

Saifur's BCS

৩৬তম লিখিত

- ☑ Reading Comprehension
- ☑ Essay : The War Crimes Trial in Bangladesh

মোঃ মাহফুজুর রহমান

SMS : 01613 43 20 65

English

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A global security crisis of historic proportions is raging in the Middle East, and spreading by the day, as millions of refugees flee Syria and Iraq. The crisis is now affecting not just all of Syria's immediate neighbors, straining their resources and exacerbating social and ethnic tensions; it now directly involves all of the current permanent members of the Security Council except China. It is time for all would-be permanent members of the United Nations Security Council – namely, Germany, India, Japan, Brazil, and Egypt – to step up. The desire for a political settlement that could end the Syrian civil war is palpable; but just what that settlement would look like remains open to debate – or to further conflict. Indeed, Russia and the United States are circling each other like boxers before the contest actually begins, supporting different factions and trying to ensure that their allies in the multi-sided conflict are advancing, or at least holding ground. The need for broad cooperation – and the support of the entire UN Security Council – is apparent.

That is why US Secretary of State John Kerry is talking to the Russians, the Saudis, and the Turks to build support for a new round of international talks. And the UN and Arab League's special envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, has created a set of working groups, chaired by Europeans, to “create a framework for concrete talks between Syria's government and opposition.” In enabling a peace deal, a coalition of countries that are not yet directly involved in the crisis could be very helpful. Such a coalition – involving, say, Germany, India, Japan, Brazil, and Egypt – could increase the pressure on President Bashar al-Assad to negotiate by convincing Russian President Vladimir Putin that the world is watching his deal-making efforts closely and that his prestige is on the line. Moreover, coalition members could convince other relevant regional players to push for a lasting peace. Germany, for example, already recognizes that the only long-term solution to Europe's refugee influx lies in eliminating the need to flee, and has begun to make some moves. Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier travelled to Turkey in September to help broker a deal on keeping refugees in Turkey, in exchange for restarting talks on Turkish accession to the European Union.

A leading German foreign policy expert, Volker Perthes, is chairing one of de Mistura's working groups. The other countries have yet to take action. But they, too, have plenty of motivation – and plenty to offer. India – as well as Pakistan – has a great deal to gain from strengthening Southwest Asian trade, energy, and investment ties. Since the signing of the Iran nuclear deal, India has been contemplating renewing the plan for an Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline, with the participation of China and Russia. But that will be impossible without a settlement in Syria and a decision by Iran to stop supporting Hezbollah. India has a strong relationship with Iran, underpinned by long-standing cultural, social, political, and economic ties, with India now funding an overhaul of the Iranian port of Chabahar, which will give it direct access to Afghanistan. This places India in a strong position to push Iran to put pressure on Assad. Likewise, India can leverage its relationship with Russia – it remains a major importer of Russian arms – to help drive progress.

Japan's potential contribution also involves Iran, with which Japan has lately been pursuing a closer relationship – not least because Japan needs Iranian oil and gas. Earlier this month in Tehran, the Japanese and Iranian foreign ministers agreed to begin negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty. Japan also wants to speed up implementation of the Iran nuclear deal, so that it can take advantage of the business opportunities that will result when economic sanctions on the Islamic Republic are lifted. But if Iran is truly to rejoin the international community, it must play a constructive role in its region. Japan, which now aspires to enhance its own role on the world stage, must not shy away from making that clear.

A bonus here is that Japanese and Indian interest in the Syrian peace process could spur China to play an active role in reaching, rather than blocking, a solution. Brazil, despite confronting plenty of domestic problems right now, is also in a position to help. Not only does it have substantial ties with Russia; it is also linked to Turkey, exemplified by the two countries' 2010 effort to broker a deal with Iran over its nuclear programme. Moreover, in 2011, Brazil put forward a concept paper at the UN outlining how countries seeking to implement the “responsibility to protect” doctrine should behave. With the Syrian government – through its murder of tens of thousands of civilians with barrel bombs and poison gas – having more than fulfilled the criteria for triggering the international community's obligation to intervene, Brazil could suggest what an intervention that reflected the principle of “responsibility while protecting” might look like. Finally, Egypt – a perennial candidate for a permanent or rotating African seat in a reformed Security Council – has important relationships throughout the region, particularly with Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries that are directly supporting some Syrian opposition groups. The government of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, who has emphasized the need for a comprehensive political settlement, is tacitly supporting Assad, but is also deeply concerned about the Islamic State. Egyptian diplomats are thus excellent candidates to exert pressure for compromise.

Many of these countries' governments might say that the Syrian conflict is too far away to affect them directly. But global leadership does not simply mean enjoying the prestige that accompanies presumed power. The UN Charter requires countries to use their power to identify “any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression,” and to decide which measures must be taken “to maintain or restore international peace and security.” The Syrian crisis is a major “threat to the peace,” and the world must address it together.

01. Answer the questions below. Do not copy any sentence from the passage above. Write the answers in your own sentences having your own wording and phrasing.

- How does the refugee crisis affect all?
- What are America and Russia seemingly doing on the case of Syria?
- What would be the mission of the proposed coalition?
- How is Japan responding to Iran?
- How is Syrian crisis a major threat to peace?

02. Write the meanings of the following five words used in the passage. The meanings are provided in the box below. There are more than five words in the box. Choose the appropriate meanings :
breach, perennial, obligation, shy away, confront

Malevolent, eternal, forsake, oppose, onus, transgression

03. Correct the following run-ons by using appropriate subordinates :

(Such as, though, although, since, till, until, unless, lest, while, in case, if, in order that, given, as if, as though)

- Many politicians are corrupt to the core, they are enjoying a very high hand in the mainstream government.
- These people are taking everything for granted, there were no rules and regulations.
- The girl took a makeup of a boy while taking the risky journey, she should be recognized by the nefarious goons.
- We are constantly in apprehension in case of any earthquake, the buildings here are not constructed following the due rules.
- They are marching ahead with immense development in all sectors, we are brooding over our own interests in every case.

