are vested in the central government. Thus the country is run from the centre. For the benefits of governance, the country is divided into different provinces and regions and some powers are transferred to their hands. But central government, if needed, could retain such powers. In this form of government provincial or regional governments act as agents of central government and run governance according to the directives of the central government: Bangladesh, UK are examples of unitary states.

### **Federal State**

In this state system, more than one states and provinces merge together and create a state. This is called federal state.

For the convenience of central government's rule, power is distributed between centre and province or region through constitution. In federal state, small states staying side by side form a large state. The state, becomes much stronger. In addition, federal government mobilizes resources from its smaller states. This a large economy is formed. This large economy can contribute to the development of the state. Federal states in the world are more or less developed. Our neighbouring country India is a federation.

## **State based on the inheritance:**

In many states, heads of states assume power through inheritance. These kinds of states are called monarchy. In the monarchy, the son or daughter of King becomes either King or Queen. There are two types of monarchy, such as absolute monarchy and constitutional monarchy.

### **Absolute Monarchy:**

In absolute monarchy, King or Queen assumes absolute power. In this form of governance, there is no opportunity for people's participation. This form of government is negligible in number. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Monarchy assumes absolute power.

### **Constitutional Monarchy**

In this form of state, King or Queen becomes head of state through inheritance or constitutional procedure. But he/she enjoys limited power. The real power of state lies with the elected representatives of the people. In the United Kingdom, constitutional monarchy exists.

**Work in Power:** Differences will be determined between absolute and constitutional monarchy.

## **States based on Objective**

### **Welfare State**

The state which works for the bare daily needs of the people is called welfare state. This kind of state creates the opportunities for employment, give unemployment benefits, and provide education and health to the people free of cost.

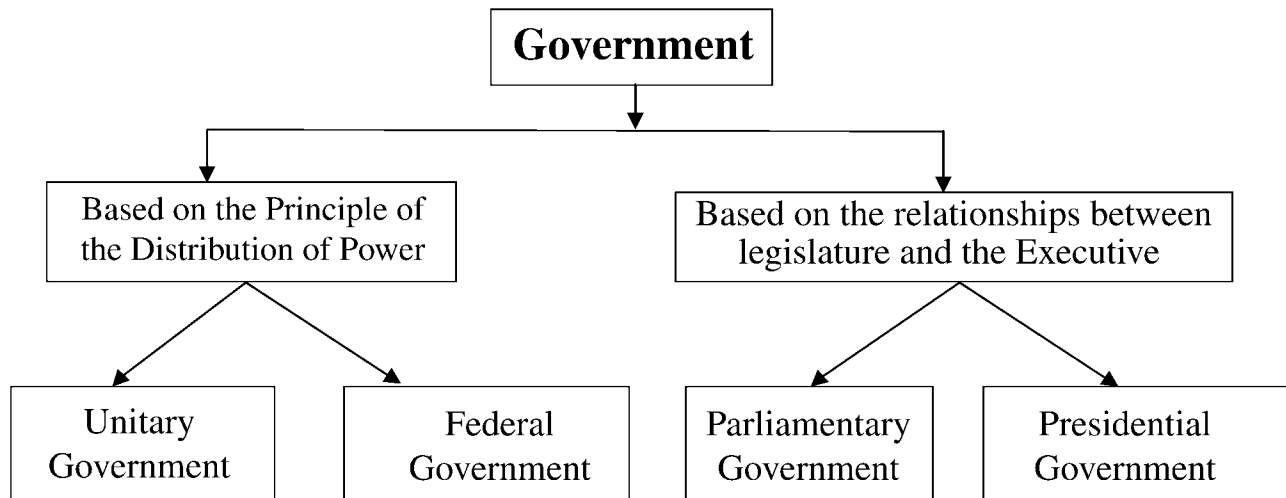
Canada, UK, Sweden and Norway are examples of welfare state. The features of this state are:

- State strengthen social security measures for the welfare of society. It fulfills the basic needs of the people such as food, clothing, education, health and shelter. State provides road infrastructure, orphanage, temporary lodging, subsidy on food and employment opportunities.
- State imposes tax on solvent people at a higher rate and less tax on less solvent people. It provides assistance and rehabilitation to the poor and destitutes.
- It fixes minimum wages for the interests of farmers, labourers and workers so that they can control their standard of living.
- State allows farmers, workers and labourers to form cooperatives.

**Work in pair:** Discuss whether Bangladesh may be regarded as welfare state or not.

### Classification of Government

Since the emergence of the concept of government, different philosophers have divided government in different ways. Classification of modern government is given below.



### Classification based on the principle of the distribution of power

Based on the principle of the distribution of power, government can be classified into two types. For example, unitary government and federal government.

#### Unitary Government

The system of governance in which all powers are vested in the hands of central government and governance is run from the centre is called unitary government. In this system, power is not distributed between centre and province.



In this type of government, regional government has no exclusive entity. The state consists of provincial or administrative regions. But they act as agent or facilitator of the centre. Bangladesh, Japan, UK are the examples of Unitary Government.

**Work in Pair:** A concept map/chart will be prepared based on the characteristics of Unitary State.

### Merits of Unitary Government

Unitary government has the following merits. These are-

1. **Easy Organization System:** The organization of unitary government is simple. In it, all powers are vested in the hands of the centre. There is no complexity of sharing power between centre and province. If any decision is adopted at the centre, it can be easily implemented all over the country. Added to this, unified law, policies and plans are made into effect in this form of governance. Organizational consistency is maintained.
2. **Symbol of National Unity:** In this form of government there is no autonomous regions or provinces. As a result the same administrative principle and laws are made for the whole country, which help to keep national and territorial integrity.
3. **Economical:** In unitary government, administrative cost is less. Because, government only remains at the centre in this form of government. Here, central government takes all the decisions and implement these gradually. Staff are not necessary at higher level, so the cost decreases.
4. **Quick decision-making:** Unitary government can take quick decision as it does not have to take regional interest into consideration or do not have to consult with the regional government. No complexity arises in decision making.
5. **Suitable for Small State:** Unitary state is suitable for state which is geographically relatively smaller and having a homogenous culture. For example, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

### Demerits of Unitary Government:

Just as unitary government has its merits, so has its demerits, such as:

1. **Too much work load:** As all the powers are vested in the hands of central government, the central government suffers from too much load of works. As administrators of the central government have to perform all functions administrators, they cannot pay attention to the welfare functions for the people due to heavy work load.
2. **Unfavorable to the development of local leadership:** In this system, power is exercised and decision taken at the centre. No scope left for political participation at the provincial or regional level. As a result, local leadership cannot be developed.
3. **Negligence of local development and problems:** Unitary government adopts unified plan or decision for the whole country. But different local localities beset with different problems, central government cannot take notice of all these problems. Or, regions are far away from the centre, central government can neither understand or solve local problems.

**4. Unsuitable for large state:** Unitary government is unsuitable for large states. In large states, differences of language, culture and tradition different from one region to other. These differences altogether can be tackled alone by the central government. In running the state, government has to face multifaceted problems. People become suspicious and untrustworthy of the government. For this reason, secessionism may appear in the regions.

**5. Center's arbitrariness:** As all powers tend to be centered in the central government, it might lead to the rise of arbitrary behaviour of the central government.

### **Federal Government:**

Federal government consists of more than one states or provinces. This type of government is based on the principle of the distribution of power. In this form of government, a part of state power and authority accordingly to the constitution is vested in the hands of the provincial government and the national matters are vested in the hand of the central government. Provincial and central government thus possess fundamental powers. Both run the governments separately and independently. In other words, there exists dual form of government. India, the USA, Canada are federal forms of governments.

<b>Work in pair:</b> A list will have prepared on the characteristics of federal government.
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### **Merits of federal government**

There are several merits of federal government. For example:

- 1. It coordinates national unity and regional exclusivity:** This kind of government creates national unity by maintaining regional exclusivity and differences. By recognizing regional characteristics and differences, these are fostered in this form of government.
- 2. Decreases the work load of the central government:** In this form of government, power is distributed through constitution between the centre and provinces, relieving the burden of central government. The centre can perform its functions with ease.
- 3. Conducive to solve regional problems:** In federal system, regional government can easily comprehend and identify the problems of regions and can solve these problems.
- 4. Increase political consciousness and helpful to the growth of local leadership.** In the federal system, people are loyal to the two governments and abide by two kinds of laws. Thereby, people become politically more conscious. This system helps to grow local leadership.
- 5. Arbitrary behaviour of the centre disappears:** Due to distribution of power between the centre and provinces, the centre can not assume absolute power, so the centre has no chance to beset with arbitrary attitude.

## Demerits of federal government

Demerits mentioned below may be seen in federal government:

1. **Complicated nature of rule:** The organization of federal government is of complicated nature. It is as if government within the government. Consequently, complexities arise regarding the determination of relationship between centre and province, distribution of power, law making and application.
2. **Power conflicts:** In this system, conflicts may be created between centre and province or province over the jurisdiction of power.
3. **Weak government:** Due to sharing of power, both national and regional governments remain weak. Quick and strong decisions cannot be taken during emergency. Decision making delays if seeking of regional government's opinions necessary.
4. **Fear of secession:** Provinces are separate and autonomous in federal governments. Taking the advantage of this opportunity any region or province may attempt to secede.
5. **Costly:** As dual structure of government exist, the cost of administration increases.

**Group work:** Merits and demerits of unitary and federal government will be compared.

## Classification of government based on the relationship between legislature and executive.

Legislature and executive are two important branches of government. Based on the relationship between these or principle of accountability, government can be classified into two forms: Parliamentary and Presidential governments.

### Parliamentary Government

The form of government where the relationship between legislature and executive are close and the stability and functional capacity of the executive depend on the legislature is called parliamentary form of government or Cabinet form of government. In this system, executive powers are vested in the hands of the ministers. The majority party wins the general elections form the cabinet. The trusted person in the party becomes prime minister. He appoints ministers from important members in the party.

**Work in Pair:** Characteristics of Parliamentary government shall be presented through a chart.

## Merits of parliamentary government

Merits of Parliamentary government are the following:

1. **Responsible governance:** Parliamentary government is a responsible government. In here, ruling and opposition parties are both accountable to the people for their deeds.
2. **State and Forms of Government:** Relations between legislature and the Executive: As members of the executive are the members of the legislature, the relationship between these two remain cordial.
3. **Status of opposition:** In this form of government, the opposition is said to be an alternative government. In times of national crises, therefore, both the ruling and opposition parties can solve problems through discussion. Opposition is an integral part of the parliamentary system.
4. **Opportunity for criticism:** In this system, the Members of the Parliament (MPs) both from ruling or opposition could criticize the government. The government becomes self-restraint in its deeds and tries to do good deeds.
5. **Inculcates political education:** Parliamentary government is run by public opinion. To keep public opinion in their favour, both ruling and opposition parties remain active. They engage themselves in debates in the parliament. Thereby, the people become politically conscious.

## Demerits of Parliamentary government

Parliamentary government has some demerits, such as-

1. **Absence of stability:** Parliamentary government may suffer from instability. If the cabinet loses its trust to the legislature or loses its majority in legislature, the government collapses. This sort of situation might destabilize the country.
2. **Indivisibility of power:** Legislative and executive powers are vested in one centre leading the ministers to be autocratic.
3. **Too much partisan mentality:** Parliamentary government is primarily a party government. In this system, the formation and stability of the government depends on the majority of party in parliament. Naturally the parties are given much importance. Both ruling and opposition parties work with extreme partisan mentality. As this government is a party government, many ministers are appointed in the cabinet without considering their competence and merit. National interest therefore is hampered.
4. **Delay in decision making:** In this form of government, after a lot of discussions and suggestions, decisions are made. Many deeds are not possible to perform timely.

<p><b>Group work:</b> A list will be prepared on the merits and demerits of parliamentary government.</p>
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## Presidential form of government

Presidential form of government is understood as that form of government in which the executive is not accountable to the legislature. The president forms the cabinet comprising persons to his liking. The president and members of the cabinet are not the members of the legislature. Ministers are accountable to the president for their deeds. The tenure of ministers depends upon the satisfaction of the president. In the Presidential form of government, president holds all powers. He is the real ruler and head of the government. He might either seek the advice of ministers or not. The USA is the Presidential form of government.

## Merits of Presidential form of government

The following are the merits of the Presidential form of government:

- a. **Stable governance:** In the Presidential form of government president is elected for a definite tenure. During this time, he could not be removed without impeachment. As a result, governance stays stable.
- b. **Quick decision making:** In this system, the president can take quick decisions without consulting with legislature. In times of war, emergency or in any other crises the president shows his efficiency in taking quick decision.
- c. **Efficient governance:** In this system, president and ministers do not have to engage too much in law making and they are not accountable to the legislature. So they could spend more time in matters of administration which makes the administration more efficient.
- d. **Separation of powers:** In this governance, three branches of government (executive, legislative and judiciary) separately work and simultaneously keep relations amongst them. Separation of powers thus maintains checks and balance.
- e. **Less reflection of party:** The voting of the members of legislature in passing the bill does not make any influence on the stability of the government. Partisan influence is less evident in this system of governance. The president places more importance on the national interests than that of party interests.

## Demerits of Presidential form of government

1. **Arbitrary rule:** All powers are vested in the hands of the president and the executive is not accountable to the legislature. Thus the president may turn into a tyrant. Since he is not obliged to seek advice from any body, he could become whimsical and irresponsible.
2. **Absence of good relationships between different departments:** As the executive, legislature and the judiciary hold powers separately, they lack cooperation and enmity arises among them. This kind of situation might throw the government into fragile condition.

- 3. Rigid governance:** In the presidential form of government, constitution cannot be easily amended. It makes this governance rigid. If any changes needed, it cannot be done easily. Again the president cannot be removed easily. Expected changes do not occur easily.

By studying this chapter, we have known about the state and different forms of governments along with their merits and demerits. Rather a mix of more than one system bred different forms of state and governments. The USA is a democratic state. It is a federal form of government under the rule of President. The UK is a Parliamentary form of government with constitutional monarchy. Differences in the forms of state and governments result from socio-economic conditions of the state, people's aspirations and practical conditions.

**Group work:** Discussion will take place about the best form of government between Parliamentary and Presidential form of governments.

**Group work:** Discussion will take place about the form of government matching with the classification of governments discussed in this chapter.

## Exercise

### Short Answer Questions

- What is the difference between the state and government?
- Write down the differences in the ownership of property between Capitalist and Socialist state.
- Give five examples how we could democratically behave.
- Why is the dictatorship not desired? Give reasons in its favour.

### Descriptive Questions

- Explain the relationship of the government with the people in democracy and dictatorship.
- Discuss the differences between dictatorship and democracy. Show the rationale for introducing federal form of government in Bangladesh.

### Planned work:

An investigative report will be prepared on which countries the forms of government discussed in this chapter do exist. In each group, five names will have to be mentioned.

### Multiple choice questions

1. Which one of the states mentioned below formed on the basis of the sources of power?
  - a. Socialist
  - b. Capitalist'
  - c. Monarchy
  - d. Democratic
2. Which state system does protect individual liberty?
  - a. Democratic
  - b. Capitalist
  - c. Dictatorship
  - d. Socialist
3. Democracy is called responsible governance. Because rulers in here-
  - i. Accountable to the people;
  - ii. Attempts to preserve people's interests
  - iii. Perform duties with honesty.

### Which one is correct below?

- a. i and ii
- b. ii and iii
- c. i and iii
- d. i, ii and iii

### Observe the table below and answers the questions 4 and 5:

#### The government system of A

1. Possessing all Constitutional powers	1. Act as an agent of X Unit
2. Give directives for running the country	2. To implement the task as directed
3. Distribution of powers in different regions	3. Be controlled under X Unit
X-Unit	Y-Unit

4. Which form of government does exist in the state 'A' ?
  - a. Federal
  - b. Unitary
  - c. Socialist
  - d. Monarchy
5. In the said form of government
  - i. X-unit acts as regional government;
  - ii. X-unit can take powers back from Y-unit;
  - iii. X-unit is source of all powers of the state 'A'.

**Which one is correct below?**

- |             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| a. i and ii | b. i and ii      |
| c. i and ii | d. I, ii and iii |

**Creative questions**

## 1. Trends of government powers in two states

(In the A state system, the functions of two units)

<p>X person, elected by people's vote, is a real ruler of the state A. He is not the member of legislature. In his government system, national interests are superior to party interests.</p>	<p>The party of the person Y wins the majority in parliament by people's vote and forms the government in the state B. The person Y and his party passes different laws by giving importance to different opinions in the parliament.</p>
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- a. What is the name of the government formed by inheritance?
  - b. What is Capitalist state? Explain.
  - c. What kind of government system in the state A? Explain.
  - c. 'The primacy of public opinion is noticed in the state B' - Give reasons in your favour.
2. As the state A is small in size, the central government quickly develops its education, electricity, communication and agriculture. In the said state, staffs are non-existent in stages, keeps economic cost marginal. On the contrary, the regions in B state are internally independent. In these regions, regional leaders solve problems by local councils. In the high-ups of this state suffers from less work load.
- a. In which state system is the dictatorship established?
  - b. Explain the state system formed by inheritance.
  - c. Explain the type of government in A state.
  - d. Government system in the B state is conducive to the growth of local leadership- Analyze.



# Chapter Five

## Constitution

We live in a State. There are some rules and regulations to run the State. These are recorded in written and unwritten form. A collection of a set of laws is called the constitution. The State is run according to the constitution. The constitution is said to be like a looking glass or a mirror of the State. The rights and responsibilities of a citizen, the power of the ruler and how the relationship between a citizen and a ruler will be, is clearly recorded in the constitution. Therefore, it is necessary for every citizen of the State to have a clear concept about the constitution. In this chapter, we will learn about the concept of the constitution, the importance of the constitution, the process of making the constitution, Characteristics of written-unwritten and flexible - rigid constitution, the history of making the Bangladesh constitution and its salient feature and the various amendments.

**At the end of this chapter, we will be able to -**

- explain the concept and importance of the constitution.
- explain the characteristics of written and unwritten constitution.
- explain the system of making the constitution.
- describe the characteristics of the best constitution.
- describe the history of making the constitution of Bangladesh.
- explain the characteristics of the Bangladesh constitution.
- describe the various amendments of the Bangladesh Constitution.

### **Concept of the constitution**

The constitution is the fundamental document of running a State. The administrative system is conducted as per the constitution. How the legislative, executive and judiciary divisions will be formed, what will their form and power be, what state conferred rights will the citizens enjoy and what will the relation be between the citizens and the government- these are stated in the constitution. In other words, the rules through which the state is governed are called the constitution. That is why the constitution is called the driving force of the State. Aristotle, the father of political science says, constitution is such a system of life that the State itself has chosen.

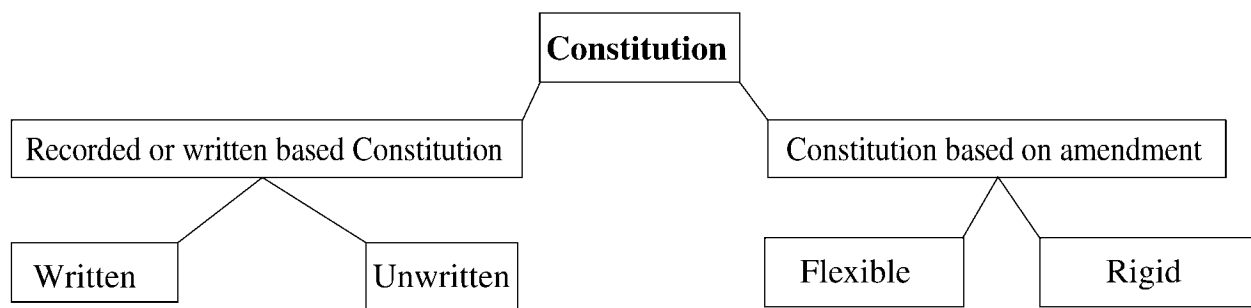
### **Process of making the constitution**

There are different processes of making the constitution. The significant processes are discussed below -

1. **By assent:** In the past, almost every autocratic ruler used to govern the State according to his whims by depriving the people of their social, political and economic rights. This created anger and dissatisfaction among the people. To pacify

the people and to recognize their rights, the ruler, at one stage makes a constitution. For instance - in 1215 King John of England decreed a charter of rights called the Magna Carta. It has occupied a significant place in the British constitution.

2. **Through discussion:** The constitution could be drafted through discussion among the members of the constituent assembly formed with the object of drafting the constitution. The constitutions of India, Pakistan and the United States have been compiled in this way. The Bangladesh Constitution has also been drafted through discussion in the Constituent Assembly in 1972.
3. **Through revolution:** When the ruler does such work contrary to the interest and welfare of the people, then a change of the autocratic ruler is brought about through a revolution and a new regime assumes power and makes a new constitution. The constitutions of Russia, Cuba and China have been made in this process.
4. **Through evolution:** In some cases, the constitution appears to exist through evolution. For instance, the constitution of Britain evolved gradually on the basis of custom and tradition. In this case, the constitution is not made by any person or organization, it develops gradually. That is why it is said that the British constitution has not been created, it has developed.



1. **Classification of constitution on the basis of writing:** Constitution based on writing can be of two types. Namely: A. Written constitution, B. Unwritten constitution.
  - a. **Written constitution:** Most of the subject matters of a written constitution is recorded in a document. For example, the Constitution of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and the United States is written.
  - b. **Unwritten Constitution:** Most of the rules in an unwritten constitution are not compiled in any document. This type of constitution develops on the basis of this type of constitutional usage and manners and customs, traditional rules and conventions. For example, Britain's constitution is unwritten.

However, it is a fact that no constitution is completely written or unwritten. Some are more written and some are less written. That constitution which is mostly written is called a written constitution. And the constitution whose subject matter is mostly unwritten is called unwritten constitution.

- 2. Classification of constitution based on amendment:** There are two types of constitution based on amendment. For example: A. Flexible constitution, B. Rigid Constitution.
- a. **Flexible Constitution:** The laws of a flexible constitution can easily be changed or amended. In this case, there is no need for any complication to change or amend the constitution. Parliament can amend any part of the constitution by a simple majority. The British constitution is a flexible constitution.
  - b. **Rigid Constitution:** The laws of a rigid constitution cannot easily be changed or amended. In case of changing or amending the constitution in this circumstance, a complicated process has to be undertaken. This type of constitution cannot be changed through a simple majority. Absolute majority, conference and voting are required. The US constitution is rigid.

### Characteristics of a written constitution

The significant characteristics of a written constitution are described below:

1. **Clarity:** Because most of the sections in a written constitution are in a written form, it is clear and understandable to the people. Generally, the process of amendment is stated in the constitution and because of this it is not easy to change or amend it. However, society is constantly changing. A written constitution cannot keep pace with a changed society. That is why it works as an obstacle to progress at times. Besides at times, the people have to revolt in favor of amending the constitution.
2. **Stability:** Because a written constitution is stable, a ruler cannot change or amend it according to his whims. Therefore, a written constitution can remain stable under any circumstance. The people and the ruler are obliged to follow the written constitution.
3. **Suitable for federal government:** A written constitution is suitable for federal form of government. Through this constitution, the power sharing between states and central government is made in the federal system. It would not have been possible for such power sharing in the federal system if the constitution was not a written one. For example, power has been distributed between the States and the Central government in India and the United States through a written constitution. It is worth mentioning that the written constitution is a precondition to the success of the federal system of government.
4. **Relations between the ruler and the people:** What the power of the ruler be, what rights the citizens will enjoy are stated in a written constitution. As a result, the ruler and the people can have a clear idea about their own power and rights.

**Group work:** Describe one main quality of a written constitution

### Characteristics of an unwritten constitution

The characteristics of an unwritten constitution are described below:

1. **Support progress:** Society always strives for progress. On the other hand, an unwritten constitution can easily be changed by keeping pace with social progress. That is, it can easily adjust with the changed conditions in society.

Therefore, an unwritten constitution supports progress. However, too much change can again create an obstacle to progress.

2. **Assists in urgent need:** Because an unwritten constitution is easily changeable, so, it can play an effective role in meeting urgent needs. However, a permanent policy and programme can not be taken as a result of frequent change in the unwritten constitution. As a result, the system of government can become unstable.
3. **Little scope of revolution:** This constitution can easily be changed. Because an unwritten constitution can be changed, there is less scope of a revolution.
4. **Miscellaneous:** An unwritten constitution is not suitable in federal system of government. As most of the subject matter of this constitution is not written, most people do not have a clear idea on matters of state governance.