04. Use appropriate capitalization, punctuation, and quotation marks where required:--

- Father benjamin costa of the Christian missionary college instructed his favourite students james, Michael, jessy, merry and svetlana to accomplish the assigned task relating the world war 2.
- She lives at 22nd down street Dhaka the capital city of Bangladesh the biggest delta in the world.

05. Summarize the passage in your own words in 100 words.

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06. Translate the Passage into Bangla:

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Today, the craze of advertisement of manufactured goods is on the increase. The art of advertisement is, in fact, a modern development. It has revolutionized the modern trade. Modern life is highly complex and mechanical. People have no time to go into the soul of things. They want to buy largely advertised goods. The manufacturer, in his turn, wants to popularize his goods before these are manufactured. Such is the craze for advertised goods. We are living in the age of advertisement. No wonder, one sees shining and multi-coloured bill-boards hung on poles displaying goods advertised. The city walls are found lettered with eye-catching advertisements of products that are manufactured today. There is a spate of magazines and journals which spare pages for latest variety of goods manufactured. Radio and Television are humming with advertisements of new products. In fact, many a time, one gets sick of these advertisements repeated hundreds of times on the radio or TV screen.

07. Translate the Passage into English :

২৫ মার্চের কাল রাতে বাংলার বুকে নেমে আসে মৃত্যুর ভয়াল তমসা। রাতের নিশ্চিন্দ্র অন্ধকারে পাকিস্তানি সেনাবাহিনী পাশবিক শক্তিতে ঝাঁপিয়ে পড়ে। রাজধানী ঢাকার নিরীহ নিরস্ত্র অসহায় বাঙালির ওপর অতর্কিতে আক্রমণ চালিয়ে হানাদাররা নির্মমভাবে হত্যা করে পঞ্চাশ হাজারেরও বেশি যুগ্ম নাগরিককে। রাতে সেনাবাহিনী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় ছাত্রাবাস, শিক্ষক কলোনি, পুলিশ ও ইপিআর ব্যারাকসহ নতুন ও পুরনো ঢাকার আবাসিক এলাকা এবং বস্তির বাসিন্দাদের ওপর বর্বর আক্রমণ চালিয়ে সূচনা করে ন'মাসব্যাপী ইতিহাসের নজিরবিহীন গণহত্যা, অত্যাচার, নিপীড়ন, নারী ধর্ষণ, অগ্নিসংযোগ, লুণ্ঠরাজ, আর মানবতার বিরুদ্ধে বহুৎসব।

নিরপরাধ বাঙালিদের ওপর কাপুরুষোচিত সশস্ত্র হামলার নির্দেশ দিয়ে প্রেসিডেন্ট ও সেনাবাহিনী প্রধান জেনারেল ইয়াহিয়া খান রাতের অন্ধকারে শেষবারের মতো ঢাকা ত্যাগ করেন। রাতে পাকিস্তানি সেনারা ছাউনি থেকে বের হয়ে নিরস্ত্র বাঙালির বিরুদ্ধে অঘোষিত যুদ্ধ শুরু করলে মধ্যরাতের পর ২৬ মার্চের প্রথম প্রহরে মুক্তি সংগ্রামের সর্বাধিনায়ক বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিবুর রহমান ঘোষণা করেন : পাকিস্তানি সেনাবাহিনী আমাদের ওপর আক্রমণ চালিয়েছে। ছাত্র-জনতা-পুলিশ-ইপিআর শত্রুর বিরুদ্ধে সশস্ত্র প্রতিরোধ গড়ে তুলেছে। সশস্ত্র মুক্তি সংগ্রাম শুরু হয়েছে। আমি ঘোষণা করছি, আজ থেকে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ একটি স্বাধীন রাষ্ট্র। সর্বস্তরের নাগরিকদের আমি আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি, আপনারা যে যেখানে যে অবস্থাতেই থাকুন, যার যা আছে তাই নিয়ে দখলদার সেনাবাহিনীর বিরুদ্ধে শেষ নিঃশ্বাস পর্যন্ত প্রতিরোধ গড়ে তুলুন। সম্মিলিতভাবে শত্রুর মোকাবেলা করুন। এই হয়তো আপনারদের কাছে আমার শেষ বাণী হতে পারে। আপনারা শেষ শত্রুটি দেশ থেকে বিতাড়িত না করা পর্যন্ত সশস্ত্র সংগ্রাম চালিয়ে যান। বঙ্গবন্ধুর নির্দেশে সারা বাংলায় যথারীতি অসহযোগ পালিত হয়। সরকারী অফিস, আদালত ও শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান বন্ধ থাকে। সারা বাংলায় বেসরকারী ভবন শীর্ষে কালো পতাকার পাশাপাশি স্বাধীন বাংলার পতাকা তোলা হয়। সারাদিন সভা-শোভাযাত্রা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। বঙ্গবন্ধুর বাসভবনে যথারীতি মিছিলকারীরা গিয়ে নেতার প্রতি তাদের সমর্থন ঘোষণা করে। বিকেলে পূর্ব বাংলা শ্রমিক ফেডারেশন ও বিপ্লবী ছাত্র ইউনিয়নের উদ্যোগে পল্টন ময়দানে জনসভা অনুষ্ঠিত হয়। রাত নয়টার পর ছাত্র-জনতা সারা ঢাকায় ব্যারিকেড রচনা শুরু করেন।

প্রেসিডেন্ট ইয়াহিয়া বিকেলে প্রেসিডেন্ট ভবন থেকে সেনানিবাসে যান। রাত ৮টায় তিনি করাচী রওনা হন। রাতে নয়টার পর হোটেল ইন্টারকন্টিনেন্টালে সাংবাদিকরা ভুট্টোকে প্রেসিডেন্টের ঢাকা ত্যাগের খবর দিলে তিনি বলেন, দুর্ভাগ্যবশত পরিস্থিতি অনিশ্চিত হয়ে পড়েছে। আমি আগামীকাল করাচী ফিরে যাবো।

বঙ্গবন্ধুর কাছে ইয়াহিয়ার ঢাকা ত্যাগের খবর আগেই পৌঁছেছিল। রাত ৯টার পর বঙ্গবন্ধু তার বাসভবনে উপস্থিত দলীয় নেতা, কর্মী, সমর্থক, ছাত্র নেতৃবৃন্দ ও সাংবাদিকদের উদ্দেশ্যে বলেন, আমরা সমস্যার শান্তিপূর্ণ সমাধানের জন্য সর্বাঙ্গিক প্রচেষ্টা চালিয়েছি। কিন্তু জেনারেল ইয়াহিয়া খান সামরিক ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের মাধ্যমে সমস্যার সমাধান করতে চাচ্ছেন। এ ব্যবস্থার মাধ্যমে প্রেসিডেন্ট অখণ্ড পাকিস্তানের সমাপ্তি টানতে চলেছেন। আমাকে হয়তো ওরা হত্যা করতে পারে কিন্তু আমি নিশ্চিত যে, আমার সমাধির ওপর একদিন স্বাধীন বাংলাদেশ প্রতিষ্ঠা লাভ করবেই।

সন্ধ্যায় বঙ্গবন্ধু এক বিবৃতিতে দেশের বর্তমান সঙ্কট সমাধানে দুঃখজনক কালক্ষেপণ এবং বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন স্থানে নিরস্ত্র জনগণের ওপর সেনাবাহিনীর গুলিবর্ষণ ও নির্যাতনের কঠোর নিন্দা করে সংশ্লিষ্ট মহলের প্রতি সামরিক বাহিনী ও নিরস্ত্র অসামরিক নাগরিকদের মধ্যে মোকাবেলার পরিস্থিতি সৃষ্টি থেকে বিরত থাকার আহ্বান জানান। বিবৃতিতে বঙ্গবন্ধু কঠোর সতর্কবাণী উচ্চারণ করে বলেন, এই আহ্বান আত্মহা করে রাজনৈতিক সমাধান বানচালের উদ্দেশ্যে সামরিক মোকাবেলার নীতি অনুসরণ অব্যাহত রাখা হলে এর অবশ্যজ্ঞাবী ভয়াবহ পরিস্থিতির জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট মহলই দায়ী হবেন।

বিকেলে সংবাদপত্রে প্রেরিত অপর এক বিবৃতিতে বঙ্গবন্ধু বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন স্থানে সেনাবাহিনী কর্তৃক ব্যাপক গণতহ্যার প্রতিবাদে আগামী ২৭ মার্চ সারা বাংলায় হরতাল পালনের আহ্বান জানান। সৈয়দপুর, রংপুর, জয়দেবপুর ও চট্টগ্রামে সেনাবাহিনীর গুলিবর্ষণের নিন্দা জানিয়ে বঙ্গবন্ধু বলেন, বেসামরিক জনগণের ওপর বেপরোয়া গুলিবর্ষণ ও নৃশংস নির্যাতন চালানো হচ্ছে। পুলিশের ভূমিকাকে সম্পূর্ণ উপেক্ষা করা হচ্ছে। সেনাবাহিনী বাংলাদেশের সর্বত্র সন্ত্রাসের রাজত্ব কায়ম করেছে। এমন এক সময় এসব ঘটনা ঘটছে যখন প্রচণ্ড রাজনৈতিক সঙ্কট নিরসনের ঘোষিত উদ্দেশ্য নিয়ে প্রেসিডেন্ট ও প্রধান সেনাপতি ইয়াহিয়া খান স্বয়ং ঢাকায় অবস্থান করছেন। আমি অবিলম্বে সামরিক তৎপরতা বন্ধের নির্দেশ দানের জন্য প্রেসিডেন্টের প্রতি আহ্বান জানাচ্ছি। সে সঙ্গে আমি প্রেসিডেন্টকে স্মরণ করিয়ে দিতে চাই বাংলাদেশের নির্ভীক জনগণ মুক্তির চূড়ান্ত লক্ষ্য অর্জনের জন্য যে কোনো পরিস্থিতি মোকাবেলা করতে প্রস্তুত। বঙ্গবন্ধু বিবৃতিতে বীর জনতার প্রতি সংগ্রাম চালিয়ে যাবার আহ্বান জানান।

রাত ১১টায় পাকিস্তান সেনাবাহিনী পূর্বপরিষ্কার অনুযায়ী 'অপারেশন সার্চ লাইট'-এর প্রভুতি সম্পন্ন করে। রাত সাড়ে ১১টায় তারা ছাউনি থেকে বেরিয়ে আসে। ফার্মগেটের মুখে হানাদার বাহিনী প্রথম প্রতিরোধের মুখোমুখি হয়। এখানে তারা লাউড স্পীকারে গোটা ঢাকায় কারফিউ জারির ঘোষণা দেয়। ছাত্র-জনতা সেনাবাহিনীকে বাধা দিলে তারা মেশিনগান ব্যবহার করে পাখির মতো স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামীদের গুলি করে হত্যা করে। ডিনামাইট দিয়ে ব্যারিকেড উড়িয়ে দিয়ে শহরে প্রবেশ করে। রাস্তায় রাস্তায় শুরু হয় খন্ডযুদ্ধ।