**Pair work:** Highlight the notable differences between a written and an unwritten constitution

**Characteristics of an ideal constitution:** all countries in the world have their own constitution. Just as the country has the most developed constitution, so developed is its governance. The following are the characteristics of an ideal constitution. Any constitution that has these characteristics may be called an ideal constitution-

- 1) **Clear:** In an ideal constitution, most of the subject matters are written. The language of this constitution is easy, simple and lucid. That is why an ideal constitution is clear and understandable to all.
- 2) **Concise:** An ideal constitution is concise. There is no place for unnecessary and irrelevant matters in an ideal constitution. The notable rules and regulations of governing the state are stated in this constitution.
- 3) **Fundamental rights:** The fundamental rights of a citizen are stated in an ideal constitution. As a result, the people become conscious about their rights.
- 4) **Reflection of public opinion:** An ideal constitution is created on the basis of public opinion. The demands and expectations of the people are reflected in this constitution. Besides, social manners and customs and traditions are reflected in this constitution.
- 5) **Balanced nature:** An ideal constitution is of balanced nature. It means, an ideal constitution lies between a flexible and a rigid constitution. That is, it is neither very flexible nor very rigid. As a result of this, an ideal constitution can keep pace with the social and political changes.
- 6) **Amendment Process:** The amendment or change any section in an ideal constitution is brought out in a constitutional process. That is, the amendment process is stated in this constitution. It is stated in an ideal constitution how a section of it should be amended.
- 7) **Basic principles of governance:** The basic principles of governance are stated in the ideal constitution. For example- In the Bangladesh constitution, Nationalism, Socialism, Democracy and Secularism have been inserted as basic principles of governance.

## Constitution of Bangladesh

After the independence of Bangladesh, a 34 member draft constitution making committee was formed in 1972 for drafting the constitution. Dr. Kamal Hossain was the Chairman of that committee. The first session of this draft committee was held on 17 April 1972 with untiring labour, this committee prepared a draft constitution and it was presented at the Constituent Assembly. The draft of the constitution was placed and reviewed in the Constitution Assembly from 14th October to 4th November. After the conclusion of debate in favour and against by different members of the Constituent Assembly, the revised constitution was finally adopted by the Constituent Assembly on 4th November 1972 and came into effect from 16 December 1972.

### Characteristics of Bangladesh Constitution

Notable characteristics of the constitution of Bangladesh are described below:

1. **Written document:** The constitution of Bangladesh is a written document. It has 153 Sections. It is divided into 11 parts. It has a preamble with four schedules.
2. **Rigid:** The constitution of Bangladesh is rigid. This is because consent of a two-third majority of parliament members is required for making any changes or amendment to it.
3. **Basic principles of governance:** Nationalism, Socialism, Democracy and Secularism have been determined as basic principles of governance. In matters of governance, different authority run their activities based on the said principles.
4. **Fundamental right:** Constitution is the highest law of a state. The rights we can enjoy as a Bangladeshi citizen are clearly stated in the constitution, so the importance of them has increased. For example- right to live, right to move about, right to freedom of speech, freedom of thought and conscience, right to religion, right to property etc.
5. **Universal voting right:** In the constitution of Bangladesh, universal voting right is approved. Therefore all citizens who are 18 years old have voting rights, wherever their caste, religion, race, gender, occupation may be.
6. **Republic :** According to the constitution, Bangladesh is a republican state. Here people are the owner of all the properties. Elected representatives of the people will administer the country.
7. **Parliamentary government:** The constitution of Bangladesh introduces parliamentary or cabinet ruled government. The responsibility of running the executive is vested in the hands of the cabinet, led by the prime minister. In this system the cabinet is accountable to the legislature.
8. **Unicentric state:** Bangladesh is a unicentric state unlike the federal state, there's no provincial government. The whole country is run on a national level under one central government.
9. **Legislature:** The legislature of Bangladesh is a uni-cameral legislature. It is a sovereign lawmaking institution. Its name is "Jatiya Shangshad". At present it has 350 members and a duration of 5 years.

**10. Highest law:** The constitution of Bangladesh is the highest or supreme law of the country. Because in any case of a conflict between a regular law and the constitution, the constitution prevails. Therefore if a law is conflicting with the constitution, it is inappropriate and out of order.

**11. Freedom of Judiciary:** There's an independent and impartial judiciary in the constitution of Bangladesh.

### **Amendments of the Constitution of Bangladesh:**

After its establishment in 1972, the constitution of Bangladesh has been changed in times. The main characteristics of these amendments are as follows-

<b>Amendment and year</b>	<b>Subject</b>
First Amendment July 1973	Make provision for trial of people accused for crime against humanity in the War of Liberation in 1971 and committing war crimes.
Second Amendment September 1973	Empowerment of president to declare 'State of Emergency' on the advice of the prime Minister in times of internal trouble, fear of war or in times of humanitarian crisis.
Third Amendment November 1974	It ratifies the Land Boundary Agreement signed between Bangladesh and India. The signatories from both sides were Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, for Bangladesh side and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
Fourth Amendment January 1975	Presidential form of government was introduced in place of parliamentary form of government. Creation of the post of Vice President and formation of only one party through dissolution of all political parties.
Fifth Amendment April 1979	The Fifth amendment indemnified all orders, Promulgations and amendments to the constitution made by the military government after August 15, 1975. Bangladesh nationality was changed from Bangali to Bangladeshi.
Sixth Amendment July 1981	By introducing the Provision that the office of the Vice President is not an office of profit, election of Justice Sattar to the President was ensured.
Seventh Amendment November 1986	This amendment ratifies all acts, laws and martial law orders from 24th March 1982 to November 1986 since imposition of martial law by General Ershad.

Eighth Amendment July 1988	Islam was declared the state religion and six benches of the High Court Division were set up out side Dhaka.
Ninth Amendment July 1988	Provision for electing the Vice President through direct voting of the people was made. Rules were made under which no person can hold office of President for more than two consecutive terms.
Tenth Amendment June 1990	The period of 30 reserved seats for woman in parliament has been increased to 10 years.
Eleventh Amendment August 1991	All acts taken by chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as acting President was indemnified and provision for his return to his post of chief Justice was made.
Twelfth Amendment September 1991	Parliamentary system of government was restored in place of Presidential system of government. Post of Vice President was abolished.
Thirteenth Amendment March 1996	Non-party Caretaker government was incorporated to hold free and fair elections.
Fourteenth Amendment May 2004	45 reserved seats for women. Provision was made to display portraits of the President and the Prime Minister in all government offices including designated institutions. Retirement age limit of judges of the Supreme Court, PSC Chairman and member has been increased.
Fifteenth Amendment July 2011	Dissolution of caretaker government system. Restoration of the four basic state principles of Nationalism, democracy, secularism and socialism in the main Constitution of 1972. Alongside keeping Islam as the State religion, practice was ensured. Provisions were made to raise reserved seats in parliament to 50.

**Group Work:** Compare in brief the power of the President and the Prime Minister according to the Fourth and twelve amendment of the constitution.

## Exercise

### Short Answer question

1. What is constitution?
2. Describe clearly and briefly the characteristics of an ideal constitution.
3. Write the history of making the Bangladesh Constitution.
4. Write the main subject matter of the twelfth amendment to the Bangladesh Constitution.

### Descriptive question

1. Explain the importance of the constitution in governing the State.
2. Describe the Characteristics of the Bangladesh Constitution.

### Multiple choice questions:

1. Who is the father of political science?
  - a. John Locke
  - b. Jean Jacques Rousseau
  - c. Aristotle
  - c. T. H. Green
2. What is the main characteristic of the Fourth amendment of the Bangladesh Constitution?
  - a. Introduction of Presidential form of government
  - b. Change of State principles;
  - c. Reiteration of parliamentary form of government
  - d. abolishment of caretaker government system
3. The need to frame a constitution is
  - a. To pacify the people
  - b. To recognize the rights of the people
  - c. To protect the State from a despotic ruler.

### Which one is correct below?

- a. i and ii
- b. ii and iii
- c. i and iii
- d. i, ii, iii

### Read the paragraph below and answer questions 4 and 5.

Person A occupies a land belonging to neighbour B- who seeks the help of the law enforcing agency. The above agency, under the prevailing law, returns possession of the land to the owner B.



4. Under which characteristic of the constitution did person B get back his property?
  - a. fundamental rights
  - b. reflection of public opinion
  - c. Parliamentary system
  - d. balanced nature
5. Because the said characteristic is stated in the constitution, people
  - i. Are conscious about enjoying their right.
  - ii. No one can infringe other's rights.
  - iii. Can see the reflection of their demand and hopes and aspiration

**Which one is correct below?**

- a. i and ii
- b. ii and iii
- c. i and iii
- d. i, ii, iii

**Creative question:**

1. A social organization named 'A' is run according to traditional social customs and these customs are not recorded anywhere. If any problem arises within the organization, they resolve it through discussion as per existing rules. On the other hand, the Head master of a high School named 'B' runs the School adhering to clearly written rules and regulations. He is able to take the right decision in making any policy or appointing a teacher. At times, problems arise with regard to interpretation of written rules and regulations.
  - a. What is the name of the charter of rights created by king John of England in 1215?
  - b. Why is it necessary to enact a constitution?
  - c. With which characteristic of a constitution are the rules governing the running of organization 'A' compatible? -Discuss.
  - d. Give logical explanation in support of your opinion on the ideal rules and regulations between organizations 'A' and 'B'.
2. The constitution of State 'A' is based on common language, culture, economic power, and secular religion. People's participation in all State activities has been ensured in the constitution of this State. In the legislative assembly of that State, a bill could not be passed due to lack of support of 140 members out of a total of 210.
  - a. When did the constitution of Bangladesh come into effect?
  - b. What is an unwritten constitution? Explain.
  - c. On the basis of amendment, which class does the constitution of State 'A' belong to? Explain.
  - d. The characteristics of Bangladesh constitution are reflected in the constitution of State 'A' analyze

## Chapter Six

# Government System In Bangladesh

The word 'government' is very common word in our everyday life. Every country of the world has a government system. What is government - we have learnt it in chapter four. Mainly, government maintains the administrative operation of a country. Though, every county has a government; they are not similar in nature. In this chapter, we shall learn about the government system in our country.

**After studying this chapter, we would be able to -**

- Describe the nature of Bangladesh government.
- Describe the power and activities of President, Prime Minister and Cabinet of Bangladesh
- Describe the administrative structure of Bangladesh
- Describe the structure, power and activities of Legislative Assembly of Bangladesh
- Describe the structure, power and activities of Judicial Division of Bangladesh

### **Nature of Bangladesh Government**

The first Bangladesh Government was formed on 10th April 1971. Bangladesh is a country of People's Republic. People are the source of all power in this country. Besides, Bangladesh is also a centralized state too. It has no province or state. In our country, we have parliamentary government system. In this system government president is the highest person of the state. But, the actual administrative power is vested in the hands of the prime minister and his cabinet.

The cabinet holds the administrative power and prime minister is the head of the government. The administration is run by the cabinet under his leadership.

**Group Work:** The students will prepare a chart of the main features of Bangladesh Government.

### **Various Divisions of Bangladesh Government**

Like government of other countries, Bangladesh government has three divisions. These are 1) Administration Division 2) Legislative Division and 3) Judicial Division. We shall learn about their structure, power and activities below:

#### **Administrative Division**

The administrative Division is also known as Executive Division too. It is normally; formed by the President, Prime Minister and the cabinet.

#### **President**

President is the highest person in the administrative division of Bangladesh. He is the head of state of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. Though, he is the head of the

state, president is largely a ceremonial post. He runs the administration of the state with the advice from the prime minister excluding some exceptions. President is elected by the majority vote of the parliament. He holds office for five years. He can be re-elected. But, an individual cannot be in the position for more than ten years in two terms. During the tenure of the presidency, none can take any legal action against him in the court. But, on ground of severe compliant and breach of the constitution, he can be released from the office before the expiry of his term through impeachment system in the legislative assembly. The president must be the citizen of Bangladesh and a 35 or above years old person. Besides, he must have the competence to be elected as a parliament member. If any person is removed from the post of president, in that case he is never eligible to reinstate in that position.

**Dual Work:** Students will discuss on the conscription process of the president and make a list of his main qualifications.

### **Power and Activities of a President**

A president has to carry out many responsibilities. His power and responsibilities are as follows:

1. He is the head of the state. All the administrative activities of the government is run under his name. He appoints the prime minister. He also appoints other ministers, deputy ministers etc. He appoints the leading executives (Director General of Auditors, ambassador and other top level executives) of the countries too. He is the head of the armed forces. He appoints the head of the army, navy and air force. But, he performs the appointments with the suggestions of the prime minister except appointing chief justice and the prime minister.
2. President performs some legislative duties. He calls the session of the parliament and with the advice of prime minister he can adjourn it. He can make speech and send writings to the parliament. No bill is accepted as law without his permission.
3. Without the permission from the president, money bills cannot be presented in the parliament. President can grant permission for releasing money from the particular fund for sixty days, if the parliament fails to do so for any circumstances.
4. President appoints the chief justice and upon his advice he appoints other judges at appellate & high court division. He can reduce or relieve the sentence of a court, tribunal or any court.
5. President is the source of all the honor of the state. Without the permission from him no citizen of the country can receive any reward or honor from any foreign countries.
6. He can declare emergency situation in the country if the safety and peace of the society is endangered by war, attack by external enemy or internal clash. But, in this case he must take prior approval from the prime minister.
7. President performs many other duties as well. He chairs in the national programs. He provides the title, medal and honor to the eligible person of the state. Various

state level contract and deeds are drafted and signed upon his instruction. He receives the appointment letter of the foreign ambassadors. He takes oath of the prime minister, other ministers and the chief justice.

**Dual Work:** Students will write down the main power and activities of a president

### Prime Minister

Prime minister is the centre of the cabinet and head of the government. The administration of Bangladesh is revolves around him. Prime minister and his ministers are the real administrator of the state. President appoints the reliable person of the majority party in the parliament as the prime minister. For example - in the last election (2008) Awami League won the majority number of seats in the parliament. As a result, the president has appointed Sheikh Hasina as the prime minister because she was the leader of the majority party and supported by the majority number of the parliamentarian. Similarly, Begum Khaleda Zia was also appointed as a prime minister in 2001. President can use his own discretion to select the prime minister if there is no majority winner in the parliament.

Prime Minister holds office for five years. But, for any reason if the parliament members brought charge against him and accepted by the parliament; he is to resign from his position before the term of his office. Prime minister can submit resignation willingly too. The cabinet is dissolute too with the resignation of the prime minister. For this reason, the prime minister is called the pillar of the government. He is the leader of the parliament and cabinet and head of government.

**Dual Work:** Students will discuss difference of the appointing system between President and Prime Minister.

### Power and Activities of Prime Minister

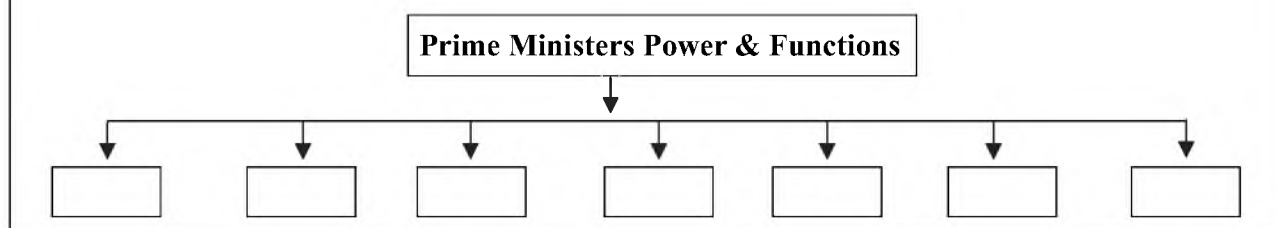
Prime minister has to perform various duties:

1. Though the administration of the country is run by the name of the president as per constitution; prime minister and the cabinet holds the ruling power of the state. He performs all the administrative duties with the help of the ministries.

According to his advice, president appoints the ministers, top level executives of the country and ambassadors to foreign countries.

2. Prime minister is the head of the government. The cabinet is formed and operated encircled by him. He fixes the number of the ministers and distributes office among them. He supervises the tasks of the ministers. Co-ordinates the job among various ministries. The ministers take suggestion and approval for all the important jobs. He can terminate any minister if he wants. In a nut shell, the cabinet of ministers is formed, operated and dissolves centered to him.
3. With the instructions and suggestions by the prime minister, the finance minister drafts and places the budget in the parliament.
4. Prime minister is a member and leader of the parliament. He carries a vital role in the parliament. Laws are outlined in the assembly under his leadership. He advises the president to call the session of the parliament, postpone and dissolve it. In this way, he performs important legislative task.
5. He plays important role regarding foreign affairs. International treaty cannot be signed without his permission. He represents the country in international summits.
6. In case of emergency of the state, he can take any decision without the help of the cabinet.
7. Prime minister is the preserver of the national interest. He makes speech and statement on state activities to maintain harmony among the people for the national interest.

**Dual work:** Students will write down the main areas of Prime minister's power and activities.



Parliamentary government system is prevailing in Bangladesh, as a result, the country, nation and the government is maintained encircling to the prime minister. He is the central gem of the administration system of the country.

**Panel Discussion:** "Prime minister is the central gem of the administration system of the country" a panel of 4/5 students of the class shall discuss and other students will participate in the discussion.

**Group Work:** The students will make comparative chart of the power and responsibilities of the President and the Prime Minister and shall present in the class.

### Council of Ministers

To run the government, there is a cabinet or council of ministers. Prime minister is their leader. He selects the number of ministers, deputy and state ministers and forms the council.

The ministers are selected from the parliament members. A person who is eligible to be elected as a parliament member can be selected as minister though he is not a member of the parliament. But, their number cannot be more than one tenth of the total number of the ministers in the council.

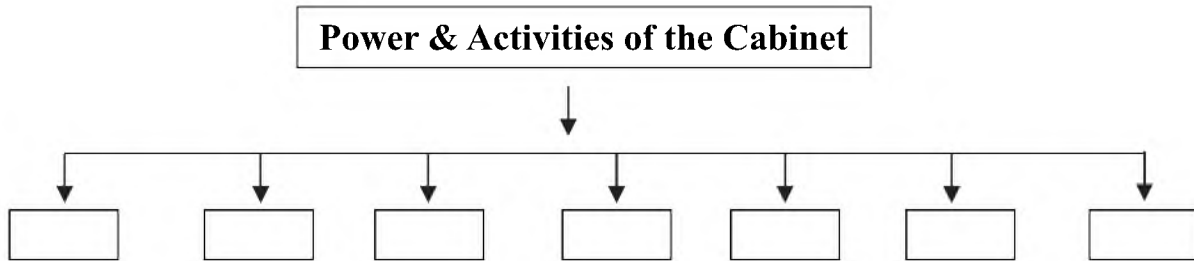
Prime minister distributes the duties and responsibilities of the ministers. The ministers perform their duty being accountable to the parliament individually and collectively. The council of ministers is dissolved if the prime minister resigns or parliament is dissolved for any reason. Prime minister can change any minister if he wants. A minister can resign from his office too.

### **Power and Functions of the Council of Ministers (Cabinet)**

The cabinet is entitled to hold the power to run the administrative functions of the country. It controls the administration in the country. We shall learn about their power and functions below:

1. The member of the cabinet shares the power and functions of the administrative power and runs the administration as a colleague of the prime minister. They perform duties of their individual ministries. The prime minister has to answer to the parliament for the deeds of the minister.
2. Cabinet meeting is held regularly under the leadership of the prime minister. All the administrative issues (such as law and order, economic development, foreign affairs, commerce, defense, cost of products and controlling food situation etc.) are discussed in this meeting and necessary policy and decisions are adopted in the meeting.
3. The cabinet of ministers co-ordinates the task of various ministries.
4. Issuance of new law, amendment of existing law, lead the parliament are the major tasks of the council of ministers. Besides, they draft new laws, place them in the parliament for approval and takes necessary measures to pass them.
5. Every year the government prepares budget to run the state. The finance minister prepares the draft. Other ministers of the cabinet help to prepare it. One of the major tasks of the cabinet is to get approval of the draft budget in the parliament.
6. To safeguard the sovereignty and ensure security of the state is a important task of the cabinet. It has the responsibility to form the armed forces of the country. Mainly, the president appoints the head of the armed forces on the basis of the recommendation of the cabinet. To ensure the law and order in the country and safeguard of the people is another task of the ministers.
7. The cabinet prepares the foreign policy under leadership of the prime minister. The cabinet has the responsibility to sign treaty with other country, establishing diplomatic relationship and operate international trade. The cabinet performs these tasks keeping the national interest and honor intact.
8. Ministers' cabinet works as the bridge between government and the people. They convey the government policy to the public and ensures their support in this regards.

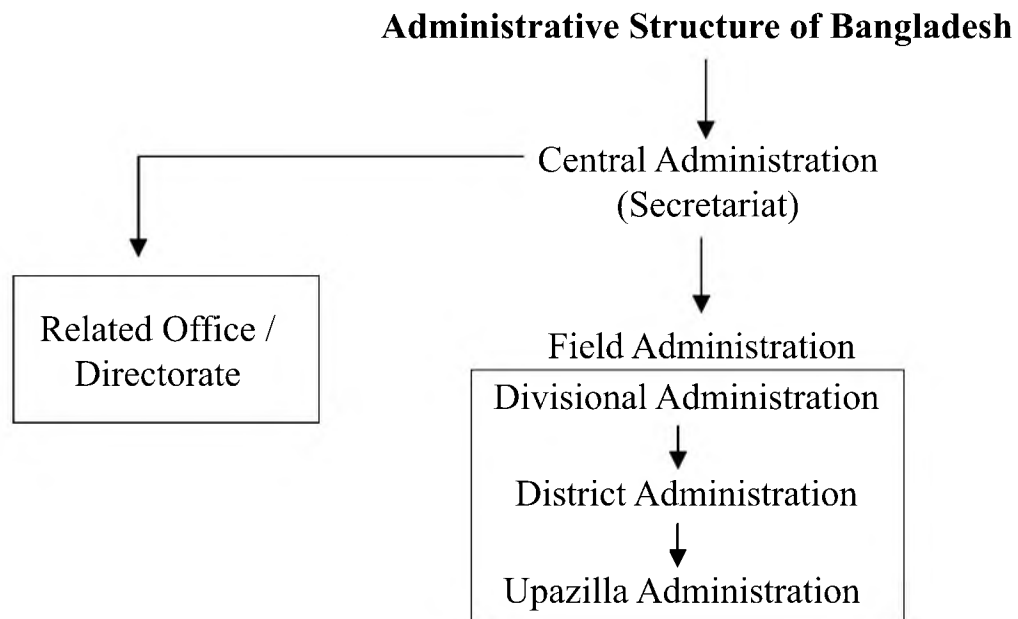
**Dual work:** Students will write down the main aspects power and activities of the cabinet.



**Group Work:** Students in separate groups will arrange quiz/competition on the powers and activities of the President, Prime Minister and Cabinet.

## The Administrative Structure of Bangladesh

The administration is responsible to carry out the administrative works of the state. A good administration has no alternative to maintain the law and order situation in the country and development of the state. For this reason, administration called the heart of the country. Administration is run under a proper structure. A chart is shown below for the administrative structure of Bangladesh:



From the above chart, we can observe that the administrative structure of Bangladesh layer based. It has two main levels. The first level is the central administration. The second level of Bangladesh state administration is field level administration. The first step of the field administration is divisional administration. District administration is on the second level and the upazilla administration is spread to the root level. All the administrative policy and decisions are made in the central level of administration. And

these policies are executed all around the country with the help of the field level administration. Field level administration is controlled by the central administration.

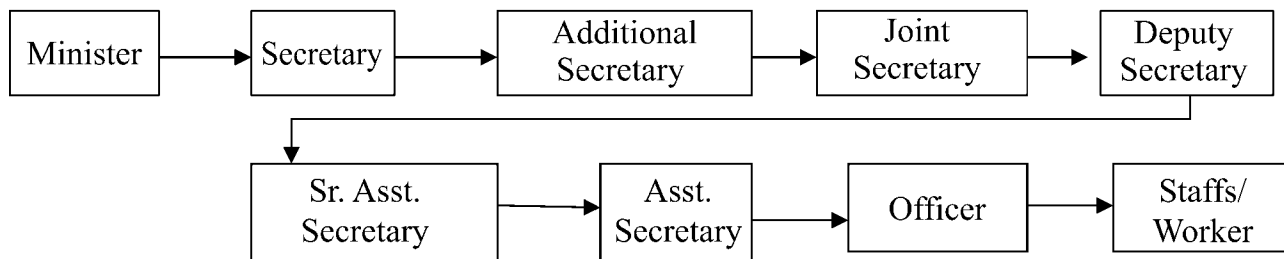
Besides, various office and directorate are attached to different ministries. Director general is the head of this office or directorate. Ministries also have various autonomous, semi-autonomous, board and corporation under them. The activities of this office/directorate are extended to the division, district and upazilla level. These organizations perform as a line organization to execute various government task.

**Group Work:** Students will analyze graph of the administrative structure of Bangladesh and identify the mentionable features.

## Central Administration

Secretariat is the central point of the Central Administration. All the administrative decisions are taken here. Secretariat is formed under some ministries. The ministries are run under a minister. There is a secretary in every ministry. He is the administrative head of the ministry and advisor to the minister. All the administrative power of the ministry is controlled by the secretary. The main job of the minister is to design projects and outline policies. Secretary is responsible to help the minister to implement policy and support in administration.

### Administrative Structure of the Secretariat



Additional secretary is the second main administrative officer. He helps the secretary to carry out various responsibilities. In absence of the secretary he performs the duties of the secretary. For every subdivision of the ministry, there is a joint secretary. He also helps the secretary in different issues. He performs the duties to maintain the staffs and office of the ministry. The deputy secretary performs the duties to maintain one or more department of the ministry. He helps the joint secretary and additional secretary to initiate policy through suggestions and cooperation.

Every department has a senior assistant secretary and assistant secretary. They carry out responsibilities in serious issues with consulting the deputy secretary. There are many officers and staffs in the ministry. They also perform important role in the activities of the ministry.



It is mentionable that there is no limitation for the number of additional secretary, joint secretary, deputy secretary and senior assistant secretary and assistant secretary. They are numbered on the basis of the work volume of the ministry.

### **Divisional Administration**

There are seven divisions in Bangladesh. Divisional commissioner is the head of the administration of each division. He works as the divisional administrative head as representative of the central administration. He is accountable to the center for his jobs.

The divisional commissioner looks after the jobs of the district commissioners. He implements and follow-up the developmental work of the division. He also arranges to collect land tax and looks after the government land. He looks after the transfers of the District Commissioner. He works for the development of sports, arts, literature and cultural activities of the division. He looks after the public welfare and tasks and jobs. In case of natural disaster, he ensures relief and rehabilitation of the victim.

### **District Administration**

District administration works as an important stage of the field level administration. District commissioner is the main executive. He is an experience member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission. All the activities of the district are operated revolving him. We shall learn about the task of the District Commissioner below:

1. **Administrative work:** District commissioner executes and implements all the decisions and orders from the center. He looks after various tasks of the district and co-ordinates them. He recruits for the vacant position of district level administration.
2. **Revenue Related and Monetary Works:** District commissioner is the treasurer and director of the district treasury. He is responsible to collect all the revenues of the district that is why he is also known as the collector. Besides, he also decides the disputes against land development, registration and revenue.
3. **Law and order related job:** To maintain the law and order situation of the district and ensuring the protection of the people is his responsibility. He carries out the responsibility with the help of the police department.
4. **Developmental work:** District commissioner is the key to all development of the district. He is responsible to implement the developmental works (education, agriculture, industry, roads and communication system etc.). He is responsible to look after the people victimized of natural disaster and rehabilitate them.
5. **Local administrative jobs:** District commissioner looks after the local autonomous organizations (upazilla council, municipality, union council). He co-ordinates the works between all the departments and organizations in the district.

As a highest person in the district administration, he performs some additional jobs. He control the newspaper and publication of the district. He provides the business license in the district. He collects various information in the district and informs the government accordingly.

Because of his vast area of activities, he is termed as the main pillar of administration in the district level. He is not only the administrator of the district but also the servant, director and friend too.

## **Upazilla Administration**

Bangladesh has 485 administrative upazillas. Upazilla Executive Officer is the head of the upazilla administration. His main responsibility is to supervise the administrative work of the upazilla. Besides, he looks after all the development works of the upazilla and looks after the expenditure of the government fund. He is the head of the Upazilla Development Committee. He arranges relief and rehabilitation for the victim of the natural disaster. He takes initiative to face and prevent the disasters. He is the treasurer of the Upazilla Treasury. He also performs various duties as imposed by the government.

**Group work:** The students shall prepare a chart of administrative structure of Bangladesh in groups and hang on the wall or board of the class. Then, each group shall discuss about each stage.

## **The Legislative Assembly of Bangladesh**

Legislative assembly is one of the three departments of the government. Legislative assembly is known as National Parliament. It is single housed. Number of member is stipulated to 350. Among these, 300 members are directly elected by public vote. Rests of the seats are preserved for the women. The locality based women members are selected by the 300 elected members of the parliament. But, the women can be elected through direct contest in the 300 hundred seats of the parliament.

There is a speaker and a deputy speaker in the parliament. They are elected by the Member of the Parliament. Their duty is to conduct the sessions of the parliament. The validity of the parliament is five years. But, the president can dissolve the parliament with the advice from the prime minister. The two sessions of the parliament should be held within sixty days. A parliamentary session can be operated if the corum is completed with presence of 60 members. Prime minister is the leader of the parliament. The party holding second position as per number of seats holding in the election acts as the leader of the opposition party. The parliamentary jobs are performed through forming various committees. The parliament membership is cancelled if the member remains absent from the parliament session for 90 days in a row.

The parliamentary election is held in every five years. Any citizen of Bangladesh having age of 25 or above can be elected as the member of the parliament. But, a person becomes ineligible to be a member of the parliament, if he is declared bankrupt or insane by the court, takes citizenship of other country, or have been jailed being sentenced by the court.

**Work:** Students shall make a concept map on the board about the structure of the national parliament.

### **Power and Functions of National Parliament:**

The power and functions of national parliament are as follows:

1. National parliament of Bangladesh has all the rights to draft and approve law in the country. The parliament can draw any new law, amend the existing law and make correction. To pass a new law it has to be brought to the parliament as a draft bill. It becomes a law if approved by the majority of the parliament members.
2. The parliament controls the administrative division. Prime minister and the members of the cabinet are accountable to the parliament. The cabinet dissolves if the parliament brings No-confidence proposal on the prime minister. The national assembly took control over the administrative department through questions, half-an-hour discussion, call attention, resolution, discussion for short duration, adjournment motion, no-confidence motion. In this respect, the opposition party plays a very important role.
3. National parliament is the protector of the fund of the state. No tax is imposable and receivable without the approval of the parliament. Parliament approves the budget every year. Finance Minister proposes the draft budget to the parliament. The members of the parliament approve that on the basis of long discussions and amendment.
4. The national parliament has judiciary power. If any members behave beyond the code of conducts of the parliament; the speaker can send him out of the session. The parliament can also draw no-confidence bill in the parliament against the speaker, deputy speaker, prime minister, cabinet and the president for their breach of constitution of the state and remove them from the concerned office.
5. The parliament can amend the constitution on the basis of the rules implied in the constitution. In this case it requires two third vote of the parliament.
6. The members of the parliament elect the speaker, deputy speaker and various parliamentary committees. They also elect the women members against the preserved seats. They elect the president of the country too.

Bangladesh has a parliamentary government. Parliament is the center for all the national activities of the country. Honest and eligible members are desired for the making the parliament successful and effective. It is also necessary to have a strong and responsible opposition party. We should be aware to elect honest and eligible candidate. It is a holy duty of every citizen in the country to elect eligible member of the parliament for the welfare of the nation.

**Work-Acting :** A parliament session is to be arranged with the participation of students regarding the process of passing a bill in the national assembly.

**Group work:** Students will discuss and make a chart on the power activities of the national assembly.

## **The Judicial Division of Bangladesh**

The judicial division is one of the three divisions of the government. The importance of a neutral judicial division is immense to ensure basic rights of the citizens, justice, punishment of the criminal and to protect the weak from the torture of the strong. The judicial division confirms the practice of law and protects the constitution of the country.

### **Structure of the Judicial Division**

The judicial division of Bangladesh comprises of the Supreme court, Lower court and the Administrative tribunal.

### **Supreme Court**

The highest court of the judicial division is the Supreme Court. It has two divisions: Appellate Division and High Court Division. Supreme Court is headed by a justice known as the Chief Justice of the country. President appoints him upon advice from the prime minister. Supreme Court is formed with the required number of justice for each department. President appoints the judges of the two divisions with consulting the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice and other Justices are fully independent to perform their judicial activities. A person must be a citizen of Bangladesh to judge of the Supreme Court; he must have experience for ten years of working as an advocate at the Supreme Court or to be in the judiciary position of Bangladesh for at least ten years. The judges at the Supreme Court can work till their age of 67 years.

**Dual work:** The student shall discuss the structure of the Supreme Court

### **Power and Functions of Supreme Court**

The appellate division and the high court division have their own work periphery. Supreme Court is formed with functions of these two courts. These are discussed below:

#### **Power and Functions of the Appellate Division:**

- Appellate division can arrange for hearing against the decision, decree or conviction of the high court.
- Appellate division advises the president for explaining any law if required.

- Can order someone to be present in front of the court or present documents to the court to ensure justice.
- Any law declared by the appellate division must be followed by the high court division.

In this way the appellate division plays a very important role in explaining the law, preserving justice and advising the president.

### **Power and Functions of the High Court Division**

- Can impose ban to protect the basic rights of the citizen.
- Can restrain a person from doing harmful activities and can declare this type of work as illegal.
- Can solve a case from the high court division if complexity arises in the lower court because of the explanation of the constitution.
- Accepts appeal against the judgment of the lower courts.
- Provides with the job description of lower courts and operates them.

Supreme Court with its high court and appellate division works as the highest court of the country and protects the constitution and basic rights of the citizens and ensures justice.

**Group Work:** Compare the activities of Appellate division and High court division.

**Lower Court:** There is lower court of judicial division in every district under the Supreme Court. They operate the Criminal and Civil cases.

**District Judge Court:** District Judge is the the head of district court. The additional district judge and sub-judge assist him in his activities. This court deals with civil case (land, loan agreement, etc) and criminal case (fight, quarrels, etc.) at district level.

**Sub-judge Court and Assistant Judge Court:** There is Sub Judge Court and Assistant Judge Court in every district under the District Judge Court. These courts help the Judge Court in operation of the cases. Besides, they also operate cases by themselves.

**Village Court:** Village court is the lowest segment of the judicial system of Bangladesh. It is situated at the Union council level. Five members including the chairman of the Union council and two members each from the concerned parties of the case form this court. Those cases which can be solved at local level are dealt in this court. The criminal case at smaller scale is also judged in this court.

## Exercise

### Questions of Short Answer

1. Write down the differences of appointing the President and the Prime Minister.
2. Describe the structure of the cabinet.
3. Why prime minister is called the 'pillar' of the government?
4. How budget is passed in the Parliament?

### Descriptive Question

1. What is the system of the government in Bangladesh? Why should we know about this?
2. Compare the power and functions of president and the prime minister in the following three areas:
  - a. Administrative Power and functions
  - b. Legislative Power and functions
  - c. Power and activities in case of emergency situation.

### Project Work

1. The students shall make a list of the functions of the president and the prime minister from the media and categorize them as per their nature.
2. The students shall observe the parliament session or sessions in the television or study in the newspaper in groups and shall write report on the following subject:
  - a. Who and how runs the parliamentary session?
  - b. Write down the names of several members participating in the discussion in the session.
  - c. Short description on the issue discussed in the session.
  - d. The name of the bill passed; if any.

### 3. Project work

- a. The students shall make a list of 5 ministries and 3 of their tasks from the papers or websites.
- b. Students shall present in the class the activities of the field administration through making a list by field work.

**Multiple Choice Question:**

1. How many divisions in Bangladesh are at present?
  - a. 4
  - b. 5
  - c. 6
  - d. 7
2. What kind of government system in Bangladesh is in operations now?
  - a. Autocratic
  - b. Federal
  - c. Parliamentary
  - d. Presidential

**Read the following paragraph and answer question No. 3 & 4**

Yung Reema was watching news on the television with her father. He saw the two people standing beside with one book on his hand reading something and the other one is repeating. When Reema asked his father, he replied that the highest honored person of the administration division is taking oath of the head of the judicial division.

3. Who is indicated as the 'highest honored person in the administration division' by Reema's father?
  - a. The Prime Minister
  - b. The President
  - c. Secretary
  - d. Director General
4. The person who is the highest honored person of administration division-
  - i. Has been elected by the members of the parliament.
  - ii. Has been assigned duty for five years
  - iii. He is the main administrative person of the country

**Which of the following is correct?**

- a. i & ii
- b. ii & iii
- c. i & iii
- d. i, ii & iii

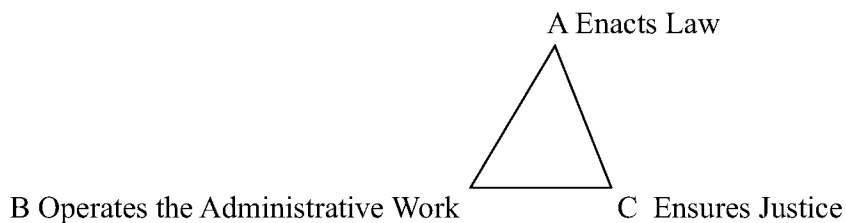
**Read the following paragraph and answer question No. 5 & 6**

Mr. Ripon; as a public representative had been making speech in a public meeting in the locality of "A". He was assuring to place the demands and expectations of the mass in the appropriate place in the form of bill.

5. What kind of public representative Mr. Ripon is?
- a. Union Council Chairman                      b. Upazilla Chairman  
c. Municipal Chairman                          d. Member of the Parliament
6. What is the most important task of Mr. Ripon?
- a. Enactment of Law                              b. Expressing No-confidence  
c. Adjournment of the session                d. Passing Budget

### Creative Question

1.



- a. What is the other name of the Administrative Division?
- b. What do you understand by Divisional Administration?
- c. Explain the task of the division of government denoted by 'A'
- d. In Bangladesh the 'A' denoted division is controlled by the 'B' denoted division. Give opinion.
2. Mr. A is the head of the administration in Chittagong division. He assisted in construction of two building for the Shilpakola Bhaban and preparation of a sports ground. On the other hand, Mr. B is as the head of the Upazilla Administration distributed seeds, fertilizer, pesticides among the ideal farmer of the district and collects the land tax properly. Mr. B is accountable to Mr. A for all his deeds.
- a. When was the first government of Bangladesh formed during the war?
- b. Delineate in your own words- 'Administration is called the Heart of the state'.
- c. Mr. A works as the head of which administration? Explain
- d. Mr. B has many other activities performed by him other than stated in the paragraph- Give your opinion.



## Chapter Seven

# Political Parties and Election in Democracy

Political parties are imperative in a democratic system. A modern democratic government system is primarily the rule of a political party. A government formed through people's vote is a democratic government. Without political parties, it is not possible to form this democratic government. In this chapter, we will discuss about what a political party is, relations between democracy and political party and elections and election commission, etc.

**By the end of studying this chapter we would be able to -**

- explain the concept and characteristics of a political party.
- Analyze the role of a political party in the development of democracy.
- describe the main political parties of Bangladesh.
- determine the relations between democracy and election.
- describe the structure, power and proceedings of Bangladesh election commission.

### **Political party**

A political party is that part of a country's populace which is organized to resolve the national problems on the basis of an ideology or some principles or program. The main goal of a political party is to run the country according to its principles and ideals and to implement election commitments. A political party works in the interests of every one irrespective of all religions, race, men, women, class and profession. One of the characteristic of a democratic system is the presence of an ideology and program- based political parties. There are some countries in the world where political parties do not exist. For example, no party exists in Saudi Arabia. There all political decisions are taken by the King's family and its council. Again, in some places laws have been formulated to ban political parties. Like in Uganda in African continent, all political parties were banned by the government until 2005

### **Characteristics of a political party**

**Organized group of people:** A political party is an organized group of people based on some principles and ideals.

**Gaining power:** The main goal of a political party is to form a government by gaining power in a constitutional way.

**Clearly defined ideals and program:** Every political party has an ideal and clearly defined program. From the point of ideals, a party may be religion-based and secular. On the other hand, a party may be different, considering the economic program. For example, Socialist party.

**Institutional framework and leadership:** Every political party has an institutional framework. The party branch extends from the centre to the local body. Besides, there are various committees in the central and local levels in each party. However, the party is run by the central leadership.

**Election-related activities:** Election plays a pivotal role in a modern political system, for that matter in a democratic or autocratic government system. The importance of election in a democratic government system is more than that of an autocratic government system. During all these elections, the party and its workers carry out various works like preparing for election, nominating, candidate, drawing up the party program in an election, election campaign and collecting vote.

### **Role of a political party**

**Creating leadership:** The head of the political party is the leader of the party. Just as the party has leadership in the central level, so there is leadership in the local level. Those who are leaders at the local level, it is not like that they could not be leaders in the central level in future. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh government is the leader of his party. The political party and the people work to create leaders.

**Formation of government:** The main function of a political party is to form a government. In a democratic system, the party that earns the majority in elections forms the government.

**Creating public opinion:** One of the functions of a political party is to create public opinion in favour of its ideals and program. In creating this public opinion, a political party adopts programs like various meetings, processions and mass contacts.

**Political education:** The responsibility of a political party is to create public awareness about matters related to its interest. During an election, Political parties explain their party program and criticize the program of other parties. People come to know many matters related to the running of the state from the opinions, discussions etc. The common people thus become politically educated.

**Constructive opposition:** Among the political parties, the winning party in an election forms the government and the second majority party plays the role of the opposition in the parliament. If the government makes any mistake, then the main task of the opposition would be to point out the mistakes of the government through constructive criticism.

**Establishment of social unity:** In a society, there are people of different religion, race and class. Their interest is different from each other. One of the roles of a political party is to bring together these different interests and convert them into a program. A political party seeks people's support to be elected for going to power. A party, after assuming power, adopts a policy to implement their program. Social unity depends on implementation of this policy.

<p><b>Individual work:</b> Prepare a list of the activities of a political party that creates hope in the minds of the people.</p>
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## **The main political parties of Bangladesh**

The party system of a country does not only explain the presence of political parties in that country. Rather, party system refers to the number, structure, their relation with government etc. According to the country's constitution, every citizen has the right to express his opinion freely and form organization or association. As a reflection of this, we can see the existence of multi-party system in Bangladesh. Presently, there are many political parties in Bangladesh. Noteworthy among these are Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jatiya Party (JP), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Worker's Party of Bangladesh, Jamaat- E- Islami. A brief profile of these political parties is given below.

### **Bangladesh Awami League**

Awami League is the oldest and largest party. The Party was formed in Dhaka under the name Awami Muslim League on June 23, 1949. Later, to make it more acceptable to all, the word 'Muslim' was omitted from the label of the party in 1955. Bengali nationalism, democracy, secularism and creation of an exploitation free society are the main principles of Awami League. The Party secured majority seats in the 1970 General Elections in Pakistan under the leadership of father of the nation Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The 1971 War of Liberation was fought under the leadership of the Awami League. Through this war, an independent, sovereign Bangladesh was born.

### **Bangladesh Nationalist Party**

Bangladesh Nationalist Party is another large political party. General Ziaur Rahman founded the Party on September 1, 1978. The ideals or principles of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party are - belief in Islamic values, Bangladeshi nationalism, democracy and free market economy.

### **Jatiya Party:**

Jatiya Party is the country's third largest Party. This Party was founded on 1st. January 1986 under the leadership of General Hossain Mohammad Ershad. In the written proclamation of Jatiya Party 1. Independence and sovereignty, 2) Islamic Ideals and freedom of all religions, 3) Bangladeshi Nationalism, 4) Democracy and 5) Social progress, that is, economic emancipation - these five have been adopted as the Party's ideals.

### **Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh**

Jamaat-e-Islami is a religion- based political party. This party was formed in 1941 in British India under the leadership of Maulana Abul Ala Maududi. It was named Jamaat-e-Islami Hind at that time. After the establishment of Pakistan, it was named Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan. In May 1979, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh emerged in independent Bangladesh. Currently, the party is known as Bangladesh Jammat-e-Islami.

**Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD):**

On 31 October 1972, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) was established in independent Bangladesh. JSD believes in socialist ideology.

**Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB):**

Bangladesh Communist Party was formed in the name of the Communist Party of India and Pakistan. Comrade Moni Singh (died 1990), who was the pioneer of the Communist movement in this country was the central leader of the Communist Party.

**Bangladesh Workers Party:**

Some factions of the frequently divided pro - Chinese Communists united together to form Bangladesh Workers Party. This Party came into existence in 1980.

**Political Party in the development of democracy**

Democracy means the presence of political party. The importance of political party in the success of democracy is unlimited. This is because public opinion is well-organized by a political party and creates political awareness among the people.

A political Party teaches its members and leaders to get accustomed to democratic norms and practices. For example, party leaders and workers are given opportunity when taking a party decision and to be tolerant of others opinion.

A political party launches a movement to set up a democratic government through the removal of a government that works against public interest. In 1990, the political parties of Bangladesh established democratic rule by removing the anti-people military government through unanimous opinions of all political parties. In a democratic system, power is transferred after a certain fixed term. Government is formed through a free and fair election in a democratic system. This election is not possible without the participation of political parties.

**Individual work:** Students will highlight the role of political parties in democratic system

**Election:**

Election is the method of selecting people's representative. All citizens with voting rights select representatives from local to national levels. The process of selecting representatives is called election. Those who cast vote are called electors or voters. A number of voters collectively is called electorate. A credible election is one of the conditions of a democratic system. Besides, at times, elections are also held under martial law and authoritarian system. In a democratic system, the importance of election is rudimentary. Through election, the voters elect a deserving candidate from a list of candidates. The party which gets the most votes forms the government. The electorate works as a bridge between the government and the people. Elections in a democratic

system compel the government to be answerable to the people. If a party, when elected, does not work properly for the people, then in the next election, the people do not elect that party any more. Just as this is true in a developed democratic country, so it is true in case of under developed countries. In Britain, in the 2010 election, the people of that country removed the labour party from power and voted for the conservative party.

Similarly in 2001 the people of Bangladesh put the BNP in power in place of Awami League and in 2008 the Awami League was voted to power replacing the BNP. In this way, election works as a medium of communication between the people and the ruling class. Through election, the people continue its support for the ruling class for a specific duration. Since the independence of Bangladesh, in a span of 35 years from 1973 to 2008, elections were held 14 times. This included 2 referendums, 3 presidential elections and 9 parliamentary elections.

## Types of Election

Elections are of two types. For Example, Direct election an indirect election.

**Direct election:** When the people vote directly to elect representatives, it is called direct election. For example: the members of Bangladesh parliament are elected by direct votes of the people.

**Indirect election:** people elect public representative or an electoral college through vote when these public representatives elect the president or members of the reserved seats in parliament, it is called indirect election. For instance, the president of Bangladesh is elected by the parliament members. Again, the president of the United States is elected by an electoral college.

**Individual Task:** Give some reasons why the electorate is important in a democratic system.

## Voting method

Voting method implies how a candidate is selected through voting. Presently, there are two methods of casting vote. (A) Open ballot method (B) secret ballot method. In an open ballot method, the voters openly vote in favour of the person of their choice. Here, the voters openly say "yes" or raise their hand to show their support. On the other hand, in secret ballot method, the voters either put a tick mark on seal next to the name of the candidate of their choice. Currently, this system is universally recognized.

## One Man, One Vote

Another important method in the election system is the 'one man, one vote system.' One man, one vote is presently a universally accepted system. In this system, any number of candidates can compete for one seat. A voter can cast only one vote to the candidate of his choice. The competing candidate who gets the most votes is elected.

**Individual work:** Show the characteristics of the election system separately through a diagram.

## **Election Commission**

An effective election system is a pre-condition to build democratic institution-building. In other words, people's placing of trust on election. A good and neutral election system is the safeguard for democracy. The responsibility of holding this credible and neutral election lies in the election commission.

### **Formation**

The election commission is formed according to article 118 of the Bangladesh constitution. It is a constitutionally formed institution. The election commission will be formed with one chief election commissioner and not more than four commissioners, totaling five persons. The president appoints them. The chief election commissioner presides over the meetings of the election commission. The duration of the chief election commissioner and the other commissioners is for five years from the date of their assuming responsibility. It is the duty of the government and other authorities to assist the election commission in its work. In addition to the directions given in the constitution, the election commission is run according to the country's election rules.

The Election commission has its own secretariat to carry out its work. The independence and neutrality of the election commission is very much necessary for holding a good and impartial election as well as for forming parliament with the elected representatives. The election commission is dependent on the government for its manpower and financial power. That is why in matters of manpower and finance, independence of the election commission is absolutely necessary

### **Power and Works**

The responsibility of the election commission is described in Article 119 of the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The responsibility of the election commission is to hold the elections of the president and the parliament, prepare the voter list for election, provide identity cards to the voters, conduct other elections determined by law (this includes all local government councils-like union council, municipality, city corporation, upazilla council, District Council (Hill Tracts Council) as well as complete other relevant tasks effectively. Besides, it is the task of the election commission to select the nomination papers of the candidates in the election, make policies related to parties and election holding related policies. Further, an important task of the election commission is to demarcate the boundary of the constituency. For example- In the Bangladesh parliamentary elections, there are 300 constituencies. There the parliament members are elected through the direct vote of

the people. A constituency is determined on the basis of its geographical size and number of voters. In addition to the geographical area based 300 seats, there are 50 more reserved seats in the Bangladesh parliament. These are fixed for women. They are indirectly elected by the 300 directly elected parliament members.

**Group work:** The role of the election commission is very important for holding a good and impartial election - Have a class debate on this subject.

## Exercise

### Short Questions- Answers

1. What is a political party?
2. Describe the characteristics of a political party:
3. How does a free and fair election help in the formation of a democratic government?
4. Discuss the formation of the election commission.