পাকিস্তানি সেনাবাহিনী বাংলাদেশের জনগণের বিরুদ্ধে যুদ্ধ ঘোষণার পর বঙ্গবন্ধু আনুষ্ঠানিকভাবে ঘোষণা করেন- আজ থেকে গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ স্বাধীন রাষ্ট্র। সশস্ত্র মুক্তি সংগ্রাম শুরু হয়েছে। চূড়ান্ত বিজয় অর্জিত না হওয়া পর্যন্ত সশস্ত্র সংগ্রাম চলবে। আমার এই ঘোষণা ঘরে ঘরে পৌঁছে দিন। শত্রুর বিরুদ্ধে প্রতিরোধ গড়ে তুলুন। পিলখানা ইপিআর ব্যারাক ও অন্যান্য স্থান থেকে বঙ্গবন্ধুর স্বাধীনতা ঘোষণার লিখিত বাণী ওয়্যারলেসের মাধ্যমে সারাদেশে ম্যাসেজ আকারে পাঠানো হয়। এই ওয়্যারলেস চট্টগ্রাম ইপিআর সদর দফতরে পৌঁছায়।

08. Match the information in the table to make meaningful sentences.

a. The refugee crisis has crossed its supposed limit	I. Seem to be doing more rehearsal than action.
b. Two major powers of the world	II. To put an intimidating impact on many states.
c. A coalition is the need of the time	III. In absence of peace in Syria.
d. To create a palpable solution to the refugee crisis,	IV. People should be made assured of their needlessness to flee.
e. Even India cannot succeed in its targeted work	V. To let the war mongers know that the world does not hail them.

Some optional question patterns (08-15) on reading comprehension have also been introduced as questions may vary from passage to passage. Sample answers will be given in the upcoming lecture sheets.

09. Fill in the blanks with the words/phrases from the box.

assertive, deal, spade, tightening, interests,

Even Japan has some (a)..... in Iran with a view to earning the imperative energy. Earlier this month in Tehran, the Japanese and Iranian foreign ministers agreed to begin a (b)..... on a bilateral investment. Japan is also (c)..... to help Iran in its nuclear thing for the purpose of (d).... the business deal. But if Iran is truly to rejoin the international community, it must play a constructive role in its region. Japan, which now aspires to enhance its own role on the world stage, must call a (e).... a spade. A bonus here is that Japanese and Indian interest in the Syrian peace process could spur China to play an active role in reaching, rather than blocking, a solution.

10. Write True/False.

- Japan is also fighting shy of the relationship with Iran.
- India's target accomplishment also counts on Syrian crisis redemption.
- Global leadership refers to relishing the hypothetical power.
- The endangered people are being asserted of their unthreatened stay.
- A coalition is needed to back Assad to trigger massacre.

11. Make WH questions of the following sentences.

- a. Global leadership does not simply mean enjoying the prestige.
- b. Brazil put forward a concept paper of "Responsibility to protect".
- c. The crisis is now affecting all the other countries of the world.
- d. This places India in a strong position to push Iran to put pressure on Assad.
- e. Coalition members could convince other relevant regional players to push for a lasting peace.

12. Complete the following sentences with appropriate words.

- a. Many people are fleeing other European countries.
- b. The world does not approve the conflict in Syria.
- c. The Assad government must cease continue its annihilating war.
- d. The Syrian crisis can very possibly create all over the world.
- e. The countries all over the world must come up with a solution to this bad omen.

13. Make meaningful sentences with the following words/phrases in your own language.

Strain, exacerbate, on the line, influx, contemplate, leverage

14. Identify the parts of speech of the underlined words.

- a. Global peace is going through a harsh time.
- b. The crisis is rooted in Syria.
- c. People are having a deadly move toward uncertainty.
- d. Governments of the major countries are yet to reach a solution.
- e. Germany seeks to uproot the cause of making people flee.

15. Correct the following sentences.

- a. Millions of people are fled the conflict ridden country.
- b. Countries of the world for a greater interesting need to come in agreement on some issues.
- c. Almost all the major countries of the world targets to gain ground in the world politics.
- d. The root causes of refugee influx have to withdrawn.
- e. In many regions, countries needs to form forums.

The War Crimes Trial in Bangladesh

Introduction : After around 40 years of the bloody war that had a gigantic toll on our heavenly motherland, the venomous criminals are being put to the long expected trial. The country is at last getting rid of its apparently perennial burden of curse that began with the inhuman killing and massacring of Bangladeshis irrespective of age and sex at the hand of the barbaric war criminals termed as Rajakers, Al-badars, Al-shams and so on. In this hard-earned liberated land, those offenders have been on rampant and at loose with their collaborating machinations and evil omens since the inception of independence. But, things started going expectedly in the past few years to unload the unbearable shame from the shoulder of the nation. Tribunal has been duly made to give legal pace and justification to the trial process.

The International Crimes Tribunal (Bangladesh) :

ICT of Bangladesh is a domestic war crimes tribunal in Bangladesh set up in 2009 to investigate and prosecute suspects for the genocide committed in 1971 by the Pakistan Army and their local collaborators, Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams during the Bangladesh Liberation War. During the 2008 general election, the Awami League (AL) pledged to establish the tribunals in response to long-standing calls for trying war criminals. The first indictments were issued in 2010. However, the main perpetrators of the war crimes, the Pakistan soldiers, remained out of the reach of the courts. The government set up the tribunal after the Awami League won the general election in December 2008 with a more than two-thirds majority in parliament.

The War Crimes Fact Finding Committee, tasked to investigate and find evidence, completed its report in 2008, identifying 1,600 suspects. Prior to the formation of the ICT, the United Nations Development Programme offered assistance in 2009 on the tribunal's formation. In 2009, the parliament amended the 1973 act that authorized such a tribunal to update it. By 2012, nine leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, the largest Islamist party in the nation, and two of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, had been indicted as suspects in war crimes. Three leaders of Jamaat were the first tried; each were convicted of several charges of war crimes. The first person convicted was Abul Kalam Azad (Bachchu), tried *in absentia* as he had left the country; he was sentenced to death in January 2013. The ICT initially received some offers of international assistance.