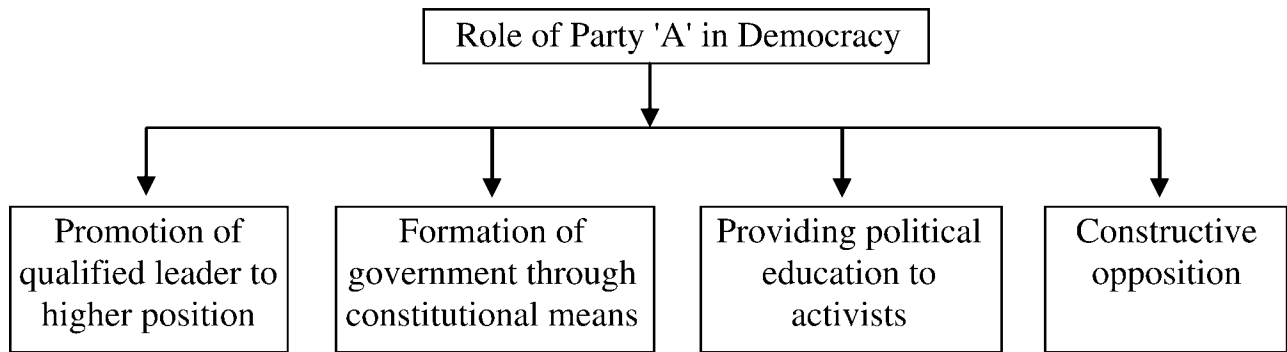
### Descriptive question

1. Analyze our election system. Find its demerit and provide its solution.

### Multiple Choice questions

1. How many reserved seats for women are there in parliament?  
a. 13      b. 50      c. 300      d. 350
2. What is the main task of a political party?  
a. Go to power through election  
b. Create public opinion in favour of party ideals and program.  
c. Find faults of the government through constructive opposition.  
d. To work out a political programme by uniting the interests of different parties.

**Answer question 3 and 4 by observing the diagram**



3. Development of democracy requires-

- i. to give priority to the views of the workers in political decision.
- ii. constructive criticism of the different works of the government by the opposition party.
- iii. change of state power through neutral election.

**Which one below is correct?**

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| a. i and ii  | b. ii and iii    |
| c. i and iii | d. i, ii and iii |

4. It will be easy to follow the roles of party 'A' in the diagram -

- |                        |                                  |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a. monarchy            | b. autocratic system             |
| c. In a Socialist rule | d. In a parliamentary government |

### **Creative Questions**

1. In the national election of Bangladesh persons 'A' and 'B' contest from one seat in Dhaka. They go from house to house of voters and exchange pleasantries. In addition, they hold meetings and processions in different areas of their constituency. The voters elect person 'A' thinking him to be honest and qualified.
  - a. Under which system of government is a political party indispensable?
  - b. What is the main goal of a political party? Explain.
  - c. Under which system is person 'B' elected? Explain.
  - d. In the election, one of the tasks of a political party has been reflected through the works of person 'A' and person 'B' Give argument in favour of the answer.



# **Chapter Eight**

## **Local Government System in Bangladesh**

To run state's governance properly, local government system developed alongside the central administration. This kind of local government system is formed at the grassroots level to solve local problems. This kind of local government system exists in Bangladesh. People get opportunity to directly participate in governance of the state through participation in local government. So local governance is one of the irreversible parts of democratic government. In this chapter, we shall know about the structure, powers and functions of local government system.

**At the end of studying this chapter, we would be able to-**

- explain the structure, powers and functions of local government system;
- analyze the interrelationships of different stages of local government system;
- analyze the importance of local government in the expansion of citizenship;
- describe the importance of local government in providing civic opportunities.

### **Local Government**

Local government is a system of government which is established consisting of a small area within a state. Based on the relationship with central government, the forms of local government can be of two types. Firstly, in the local administration, administrators are directly employed by the central government and their main duty is to implement the instructions of the central government. Administrative personnel at the division, district, sub-district and secretaries at the union levels are employed by the central government. Secondly, local self-government system is understood as formed by the elected local representatives and empowered body by law in order to meet the local needs for smaller regions. In our country, Union Council, District Council, Pourashava and City Corporation has been examples of local self-governments. Local administration acts as an associate of local self-government.

### **Importance of Local Government**

In the opinions of British Political Philosopher John Stuart Mill, local government creates the opportunities for people's participation in government and political activities. This participation makes the people conscious about those matters. Local government provides different kinds of services to the citizens at the local level. For local administrators, it is easier to rightly identify the interests of local people, and to acquire knowledge about different matters related to them. It becomes possible for local administrators to get clear ideas about the matters relating to local development.

## Nature of Local Government System in Bangladesh

Local government in Bangladesh has a long history in Bangladesh. Beginning from the Mughal period till the British rule, the structure of Local government took shape through a variety of legal reforms. During the Pakistani rule, the structure of Local government remained the same. After the emergence of independent Bangladesh, everything in a new state was required to furnish anew. In the new state, special importance of Local government was one of the main features of 1972 Constitution.

At present three-tier local government is noticed in Bangladesh. These are: Union Parishad, Thana/Upazilla Parishad and Zilla Parishad. Apart from those, there are Paurashavas in the cities, ten City Corporations, Chittagong Regional Council and three Hill District Councils (Khagrachari, Bandarban and Rangamati). Of the above-mentioned three-tier Local government, Union Parishad is the most effective form of local government from the bottom-up.

Union Parishad and Upazilla Parishad are close to or near by of the villages. In the city areas, there are, Paurashavas, Zilla Parishad and City Corporation. Besides, special form of Local government exists in the hilly areas.

Under the Ministry of Local Government		Under the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts
Village based-Local Government	City based-Local Government	Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council
District Council (61)	City Corporation (10)	1. Bandarban Hill District Council
Sub-district Council (485)	Pourashava (314)	2. Rangamati Hill District Council
Union Council (4498)		3. Khagrachari Hill District Council
		4. Upazilla Parishad-25
		5. Union Council- 118

In each tier of the Local government, representation of women has been underlined. Now, we shall know about different tiers of the Local government.

### Union Council

#### Structure

One Union consists of 10-15 villages. It has one elected chairman, nine elected members and three elected women representatives (reserved seats). One union is divided into nine wards. One member from nine wards totaling nine members are elected through direct vote.



One women member equals to three wards where they are elected by the direct male and female votes. One salaried secretary is employed in the Union Council. It has a 5-year long tenure. But before the end of the tenure, chairman or any members of the Council could be removed by two-thirds vote of no-confidence of the members. In Bangladesh, there are 4, 498 Union Council.

### **Functions**

Union Council plays an important role in the village life. Union Parishad performs many functions in order to solve problems in the village, to enhance mass awareness and to create responsible leadership. These are discussed below.

1. Union Parishad builds roads, culverts, bridges and do their maintainance and plant trees on the roadside;
2. Union Council supplies high quality seeds, fertilizer and insecticides for agriculture development and encourage more food production;
3. It takes necessary steps for animal husbandry and livestock development;
4. Union Council keeps the environment neat and clean for preserving public health. It keeps control over throwing wastages, slaughtering animals, taking bath of animals and washing clothes and so on;

5. It sets up charitable hospital for primary health care;
6. Union council makes the people aware of population control and arranges the supply of necessary material for population control at a cheaper rate;
7. In order to spread education and eliminate illiteracy, Union council provides scholarship to the poor and meritorious students and set up library and adult educations centers etc.
8. It encourages the people to set up cottage industries and run cooperative movement for economic development of the people;
9. Union Council imposes and collects different types of taxes to bear its official expenses and helps the government to collect different types of revenues;
10. Union Council maintain birth-death and marriage registers;
11. Union Council helps and rehabilitates the destitute affected by floods or other natural disasters;
12. Union Council arbitrates the conflicts in the village life. It can adjudicate the civil and criminal cases over the claim of maximum TK. 5,000.

### **Sources of Income**

- a. Taxes on houses and buildings;
- b. Village police rate;
- c. Birth, marriage and fees on the feast;
- d. Taxes on Cinema, Theatre, open-air drama, circus and fair;
- e. Taxes on Transport;
- f. Fees on License and Permit;
- h. Charge imposed for any activities for public welfare;
- j. Market, water-bodies, ferry station and toll collection;
- k. Allocation/ grant by the government.

**Individual Task:** Make a report on the services you or your family has received from your near-by local government.

**Team work:** 1. Prepare a list on the city and village based Local Government;  
2. Make a list on the sources of Union Council's income.

### **Upazilla Council**

In our country, Upazilla or thana is an administrative tier.

## Structure

Upazilla Council consists of one chairman, two vice chairmen (one of them is woman), chairmen of Union Council under the Upazilla, chairmen of Pourashava (if exists) and three other women member. According to 2009 Upazilla Parishad Act, the Members of the Parliament will act as adviser to the Council. The Chairman and the two vice chairmen are elected by the direct votes of the people.



Chairmen of Union Council and Pourashavas (if any) will assume its ex-officio members. Elected women representatives of the Union Council and Pourashavas (if any) will elect three women member from their cohort. For a Upazilla parishad, there will be a panel of 3 chairmen, of which 1 will be a woman. Upazilla Executive Officer will act as secretary to the Council. The tenure of the council is for 5 years. At present, there are 485 Upazilla in Bangladesh.

## Functions:

The functions a Upazilla parishad is enumerated below.

1. To coordinate the functions of Union Council;
2. To build, repair and maintain the inter-union connecting roads for the development of communication and infrastructure;

3. It assists women and child development; social welfare, youth, sports and cultural development;
4. For agriculture development, it adopts a number of development activities such as animal husbandry, fishing, forestry, and irrigation project.
5. It forms public opinion to resist the torture on women and children. It takes necessary steps to stop such repression;
6. It adopts social forestry programme for the preservation of natural environment and development;
7. It adopts a lot of activities to set up and develop small and cottage industries;
8. It creates public opinion for the spread of education. It supervises the activities of secondary and Madrsa education for their quality development;
9. It ensures the supply of safe drinking water and the development of sewerage;
10. It reviews the activities of the Police department and maintaining law and order situation;
11. It adopts programme for poverty reduction and self-employment;
12. It performs other responsibilities given by the government.

### **Sources of Income:**

Upazilla Parishad fund consists of tax, toll, fees, and money received from the government and other sources.

**Individual task:** Prepare a list of differences between Union Council and Upazilla Parishad.

**Group work:** Prepare a list on the functions of Upazilla Parishad.

### **District Council**

The chairman of the district council is directly elected by the people of that district. He enjoys the status a state minister. And Deputy Commissioner acts as the Chief Executive under him. Member of the Parliament (MP) acts as an adviser to this Council. But at present, the government has employed an administrator instead of a Chairman. The status of district administrator has not yet been determined the government circular.



### **Structure**

According to District Council Act, 2000 it consist of a chairman, fifteen members and five women representatives in the reserved seats. They all are indirectly elected by the vote of Mayors of City Corporation, Commissioners, UP chairmen and member. The tenure of this Council is five years.

### **Functions**

In 2000, District Council Act is passed. Under this Act, the Council is vested with 12 compulsory and 68 optional functions. Planning and development are noteworthy functions of District Council. Development of industries and commerce, supervision of government hospitals, family clinics and educational institutions are some of the functions of District Council. Also it constructs & maintains inter-district road project, supervises police activities, and helps in the development of law and order. Moreover, it gives recommendations regarding the control of terrorism and supervises sub-district activities. Sub-district will prepare 5-year long development plan and send it through Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to the Planning Commission.

### **Sources of Income**

The District Council Act 1998 provides the Council with 8 sources of income. Apart from these sources, District Council gets 1 % of land transfer fees and 5 % land tax. In addition, the District Council will have extended lease money from markets, ferry station and water bodies. However, the District Council is inactive the way it is stated in the Act.

## Pourashava

As the villages have Union Council, so the cities have Pourashavas. At present there are 314 Pourashavas.



### Structure

According to Local Government (Pourashava) Act, 2009 Pourashava consists of one Mayor, and equal number of councilors fixed by the Government gazette including the fixed number of councilors reserved for women. All these positions are elected by the direct votes of the people.

### Functions

Pourashava performs the responsibilities regarding the solutions of problems of the local people and take the responsibility of development functions. In discharging this duty, Pourashava has to do a lot of works. These are discussed below.

1. It establishes educational institutions and provides grants to these institutions. It builds hostel and provides scholarships to the poor and meritorious students. In addition, it sets up adult education center, night school and libraries etc.
2. Pourashava performs public healthcare-related activities. It builds roads, ponds, and dustbins for public health care. It manages treatments for epidemic and infecitons diseases. It builds and take necessary steps to run hospital, maternity centre, peditrics center and family planning centers.



3. To build and maintenance of the graveyard for cremating the dead-body. Pourashava build orphanage and shelters for destitute and orphans.
4. To manage safe drinking water for the people and water sewerage for water logging;
5. To employ night guards in the Pourashava areas for protecting life and property. To control criminal and dangerous games and professions;
6. It plants trees on the roadside and preserve forestry in order to beautify and develop the environment in the city areas. It preserves open spaces, builds auditorium, parks and gardens for entertainment of the people;
7. It manages treatments for poultry and animals, sets up farms and do animal husbandry and poultry in the city areas. It also sells animals and do their registration, round up dangerous animals and kill them, remove dead-bodies of animals etc.
8. It takes necessary steps to stop selling adulterated and stale foods. It also imposes on the restrictions on the free sale of drugs-related foods and liquor. Similar restrictions are imposed by Pourashava on the making, buying-selling, and supply of those foods. It punishes those who violated rules and regulations.
9. Pourashava permits to build houses for the development of well-planned cities. Unapproved and illegal structures are destroyed.
10. Purashava adopts grand plan and implements for well-planned beautiful cities and preserving the balanced environment;
11. Pourashava controls the plying of vehicles and provides license of Motorcars;
12. Purashava arranges assistance, care and relief in times of natural disasters;
13. Pourashava takes actions against those who break law and order for maintaining the peaceful environment;
14. Pourashava can adjudicate the civil and criminal cases worth of maximum 5,000 takas. For this reason, a Court is set up consisting of Mayor and four Councilors;

### **Sources of Income**

Pourashava maintains its expenditure by money received from different sources. These are taxes imposed on the household, shops, electricity, water and other services and on matters of entertainment. In addition, market rent, Hat-Bazar, and leasing of ferry station, license-permit, transport registration fee and government allocation etc.

### **City Corporation**

City Corporations in Bangladesh have grown up based on main cities. There are ten City Corporations in Bangladesh. These include two in Dhaka (Dhaka North and Dhaka South), Chittagong, Comilla, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Narayanganj and Rangpur.

## Structure

By government circular, each City Corporation is divided into determinate number of wards. City Corporation consists of one Mayor, equal number of councilors of the determinate number of wards, and one-third reserved seats for female councilors from the determinate number of wards. Mayor and Councilors are elected by the direct votes of the people and female councilors for reserved seats are elected by votes of councilors. The Mayor of City Corporation enjoys the status of State Minister. The tenure of the City Corporation is for 5-years.



## Functions

To maintain peace and order in city areas and to solve the different problems and for the development, City Corporation performs different important functions. These are discussed below.

1. City Corporation builds and maintains roads. It gives license for Motor cars, Bus, Trucks, and for others. It controls the movement of vehicles.
2. For the protection of public health, City Corporation cleans canals and roads, thereby keeping the residential areas clean and tidy. It builds dustbin for storing filths and healthy toilets in different places etc. It also runs and builds hospitals, maternity centers, pediatrics and family planning centers.

3. It manages safe drinking water, sinking tube-wells and releasing water from water-logging.
4. It takes steps to stop sell and supply of adulterated and stale foods in the City Corporation areas. It controls food and water supply. It provides license in food and water processing, and import.
5. It sets up treatment center in metropolitan areas for animals and poultry. In addition, it makes registration for animals, it rounds up dangerous animals and kills them, removes the dead-bodies of animals and found poultry firm.
6. It helps the poor in metropolitan areas and founds centers for public welfare and for the orphans. It manages to stop and rehabilitate begging and prostitutes. Furthermore, takes necessary steps to resist gambling, drug-addiction and unsocial activities.
7. To cope with natural disasters, City Corporations manage to support and rehabilitate the victims;
8. It founds adult education centers and night schools from metropolitan areas. Moreover, to spread education it establishes new educational institutions, provide grants to educational institutions, along with building hostels, providing scholarships, running and setting up of libraries.
9. City Corporation builds auditorium, art gallery, information center, museum, free-stage etc for cultural development.
10. In order to develop the environment and enhancing the beautification of metropolitan areas, City Corporation plants trees on the roadside and preserve forestry in the open places. To build garden for people's enjoyment of leisure time.
11. City Corporation permits to build houses in metropolitan areas. It destroys unapproved structures and manages to evict illegal occupiers.
12. City Corporation conducts birth-death registration.
13. In order to keep peace and order in metropolitan areas it performs small types of judicial functions. It employs peacekeepers in the localities to settle disputes
14. It takes necessary steps to stop burglary, robbery and highjacking in metropolitan areas.
15. On the whole, the City Corporation adopts and implements plan for overall development of metropolitan areas.

### **Sources of income**

- a. Imposed tax by City Corporation of any sorts such as tax, sub-tax, toll, fees etc
- b. Income or profits received from all kinds of properties belonging to the City Corporation
- c. Grant from the government or any other authority;

- d. Donation by any local institutions, individuals or authority;
- e. Income received from all trusts belonging to the Corporation
- f. Profit received from investment by the Corporation;
- g. Monies received from other sources;
- h. Money received from money-penalty under law.

**Individual Work:** Prepare a list of sources of taxes of the City Corporation.

## Special Local Government System in the CHT

The background of the formation of Local government system in the chittagong Hill Tracts is different from that of other Local government system. Historically the culture and life style of smaller ethnic groups in the chittagong Hill Tracts are completely different from Bengali culture and lifestyle. To establish this separate identity, they had long been struggling. As a result of their demand, a Peace Agreement was signed on 2 December in 1997. Through this agreement, the structure of a different type of Local government has grown up in the region.

## Hilly District Council

Smaller ethnic groups live in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. In addition, the mainstream Bangalis also live there. There are different types problems remaining in this region for which different steps are needed to solve those problems. For the development of this region, a special type of system is needed. There are three district level Local government councils in three hilly districts such as Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. The tenure of the Council was for 3-years before. At present it has been extended up to 5- years.

## Structure and Nature

Each district council consists of 1 chairman, 30 general members and 3 female members altogether 34 members. All are elected by the people's direct vote. Both Bengali and Paharis are the members of the Council. The number would be determined according to the proportion of the population. On the contrary, apart from the female members, reserved seats for Paharis would be distributed among smaller ethnic groups. Of 3 female members, 2 would come from smaller ethnic groups and 1 from Bengalis. The Chairman must come from smaller ethnic groups. Although the seats of memberships are apportioned between the two communities, voting rights will be equal. Apart from the reserved seats for women, women can contest in other seats. A government employee will act as Secretary to the Council. The tenure of the Council is for 5-yaers.

**Group Work:** Make a poster on the differences between the Local government system in the chittagong Hill Tracts and the Local government system in other areas of the country.

## **Functions**

1. To preserve, supervise and develop law and order in the district;
2. To assist in coordinating and implementing the development works of the district level local authorities;
3. To spread and develop education and create opportunities;
4. Health care and program implementation for public health development and family planning;
5. Agriculture and forestry development and preservation;
6. Animal husbandry
7. Fisheries development
8. To encourage cooperative movement
9. To spread local industries, trade and commerce;
10. Building shelter houses for orphans and destitute and other social welfare activities;
11. To develop and preserve the culture of smaller ethnic groups and development of sports;
12. To improve the communication system;
13. Water supply and irrigation development;
14. Land and land management
15. Environment protection and development
16. Develop local tourism
17. Dispute settlement among the Paharis according to their rules and customs.

## **Sources of Income**

Sources of income of the Council are enumerated below:

- a. Part of imposed taxes on the transfer of immovable properties;
- b. Holding tax on land and buildings
- c. Tolls on roads, bridges and ferry
- d. Registration fees for transport
- e. Tax on commodities sales and purchases
- f. Holding tax on industries
- g. Fees on social adjudication
- h. Tax on lottery

- i. Tax on entertainment activities
- j. Parts of royalty on the forestry
- k. Part of royalty received from the permit given by the government in order extract mineral resources;
- l. Any sorts of tax imposed by the Council empowered by the government.

### **Chittagong Regional Council**

To coordinate the activities of three hill districts, Regional Council has come into existence covering the whole region.

#### **Formation**

The regional council will be formed comprising a chairman, 12 members of ethnic groups, 6 members outside the ethnic group or Banglali, 2 female members of ethnic groups, 1 female member from outside the ethnic group or Bangali and the 3 chairmans of 3 hill district councils. The chairman must be from an ethnic group and will receive the status of a state minister Among the 12 members of ethnic groups there will be 5 from Chakma, 3 from Marma, 2 from Tripura, 1 from Murong and Tonchainga and 1 each from Lusai, Bom, Pankho, Khumi, Chok, Khiang ethnic groups. Of the 6 from outside the ethnic groups there will be 2 from each hill district. Of the 2 female members of ethnic groups, one will be from the Chakma group. The female Bangali member will be from any of the 3 hill districts. Except the 3 chairmans of 3 hill districts councils, the chairman of local council and all other members will be elected by the members of district council indirectly. The districts chairman of three hill tracks will be member of this council by virtue of their office and they will have voting rights. A government official will act as the executive officer of the council. The council for will be 5 years.

#### **Function**

The functions of the Chittagong Regional Council will be follows:

1. Co-ordination of all the development projects of the 3 hill district councils and supervising all the matters vested in their hands.
2. Supervising the municipalities and co-ordinating their activities.
3. Supervision of the Chittagong Hill Tracks Development Board.
4. Supervising and co-ordinating the general administration, law and order and development of hill districts.
5. Supervising and upholding the customs, conventions and social Judgements.
6. Approving liscense to establish heavy industry in the region in accordance with the

national industry policy.

7. Operating disaster management and relief program and co-ordinating the works of NGO's.

### **Sources of income**

Before the start of every fiscal year the council will draw up a budget or a description of the possible income and expenses of the year. Its fund will be formed with the money from the following sources-

- a. Money from the hill district council fund, an amount fixed by the government from time to time.
- b. Profit from all assets of the council or the assets vested in the council.
- c. Loan from government or other authorities.
- d. Donation from any individual or institution.
- e. Profit from investing the council's money.
- f. Any money acquired by the council.
- g. Money from other sources of income vested in the council's hands, ordered by the government.

### **Relation of government with hill district and regional councils**

According to the constitution of the people's republic of Bangladesh, hill district councils are regional council are formed as special arrangements. Both councils and given specific power and authorities according to law. For example any types of land, hill or forest owned by the council cannot be taken or transformed by the government without the consent of the council. For issues relating law making, it is said that the government takes steps to create or correct a law regarding the council or the Chittagong Hill Tracts, it has to be done according to the discussions and advice of the council. Only the laws that are not conflicting the laws of the councils can be created. However, the power of law making is in the hands of the government. So, if it is necessary the government can direct the council or even dissolve the council through a gazette.

### **Local government in nurturing citizenship**

From the period of British ruling there is the relation of the citizens with the local government. The local government system is playing an important role in nurturing citizenship. It is discussed below.

1. **Local government in rendering citizen services:** Peoples of all sorts contact the office of the local government on any need. For example, students have to go to the Union Parishad office to attest their fathers income certificate and birth

certificates, Union Parishad, Municipalities guarantee the services within a certain time. It is called "Citizen Charter".

At present, the initiative has been taken for introducing e-governance at local government level to make the citizen service available. Thus citizens will get the service sitting at home it is a revolutionary phenomenon.

2. **Participation of people in local administration:** In villages, the role of local govt. unites the village people and the government. The Union parishad plays a vital role in settling rural disputes.
3. **Settling Disputes :** The system of "Shalish" or informal settlement of the union parishad is very important in resolving any dispute. The government established "village court" to be playing greater role in this case. Thus the poor villagers will be relieved from the havoc of coming to town for Justice.

**Case-1:** Abul Kalam and his nephew of Dhonia Union's ward no.- 4, get into a dispute regarding land and the quarrel continues for a few years. The problem is solved by the "Shalish" of the union parishad. If abul kalam gone to the district level, he would have cost plenty of time and money. Because of the union parishad, Abul kalam is relieved of this wastage.

## Empowerment of Women

Half of the total population of Bangladesh are female. No. society can develop without half of it. So, currently the whole world is preferring women empowerment. Women empowerment means the power of women in taking part, express opinions and decision making in family, society and national level. Realising its importance in 1948, Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations took some steps in the development of women. In 1951, International labour organization (ILO) declared same wages for some work for both male and female workers. In 1952 it declared the political rights of women's enabling them to vote and stand for a post in the election.

The removal of discrimination of women empowerment and occupation charter was declared in 1960 which was accepted by general assembly of United Nations in December, 1979. A total of 132 countries including Bangladesh supported the charter.

The participation of women in local government has increased more than ever. Women are now able to win the election and effect the decisions of the govt. in UP, Upazilla Council, Zilla Council, Municipality, City corporation etc.

It is notable that according to the law implemented on 1979, 13,452 female member posts are created on 4,484 UPs. In each UP, 3 reserved seats are arranged who can be elected in direct votes. Female participation is ensured in other spheres as well.



### **Establishing the rights of the minority**

Now, regional or gender based differences/national identity is no longer in earning rights. In the CHT, the way of achieving citizen rights of the 13 ethnic groups has been strengthened.

Thus those people are recognized in the same status as Bangali citizens through education and other activities.

In the 15th amendment of the constitution (July 2011), the reputation of their citizen rights are even more strengthened.

### **Practice of voting rights**

The citizens enjoy voting rights in both national and local governments. The role of casting votes in the local election is higher than that of the national election. The people get the local representatives closer to them than the national representatives. It is because the local one stays closer to the local people. So, the citizens can force them to carry their responsibility out. It is more true in the Union Parishad. On the contrary, in the urban areas, citizens perform their duties by paying taxes in municipalities and city corporations. In return they enjoy different types of facilities.

## **Exercise**

### **Short Question Answers**

1. Discuss the structure of local Union Council.
2. Discuss the notable functions of Pourashava.
3. What is understood by women empowerment?
4. What are the sources of income of the City Corporation?

### **Descriptive Question**

1. Discuss the role of Local government in the development of citizenship.

## Multiple Choice Questions

1. How many Union are in Bangladesh?
  - a. 118b. 460
  - c. 483 d. 4498
2. What kind of work is the building dusting of Pourashava?
  - a. Developmental
  - b. Protection of peaceful environment
  - c. Public health related.
  - d. To protect the beauty
3. To give service to the citizens, government
  - a. Government attests income certificate;
  - b. Provides birth registration certificate
  - c. Provides citizen's certificate

### Which one is correct below?

- a. i and ii
- b. ii and iii
- c. i and iii
- d. i, ii and iii

### Read the paragraph below and answers the questions 4 and 5

Mr. Rashed is head of the local government. He carries investigation into hotels and restaurant in metropolitan areas and takes necessary steps against the sale and supply of stale and adulterated foods.

4. Which Local government's head Mr. Rashed is?
  - a. City Corporation
  - b. District Council
  - c. Sub-district Council
  - d. Pourashava
5. The said government is important, because it mainly
  - a. Creates opportunities for people's participation in politics;
  - b. Enhances citizens consciousness amongst the people;
  - c. Ensures citizen's care at the local level
  - d. Increases the rate of literacy.

## Creative Question

1. Mr. Ramzan Ali is head of the Local government in the sub-district level city. As representative of the central government, he- in order to meet the needs of the people- he collects money from households, shops, markets and transport etc. using this money, he builds dustbin at the junctions of road, cleaning canals, ponds, he splashes medicines to kill mosquitoes. Setting up a number of maternity centers, he offers care to the children and pregnant mothers free of cost.
  - a. How many City Corporations are in Bangladesh?
  - b. Which type of work the establishment of library is- Explain.
  - c. What is the main aim of Ramzan Ali's activities? Explain.
  - d. The functions mentioned in the above paragraph for the development of Ramzan Ali's locality is sufficient- Give your opinion.
  
2. Begum Kamrun Nahar being elected as Member of Parliament (MP) in Parliament elections, she first inspired other women to contest in the reserved seats allocated at the local and parliament levels and then to contest in other seats. Later she founded a Women's Education center. There she managed to teach women about sewing, bamboo and cane works, poultry and computer literacy. She inspired educated women to take on any profession alongside the government and non-government jobs.
  - a. How many seats for women members were created in the Union Council according to 1997?
  - b. What is understood by women's empowerment? Explain.
  - c. Which function does it indicate the empowerment of women by the first task performed by Begum Kamrun Nahar? Explain. 'Steps taken at the women education centers will make them self-reliant'-Give reasons in favour.

## Chapter Nine

### Problem of citizen and what we should do

In the previous chapters- discussion has been done regarding citizenship and civics, concept of citizenship, qualities of good citizen, relation between citizen govt. & state. By using these ideas in this chapter will discuss on various problems of citizen life and means of solution of the same.

**On completion of studying this chapter we would be able to-**

- ☐ Identify the main problems of life of the citizen.
- ☐ Analyze the cause of population problem and its influence and means of solution.
- ☐ Describe the cause, neutrality, influence and means of solution.
- ☐ Explain the cause of crisis of food security and means of protection.
- ☐ Describe of idea of environmental mishap.
- ☐ Capable to describe to face the environmental mishap.
- Describe to explain regarding the source of terrorism and jungibad, its influence in the societal life and the means of solution of that.
- Describe to explain the cause of woman trafficking and the means of solution of that.
- ☐ Describe to identify the role of citizen to solve of problem of the citizen.

We all are citizens of Bangladesh by birth or by law. As the citizens, some of us live in towns or some live in the villages. From birth to death at first are remain in the family, after that in the society after that in the state. To live in these places besides various kinds of facilities we face various disturbances or problems. Such kinds of problems and means of protection discussion has been done below.

#### **1. Population problem and its means of protection.**

**What is population problem?**

If the birth rate of human being exceeds the death rate and if the birth rate exceeds the increasing of assets, then the population becomes problem in a country. Because, the requirement and achievement of the additional population is not possible to fulfill with the limited assets. On the other hand someone consider the problem of increasing of population less than the world's unrest, hunger-poverty, racism, health etc. In several areas it is necessary to increase the population, as because, for conducting the production activities labors are needed. As per another doctrine only the increasing the population in all the places for all the problems is not liable. Considering the interest of the future generation it is necessary to decrease the present increasing rate of population.

### **Picture of Population Problem in Bangladesh:**

Over population is one of the main problems in citizen life of Bangladesh. Due to over population living has become difficult in the towns and villages. As per demand of population in the towns it is not being possible to supply electricity, water and gas. Due to load shedding of electricity for all the times, insufficiency supply of water etc. the citizen life is becoming aching. Because of the insufficient opportunity of employment in the villages - the unemployed men of those places are moving to the towns. In villages due to over population want of sufficient food is seen, opportunity of proper education does not exist, malnutrition and want of medical treatment are observed for all the times. On the other hand due to increasing of population in our country residences are being made their home on the cultivable land and by cutting the forest. Due to over population canals & beels are being filled-up. In spite of having these problems, through gaining the huge foreign currency by exporting the manpower to foreign country, this problem has become possibility in Bangladesh. But comparing with the total population it is not sufficient till date.

Considering the population Bangladesh is the 8th largest country of the world and the 5th largest country of Asia. The land measuring of this country is 1,47,570 square kilometers. At present the increasing of population of Bangladesh is about 15 crores and the rate of population is 1.37. In each square kilometer of land area 1100 people live in Bangladesh, but in China in spite of having 1.4 billion of population only 140 people live in each square kilometer of land area and in India in spite of having 1.2 billion of people only 362 people live in each square kilometer of land area.

### **Cause of increasing of population in Bangladesh:**

**Influence of climate:** Bangladesh is located in the circle tropical region. So the climate of this country is hot. Due to influence of hot climate the boys and girls become adult in early age and become capable to clutch child. As a result the rate of increasing of population is more.

**Child marriage and polygamy:** In our country marriage is considered as the religion duty. Due to this responsibility especially parents become conscious to marry off their boys & girls within shortest possible time. As a result child marriage is widely customary in our society. Due to getting married in an early age the number of their children are increasing. On the other hand in several areas it is found that one male gets more than one marriage. Specially, in the low income families this inclination is seen in a huge. Thees due to child marriage and polygamy population is being increased in Bangladesh.

**Poverty:** Most of the people of our country are poor. The standard of life of the poor people is also low. They do not think wisely about maintaining the life cost of their family members. On the other hand thinking of the future they give birth of children. As a result ill health population is being increasing fast soon.

**Socio-economic Security:** Most of the peoples of our country think that increasing of male child is capable for ensuring the social and economical security to the parents. Expecting more security they expect more than one male child. As a result population increases.

**Lack of Education:** Due to illiteracy and ignorance, the people of our country used to give birth of many children without thinking of their food and clothing, education, medical treatment etc. As a result, population is increasing rapidly.

**Social viewpoint:** Most of the parents of our country fears that their boys & girls may do a social offence if not married off at the adult age. For this reason and due to possibility of being disrespected in front of the society by arranging marriage quickly they try to avoid menage. This is why population is increasing at a high rate.

**Lack of Birth Administration:** Small family is a happy family- the lack of such consciousness is not seen in our country largely. On the other hand due to lack of facility of family planning and not being conscious in this respect, population is increasing.

### **Means of solving the population problem: Govt. & Non-Govt. Effort**

Due to the increasing of population rapidly various problems have been created in Bangladesh. If the population is not changed into manpower terrible situation will be created in the country. For solution of population problem the following steps might be taken.

**Re-alignment of population:** The density of population in all places of Bangladesh is not same. So, the population has to be re-alligned. People should be moved from a higher density region to a lower density region. Doing so, employment of the people will be created and their life standard will be developed.

**Export of Manpower:** In our country the wages of the labors is low. As because, huge labors exist. By providing training of low technology to the huge population and by providing training to the capable labors, steps are to be taken to send them to the Middle East, Far East, Africa and Western Countries. Thus, income in foreign currency will be increase and unemployment will be eradicated. The ministry of manpower shall have to take efforts in this respect.

**Increasing of employment and re-distribution of income:** To solve overpopulation problem the living standard the people shall have to be increased. The standard will increase if opportunity of employment is created. By imposing tax in a large scale on the rich people and collecting the same from them, the development programs shall have to be implemented. If it is possible to provide works to the people and if they are made free from poverty they will be self-conscious and will realize their responsibility.

**Expanding of Education:** Education makes a man conscious. For developing the living standard of the people, the educated people's community keep on trying. Being attracted to the small family, the educated family reduces the rate of increasing of population.

**Economic Development:** Through agricultural and industrial development, creating of developed market and by building the developed communication system, the economic development should be made smooth. Cultivation of more crops in a same land and hybrid

crops is needed to grow more crops. By producing raw materials industry will have to be built. By the goods produced in the cottage industry, large industry will have to be built. For easy marketing of the agricultural and industrial products in reasonable price for that development of bazaar and communication system should be done. If we are capable to do these, the population will be manpower instead of being a problem.

**Controlling of population and family planning:** By protecting the high birth rate population should be controlled. 'One child is expectable, two are sufficient'. This slogan shall have to be implemented. In this respect consciousness of citizen and responsibility of the government is a huge factor. The citizen will have to imagine that no credit exists in giving birth of more children. So, they shall have to adopt the family planning system. On the other hand the family planning program of the government should be strengthened. The ministry of family planning will have to appoint field workers in a large scale. The family controlling medicine should be easy getting and for providing service to control the birth rate, sufficient clinic should be built-up. On the other hand mass awareness should be increased through huge publication regarding birth control and family planning.

**Adaptation of population policy :** In 2004 the government has adopted the new population policy by modifying population policy of 1976. Under this policy for controlling population government took various efforts. Among these the mentionable objects are - ensuring family planning for all making the health service regarding production of child to be made easy and to ensure it. Besides, to aware the adolescent to take step to provide information, advice and service regarding birth control; by using the mass media to make the people aware regarding to achieve effects of birth control; equity of men and women and in view of ensuring the power of women to provide support are to be implemented.

### **Motivation in birth controlling to the destitute people**

By taking various govt. and non-govt. efforts for the activities of birth control the standard of service should be improved in the destitute area. To implement the activities of birth control, the government and non-government physicians will have to work together. Through using small loan by bringing the women outside of the house for the new profession, they will have to let opportunity of being abstain from production of more children.

### **What we should do for the solution of over population as the citizens**

For social and economic development in Bangladesh, it is urgent to control the birth of population. It is our responsibility as conscious citizens to play orle in population control. At first, regarding bad effects of over population the citizens must be conscious and make the other conscious. Secondly, if any illiterate child or person exists in our family or in the family of the neighboring persons- we can motivate them by providing the facility of education. More population than assets is the curse for a family. It is burden for the nation. On the other hand, if it is possible to make the people skilled by providing them education, it will be the asset for the nation.

## 2. Food Security

### What is food security?

Food security does not mean only having food. It means availability of food, purchasing capacity of food and nutrition of food-. As the food grain is the food of the people of Bangladesh, especially priority of rice exists, so, supply of rice and sustainability of price is the main thing of gaining food security.

### Nature of food Unavailability of Bangladesh

At present about half of the population of Bangladesh are prey to food based poverty. They do not have money to purchase sufficient food for receiving required 2,122 Kilo Calorie per day per head. Besides shortage of calorie, the food of this poor community is not balanced. In each time the priority of food gains is seen. 80% of the calorie taken by them in every day comes from food grain, among those rice is stable. They take fat, oil and protein food a little. Women and children are faced with such balanceless food. Women and children need nutritious food than the male.

### Causes of Food Unavailability

Main causes of food unavailability are -

**Production of less food:** The production of vegetable, fruits, dal, oil seed, fish, meat, egg, milk etc. is low in the country. On the other hand the small income of the people, dependence on the food grain have negative influence on this small production. As a result lack of food availability is seen.

**Small income of the people:** When the per head income of the people decreases, people cannot purchase the required amount of food. As a result the lack of food availability is seen.

**Lack of knowledge on nutrition:** A mentionable portion of the people have lack of knowledge on nutrition is found. And for this reason they cannot select the proper food fit for their health.

In recent time the availability of food has been increased expectedly in Bangladesh. Increase in production and import of food in Bangladesh both play an important role in availability of food. But the additional food could not ensure security to the people who have been leading their life under poverty for a long since and who are suffering from the lack of food security. Because, they do not have sufficient produced crops and sufficient money and property for purchasing food. At the time of calamity, the relief is distributed which ensures the overall food security to this community. But it could not give them food security for long days.

### Govt. Effort for Gaining the Food Security

In respect of gaining the food security the proper food policy is required. Through poverty alleviation ensuring the food security is the largest challenge of food policy of Bangladesh. Storing of food by the govt. ensures the minimum supply of food in emergency period. Natural calamity such as flood and due to any other cause if the



shortage of food is seen- the poor community suffers most. And to face this crisis the government has taken the program of providing social security. 95% of total expenditure of social security program is spent for food distribution which aims providing relief and for getting facility of education, health, income generating skill, infrastructure etc. By analyzing the portion of total population participate in food support program, it is found that the three programs such as (i) Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Food For Education and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) are playing important role to develop the situation of the poor people.

### **Means of Gaining Food Security**

To ensure the food security, it is essential to increase the production, availability, purchasing capacity etc. Many countries of the world such as- China, India, Singapore and in various countries of Africa are planning to increase the production of food by acquiring land, which can be done in our country too. At the national level availability of food depends on effectiveness and structure of bazar, difference of season in respect of internal food production, capacity of bazar and the government system of distribution of food. And the food security of the people depends on production availability of food and it also depends on the easy receivability of that food in the market. The farmers will try to increase the production more if they can receive loan with simple terms and conditions.

**Team work:** Through exchanging the experience of gaining food security of family, every one will approach several recommendations regarding food security and the team leader will present in the class.

Only supply and consumption of food cannot present the healthy and productive nation. For this the quality and security of food should be ensured. On the other hand adulteration is a large obstacle to security of food. It is also harmful for health. By using the prevailing laws and by creating the social awareness it has become very urgent to control the adulterant of food by the govt.

### **For gaining the food security what we should do**

In Bangladesh upto the year 2000, 44% of people used to lead their life under the utmost margin of poverty. In 2005 it has been reduced to 40%. This hard core poor people cannot fulfill their minimum demand of food. We all have responsibility to gain the food security as the citizens. We should learn well about the food security and we can take good steps to ensure it. We can cultivate in homeyard and reduce the demand of crops cultivation the various kinds of crops we can reduce the want of crops. Personally we all being conscious regarding the food habit can ensure our own food security.

## **Terrorism**

### **What is terrorism?**

Mainly, terrorism means to apply force or to threat of opplying force for certain objective or work. The miscreant or anti-social persons can do it. So as it can happen

in the whole state or even in the whole world. Terrorism is being done in the society for ages. The main sources of terrorism are mentioned below.

- For gaining any aim, taking of ferocious working procedure or threatening of using the terrorism.
- For preserving the human rights of the destitute, to conduct the ferocious and other working procedure.
- In view of terrorism, doing harm to life and property of the civilized people or to attack the state institutions.
- In spite of having legal procedure for accumulating the right and the means of making solution peacefully to apply the terrorism.

## **Category of Terrorism**

### **Terrorism done by the criminal team:**

By the team of criminal the terrorism is conducted. This criminal group do terrorism being organized. They have a top leader. From the behind of eye of the people his appointed men murders the people, do the smuggling etc. works. On the other hand they create horror in the mind of the people in various ways.

### **Political Terrorism**

Several political parties, organizations or communities in the name of politics do the activities of terrorism. Some of them are seen doing terrorism in the name of religion. In the name of class agitation, several parties or organizations do the terrorism. Under the shelter of the established political party of the country, at times the terrorism is seen to be conducted.

### **Group Based Terrorism**

Several communities select the path of terrorism with the view of establishing their specific norm. In the name of killing the class enemy political killings in our country have occurred. Religious jongibad/terrorism is not only active among the Muslims it is seen among the Hindus, Christians and Judas also. The religious jongis/terror by way of terrorism kills the general people and harms to the state institutions. These are the final works against religion in the name of religion.

### **State Terrorism**

By showing various pleas, the state takes the path of terrorism and launches suppressing and torturing activities on the institutions or mass communities. Such as the state of Israel does such terrorism on the people of Palestinian in various times. Such assault is done on the minor group of people or various communities inside of the state.

**Cause of Terrorism:** Terrorism is occurred for two causes as such - a) General cause, b) External cause.

### **General Cause**

#### **Economic Desparity**

If imbalanced distribution is done in any society one class of people become richer more and another class of people become poorer more. In this situation rage is created in the mind of the destitute people. As a result, to overcome hunger, poverty and unemployment of the low income families, some of them evolve themselves to earn more money within the shortest possible time. On the other hand unemployment is a social disease in our country. The negative influence of which falls on the active youth community of the society. As a result the youth community involves in terrorism and become motivated to be financially self-reliant for building their fate.

#### **Narrow political culture**

If selfishness comes keenly in the political culture of a country and if the politics becomes the arms of recovering the personal interest in this case the birth of terrorism is not abnormal in that political culture. Because, the personal interest, terrors are to be taken care of.

#### **Lack of good governance**

To search out the terrors and to take step to punish them is the responsibility of the law enforcing agency and administration. But due to administrative weakness and political pressure, some times the administrators play the silent role. The law enforcing agency has the structural weakness such as weak training, old arms, imbalanced ratio of police and people, which weakens the role of the law enforcing agency to prevent terrorism. For these reasons, many weak terrors become capable to show their strength. On the other hand, without having the standard training sometimes the prevailing detective agencies can not face the terrorism at present.

#### **External Reason**

In terrorism, the internal motivation works as well as the external motivation might exist. It is assumed that supply of illegal arms, easy availability of illegal arms work behind the terrorism.

#### **Prevention of terrorism and means of remedy**

Terrorism is a social disease in Bangladesh. It might be prevented as well as might be defended. If the under mentioned steps could be taken terrorism might not be born and the terrors might not hamper the security of soul and assets of the citizen.

**Making of law against terrorism:** In view of prevention of terrorism, it is necessary to make hard laws against the terrors. Those who violated the law and discipline openly and do harm to the lives and assets of the people, they might not be pardoned by any means. For terrorism prevention if utmost punishment is arranged, it is hoped that terrorism will be reduced prevention.

**Reformation of Police Administration:** To prevent terrorism the police force shall have to be reformed with modern arms and tools and they should be trained up with modern training . On the other hand much difference exists between police and people ratio in our country. Here for 1400 people one police officer is engaged. This situation should be changed. It is essential to increase the number of police, police box and police station.

**Increasing of employment and providing allowance to the unemployed:** By establishing of cottage industry, large mills & industry, fulfilling vacant post in all sectors and new employment shall have to be created. If it is possible to eradicate the unemployment the terrorism will be reduced. For eradicating unemployment not like the advanced country, it is necessary to provide the allowance to the unemployed for leading the minimum standard of life. As social security, allowance to the unemployed is a good step.

**Education for all and arising of values:** Through creating the opportunity of education for all the social and moral values should be arisen. In this view in the schools and in various educational programs moral education might be focused. For this, terrorism might be possible to control.

**Not letting shelter for the terrors in the political party:** In political party no terrors might not be sheltered. If any political party helps the terrors or gives shelter, the registration of that party shall have to be cancelled. Any member of such kind of political party will not get opportunity to participate in election; in this view the national parliament can prepare law.

**Rigid Administration :** Prevention from terrorism, bribe and ill activities are to be stopped and hard administrative steps shall have to be taken. The police administration and general administration might do work freely and neutrally- this matter should be ensured.

**Mass Awareness:** Mass awareness might play an effective role to prevent terrorism. If the mass people become conscious and organized terrorism will be reduced.

### **What should we do as the citizen?**

As the citizen we may be conscious about terrorism. We will learn the bad sides of terrorism. To prevent the terrorism we will help/support the law enforcing agencies.

**Team work:** Being divided into team the studnets will mention two causes of terrorism and what might be happened in the society should be taken down in the khata and will present the same in the class.

**Team work:** How terrorism might be faced, make a list on that and hang the same in the class room

## **4. Environmental mishap:**

Our environment is bilt up by our surrounding rivers, canals, hills, mountains, tress including all objects. The sound natural environment is the main basis of sustainable

development and healthy life. While the activities of the human being destroy this normal situation of the environment, environment mishap is created.

### **Cause of environmental mishap**

Human being is growing surrounding the environment. On the other hand due to human being environment is being polluted all the time. Through the industrial development to make ahead the economic development men are building the mills & factories by cutting the trees and making the forest vacant. As a result various ingredients of the environment such as soil, air, water are being polluted.

The mills & factories of the towns are built-up centering the marshes. The un-rectified wastage of the miles & factories are thrown in the water of drain. It mixes with the water of rivers and water is polluted. On the other hand due to using the fertilizer and pesticides on the land water is polluted. Due to pollution, now the Burigonga river of Dhaka is becoming dead. The river Shetolokkha, Turag and Balu are aheading to the same situation gradually. Out of Dhaka the situation of rivers are same. The Kornaphuly river of Chittagong is also faced with dangerous pollution. By the established cement factories beside the Dholesori river of Munshigonj the water, land and air are being poisonous due to pollution.

Another example of environmental destruction is that the destruction of forest such as for the fuelling of brick field, cocking in the houses, construction of building, making the doors & windows and making the furniture etc, woods are being used. On the other hand in the hilly area the forest and tress are being destroyed for cultivating zoom. It has become risky for the natural environment. For sustaining the ecological balance of a country it is needed for having 25 percent forest area of the total land area of a country. But the encircle of forest of our country has been reduced to 6% from 20% of the total land area. The remaining portion is now at the point of destruction.

### **Harmful Sides**

Due to reducing of forest, possessing of marshes and pollution the animals of the country are being reduced seriously. The local variety of crops, fishes, trees etc. are facing the point of destruction. Due to pressure of environment canpaign govt. has forbidden the use of polythine bag. It is not abided fully. In addition to that as a package of various goods the use of plastic is being increased gradually. As a result, in towns even in villages the amount of plastic and organic damageable other goods as the wastage is increasing day by day. Only for one time useable elements, the clinical wastage is increasing swiftly and within this the poisonous and nuclear ingredients are remaining. Without having separate and proper recycling system, these wastages are being mixed with the general wastage and making the environment poisonous.

On the other hand changing of climate has become risky for the existence of Bangladesh. Changing of climate is attacking Bangladesh in various ways and will continue to do the same later on. Among those the most notables are increase of salinity due to sea level raising, strong velocity of the river, natural calamity and epidemic/disease etc. Due to the dense population, such influences of changing the climates increase the possibility of being homeless and livelihoodless of crores of people. In this situation it might make Bangladesh, even the whole world unsustainable. It also might be the cause of danger in the future. For that reason from the long lasting sight the changing of climate has become the biggest challenge for Bangladesh today. To face this challenge, all should be conscious collectively.

### **Govt. and non-govt. effort to face the environmental mishap**

Really, for developing of Bangladesh preservation of environment is urgent. Due to over population and by the environmental pollution the number of attacked men has increased largely. Due to less measuring of land and highly densely population these problems have become keen in a large scale for Bangladesh. To get free from these terrible situations, which the steps to be taken are mentioned below:

- The mills & factories which have been built-up through an unplanned way should be stopped.
- Not to permit to establish mills & factories in the residential area.
- Some industries are absolutely liable for environment pollution. Identifying those harmful industries should be declared as closed.
- Steps to be taken for teaching and training to the labourers of the industry.
- Not to throw the garbage everywhere.
- To increase forest and in this respect all people should be motivated.
- To take the social forestation program in a large scale and the campaign of plantation to be strengthened.
- To control digging of hill.
- Using of polythine bag to be declared forbidden and in this regard to implement of proper application of law.
- To stop the use of plastic.
- To take effective step to stop the burning wood in the brick field.
- To make the people aware regarding health rules, so that they may become conscious regarding the adverse influence of the environment.
- By stopping the huge use of fertilizer and pesticide, to motivate the people to use the organic fertilizer.
- To motivate the people in campaign of preserving the environment and to make them agreed to participate in that campaign.
- For measurement of the harmful ingredients, forming the specialist team required steps to be taken by them.