In 2009, the UN offered its expertise, expressing an interest in helping Bangladesh avoid the problems other countries faced in similar trials. The EU has passed three resolutions supporting the trials and Jean Lambert has said "she expected that the trial would conform to the highest standard possible." However, since the beginning of the trials several human rights organisations and international legal figures have raised objections to the court proceedings.

Human Rights Watch, which initially supported the establishment of the tribunal, have criticised it for issues of fairness and transparency, as well as reported harassment of lawyers and witnesses representing the accused. Bianca Karim and Tirza Theunissen have written that the international community have voiced concerns that the trial will not be transparent or impartial. Jamaat-e-Islami supporters and their student wing, Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir, called a general strike nationwide on December 4, 2012, which erupted in violence.

The group demanded the tribunal be scrapped permanently and their leaders be released immediately. Annual public opinion polls regularly rank the war-crimes trials ranked among the top three "positive steps that the government has taken", though the issue is not considered among the top ten most pressing issues facing the country. Polling in 2013 by AC Nielsen found that more than two-thirds of Bangladeshis characterize the ICT as "unfair" or "very unfair", though 86% support its implementation. In February 2013, Abdul Quader Molla, Assistant Secretary General of Jamaat, was the first person sentenced to death by the ICT who was not convicted in absentia. Initially, Molla was sentenced to life imprisonment, but demonstrations, including the 2013 Shahbag protests in Dhaka, lead to a new punishment.

History :

The events of the nine-month conflict of the Bangladesh Liberation War are widely viewed as genocide; the Pakistan Army and collaborators targeted mass people, intellectuals and members of the political opposition for attacks. Historians have estimated that, during the conflict, between two hundred thousand and four hundred thousand women and children were raped leading to an estimated 25,000 war babies being born. Estimates of persons killed during the conflict range to three million. An estimated ten million refugees entered India, a situation which contributed to its government's decision to intervene militarily in the civil war. Thirty million people were displaced. Susan Brownmiller documented that girls from the age of eight to grandmothers of seventy-five suffered rapes during the war.

In 2009 Shafique Ahmed, the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, announced that the trials would be organized under the International Crimes (Tribunal) Act 1973. This act authorizes prosecution only of persons living within Bangladesh who were members of the armed forces, including paramilitary groups. The act was amended in 2009 to update it, and the International Crimes Tribunal Rules of Procedure and Evidence were put in place by 2010. Some critics maintain that further amendments are needed to bring the act up to the standards of international law.

Establishment of the tribunal :

Seeing the broad support for war crimes trials, the Awami League-led fourteen-party alliance included this in their election platform. The Four-Party Alliance, including the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, had several alleged war criminals among their top-ranking politicians. The former freedom fighters and sector commanders of the liberation war pleaded with citizens against voting for the alleged war criminals. The fourteen-party alliance won the election on December 29, 2008, with an overwhelming majority, a "historic landslide". This was thought to be due to their commitment to prosecute war crimes. On 29 January 2009, Mahmud-us-Samad Chowdhury, a member of the parliament (MP) from the Awami League (AL), proposed taking action to establish a tribunal to prosecute war crimes during a session of the Jatiyo Sangshad.

A resolution was passed unanimously calling on the government to proceed as promised in the election. In 1973 the newly independent government of Bangladesh passed a law, the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act (ICT Act 1973), to authorize the investigation and prosecution of the persons responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and other crimes under international law committed in 1971. The act was a complete in itself. On March 25, 2009 the government voted to try the war criminals according to the ICT Act of 1973 but planned amendments to bring the law up to date and in keeping with international standards for similar trials. As a part of the amendment procedure, the government sent the act to the Law Commission, where it was scrutinised by specialist lawyers, judges and professors of the universities. On 9 July 2009, Parliament amended the act as recommended by the commission.

The amendments provided that a political party that had worked against the liberation of Bangladesh could be tried on the same charges as individuals. They also authorized the government to file appeals with the Appellate Division if the tribunal ruled for acquittal for a suspect. The International Bar Association has stated that the "1973 Legislation, together with the 2009 amending text, provides a system which is broadly compatible with current international standards." On March 25, 2010, the government announced the formation of the following: a three-member judges' tribunal, a seven-member investigation agency, and a twelve-member prosecution team to hold the trials according to the ICT Act of 1973. This landmark announcement was made on the 39th anniversary of the Operation Searchlight massacre by the Pakistan Army on March 25, 1971.

The three judges appointed were Mohammed Nizamul Huq as chairman, with A.T.M. Fazle Kabir and A.K.M. Zahir Ahmed. Persons appointed to the investigative agency to assist state prosecutors were Abdul Matin, Abdur Rahim, Kutubur Rahman, ASM Shamsul Arefin, Mir Shahidul Islam, Nurul Islam and M. Abdur Razzak Khan. Golam Arif Tipu was named as Chief Prosecutor. The others are Syed Rezaur Rahman, Golam Hasnayan, Rana Das Gupta, Zahirul Huq, Nurul Islam Sujon, Syed Haider Ali, Khandaker Abdul Mannan, Mosharraf Hossain Kajal, Ziad Al-Malum, Sanjida Khanom and Sultan Mahmud Semon.

Indictments :

The first nearly dozen men indicted include nine leaders of Jamaat-e-Islami, the largest Islamist party in the nation and opposed to independence in 1971: Ghulam Azam, in 1971 chief of the erstwhile East Pakistan unit of the party; incumbent chief Matiur Rahman Nizami, deputy Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, secretary general Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojahid; assistant secretary generals Muhammaad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla; media doyen Mir Kashem Ali, who heads the pro-Jamaat Diganta Media Corporation; Miah Golam Parwar; and Abul Kalam Azad (Bachchu), an Islamic cleric formerly associated with the party. Two leaders of the opposition Bangladesh National Party were also indicted: former government ministers Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury and Abdul Alim.