### **What we should do as the citizen**

As the citizens our responsibility lies for preserving the environment. We should not cut any tree illogically. In respect of environment preservation we should plant tree in our yard. We should not throw the polythene bag into the sided drain. Being organized we should make the people of the society conscious regarding bad effects of environment pollution.

**Team work:** Write down that what steps you will take to keep the surrounding places of your residence and river, canal and beel free from pollution and present the same in the class room.

**Team work:** To protect pollution of environment what role you will play in your team work and prepare a list.

## **5. Illiteracy**

Illiteracy is one of the main problems of citizen of Bangladesh. Due to illiteracy the illiterate person cannot bring any benefit for the state and society rather he/she becomes the burden for the society. Most of the people of Bangladesh live in villages. Illiterate means that person who does not have knowledge on alphabetical and numerical sign, even who cannot write his name. Huge people of the villages are illiterate.

### **Situation of Illiteracy**

In 1997 the 'Ministry of Primary and Mass Education' of Govt. has commenced the 'Total Literacy Movement'. Through the campaign of 'Total Literacy Movement' of the 'Ministry of Primary and Mass Education' has taken a political decision to eradicate illiteracy from the country within 2014.

The rate of illiteracy among the poor people is more. The main cause is their economic condition. In spite of being meritorious the children of the poor families cannot study. Many poor students due to want of money cannot achieve the higher education. In the meantime at present, by the financial support of the rich person or non-govt. bank or organization is letting opportunity to the poor but meritorious students to continue their study.

### **Eradicating illiteracy: What to be done by the govt. & citizen**

Illiteracy is a national problem. It is the responsibility of all to face it. To protect the country from the curse of illiteracy the role of the govt. and citizen is equal significant. About half of the population of the country are illiterate. It is not possible for the govt. alone to literate this huge population. The entire educated person shall have to take this responsibility. And those who are illiterate they should be interested to learn education. If all the people can solve this problem jointly it will be possible to achieve the national development.

To make the huge people literate which the steps should be taken by the govt. & citizens are as below:

### **Collection of Information**

The accurate number and situation of the illiterate people shall have to be ascertained. Govt. does this work by taking project and forming the taskforce. For providing the accurate information the citizens shall have to come forward spontaneously.

### **Adult Education**

The govt. shall have to take the special programs in the villages for adult education and food for education or shall have to appoint the non-govt. organizations (NGO). In this respect the educated unemployed persons might be involved.

### **Vocational Education**

Books are required to be written for occupational education instead of formal education. Only the formal education is not too much helpful for the adults. After several days they may forget their education. By providing the vocational education the illiterate persons shall have to be recognized with every profession. So they will not forget the gained education and knowledge on alphabetical and numerical letters.

### **The custom of launching loan & donation**

For eradicating illiteracy, steps are to be taken for providing donation and scholarship at the govt. and non-govt. level. Though the education of the illiterate persons is not formal yet, if they are provided with scholarship and stipend, they will be interested to take education. It is not possible for the govt. alone to provide such loan, donation, scholarship and stipend. In this respect our educated and rich persons should come forward. For developing of the people and the state all should come forward with generosity.

### **To launch the education bank**

For eradicating illiteracy education bank might be initiated. Such bank not only provides loan to the illiterate persons rather, it will provide loan to the primary, secondary and high education level. To protect dropping out of students it is necessary to provide them financial support. In this respect education bank might be a mentionable step. If the govt. becomes hearty, it is possible to establish and launch such bank.

### **Participation of citizens**

For eradicating illiteracy the people of all levels of the society shall have to be utilized. For providing educational equipment and establishing the educational institution the participation of citizens should be inspired. In this respect several NGOs of the country such as BRAC, Sonirbhor Bangladesh, CARE, SIDA, UCEP etc are working restlessly. Through participation of the govt. and citizens if it is possible to illuminate illiteracy, the strong foundation of national advancement will be made. Through gaining the vocational education the literate person might be changed into manpower.

If any illiterate person exists in our family we may provide them knowledge on alphabetic and numeric letter personally to illuminate illiteracy. Matching with the friends we may build-up club to eradicate illiteracy. On the basis of voluntary labor primarily we can provide them knowledge on alphabetic and numeric letter. As the



citizens, our works will play an important role to build the nation. Because, education is the back bone of a nation.

## **6. Women Torture: Cause and remedy**

### **What is women Torture?**

As per Baizing Declaration, women torture means such work or behavior, which is done against the women and which harms women physically and mentally. On the other hand threatening of doing harm, seize of freedom of women socially or personally by applying force or homengically is included in women torture.

### **Birth of female child**

**Case-1:** Aysha is a resident of Dhaka central road aged at 35 years. After one year of marriage a female child was born to her. At present this child is 5 years old. Expecting a son in the meantime Aysha was pregnant two times by the intention of her husband. In each term through medical test abortion was done in two times previously to know whether the pregnant child is male or female. At present she is pregnant again. In this term she will be the mother of a male child. Knowing this information her husband is very jolly.

### **Evading of female child**

**Case-2:** Mina is a student of Economics department of Jogonnath University. From her childhood she is meritorious. Her elder brother by one year used to read with her. Though the elder brother of Mina used to do coaching with the teachers in various classes, she did never get such opportunity. After passing HSC Mina got opportunity to study in Sylhet Medical College and her brother got opportunity to study in Mymensingh Medical College. Though the father of Mina made admitted his son in Mymensingh Medical College, he made Mina bound to study in Jogonnath University arising the plea of costing. Mina's dream of life being a physician became destroyed at the initial stage.

### **Dowry**

**Case-3 :** Morjina who is a student of class ten used to live in a village. The father of Morjina bears the family cost from the crops of his paternal land property. Morjina has four brothers in her family; in spite of being meritorious, her father made her married with a owner of a grocery shop. But her husband did not do this business attentively. So loss was occurred in his shop. After some days of marriage, the husband of Morjina told her to bring money from her father. He told that after two years he will go to a foreign country and created pressure on Morjina to bring two lac taka from her father by selling land property. In this respect all the persons of the family of her father-in-law told her to bring money from her father by matching voice with her husband. In this respect quarrel was occurred with the persons of her husband's family very often. After that suddenly one day Morjina was found dead in the bedroom of her husband.

### **Main cause of women torture in Bangladesh**

Influence of male over female or male-ism is a cultural perception, which has been held and trusted by the males era after era. Due to this perception the males think the females as helpless viz they are not capable to protect themselves. The place of women is within the surrounding of the family. Due to this perspective the male neglects to give dignity to the female as a human. By making the physical structure of female as capital, the males conduct physical torturing. Though the situation of the educated females of Bangladesh is little developed, overall the females are neglected and suppressed till to date socially.

### **Lack of economic freedom**

Financial self-dependence makes the status of women strong in the society and family. But in our country most of the women are dependent on the income of her husband till to date. As a result, any procurement, expenditure or for fulfilling any demand of females are to depend on their father, brother and husband in most of the cases.

### **Lack of consciousness**

Most of the families of our country are poor. The females of poor family are deprived from education. As a result she remains unconscious regarding her right. And for this opportunity, her husband, relatives even the society torture her physically and mentally.

### **What to be done for preventing women torture**

#### **Rigid application of law**

To prevent women torture is to rigid implementation of the prevailing law necessary. If any weakness exists in law in this case, it should be amended and to be made stronger by the govt. It is very important responsibility of the govt. If it is required to prevent women torture by establishing the special court, the torturers should be punished.

#### **Increasing awareness by the text book**

In the text book of schools & colleges the statement against women torture should be included with significance. Classes should be ensured on this subject so that the boys can realize and understand the same. Showing drama, poem, reciting, song awareness shall have to be increased through these against women torture among the students.

The physical structure of a boy and a girl is different, but the expectation of each is same. Thinking these matters, humanitarian behaviour should be done with a girl or woman. No one should be neglected from his/her rights. As per his/her capability to provide his/her right and in respect of bearing the duty & responsibility the educational matters should be included in the text book.

If the women are organized, they will be capable to obtain their rights. A conscious woman can play a role to get her right as well as she will be conscious regarding her responsibility and duty. If organized protest is made against the persons who torture the women - it will be supportable.

### Legal Support

In most of the time for the poor women it is not possible to get justice in the court for torturing on them. Because, trial is an expensive procedure. So, we should come forward to provide legal support to the poor women by the state or non-govt. organizations.

### What we should do as the citizens

To prevent women torture it is our responsibility to dignify the women as a human being. We should never use ill language to them. For all the times, we should bear in our mind that men and women are equal as human being. To neglect women as human means to insult and dishonor our mother or sister.

## Exercise

### Short question and answer:

1. Mention the causes of increasing of population in Bangladesh.
2. What steps might be taken for making solution of overpopulation?
3. What does it mean by food security?
4. Describe the causes of environmental calamity.

### Narrative question:

1. Discuss the steps to be taken by us for gaining the food security.
2. What is the cause of women torture? What are the steps to be taken to prevent women torture?

### Multiple Choice Question:

1. Which is the main basis of sustainable development and healthy livelihood?
  - a. Administrative hardness
  - b. Reducing the rate of illiteracy
  - c. Steps for vocational education
  - d. Sound natural environment.
2. For motivating the destitute people for controlling over population-
  - i. The standard of service in the destitute area shall have to be increased.
  - ii. By taking new profession to be abstained from production of children.
  - iii. Food security should be ensured.

### Which one is the correct?

- |            |                |
|------------|----------------|
| a. i & iii | b. ii & iii    |
| c. i & ii  | d. i, ii & iii |

**Give the answer to the question No. 3 & 4 by reading the under mentioned paragraph.**

Arifa has a family of eight brothers and Sisters are 2 in number. In the family of Arifa shortage of food is seen very often and disturbance is occurred in her family. The brothers and sisters of Arifa do not get good opportunity of study. On the other hand Sithi and her brother are getting the opportunity of study properly and solvency exists in their family all the times.

3. Which problem does the condition of Arifa basically indicate ?
  - a. Population
  - b. Illiteracy
  - c. Poverty
  - d. Lack of consciousness.
4. Which step should be taken at first to solve the said problem?
  - a. Prevention of high birth rate
  - b. Realignment of population
  - c. Export of manpower
  - d. Re-distribution of income

### **Creative question**

1. Sumi is very affectionate child of her parents. She could not study due to poverty and she was married at 16 years. At first at the time of marriage it was fixed to give money to her husband but they could not pay. So the members of the family of her father-in-law behave roughly with her. In this situation Sumi turned the solvency of her family by doing the sewing activities. As a result her husband showed positive attitude to her.
  - a. What is the growth rate of population in Bangladesh at present?
  - b. What is food security? Explain.
  - c. What social problem does indicate as the first problem in the life of Sumi? Explain.
  - d. To save the women like Sumi from such problem which the aforesaid work might fall sufficient influence- explain.
2. Mr. Jalil purchased 10 Bhas of land on the bank of the river Turag of Tongi and on some portion of that he established a brick field and on the rest portion he cultivated rice. Expecting huge crops he used huge fertilizer and pesticides. With the wastage of brick field and with the rain water the fertilizer and pesticide washed away into the Turag river.
  - a. In which year the new population policy was adopted?
  - b. What is political terrorism? Explain.
  - c. What kind of mishap is being created in the environment due to the activities done by Mr. Jalil?
  - d. Do you think that the effort of the govt. is sufficient to solve this problem? Give logic in supporting the answer.

## Chapter Ten

# Civic Consciousness in the Emergence of Bangladesh

In the previous chapters we have known about society, government and citizen's rights and duties in the state. In addition, we have known about various problems and solutions to these problems in the civic life. In this chapter, we shall know about the role of citizens in the establishment of the independent Bangladesh.

**On completion of this chapter, we would be able to-**

- Know and explain the independence struggle of Bangladesh, Language Movement, the ideologies of the Liberation War and its essence and non-communal values;
- Comprehend and explain the importance of patriotism.

### Background to Independence Struggle of Bangladesh

Today we are all Bangladeshi citizens. Before the independence in 1971, we were citizens of Pakistan. Despite being the majority (56%) at that time the people in East Bengal (Bangladesh) had been deprived of their political, economic and cultural rights as citizens. After the independence of Bangladesh, Bangalis have now been enjoying their citizenship rights independently.

Before the Pakistani rule (1947-1971), the region of Bangladesh had been under the control of Turkey, Afghan, Mughal and lastly the British Rule (1757-1947).

During the British rule, a class of Western-educated leadership emerged in this country. This leadership developed in the spheres of politics, organization, social reforms, jobs, language-literature and culture and education and so on. Another aspect of British rule is its constitutional reforms beginning from 1861. In course of this development, people achieved their voting rights. All these were worth mentionable steps in promoting and enhancing citizen rights and consciousness.

### 1940 Lahore resolution

During the British rule, alongside the Hindus, consciousness about self-rights arose amongst the Muslims. In this respect, to represent the interests of Muslims, Muslim League was established in 1906. Muslim League leader, Muhammad Ali Jinnah following so-called theory declared Muslims are a separate nation. The name of this theory is 'Two Nation Theory'. As a result, the thought of a separate homeland emerged amongst the Muslims.

In the light of this thinking, in the Muslim League Council's annual conference held on 23 March 1940, the Chief Minister of Bengal She-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq put

forward a proposal related to the interests of Muslims in this sub-continent. The proposal was adopted, with Muhammad Ali Jinnah as chair. That proposal is known as historic 'Lahore resolution or Pakistan proposal'.

The main features of Lahore Resolution are:

1. The geographically contiguous areas should be demarcated into regions;
2. These areas should be formed in such a way as to facilitate to constitute 'independent states' in the North-Western and Eastern zones for the Muslim majority;
3. The constituent 'units' or the regions of these states should be autonomous as well as sovereign;
4. Effective steps shall be taken to protect the cultural, political, administrative and other rights of the minorities in the newly independent muslim states;
5. The framing of the future constitution shall be based on the above principles

The word 'Pakistan' was not mentioned in the proposal. However, the proposal appeared to be known as 'Pakistan Proposal'. In the Lahore Resolution, the formation of two sovereign states is thought of comprising two majority Muslim regions. In view of the geographical location, it should have been like that.

In 1946, in the 'Delhi Muslim Legislators Convention', with Mr. Jinnah as chair, the plan of more than one states is dropped and One Pakistan plan is adopted. According to this plan, India was divided on August 14, 1947 and emerged two independent states. North-Western and Eastern Muslim majority regions of British India resulted in the creation of Pakistan and the rest formed Indian Union.

The 1940 Lahore Resolution and Jinnah's 'Two Nation Theory' were the basis of the creation of Pakistan. Though Pakistan was created on the basis of the said Resolution, its structure was incongruous. The distance between East and West Pakistan was divided by more than one thousand miles by Indian territory. The language-culture, history-tradition, clothings, food habits of the majority Bangalis in the state were different from that of West Pakistanis. West Pakistanis particularly the Punjabis thought that their ancestors came from outside India and aristocratic blood flowed into their nerves. Because of this mentality, West Pakistanis looked down upon Bangalis as an inferior nation.

As a matter of fact, West Pakistani rulers established a kind of internal colonial rule. During this rule, the status of Bangalis was tantamount to somewhat aliens in their own countries. The first discriminatory attitude by the West Pakistani rulers manifested towards Bangalis in the question of language. Instead of the Bangla language of the majority Banglais, West Pakistani rulers tried to impose Urdu as the only state language upon Bangalis.

## Language Movement (1948-1952)

Right to mother language is one of the important citizen rights. The mother language of the 56% majority people was Bangla; Urdu was not the mother language of any regions in Pakistan. But the attempt was made to impose Urdu as state language. The attempt to impose Urdu as state language in undemocratic manner was resisted by the Bangalis. The movement was thus initiated by the Bangalis which has been known as Language Movement. In an Education Conference in Karachi held in December 1947, Urdu was proposed as state language. The student leaders, intelligentsia and political leaders of East Bengal formed Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad on the struggle for State Language. They demanded Bangla be one of the state languages of Pakistan. Consequently, we saw that in the first session of the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan held on 23 February 1948, Mr. Dhirendranath Dutta from Commilla, an Assembly Member, tabled a bill of introducing Bangla as the language of assembly along with Urdu and English. But from the beginning the Pakistani rulers were not willing to accept this demand.



Central Shahid Minar

In the first stage of Language Movement, the students observed 11 March, 1948 the day for the demand of Bangla language. General strike was declared on that day. Student leaders of East Pakistan Muslim Students' League (established on January 4 1948) who had been studying in the University of Dhaka were in the leading position of this movement. In the Morning on 11 March, police arrested Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Nazmul Haq, Oli Ahad and many others while picketing in front of the Secretariat.

In this stage of Language Movement, on 21 March of 1948, the founder and the then Governor General of Pakistan Muhammad Ali Jinnah upon his visit to Dhaka declared at Race Course Maidan (currently Suhrawardy Uddyan) that "Urdu and only Urdu shall be the state language of Pakistan". This declaration was instantly protested. One of the prominent protesters was Bangabandhu. To initiate and organize the movement, he played a leading role. Because of this he was arrested several times. Before Jinnah's visit to Dhaka, an 8-points agreement was signed between the Chief Minister of East Bengal Khawja Nazimuddin and the student leaders. In that agreement, the decision was taken to take initiative for according Bangla to the status of one of the state languages. Jinnah repeated the same declaration while addressing in the Convocation of Curzon Hall on 24 March. The protests were also staged there. Breaching the agreement with the students, Khawja Nazimuddin declared Urdu as the only state language on January 26 1952 at Paltan Maidan. From this declaration, initiates the second phase of the language movement. The All party Rashtrabhasha Sangram Parishad was formed with Kazi Gulam Mahub as the Convenor. Before this, Dhaka University Rashtrabhasha Sangram Committee was formed in the Dhaka University with Abdul Matin as the Convenor. The renewed declaration of Urdu as the state language by Khawaja Nazimuddin led the students in East Bengal to rise in anger. In prison, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Mohiuddin Ahmed went on hunger strike from 16th January to demand for release of state prisoners and 'State language Bangla'. This added a new dimension to the movement. On behalf of the students, general strikes and protests demonstrations were called all over East Bengal on 21st February.

Before 21st February, the government declared state of emergency banning all meetings under section 144. In pursuance of the previously declared program students organized meetings and took out procession defying the section 144 imposed by the government. Police shot at procession. Consequently, Salam, Barkat, Jabbar and many others who were at the forefront of the procession were shot dead instantly by police. The Pakistani ruling elites were to accept Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan. It was recognized in 1956 Constitution. Bangali is the only nation in the world which sacrificed their lives for the cause of language. According to the decision of UNESCO, the UN recognized 21 February as the day of International Mother language (17 November 1999). At present, our martyr day is celebrated as 'International Mother Language Day' all over the world.



tern



Though Pakistan was founded upon the religious identity, Bangalis - beyond this religious identity- established their identity based on language. So Language Movement made the Bangalis aware of their self rights. It thus expedited the aspirations for Bangalis national liberation.

### **1954 Election**

Election to the East Bengal provincial council was held in March 1954. The total seats in the provincial council were 309. In 1953, Jukta Front alliance was formed by Awami League with like-minded political parties so as to counter the ruling Muslim League. After Language movement in 1952, the Jukta Front victory in 1954 elections enhanced the political consciousness of the citizens of East Bengal.

Prior to election the Jukta Front had adopted 21-points program to attract the voter in which the political, economic, social, and cultural rights of Bangali citizens were included, recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan, building the Shahid Minar so as to commemorate the language martyrs, surplus land distribution among the landless, nationalization of Jute business, complete autonomy for East Bengal according to Lahore Resolution. These demands were directly related to the establishment of citizen rights of the people of East Bengal. In this election, the Jukta Front won 223 seats out of 237. On the other side, Muslim League the spokesman of the Pakistan movement won only 9 seats.

After the 1954 elections the Jukta Front Ministry was formed with Sher-e-Bangla Fazlul Haq as the Chief Minister. The Pakistani ruling elites could not accept the defeat of Muslim League to the Jukta Front. The Jukta Front Ministry was sacked in just 56 days and Governor's rule was established in East Bengal.

After nine years' efforts the framing of 1956 Constitution was made possible. In it some of the demands of Bangalis were met along with recognition of Bangla as one of the state languages. But it did not work for long. It was annulled by General Iskander Mirza on 7 October in 1958. He declared Martial Law all over the country.

In the next three weeks time, General Ayub Khan took over power by removing Iskander Mirza. He introduced 'Basic Democracy' rejecting Western democracy based on universal adult franchise.

General Ayub Khan declared 'Basic Democracy Order' on 26 October in 1959. According to this provision, 40,000 from each part of Pakistan altogether 80,000 Union Council members formed Electoral College for the country. This Electoral College elects President, members of the Provincial and National Assemblies. By this system, indirect method of election deprived the direct voting rights of the citizens.

The indirect method of election deprived the popular politicians of East Bengal to be elected under Basic Democracy. Moreover, black acts adopted by Ayub government made popular politicians to abstain from participation in elections. During Ayub regime, separate Bangali identity became consolidated.

In 1962, General Ayub gave a self-styled constitution. In this constitution, instead of the provisions for parliamentary form of government and regional autonomy, presidential form

of government was introduced. President was made the centre of this system and one man's rule with unlimited powers was established. From the take-over of Pakistan's state power in 1958, General Ayub continued military rule until June in 1962. He ruled the country 44 months at a stretch by Martial law. Political parties and their activities, meetings and gatherings were completely banned. He kept 78 popular politicians including Huseiyn Shaheed Suhrawardy refrain from taking part in elections under a black law.

In 1962's Sharif Education Commission Report included the recommendations for compulsory study of English from class VI to Degree, making Urdu as language of people and attempt to introduce roman alphabets for national language. In this case the Report considered the acceptability of Arabic, writing Pakistani languages with the help of Roman alphabets, to bear the cost of education by the students, upgrading Degree course into three year. Students rejected this report and started movement.

During Ayub's military regime, political activities were completely banned. At that time, some newspapers like the Daily Ittefaq played a laudable and strong role against the military rule. As a result, these newspapers were choked. In September, 1959, the editor and owner of the most popular newspaper in East Bengal, The Daily Ittefaq Tofazzal Hossain (Manik Mia) was arrested. In 1962 and 1966, he was arrested twice.

In the beginning of Pakistan, East Bengal was economically much better than that of its Western part. But it did not last long. Gradually the differences between the two wings began to increase.

For rapid economic development of Pakistan, General Ayub adopted many policies. These policies increased the regional disparity instead of reducing it. In April 1968, the Chief Economist of Pakistan Planning Commission Mr. Mahbubul Haque released information that 66% industries, 79% insurance and 80% bank assets were concentrated only in the hands of 22 families (all these families are West Pakistanis except one). During Ayub's decade-long rule, huge amount of foreign aid were received. The lion's share of this aid was spent in West Pakistan. The capital was siphoned off from Eastern part of Pakistan.

## **6-Points Program**

On 5-6 February 1966, a Convention of opposition parties was held in Lahore, West Pakistan. In this Convention, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman placed his 6-points program on behalf of Awami League. The points of this program are mentioned below in brief-

1. On the basis of the Lahore Resolution, Pakistan would be a federal state with a cabinet form of government.
2. Only the defence and foreign affairs would remain in the hands of the federal government. The provincial government would deal with other affairs.
3. Two separate and easily exchangeable (convertible) currencies would be introduced in both the wings. Or there would be same currency in all the regions of Pakistan provided that there would be two Reserve Banks in the two regions

under the supervision of a federal bank so that the currencies might not be smuggled from one region into the other region.

4. The power of the imposition and collection of revenues and taxes would lie with the regional (provincial) governments. But a fixed amount of money would be deposited to the federal bank for meeting the expenditures of the federal government.
5. There will be two separate accounts for the foreign currency earned by the two regions of Pakistan. The regional governments would have the power and control over the foreign trade and foreign currencies. The provincial governments would accomplish all sorts of foreign agreements and deal in consistence with the foreign policy of the federal government.
6. The regional governments would have the power to set up, run and maintain the para-military force for regional security.

The 6-points program placed by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the charter for Bangali's national liberation or 'Magna Carta'. By dint of this charter, the target was set to achieve independence or national liberation for Bangalis. General Ayub labeled this program as 'secessionist' or program for 'establishing greater Bengal' and threatened to apply any sort of force to spoil it.

In order to foil the struggle for the 6-points program, Ayub government filed a sedition case against Bangabandhu as number one accused along with 35 civil and military personnel. This case is known as historic Agartala Case. Its formal name was 'State versus Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others'. Under this case Bangabandhu and 6-points followers along with other Awami League leaders had to spend a long time in prison. Consequently, the leadership of the movement for autonomy fell on the students. In early January 1969, East Pakistan Students League, East Pakistan Students Union (Menon and Matia Group) and pro-government student's wing, Dolon group of National Students Federation and Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) together formed Central Students Action Committee (CSAC). The then Vice-President of DUCSU, student leader and fiery speaker Tofael Ahmed elected as its president. With all-out support to Bangabandhu's 6-points program, Central Students Action Committee announced 11-points program.

CSAC adopted 11-points program highlighting the issues of national importance. This program played a historic role in further advancing the national liberation or independence for the people of East Pakistan. CSAC launched countrywide movement to withdraw Agartala Case and to free all political prisoners along with Bangabandhu. As a matter of fact, from November 1968 to March 1969, mass upsurge broke out in the whole East Bengal. At the same time, anti-Ayub student's movement grew up in West Pakistan too.

Based on 6 and 11 points program a solid citizen's unity was forged amongst all classes of citizens of East Pakistan. In demanding the withdrawal of Agartala case, student movemnet became much more intense. In the final stage of mass uprising on 25 March

1969, General Ayub was forced to step down from power. Mass uprising against Agartala case played historic role in the emergence of independent Bangladesh.

### **1969's Mass Uprising**

In 1969, in both parts of Pakistan, a strong mass movement began against Basic Democracy, Agartala Case and Ayub's oppression. In 11-points of the students many issues included such as to increase the opportunity for education, regional autonomy, adult franchise, freedom of speech, nationalization of large-scale industries, to increase the advantages for labourers and farmers, impartial foreign policy, withdrawal of emergency and freeing of political prisoners. All opposition parties were united for the demand of cancelling One Unit in West Pakistan and the establishment for autonomy in East Pakistan. At this time, many students were killed by the firing of the pilice. To protest this killing, mass movement started all over the country. The opposition parties formed Democratic Action Committee (DAC). The intense mass-student movement then set out all over the country.

The country-wide movement that arose on the demands of Ayub's resignation, cancellation of the Constitution of 1962, establishment of parliamentary democracy, withdrawal of Agartala case turned into mass movement. Fearing the movement, Ayub Khan withdrew Agartala case. After being released from imprisonment, on 23 February 1969, in a huge gathering of students and people the unparallel leader of the Bangali was given the accolade Bangabandhu at the Race Course Maidan (currently Suhrawardy Uddyan). On 25 March in 1969, Ayub Khan stepped down from politics transferring power to General Yahyia Khan.

On assuming power, Yahyia Khan took several important steps to solve the prevailing crisis. He lifted ban from the activities of political parties. In order to hold the first general elections in Pakistan, he took some constitutional measures. Of these measures, notables were 'one man, one vote', distribution of seats in the National Assembly based on the principle of population for each province. He arranged 313 seats in the National Assembly in which 13 were reserved for women. The provision was made to grant maximum autonomy for each province. Maximum 120 days were fixed for drafting constitution by the elected representatives. Draft of the constitution was to be approved by the President.

### **1970 Elections and Its Results**

1970 general elections was the first in Pakistan state. The Elections was held on the basis of adult and universal franchise. This election held in two rounds: first on December 7 in 1970 and on 17 January in 1971. The political parties which took part in that elections were: Awami League, Pakistan People's Party (PPP), National Awami Party- NAP (Wali Khan), different groups of Muslim League, Jammāt-e-Islami, Jamiate Ulama-e-Islam, Jamiate Ulama-e-Pakistan, Nizam-e-Islam, Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP) etc. Of these parties, two main parties are Awami League under the leadership of Bangabandhu, Pakistan People's Party under the leadership of Julfikar Ali Bhutto.

The main issue of Awami League's election manifesto was its 6-points program. The slogans of Pakistan People's Party were: 'Islam is our belief, democracy is our state system and socialism is our economy'. The themes of Peoples Party's publicity were; 'strong centre', 'Islamic socialism', and continued opposition to India.

On the other hand, Muslim League and other Islamic parties like PPP highlighted Islamic constitution, strong centre and opposition to India.

### Election Results

The results of 1970 general elections are presented in the tables below.

#### Party-wise results in 1970 General Elections

Name of parties	General Seats		Reserved Seats	Tribal Seats	Total Seats
	East Pakistan	West Pakistan			
Awami League	160	-	7	-	167
People's Party	-	83	5	-	88
Muslim League (Quaiyum)	-	9	-	-	9
Muslim League (Council)	-	7	-	-	7
NAP (Wali)	-	6	1	-	7
Muslim League (Convention)	-	2	-	-	2
Jamiat-e-Islami	-	4	-	-	4
Jamiat-e-Ulama-e-Pakistan	-	7	-	-	7
Jamiat-e-Ulama-e-Islam	-	7	-	-	7
PDP	1	-	-	-	1
Independent	1	6	-	7	14
Total	162	131	13	7	313

#### Election Results to the East Pakistan Provincial Legislature

Name of Parties	General Seats	Women Seats	Total Seats
Awami League	288	10	298
PDP	2	-	2
NAP (Wali)	1	-	1
Jamiat-e-Islami	1	-	1
Nejame Islam	1	-	1
Independent	7	-	7
Total	300	10	310

The general election of 1970 was held in a fair, peaceful and disciplined environment. In the result of the election. Awami League won 160 out of 162 regional seats of the national assembly. Along with the 7 reserved seats for women. Awami League won a total 167 seats out of 313. In the provincial assembly of East Pakistan, Awami League won 288 regional seats out of 300. In the rest of the 12 seats, independent candidates won 9, Pakistan Democratic Party won 2 and Jamat-E-Islami won 1 seat. Including the 10 reserved seats for women, Awami League won 298 seats in the provincial assembly.

On the other hand, Julfikar Ali Bhutto's Pakistan People Party won 83 out of the allotted 138 seats. Muslim League (Kaium Khan) won 9, Muslim League (council) won 7, Jamiat-e-Ulama-e Islam won 7, National Awami Party-NAP (Wali Khan) won 6, Jamaiat-e-Ulama-e Pakistan won 7, Jamat-E-Islami won 4, Muslim League (Convention) won 2 and non-party candidates won 13 out of the remaining 55 seats.

In the reserved 6 seats for women in West Pakistan PPP won 5 and NAP (wali khan) won the remaining, including the reserved seat for women PPP's won a total of 88 seats.

As Awami League won the absolute majority in 1970 general elections, it made the Pakistani ruling elites wary about losing power. Through the winning of AL's absolute majority in the elections, Bangali got the rights to attaining the state authority and the assurance of drafting constitution based on 6-points. Both were unacceptable to the Pakistani ruling elites. As a result, right after the publication of the election results, palace conspiracy began. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the leader of Pakistan People's Party got actively implicated in the conspiracy being orchestrated by civil-military bureaucracy elites.

Pakistani military junta continued to negotiate with the majority party leader, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, while troops and weapons were being brought in from West Pakistan. The Pakistani ruling elites could not accept the victory of AL in their hearts. They became perturbed at Bangabandhu's uncompromising stand about 6-points. So having made up their mind for a military solution to the problem developed, they took time for preparation until 25 March 1971.

President Yahya Khan called for the National Assembly session on 3 March 1971. After the elections, he had labeled Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the 'future Prime Minister' of Pakistan. By all these was eye-wash. Inside, there was strong conspiracy to cancel the verdict of the election.

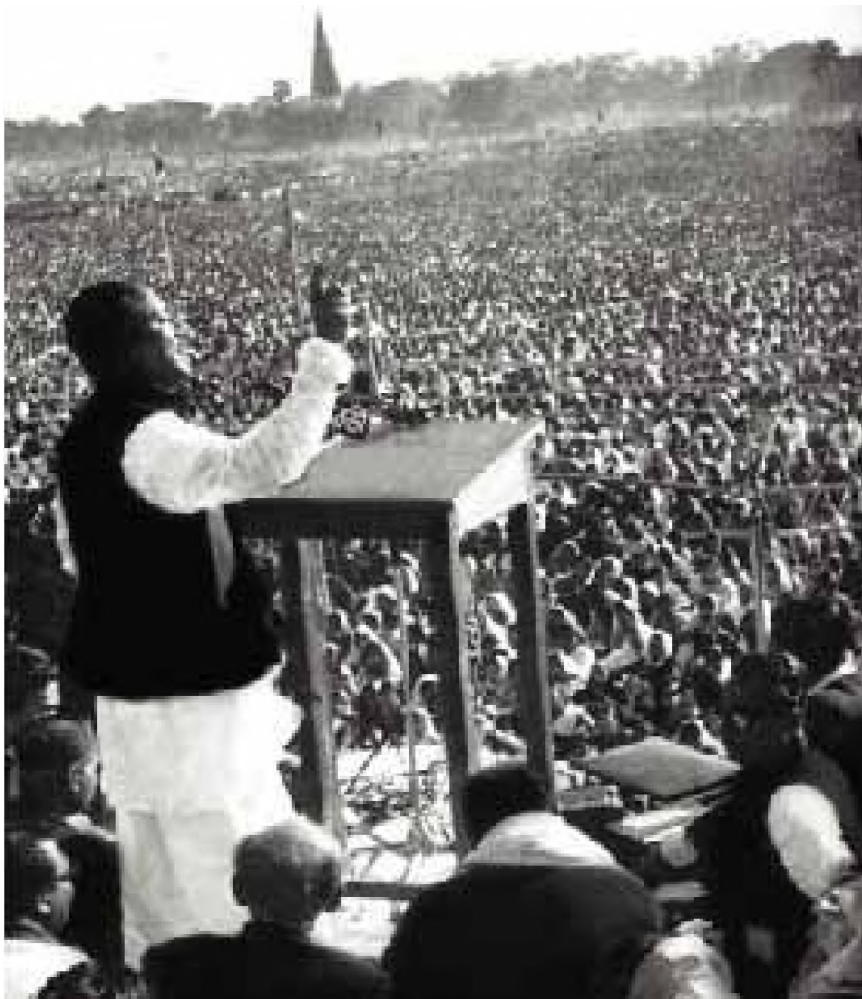
## **Non-Cooperation Movement**

On 1 March 1971, President Yahya Khan suspended the Pakistan National Assembly session for an indefinite period. In protest, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called for hartal in all-over East Bengal. Virtually, non-cooperation movement had been launched against Pakistani rule since 1 March 1971. Curfew declared at night on 2 March. Students-people broke curfew. The military shot at them. In protest, the whole Bangladesh woke up in resistance. The rise of Bengali nation occurred. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was the 'Father of the Nation'. 'Joy Bangla' was the slogan for liberation of this nation. Uprisings spread around with sky-wrecking slogan: 'Valiant Bengalis take up arms, liberate Bangladesh'.

On March 2 1971, the flag of independent Bangladesh was hoisted at the Banyan ground of Dhaka University in the gathering of students-people, on 3 March 'Declaration of Independent Bangladesh' was read out at the mass-gathering held at the Paltan ground, 'Formation of Independent Bangladesh Central Students Action Committee' and on 23 March the flag of independent Bangladesh was hoisted in all parts of East Pakistan instead of Pakistan flag on the occasion of the Pakistan's Republic day bearing the testimony of the rise of Bangali nation.

From March 2, 1971 to 25 March, 1971, an all-out non-cooperation was observed over the country at the call of Bangabandhu. During this period, all government-non-government offices, secretariat, autonomous institutions, high court, police administration, bank-insurance, business and transport defied government orders and be run following the directions of Bangabandhu.

March 7, 1971 was an unforgettable day to the Bangali national life. On that day, at the Race Course Maidan (presently Suhrawardy Uddyan) in a spontaneous gathering of lakhs of people, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave an important speech. In this speech, he announced-



The historical speech of Bangabandhu on 7 march 1971

"Make every house a fortress. Face the enemy with whatever you have. As we have spilled blood, we shall spill more. We must liberate this the people of this country, if God graces.---- Our struggle is the struggle for liberation, our struggle is the struggle for independence. Joy Bangla (Long live Bangla)"

Yahya came to Dhaka on 15 March 1971. He requested Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to sit for dialogue. Negotiation set out on 16 March. Julfiqar Ali Bhutto along

with some leaders from West Pakistan took part in negotiation. But the main objective of Pakistani rulers was to buy time in the name of negotiations. However, their chief objective was to bury the independence struggle of Bangalis by importing troops and other supplies from Pakistan. On 23 March, at the call of Bangabandhu, the flag of 'Shadin Bangla' was hoisted every houses in East Pakistan while the day was 'Pakistan Republic Day'. The Awami League leaders made their last ditch attempt to resolve the crisis. But Yahya Khan making



Intellectuals killing in Rayer Bazar "Baddho Bhumi"

no announcement left Dhaka with his cohort and ordered Pakistani troops on that night to swoop on unarmed Bangali. Along with Dhaka, they mercilessly killed innocent and unarmed Bengalis in many other cities. This night is called as the Black Night in the history.

### **Declaration of Independence**

In this black night (25 March) or first part of 26 March Bangabandhu declared independence. The declaration was made in English so that the whole world could understand the message. He said: "This may be of my last message, from today Bangladesh is independent. I call upon the people of Bangladesh wherever you might be and with whatever you have, to resist the army of occupation to the last. Your fight must go on until the last soldier of the Pakistan occupation army is expelled from the soil of Bangladesh and final victory is achieved." (Bangladesh Gazette, 15th amendment to the Bangladesh Constitution, 3 July 2011). This declaration was transmitted through the then EPR's Transmitter, Telegram and Teleprinter. Bangabandhu's declaration of independence was announced in the midday of 26 March by Chittagong's Awami League's leader M A Hannan from Chittagong Radio station. The second announcement was made in the evening from Kalurghat Radio station. Bangabandhu's declaration of independence received widespread support from Bangali military, paramilitary and civilian forces. Thus, inspired the freedom-loving people.



## **1971's War of Liberation and Gaining Independence**

On 10 April 1971, the elected Peoples' Representatives of Awami League decreed the Order of the Declaration of Independence at Mujibnagar (at the Mango garden of Baiddanathala in Meherpur district) and formed a government which is known as Mujibnagar Government. The Mujibnagar government comprising the Peoples' Representatives took oath on 17 April. After the formation of Mujibnagar government, people in groups joined Mukti Bahini (Freedom fighters) and began to join the war of liberation.

## **Internal Resistance and Guerrilla Warfare**

Pakistani troops attacked Dhaka city by firing and setting on fire. They killed the people asleep in dark of night. They attacked Jahurul Haque Hall, Salimullah Muslim Hall and Jagannath Halls of Dhaka University. There, they raided the teachers' quarters and killed many of them. Yahyia's barbarian troops were implicated in indiscriminate killing of the people, torturing women, arsons, looting and in many other hateful crimes. To escape from their attacks, lakhs of male-female took shelter in India. But Bangali students and youths received training in secret in large numbers and started guerilla warfare from within the country and beating the Pak army in frontal attacks. The people assisted them by giving food, shelter and clothes. As a result, the Pak army became seized.

## **Organization and operation of the War of Liberation**

In the primary stage of the War of Liberation, resistance movement had been going on unplanned and uncoordinated. With the formation of Mujibnagar government, the War of Liberation began to operate.

Regular military was formed comprising the then Bangali members of EPR, Bangali soldiers and officers in the Pakistan army. Three Brigades were later formed with regular military battalion known as K-force, S-force and Z-force. Military members and other freedom fighters gained recognition as Freedom Fighters. At times they become known as Guerrilla. The members of this force played a significant role in the War of Liberation. They participated in the guerrilla war within the country against the Pakistan occupation forces. The detective branch of this conducted surveillances over the movement and activities of Pakistan occupation forces and supplied that information to the freedom fighters. Of the guerrillas, students and farmers were more in numbers.

Mujibnagar government divided Bangladesh into eleven sectors and put a commander in charge of a sector. Under the sector commander, both regular forces and irregular guerrillas were engaged in. Sector ten did not have a regional boundary. This was consisted of Navy Commanders.

Using a mix of conventional and guerilla warfare tactics Freedom fighters defeated the Pakistan occupation forces. Non stop war lowered the morale of Pakistani occupation forces and made them utterly frustrated and isolated from the people.

Pakistani military ruler President Yahya Khan launched air strike on India in a bid to show Bangladesh's independence war, a war between Pakistan and India. On 3 December Pakistan government declared war against India. But their attempts were ended in failure. On 4 November, Indian Loksabha (parliament) decided to give recognition to the independence of Bangladesh. The Indian government accorded this recognition on December 6. At this time, a Joint Command was established comprising Freedom fighters (Mukti Bahini) and regular members of Indian army. This joint command launched attacks from three sides such as naval, air and land. Consequently, Pakistan occupation forces were completely destroyed and defeated within few days.

At last, on 16 December 1971, the Commander in Chief of the Pakistani forces General Niazi along with 93,000 soldiers, a huge chunk of supplies and artillery formally surrendered at then Race Course Maidan. The name of Bangladesh was thus written in blood on the map of the world as an independent and sovereign state.



Victory celebration of freedom fighters and mass people

In nine months War of Liberation, irrespective of male-female, Hindu-Muslim, child-old 3 millions Bengalis lost their lives. There 2,76,000 mothers-sisters lost their dignity. Villages after village were set on fire. 1 crore people left the country and took shelter in India. Gaining this liberation, Bangladesh emerged as an independent and sovereign country in the World map. Prior to achieving independence, the local accomplices of Pakistan occupation forces took the best intellectuals of the country to the Rayer Bazar and Mirpur killing ground and brutally killed them. On the whole,

despite being the majority in Pakistan Bangali were treated as second class citizens. With independence, they became independent citizens in independent Bangladesh.

### **Consciousness of War of Liberation and Its Ideals**

Bangladesh is the first country in the third world which gained independence through an armed struggle. That war lasted for nine months. At the cost of much spilling of blood and sacrifices, we gained independence. The first constitution enacted at independence rightly embodied the consciousness of war of liberation and its ideals through four principles of the state. These four principles are: democracy, socialism, secularism and nationalism. The Bangali have struggled for democracy for long. To make Bangladesh a truly democratic state was their dream. The main objective was to free themselves from all kinds of exploitation and discrimination. Since inception of Pakistan state, Bangali have struggled against the use of religion by the rulers. In other words, they have struggled against communalism. 'Religion is personal, state is for all' - with this essence in mind they have taken part in the War of Liberation. The essence of our independence was exclusive national identity, which we call Bangali nationalism. For a separate nation, an independent state is required. Bangali national identity includes own territory, literature-language, non-communal or tolerant culture and history and tradition. The consciousness and ideals of the War of Liberation lie in the ownership of state power. During Pakistan period, state was the institution of civil-military bureaucracy and opportunist groups. People of all walks of life in our country have taken part in the War of Liberation. They are the owner of the state. Therefore, it has been declared in our constitution 'People are the sources of all power of the Republic' (Article-7). Today, our duty is to make Bangladesh a happy and prosperous state.

## **Exercise**

### **Short Answers Questions**

1. Discuss the features of Lahore Resolution.
2. Mention the discriminatory behaviour of the then Pakistan government towards the people of East Pakistan.
3. Discuss the results of 1970 Elections.

### **Descriptive Questions**

1. 6-points program is the charter of freedom of Bangali nation- Discuss.

### Multiple Choice Questions

1. Who declared 'Two Nation Theory'?
  - a. A. K. Fazlul Haq
  - b. Mahatma Gandhi
  - c. Muhammad Ali Jinnah
  - d. Huseiyn Shaheed Suhrawardy
2. Which one of the following promises by United Front attracted the Bangalis?
  - a. To make Pakistan a federation;
  - b. Empower the provinces with the right to pay tax;
  - c. To establish full autonomy of East Bengal;
  - d. To release all political prisoners;
3. The reason behind the formation of United Front, Muslim League
  - a. Could not be trustworthy to the Bangalis
  - b. To take away all kinds of rights from the people of these countries
  - c. To promise to demand Urdu as state language

#### Which one of the following is correct?

- a. i and ii
- b. i and iii
- c. ii and iii
- d. i, ii and iii

#### Read the following paragraph and answers the questions of questions 4 and 5

A has returned to his own village after living 20 years in a European country. One day when he joined a social program in the village and started talking in the language where he came from, the villagers requested him to speak in native language.

4. Which one of the movement's influence can be noticed in the peoples' lives of the village?
  - a. Language
  - b. Non-Coperation
  - c. 6-points program
  - d. 11-points program
5. The consequence of the movement primarily-
  - a. Created national consciousness
  - b. To enhance religious thoughts
  - b. To create political consciousness
  - c. Deprived of the direct voting rights

## 1. Creative Question



- a. When is International Mother Language observed?
  - b. What is 'Two Nation Theory'? Explain.
  - c. The picture above is related with which movement- Explain.
  - d. The consciousness of people in the above picture could give birth to the sovereign and independent Bangladesh- Give reasons in favour of your answer.
2. Shishir worked in a factory. During the War of Liberation, many of his factory co-workers joined the war. Toying their path one day he fled from his house and received armed training. He then joined the war. He lost one of his legs in a direct encounter with Pakistan army at Brahminbaria. At the end of war, he returned home but did not get his family and job back.
- a. Who raised the 6-points program?
  - b. What is Guerilla war? Explain.
  - c. Which force was he belonged to? Explain.
  - d. Shishir and his partners are the best sons of this country- Evaluate.

## Chapter Eleven

# Bangladesh and International Organization

There are many countries in the planet named earth. The countries are spread over different regions of the world's seven continents. Despite being independent and sovereign, it is not possible for the countries to exist alone.

Mutual cooperation, friendship and amity, which are indispensable for the development of these countries are required. For this various cooperative organizations has developed in the world. For example: SAARC, Organization of Islamic Conference, Commonwealth, the United Nations, etc. In this chapter, we will learn about these important international and regional organizations and their relation with Bangladesh.



United Nations General Assembly Session

**At the end of studying this chapter, we will be able to -**

- Analyse the formation of SAARC, its objectives and its relation with Bangladesh.
- Describe the formation and objectives of the United Nations.
- Describe the relation between the United Nations and Bangladesh.
- Explain the role of Bangladesh in the United Nations Peace Keeping Force.
- Describe the formation of the Commonwealth, its objectives and its relation with Bangladesh.
- Describe the formation and objectives of the OIC and its relations with Bangladesh.

## SAARC

The full form of SAARC is "South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation". It was established initially with seven developing nations; later Afghanistan was included as one of its member countries. This organization has been established to achieve the political, social and cultural progress with the mutual cooperation of member countries. It is a regional organization for development.

### Formation

SAARC started its journey through holding its first conference in Dhaka on the 8th December 1985. Presently, the number of member countries of this organization is 8. The member countries are as follows: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

There are five levels in its institutional structure 1. Summit meeting of heads of states and governments 2. Conference of foreign Ministers 3. Standing Committee 4. Technical Committee 5. SAARC Secretariat. Different activities of SAARC are implemented through those organs. The SAARC Secretariat is situated in the capital of Nepal. Its head is called Secretary General. A summit conference of the heads of the SAARC member countries is held annually. SAARC symbolizes the hopes and aspirations of almost 150 crore people of the south Asian countries.



SAARC symbol



SAARC Secretariat

### Goals and objectives of SAARC's formation

The developing countries in south Asia are beset with different kinds of problems. Poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, over population and natural disaster etc. have been problem of these countries for ages. So SAARC has been established to get rid of those problems through mutual cooperation and to accelerate the development program of SAARC countries. Apart from these, there are some other specific reasons behind the establishment of SAARC. These are as follows:

1. To improve the standard of living of the people of member countries of SAARC;
2. To ensure the economic, social and cultural development of this region;



3. To take necessary steps to make the south Asian countries self-reliant;
4. To increase the understanding and cooperation between each other for the general interest of the countries of this region;
5. To establish cooperative relationship with different international organizations;
6. To take initiatives for achieving SAARC's goals through improving the relations with other regional organizations;
7. To create mutual understanding by resolving existing differences and problems among SAARC members;
8. To abide by the policy of sovereignty and geographical integrity of the countries; and
9. Not to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries.

**Group work:** Student will explain the aim behind establishment of SAARC.

### **Relationship of SAARC with Bangladesh**

There is deep relationship between Bangladesh and SAARC. Late President of Bangladesh General Ziaur Rahman took initiative first to establish SAARC, but it was not established in his lifetime. Later in 1985, SAARC officially started its function in Dhaka under the initiative of former president General Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

As the initiator of SAARC, Bangladesh has been playing a significant and strong role in its different activities. As one of the member countries it has also been making every effort to expand the trade between the member countries and to maintain the balance, to solve the regional conflicts and existing crisis between the neighboring countries. Apart from this Bangladesh is committed to prevent human trafficking, combat terrorism, protect the environment, development of communication and technology and eradication of diseases etc.

In this regard different programs have been taken for mutual cooperation. Bangladesh is extending its all out cooperation to accelerate the progress of SAARC through execution of these programs.