Accused and verdicts :**Abul Kalam Azad (Bachchu)**

Abul Kalam Azad, a nationally known Islamic cleric and former member of Jamaat, was charged with genocide, rape, abduction, confinement and torture. He was tried *in absentia* after having fled the country; the police believe he is in Pakistan. In January 2013 Azad was the first suspect to be convicted in the trials; he was found guilty of seven of eight charges and sentenced to death by hanging. Azad's defence lawyer, a prominent Supreme Court lawyer appointed by the state, did not have any witnesses in the case; he said Azad's family failed to cooperate in helping locate witnesses and refused to testify. United Nations human rights experts expressed concern that the trial did not meet all the criteria of a fair trial and due process.

Speaking for the British government, Sayeeda Warsi said of the verdict, "The British government supports the efforts of Bangladesh to bring to justice those responsible for committing atrocities during the 1971 War, although we remain strongly opposed to the application of the death penalty in all circumstances." The French Ambassador to Bangladesh, Michel Trinquier, and the German Ambassador Albrecht Conze each said that individual nations must find their own ways to deal with past events. The US state department has said, "The United States supports bringing to justice those who commit such crimes. However, we believe that any such trials must be free, fair, and transparent, and in accordance with domestic standards and international standards Bangladesh has agreed to uphold through its ratification of international agreements, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights."

Abdul Quader Mollah :

On February 5, 2013, the ICT sentenced Abdul Quader Mollah, assistant secretary of Jamaat, to life imprisonment. Mollah was convicted on five of six counts of crimes against humanity and war crimes. He was accused of shooting 344 people and the rape of an 11-year-old girl. In protest of the trials which it said were politically motivated, Jamaat members called a general strike in Dhaka that erupted in violence. Following the verdict, large-scale, non-violent protests started on 5 February 2013 in Dhaka, with demonstrators calling for the death penalty for Mollah and any others convicted of war crimes.

Tens of thousands of people filled the Shahbag intersection, with more coming in the days following. The protest spread to other parts of the country, with sit-ins and demonstrations taking place in Chittagong, Sylhet, Barisal, Mymensingh, Khulna, Rajbari, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sunamganj, Noakhali and Narsingdi. Following these mass protests, in September 2012 the Supreme Court overturned his life sentence and imposed the death penalty. Quader Molla was executed on 12 December 2013 at 22:01 in a Dhaka jail, the first person to be put to death for events in 1971. The JEI called it a "political killing." He was later buried in his village of Faridpur.

Delwar Hossain Sayeedi :

On 28 February 2013, Delwar Hossain Sayeedi, the deputy of Jamaat, was found guilty of genocide, rape and religious persecution. He was sentenced to death by hanging. His defence lawyer had earlier complained that a witness who was supposed to testify for him was abducted from the gates of the courthouse on 5 November 2012, reportedly by police, and has not been heard from since. The government did not seem to take the issue seriously after the prosecution denied there was a problem. By afternoon on the day of the protest, violence had erupted across Bangladesh between Islamic activists and police forces. By the end of 3 March 2013, almost 80 people were dead, including many police officers. An estimated 2000 people were injured countrywide. On 17 September 2014, the Appellate Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court reduced sentence of Delwar Hossain Sayedee revising the death sentence to 'imprisonment till death' for crimes against humanity in 1971.

Muhammad Kamaruzzaman :

Muhammad Kamaruzzaman was indicted on 7 June 2012 on 7 counts of crimes against humanity. On 9 May 2013 he was convicted and given the death penalty on five counts of mass killings, rape, torture and kidnapping. He was executed on 11 April 2015.

Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin :

On 3 November 2013, the International Crimes Tribunal sentenced Chowdhury Mueen-Uddin to death after the tribunal found him guilty of torture and murder of 18 intellectuals during 1971 Liberation war of Bangladesh.

Golam Azam :

Ghulam Azam was found guilty by the ICT on five counts. Incitement, conspiracy, planning, abetment and failure to prevent murder. He was sentenced on 15 July 2013 to 90 years imprisonment. He died of a stroke on 23 October 2014 at BSMMU.

Alli Ahsan Mujaheed :

Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed sentenced to death by hanging on 17 July 2013.

AKM Yusuf :

On 2 February 2014, Jamaat-e-Islami leader AKM Yusuf, who was also on trial for crimes against humanity, died in prison. Yusuf was alleged to be the founder of infamous Peace Committees and Razakar force in the greater Khulna region. He was indicted on 13 charges of genocide and crimes against humanity during the Liberation War in 1971.

Motiur Rahman Nizami :

On 29 October 2014, Motiur Rahman Nizami was sentenced to death for war crimes committed during the 1971 independence war against Pakistan.

Mir Quasem Ali :

On 2 November 2014, Jamaat-e-Islami politician Mir Quasem Ali was sentenced to death for crimes against humanity committed during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.

Controversies :**2012 Skype controversy**

In December 2012, *The Economist* published contents of leaked communications between the chief justice of the tribunal, Mohammed Nizamul Huq, and Ahmed Ziauddin, a Bangladeshi attorney in Brussels who specialises in international law and is director of the Bangladesh Centre for Genocide Studies. Huq issued an order for *The Economist* bureau chief and Asia specialist to appear before the tribunal to explain how they got the materials. *The Economist* said in response, "We did not solicit the material, nor pay for it, nor commit ourselves to publish it". After the leaked communication was published in a local daily, Huq resigned from the tribunal. He had been revealed to have had "prohibited contact" with the "prosecution, government officials, and an external adviser." According to the *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ), the e-mails and Skype calls showed that Ziauddin was playing an important part in the proceedings, although he had no legal standing. The WSJ also said that the communications suggested that the Bangladeshi government was trying to secure a quick verdict, as Huq referred to pressure from a government official.