**Group work:** Students will discuss 1 or 2 notable events about SAARC and present it in the class.

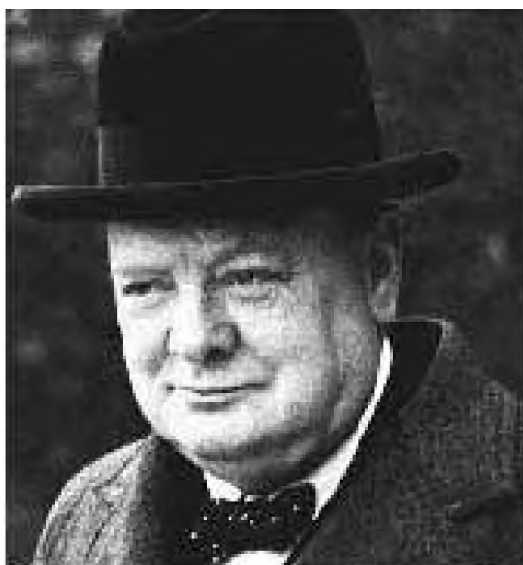
### **United Nations**

We are aware that in the span of only 25 years, there were two world wars. First one was from 1914 to 1918 and second one was from 1939 to 1945. Different countries of the world were involved in the war. These two world wars were great obstacles to the



progress of the human civilization. So, alongside the war there were efforts also to establish peace. Therefore, after the 1st world war in 1920, The League of Nations was established to achieve world peace. However, because of the conflict between different countries this organization did not continue. As a result in 1939 the 2nd world war engulfed the world. In this war different countries suffered tremendous loss. Two Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were completely destroyed and millions of people died.

After seeing the destruction in the 2nd world war, people of the world panicked and became speechless. So they were inspired to establish peace in different countries. In addition to this they felt that war must be rejected for the benefit of mankind. Mutual cooperation among the countries can bring peace and progress in the world. As a result, in 1941 world leaders took initiatives to establish the United Nations. With the initiatives taken by former British prime minister Winston Churchill and president of United States Theodore Roosevelt there were long discussions with the leaders of the different countries. Consequently on 24 October, 1945 in San Francisco city of the United States, the United Nations was established. After the destruction of 2nd world war with the hope of peace the United Nations came into being.



Winston Churchill



Theodore Roosevelt

Initially the number of members of the United Nations was 50. Now it has 193 members. Its headquarter is situated in New York in the United States. The Secretary General of the United Nations is its chief administrator. Trygve Lie of Norway was first secretary general of United Nations. The name of the present secretary general is Ban Ki-moon, a Korean citizen. Color of the flag of the United Nations is light blue. In the middle of white background there is a round world map; two sides are surrounded by olive branches. The United Nations have different institutions for development.



UN Headquarters



UN Symbol

These are as follows: UNICEF, UNESCO, World Health Organization, World Food Program, World Human Rights Commission etc.

**Group work:** Student will discuss the background of the establishment of United Nation and write in brief its necessity. Aims of the United Nations

### **Aims of the United Nations**

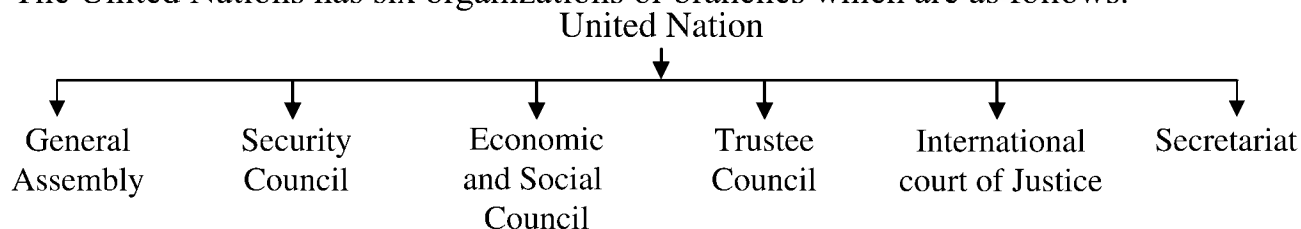
Established with the noble objective of world peace and cooperation are as follows.

1. To ensure world peace, discipline and security through preventing the threat to peace and aggressive activities;
2. Through showing respect to equal rights to create fraternity and friendly environment among all the countries of the world;
3. To establish international cooperation to solve economic, social, cultural and human welfare problems;
4. To create respect and honor to the freedom and basic rights of all, irrespective of race, religion, color, language and gender;
5. To resolve all international conflicts through international law.

### **Formation of the United Nations**

Now we will discuss about the formation and activities of different organization and branches.

The United Nations has six organizations or branches which are as follows.



#### **1. General assembly**

The General Assembly is the main policymaking organ of the United of Nations. It

All member countries of the United Nations are members of the general assembly. Generally, This Council holds its session once a year. But on the request of the Security Council a special session can be held. At the beginning of the session a chairman is elected by the vote of the members. In the General assembly, each member country has the right to cast only one vote.

### **Functions**

The General Assembly discusses international peace, security and human rights. In addition to this, it appoints the secretary general, collects new members, passes budget, fixes the contribution of the member country, appoints member of the different organizations, and elects non-permanent members in the Security Council etc.

## **2. Security Council**

It is the most important and powerful branch of the United Nations, it is considered as the governing branch of the United Nations.

### **Formation**

The Security Council is constituted with 15 member countries of which 5 are permanent and the rest 10 are non-permanent members. Permanent members are as follows: United Kingdom, United States, Russia, France and China. These are known as five great powers. nonpermanent members are elected for a two year period.

### **Functions**

To protect world peace and security is the main responsibility of the security council. This council makes efforts to solve international conflicts through discussions. It can enforce economic and diplomatic embargo on the aggressive countries. If its efforts fail, it has the power to use the military power. Beside this, to establish peace and stop a war somewhere, the security council can send UN peace keeping forces. In short, to maintain international peace and amity, all necessary steps are taken by this organization.

## **3. Economic and Social Council**

This council has been established to advance the world economically and socially. It has a significant role in the development of the world.

### **Formation**

It was formed with 54 members. At least three sessions are held in a year. Every member has the right to cast one vote. A decision is taken with the consent of majority members.

### **Functions**

This council performs various welfare works to improve the living standards of the countries, to solve the unemployment problem and expansion of education, agriculture and food, treatment and rehabilitation and ensure the fundamental rights of the people etc. Apart from this, one of the tasks of this council is to send its recommendations regarding the welfare of the people to the general assembly.

#### **4. Trustee council**

That territory which has a separate entity but no freedom and sovereignty and is run under the supervision of another country, it is called trustee area. Responsibility of this area is on the shoulder of the trustee council.

##### **Formation**

This council consists of the ruling country of the trustee area and member country of the United Nations, permanent members of the Security Council and other elected members. It has no fixed number. The number of the members is fixed on the basis of the number of the trustee area.

##### **Functions**

United Nations takes the responsibility of the undeveloped area through this Trustee Council. Its main responsibility is the development of the trustee area through expanding education and creating awareness among the people of the area and preparing them for self rule and freedom. In addition, its task is to ensure peace and security in the area and review the complaints and requests of the people of the Trustee area and take steps and through inspection of the trustee area observe the practical situation and to submit reports.

#### **5. International court of justice**

The International court of justice was formed to establish world peace and protect it through solving the conflict between the different countries of the world. Its' headquarter is situated in the town of Hague in Netherlands.

##### **Formation**

It's the court of United Nations and is formed with 15 justices for a period of 9 years. General assembly and the security council appoint the judges of this council.

##### **Functions**

Any member country of the United Nations can pray justice through submitting the complaint against each other to solve the conflict. The court maintains world peace through its judicial activity. The court also deals with the cases regarding the subject included in United Nations charter and solves the conflict regarding the agreements signed among the member countries. Furthermore it explains the laws in response to the request of the general assembly and security council.

#### **6. Secretariat**

The secretariat is the administrative department of the United Nations. All activities are performed for world peace, cooperation and communication through this department.

### Formation

It is formed with the secretary general, some deputy secretaries, under secretaries, other officials and employees. Head of this department is the Secretary General. He is elected by the general assembly for a period of 5 years.

### Functions

Administrative works are performed by the secretariat. All the related works are carried out centering the secretary general. He also discharges his responsibility as a secretary general of the general assembly, security council, economic and social council and trustee council. He appoints employees of all departments except the international court of justice. He convenes the sessions of all the departments. Apart from this, preparation of budget, collection of contributions from the member countries, to convene meeting of the different departments, to review different development activity and prepare the report, to prepare report in the trustee area, these tasks are carried out by his directives. Execution of the decisions taken by general assembly and security council is also his responsibility. He can also recommend any action against the countries which violate the order of United Nations. The secretary general is actually the main executive official of the United Nations. He carries out the huge activities with the cooperation of the others in the secretariat.

**Group work:** Students will make a chart showing functions of branches of UNO and present it in the class.

### Relationship between Bangladesh and United Nations

Bangladesh became a member of the United Nations in 1974. Since its birth, Bangladesh has been faithful to the policy and the ideology of the United Nations. Bangladesh received United Nations help to solve its various problems. Bangladesh has been playing a significant role to execute different activities of the United Nations. Practically the deep relationship and friendship started to grow between United Nations and Bangladesh during the independent war of Bangladesh. Some important factors are as follows:

- During the liberation war in 1971 United Nations gave 10million Bangladeshi refugees who took shelter in India the opportunity to survive by providing them with food, cloth, accommodation, and treatment as humanitarian help. United Nations also helped Bangladesh after its liberation war to rehabilitate the country.
- After gaining the membership in the United Nations the role played by Bangladesh in different activities was well appraised. As a result Bangladesh has become a very trustworthy member among the other member countries. So far Bangladesh gained the membership of the Security Council twice as a non permanent member, which is considered as a rare honor for the country. Beside this, Bangladesh was elected as a member of other councils of the United Nations.

- Different organizations of the United Nations have been working for the social, political, economical and cultural development of Bangladesh as a real friend. These organizations have also been helping Bangladesh enormously in the sectors of health, food and nutrition, communication, declining the rate of child death, population control, achieving political stability, science, development of tradition and culture and facing the challenges of natural disaster and calamities. United Nations has honored greatly our mother tongue Bengali language through declaring the day 21st February as Martyr's day and international mother language day. These activities of the United Nations have played a great role in strengthening the relation with Bangladesh.
- In 1991 influx of thousands of Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh from Myanmar created a disastrous situation. Bangladesh overcame the situation with the immense help of the United Nations and its different organizations. Apart from this, there was a maritime border conflict between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Bangladesh filed a case in this regard in the international court of the United Nations. In 2012 Bangladesh won the case and gained the right over a vast area in the sea border.
- In this way United Nations has been helping our country as a close friend of Bangladesh. Likewise Bangladesh is playing an active role in the execution of the decisions taken by the United Nations through total trust on its charters and participating in different sessions of the United Nations. By showing proper respect to the decision of United Nations, Bangladesh has been playing an active role in the maintenance of peace through sending its troops to the peace keeping forces of the United Nations in different countries of the world.

**Group work:** Create separate chart showing achievement & contribution of UNO in Bangladesh.

### **Role of Bangladesh in the international peace keeping forces**

Bangladesh is one of the members of peace keeping forces in the United Nations. From the beginning it has been supporting activities of the peace keeping forces and playing an active role. In 1988 Bangladesh sent its army personnel to the peace keeping forces for the first time. They were sent to Namibia to take part in two operations there. During Iran- Iraq war Bangladeshi army personnel took part in United Nations Peace Keeping Force in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Since then Bangladeshi army personnel took part in peace keeping forces mission in 25 countries.

Bangladesh occupies the highest position among the countries which sent their troops to the United Nations peace keeping force. It has sent almost 11 thousand soldiers to the UN peace keeping forces, at present Bangladeshi army personnel are working in 12 countries of the world.

The position of Bangladesh army in the peace keeping forces is glorious. As recognition of that contribution many high officials of Bangladesh army have been appointed as commanders and in



Recognition of the special contribution of Bangladesh Armed Forces in UN Peace Keeping Force



Members of Bangladesh Armed Forces in Peace Keeping Force

high positions. It is recognition of the role of Bangladesh that increased the dignity of the country. In recognition of this contribution of Bangladesh, BBC has termed Bangladeshi peace keepers "The cream of the UN peacekeepers". Participation of Bangladeshi army in the peacekeeping forces of UN has helped in earning foreign currency; as a result the country has been prosperous economically. Contribution of Bangladesh in the UN peacekeeping forces is a matter of pride for us.

**Group work:** Students will prepare a short report on contribution & sacrifice of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in keeping peace of the world.

## Commonwealth

### Formation

We know that once there was the British empire almost all over the world. Our Indian subcontinent was also under the British Empire. The British ruled in that period almost all over the world with tremendous might. Later, those areas ruled by the British witnessed the spirit of nationalism and started to become independent one after another. During that period, the commonwealth was established to keep the bond of ties between the countries which got the freedom from the British rule. Britain took initiative to establish it. Britain and other British ruled countries are the members of this organization, but a country can abstain from being member of Commonwealth. Presently it has 53 members.

The Commonwealth is an international organization. It was established in 1949. Its name was British Commonwealth of Nations then, later the word "British" was dropped. The Queen or the King of Britain is the head of the Commonwealth. It has its own secretariat to carry out its activities.



Queen of Britain and Commonwealth Head

The head of the secretariat is called General Secretary, its headquarter is situated in London. A conference of the heads of governments of member countries is held every two years.

### **Aims of Commonwealth**

Main aim of commonwealth is to maintain minimum relationship between Britain and its independent colonies. The main aim of this organization is to assist in the development of member countries in socio-economic, cultural, and political sector, and to help in the exchange of education, science and technology between each other through maintaining this relationship.

### **Bangladesh and Commonwealth**

Bangladesh gained the membership of Commonwealth after its independence on 28 April 1972. There has been strong relationship between the Commonwealth and Bangladesh since its emergence, especially the relationship with Britain, the main initiator of commonwealth is much closer. During our war of independence the British media created public support in favor of Bangladesh. During the war of independence, Britain was the main center for the publicity in favor of Bangladesh government. An assistance fund was established there to help Bangladesh. Other member countries of commonwealth also extended their assistance and cooperation in different ways. Our neighbouring country India, one of the member countries of commonwealth gave shelter and food to almost 10 million Bangladeshi citizens. Other member countries helped Bangladesh by sending medicine, food and cloths.

Due to the liberal mentality towards Bangladesh and friendly relationship it gained commonwealth membership after its independence. In protest against the decision taken by the commonwealth, Pakistan withdrew its membership from the commonwealth. With the help of commonwealth and its member countries, Bangladesh was able to overcome quickly the damages of war. As a sincere member of the commonwealth Bangladesh takes part in all its conferences. It also helps to execute the policies and programs taken by the commonwealth. It is one of the members of the Colombo Plan; as a result Bangladeshi students go to the different commonwealth countries for higher study with commonwealth scholarship.

Commonwealth is the second largest international organization in the world. It has been working as a nonpolitical organization to maintain peace and prosperity in the world; it has also been working for the development in the sectors of agriculture, education, health and technology in the commonwealth countries, and in the eradication of discrimination of color and discrimination between the poor and the rich in the world.

**Group work:** Discuss the contribution of the commonwealth in the liberation war of Bangladesh.



## Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC)

### Formation

OIC is an international organization of Muslim majority countries in the world. Its full name is Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC). We are aware that a conflict between the Islamic countries in the Middle East and the western countries exists for a long time regarding the establishment of the State of Israel. On 21 August in 1969, Israel suddenly set fire on Al-Aqsa Mosque a sacred shrine of Muslims. The Muslim world expressed serious anger and condemned the incident. In this regard a foreign ministerial meeting was held in Egypt. Foreign ministers of 14 Muslim countries attended the meeting. A decision was taken in that meeting to hold a summit conference of heads of Muslim countries. In accordance with that decision a summit conference of the heads of Muslim states was held between 22 September to 25 September in 1969 in the capital of Morocco Rabat, and heads of 24 Muslim countries attended the summit. In that summit, Muslim leaders felt that to safeguard the interests of the Muslim countries, establishment of an organization is necessary and OIC came to being on 25 September, and Malaysian Prime Minister Tenku Abur Rahman was elected its secretary general. In this way, it started its journey. Initially number of members was only 23. At present it has 57 members. All Muslim countries of the world are its members. The OIC head quarter is situated in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.



Symbol of OIC

### Aims of OIC

Primary aims of OIC are to ensure the security of Islamic shrines, and take steps jointly against conspiracy of the foreign enemy by maintaining the unity and solidarity between the member countries. Apart from this, there are some more aims as follows;

1. Accelerate the Islamic brotherhood and solidarity;
2. Increase the cooperation between the member countries in the social, economic, cultural, science and other important sectors;
3. Elimination of color discrimination and colonialism.
4. Ensure the security of Islamic sites, liberate sacred places and support the struggle of people of Palestine.
5. Safeguard the dignity of Muslims, and help accelerate the struggle of Muslim Nations;
6. Support to ensure the International peace and security;
7. Increase the cooperation and fraternity between the member countries;

8. Showing respect to the freedom and sovereignty of the countries; and
9. In case of any conflict between the countries it should be resolved peacefully through dialogue, mediation, and negotiations.

### **Bangladesh and OIC**

Bangladesh gained its membership in the OIC in its second summit conference held in February 1974. Through this, the relationship between Bangladesh and Islamic world has started strengthening. From the beginning, Bangladesh has been taking active part in different activities of OIC. For the significant role played by Bangladesh in OIC, it has been elected member in different wings or committees of the OIC. Bangladesh has extended its cooperation to the various events of the Muslim world through its solidarity with the aims of OIC. For instance, Bangladesh has been extending its continued support to the struggle of the Palestinian people to liberate Palestine. It made every effort to stop Iran- Iraq war, condemned the invasion by Russia of Afghanistan and sent soldiers to Bosnia to stop the war.

Bangladesh, besides the significant role played by it in the OIC was also able to receive cooperation from the member countries of OIC. Membership of Bangladesh in OIC has helped it a lot in gaining the recognitions of various Muslim countries, as well as gaining the membership of UN and other international organizations. War-torn Bangladesh received assistance from the oil rich, Muslim countries for the rehabilitation work. It is worth mentioning that Bangladesh was able to send huge manpower to the oil-rich Muslim countries which created job opportunities and earned enormous foreign currency which played a great role in the economic development of the country. Apart from the economic assistance, Bangladesh has been receiving cooperation of OIC member countries in the education, social and culture fields. Every year many Bangladeshi people go to Saudi Arabia to perform Hajj. Bangladesh also gets financial assistance from OIC for the renovation of important and different Mosques. Islamic University of Technology situated in Gazipur has been built with the financial assistance of OIC and run by it. Bangladesh after gaining the membership of OIC has been really playing an important role to execute the policy and decisions of OIC.

## **Exercises**

### **Brief question answer**

1. Describe the two notable sides of the relationship between Bangladesh and SAARC.
2. Describe the formation of the United Nations.
3. What benefit will the judgment of the International Court of Justice with regard to the maritime boundary with Myanmar will bring for Bangladesh?
4. What is the aim of the formation of The Commonwealth?

### Descriptive Question

1. What are the reasons for forming SAARC? Mention the contribution of Bangladesh in the establishment of SAARC.
2. Evaluate the role of the United Nations in the development of Bangladesh.

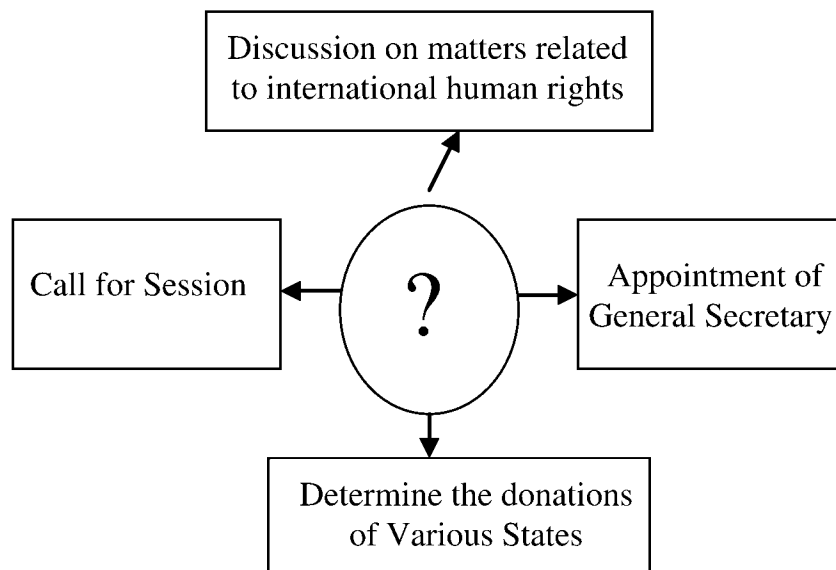
### Multiple Choice Questions

1. When was OIC formed?
  - a. 1939
  - b. 1949
  - c. 1969
  - d. 1972
2. Which Council of the United States can use military force?
  - a. General
  - b. Security
  - c. Trustee
  - d. International Court
3. Works in settling international conflicts -
  - i. Security Council
  - ii. Economic and Social Council
  - iii. International Court

### Which one below is correct?

- a. i
- b. ii
- c. i and ii
- d. i and iii

**In light of the diagram answer questions No 4 and 5:**



4. What organ is related to the '?' symbol?
  - a. General Assembly
  - b. Security Council
  - c. Commonwealth
  - d. SAARC
5. The above organ -
  - i. elects a chairman every year
  - ii. elects a chairman every two years
  - iii. has the right to accept new member state

**Which one below is correct?**

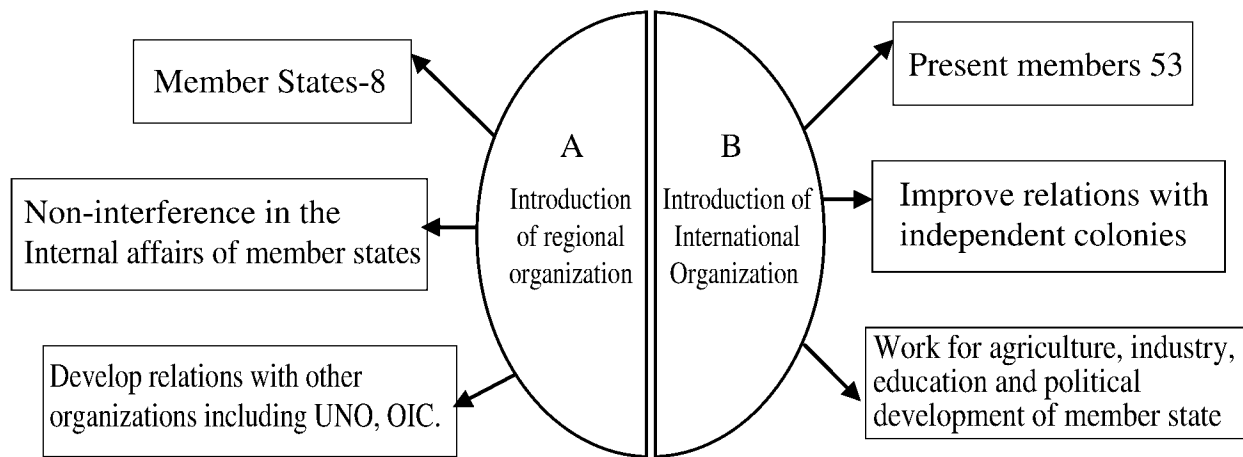
- a. i
- b. ii
- c. i and ii
- d. i and iii

**Creative question**

1. Mr. Hasan and Mr. Hakim sets up two different organizations in their village Surjanagar.

Name of Mr. Hasan's organization is 'Peace Organization'. Its form, goal and objectives	Name of Mr. Hakim's organization is 'Bagmara Cooperative Association'. Its form, goal and objectives
(1) Mr. Hasan is general secretary of the organization. Number of primary members of his organization is 23	(1) Mr. Hakim is the general secretary of the Association. Number of primary members of his organization is 50.
(2) Develops mosques and madrasas of the area and maintains peaceful coexistence between different communities by taking stand against communalism	(2) people of different communities religion and colour are members of this association.,
	(3) set up library, sports club including developing the peace and discipline of the village through economic emancipation

- a. What is the full form of SAARC?
- b. What is trustee territory? Explain.
- c. Objectives of which international organization has similarity with Mr. Hasan's 'Peace Organization'? Explain.
- d. Many of the objectives of the United Nations are seen to be reflected in Mr. Hakim's association. Explain.



- How many organs does the United Nations have?
- Which Branch of the United Nations is responsible for maintaining world peace and security- Explain.
- In the diagram, which regional organization does 'A' reflect- Explain.
- Relations between 'B' international organization and Bangladesh is very close- Argue in favour of the statement.

**The End**

**2013**

**Academic Year**

**9-10 Civics**

বঙ্গবন্ধুর স্বপ্ন- দারিদ্র্য ও নিরক্ষরতামুক্ত সোনার বাংলাদেশ গড়তে  
নিজেদের যোগ্য নাগরিক হিসেবে গড়ে তোল  
- মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী শেখ হাসিনা

যে সৎপথে চলে, সে পথ ভোলে না



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