Human Rights Watch and defence lawyers acting for the suspects, Ghulam Azam and Delawar Hossain Sayeedi, requested retrials for the two because of the controversy during their trials. Mahbubey Alam, the Attorney General, suggested that the hacking was an attempt to disrupt the trial. Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, said the trials would continue regardless of this incident and Huq's resignation. Fazle Kabir was appointed as chair of the ICT. Brad Adams of Human Rights Watch expressed concern that, because of changes among all the judges in the course of the trial, none of the three judges in Sayeedi's case would have heard the entirety of the testimony before reaching a verdict.

Allegations by the government :

Shafique Ahmed, the Minister of Law and Justice, referring to Ziauddin, said that Huq "sought help on procedural matters from an expert. That's not illegal or uncommon." Amnesty International criticised the arrest of Mahmudur Rahman, who had published the hacked files in the daily *Amar Desh*. The government obtained a court order that accused Rahman of sedition; but Amnesty said that his newspaper stopped publishing the story once the government ban came into effect on December 13. Shafique Ahmed alleged that Jamaat-e-Islami has paid US \$25 million to lobbyists in the USA and the UK to influence public opinion against the trials. Mizanur Rahman, chair of the National Human Rights Commission, complained about the lobbying efforts, saying there was misinformation being spread among western nations about the war crimes tribunal.

Shibir protests :

Shibir, the student wing of Jamaat, led violent protests against the trials beginning with a general strike on December 4, 2012; they attacked police officers throughout the country. Shafique Ahmed was also attacked, in a skirmish which resulted in three police officers being injured. Numerous vehicles, including one of the US embassy in Dhaka, were torched and vandalized. In another incident, police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at the activists. One Jamaat-e-Islami activist was killed and scores were injured when police used live ammunition against the protesters during clashes in December 2012. The activists were demanding the release of Miah Golam Parwar, Delawar Hossain Sayedee and other party members being tried.

Concerns for human rights :

Brad Adams, director of the Asia branch of Human Rights Watch, said in November 2012: "The trials against (...) the alleged war criminals are deeply problematic, riddled with questions about the independence and impartiality of the judges and fairness of the process. In its November 2012 report, Human Rights Watch found that "glaring violations of fair trial standards" became apparent during the course of 2012 but noted that changes were made in June 2012 which improved the process. Adams said, "If the Bangladeshi government wants these trials to be taken seriously it must ensure that the rights of the accused are fully respected. That means making sure that lawyers and witnesses don't face threats or coercion. Toby Cadman, an international law expert who is an advisor to the Jamaat leaders has been highly critical of the ICT, saying of the international community "Expressing concern will not be enough. The international community should take quick action to stop the injustice being committed against Jamaat leaders," In January 2013, Brad Adams of Human Rights Watch (HRW) noted concern about Shukho Ranjan Bali, who had first appeared as a witness for the prosecution in the Delwar Hossain Sayeedi case. The defence said he was due to give additional evidence in their favour on 5 November 2012. That day Bali was stopped before entering the courthouse by several police officers; witnesses said he was taken away in a white police van. HRW criticised the Bangladeshi government for not working to find him and for its lack of adequate response to allegations criticising the tribunal.

The attorney general rejected the abduction claim as a fabrication by the defence to bring the tribunal into disrepute. In May 2013, Bali was found in an Indian prison, and he alleged state abduction and that officials told him that both he and Sayeedi would be killed. In March 2013, *the Economist* criticized the tribunal, mentioning government interference, restrictions on public discussion, not enough time allocated for the defence, the kidnapping of a defence witness and the judge resigning due to controversy over his neutrality.

Reactions :

Human Rights Watch initially supported the establishment of the tribunal and recommended amendments to the 1973 law. The government already had planned to update the law, and proceeded in consultation with experts, as noted above. When the tribunal was being planned, Stephen Rapp, the United States Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues, said that the "US government will help Bangladesh hold an open and transparent war crimes trial with the rights of defense for the accused." Kristine A. Huskey, writing for the NGO Crimes of War, said Rapp gave a ten-page letter to the prosecution which included recommendations and various concerns.

A Wikileaks leaked cable in November 2010 from the US State Department said, "There is little doubt that hard-line elements within the ruling party [AL] believe that the time is right to crush Jamaat and other Islamic parties." Bangladeshi opposition political parties have demanded the release of those held, claiming the arrests are politically motivated. Shafique Ahmed, the Minister of Law and Justice, disagrees, saying, "No one is being arrested or tried on religious or political grounds." Steven Kay, a British Queen's Counsel and criminal attorney, has been part of the defence team for Delwar Hossain Sayeedi. He had earlier criticised the authorizing legislation and 2009 amendments, saying: "The current system of war crimes trial and its law in Bangladesh does not include international concerns, required to ensure a fair, impartial and transparent trial." The ICT accused him of violating the British bar's code of conduct. The Turkish president Abdullah Gül sent a letter to the tribunal asking that clemency be shown to those accused of war crimes.

The European Parliament has passed three resolutions supporting the trials, though in at least one, it expressed its "strong opposition against the use of the death penalty in all cases and under any circumstances and its call on the Bangladesh authorities to commute all death sentences and introduce a moratorium on executions as a first step towards abolition of capital punishment." Jean Lambert welcomed the trials and said she expected them to adhere to international standards. Mizanur Rahman, chair of the National Human Rights Commission, has said the trials do adhere to international law as the "national standards are in compliance with international standards". Sam Zarifi of the International Commission of Jurists expressed concern that the flawed nature of trials conducted at the ICT could deepen the divisions in Bangladeshi society which resulted from the war of 1971, rather than heal them.

The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention has said that the arbitrary detention of the suspects and refusal by the government to grant bail to them violates Article 9 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Shafique Ahmed has responded, "It is not right to think that the accused are being detained without any reason. There are no violations of human rights in the ongoing trial of crimes against humanity, and questions of human rights violation are being raised simply to create confusion." Some human rights advocates are concerned that the mass rapes and killings of women may not be fully addressed in the prosecutions. Irene Khan, a Bangladeshi human rights activist, has described the government's response to abuses against women in the liberation war as the following:

A conservative Muslim society has preferred to throw a veil of negligence and denial on the issue, allowed those who committed or colluded with gender violence to thrive, and left the women victims to struggle in anonymity and shame and without much state or community support.

The Bangladeshi government has dismissed criticisms of the legal provisions and fairness of the tribunal. Shafique Ahmed, the Minister of Law and Justice, said, "There is no scope for questioning the fairness and standard of the ongoing trial for war crimes during the Liberation War in 1971."

Conclusion : Those days of carnage and human annihilation are simply unforgettable. Especially those who lost their near and dear ones in the liberation war bear the scorching brunt of the barbarism of the collaborators. Time has changed a lot to provide justice and salvation to the suppressed indignation of the nation. Recovering from all sorts of taboos and anomalies, the country is stepping into the days of emancipation. In this auspicious time, the trial for the war criminals is the golden mark for the unwavering prosperity of the state on the way of truth and humanity. What the country looks forward to now is only flawless accomplishment.

Sample Answer of Reading Comprehension (Lecture - 06)**01. Answer :**

- a. Children are vulnerable to adversities because they are in a position to be taken care of, fed and nurtured by the grown-ups. Hence, if adversities prevail, they are left more easily than others into suffering.
- b. Poverty makes the children suffer a lot. It deprives them of their basic rights. It compels them to remain uneducated, malnourished and unskilled.
- c. Children contribute to economy in versatile ways. As children are the future citizen of the country, their being educated and skilled accelerate the further the development of the nation.
- d. China is pioneering the welfare attempt for children.
- e. The children should be taught of the soft skills at the early age. In the preliminary phase of their growing up, they possess softness of heart and brain that can receive and assimilate the things more easily and more appreciatively.
- f. Heckman asserted that child development must be brought into the total poverty reduction policy. He also emphasized that children have to be trained with skills for greater good.
- g. Poverty reduction must include child development.
- h. Economic progress leaves a toll on children in a very lucid manner. With the development of economy, parents get involved in productive work in the town leaving the children uncared. As a result, these children have to suffer acutely.
- i. Climate change puts children in danger more than the grown-ups. Because of climate change, the total normality of everything gets shattered which makes the children bear the brunt.
- j. We face myriad types of obstacles to implement the child development policy. They are- poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, political turmoil, over population, pollution and you name it.

02. Answer :

Vulnerable = unguarded

Unprecedented = unique

Pursue = aim

Plenary = absolute

Constraint = confiner

03. Answer :

- a. The young lady seems fairly normal in her dealings though she has some issues of predicament inside.
- b. Unless the case of child abuse is seriously dealt with by the law enforcing agencies, this heinous taboo will not leave our society.
- c. They moved heaven and earth, as a matter of fact in order that they could gain ground in the election.
- d. The man tried desperately to convince the shop keeper to minimize the prize while he was about to buy the new machine.
- e. Given the turmoil political atmosphere of the country, the investors from outside do not dare to input money here.

04. Answer :

- a. Miss Sumana Sarker, the senior merchandiser at Fahim Garments, said to her subordinates, "Do not waste your time in idle gossip, rather work more and earn more, will you?"
- b. On the cold morning of Sunday, 12th January, 2016, Doctor Diego Maria came to see the ailing girl.

05. Answer :

- (a) sight
- (b) ailment
- (c) girlish
- (d) doctor
- (e) naught

-: Optional Questions :-

09. Answer :

- (a) = (4) Mostly children bear the brunt of penury oriented hardships.
- (b) = (5) Poverty reduction policy must include the all-out attempts to improve children's monetary condition.
- (c) = (1) Early childhood development has been the core target of many vested quarters home and abroad.
- (d) = (2) Many soft professional skills should be cultivated among the children for later accomplishment.
- (e) = (3) It is believed that capitalization in children results in great achievement.

10. Answer :

- (a) The idea of poverty alleviation must include the improvement as well as the safeguard of the rights of children.
- (b) People and children are forced to be in penury and hazard because of this sort of vulnerability.
- (c) We must integrate technology, assets, partnerships, systems of manner and obligations in national and international magnitude.
- (d) It is believed that investing for the purpose of doing good for the children results in greater benefit.
- (e) For the greater good of ourselves and our children, we have to face challenge bravely with a view to reaching the pinnacle of success.

11. Answer :

- a. True b. False c. True d. False e. True

12. Answer :

- Mitigation = aggravation
Ambitious = content
Vigor = lethargy
Comprehensive = small
Privilege = detriment

13. Answer :

- a. Young children suffering from poverty have the risk of getting uneducated.
- b. Although Bangladesh goes through myriad sorts of constraints, she has attained commendable improvement in child development.
- c. Many parents cannot help leaving their children to less care because of job and livelihood.
- d. Poverty reduction policies must emphasize on the development of children.
- e. Children should be helped to grow up learning the fundamental skills.

14. Answer :

- a. Even USA is not without children suffering from poverty.
- b. We have to rise up so that we can face the challenge.
- c. No other investment is so good as the investment in children.
- d. Parents move to faraway cities for work leaving their children in their grandparents' care.
- e. Promoting children's well-being cannot but figure prominently in poverty reduction efforts.

15. Answer :

- a. Children's ability to learn is impeded by poverty.
- b. Remarkable progress in child development has been made by Bangladesh.
- c. Bangladesh adopted a comprehensive early childhood development policy in 2013.
- d. Poverty reduction must also include protecting the rights of children.
- e. The first years of the children should be focused on.