

Saifur's BCS

৩৬তম লিখিত

- ☑ Reading Comprehension
- ☑ Essay : Bangladesh as a Middle Income Country
- ☑ Sample Answer of Reading Comprehension

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English

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As negotiators and ministers from the United States and 11 other Pacific Rim countries meet in Atlanta in an effort to finalize the details of the sweeping new Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), some sober analysis is warranted. The biggest regional trade and investment agreement in history is not what it seems. You will hear much about the importance of the TPP for "free trade." The reality is that this is an agreement to manage its members' trade and investment relations – and to do so on behalf of each country's most powerful business lobbies. Make no mistake: It is evident from the main outstanding issues, over which negotiators are still haggling, that the TPP is not about "free" trade. New Zealand has threatened to walk away from the agreement over the way Canada and the US manage trade in dairy products. Australia is not happy with how the US and Mexico manage trade in sugar. And the US is not happy with how Japan manages trade in rice.

These industries are backed by significant voting blocs in their respective countries. And they represent just the tip of the iceberg in terms of how the TPP would advance an agenda that actually runs counter to free trade. For starters, consider what the agreement would do to expand intellectual property rights for big pharmaceutical companies, as we learned from leaked versions of the negotiating text. Economic research clearly shows the argument that such intellectual property rights promote research to be weak at best. In fact, there is evidence to the contrary: When the Supreme Court invalidated Myriad's patent on the BRCA gene, it led to a burst of innovation that resulted in better tests at lower costs. Indeed, provisions in the TPP would restrain open competition and raise prices for consumers in the US and around the world – anathema to free trade. The TPP would manage trade in pharmaceuticals through a variety of seemingly arcane rule changes on issues such as "patent linkage," "data exclusivity," and "biologics." The upshot is that pharmaceutical companies would effectively be allowed to extend – sometimes almost indefinitely – their monopolies on patented medicines, keep cheaper generics off the market, and block "biosimilar" competitors from introducing new medicines for years. That is how the TPP will manage trade for the pharmaceutical industry if the US gets its way.

Similarly, consider how the US hopes to use the TPP to manage trade for the tobacco industry. For decades, US-based tobacco companies have used foreign investor adjudication mechanisms created by agreements like the TPP to fight regulations intended to curb the public-health scourge of smoking. Under these investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) systems, foreign investors gain new rights to sue national governments in binding private arbitration for regulations they see as diminishing the expected profitability of their investments. International corporate interests tout ISDS as necessary to protect property rights where the rule of law and credible courts are lacking. But that argument is nonsense. The US is seeking the same mechanism in a similar mega-deal with the European Union, the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, even though there is little question about the quality of Europe's legal and judicial systems. To be sure, investors – wherever they call home – deserve protection from expropriation or discriminatory regulations.

But ISDS goes much further : The obligation to compensate investors for losses of expected profits can and has been applied even where rules are non-discriminatory and profits are made from causing public harm. The corporation formerly known as Philip Morris is currently prosecuting such cases against Australia and Uruguay (not a TPP partner) for requiring cigarettes to carry warning labels. Canada, under threat of a similar suit, backed down from introducing a similarly effective warning label a few years back. Given the veil of secrecy surrounding the TPP negotiations, it is not clear whether tobacco will be excluded from some aspects of ISDS. Either way, the broader issue remains: Such provisions make it hard for governments to conduct their basic functions – protecting their citizens' health and safety, ensuring economic stability, and safeguarding the environment. Imagine what would have happened if these provisions had been in place when the lethal effects of asbestos were discovered.

Rather than shutting down manufacturers and forcing them to compensate those who had been harmed, under ISDS, governments would have had to pay the manufacturers not to kill their citizens. Taxpayers would have been hit twice – first to pay for the health damage caused by asbestos, and then to compensate manufacturers for their lost profits when the government stepped in to regulate a dangerous product. It should surprise no one that America's international agreements produce managed rather than free trade. That is what happens when the policymaking process is closed to non-business stakeholders – not to mention the people's elected representatives in Congress.

1. 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.
 - a. What is the actuality about TPP?
 - b. Why did New Zealand want to walk away from TPP?
 - c. What does the writer mean by “anathema to free trade”?
 - d. How is the USA benefited from TPP?
 - e. What do the investors deserve protection from?
2. 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 :
Stakeholder, step in, lethal, haggle, anathema

Fatal, wrangle, curse, course, enter, collaborator, fecund
3. 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)
 - a. They had informed the police of the possible retaliation, they should be attacked.
 - b. It rained in torrents outside, I was having a sound sleep.
 - c. We are going to be direly doomed, we do not mend our long practiced unacceptable habits.
 - d. The bureaucrats give up harboring the male practices, the country will not be able to come out of the tangles of anomalies.
 - e. Take some money with you while going for a travel, you might like to buy some new things.

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

- Im Charles baker harris he said I can read so what I said.
- if he didnt teach you who did? Miss caroline asked good naturedly.

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

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06. Translate the Passage into Bangla:

People often travel alone to find themselves, or to find more meaning to their life. There are listicles after listicle proclaiming the need to visit a far off or even a near off land just in your own sweet company. Not that we are denouncing those ideas, but traveling alone need not only be a dramatic process where something needs to be found or achieved. It can be a trip you take because you think you are awesome and absolutely chill a person. You don't have to wait for someone else's free time, or even their financial reasoning! You can literally just up and leave. No coordination hassles, no last minute bickering about which flight to take, or whose car to drive. You can actually include a day of just sleeping in your comfortable duvet in your itinerary. Considering you are the only one who has an opinion on how to plan your visit, you can take a break from the sightseeing and just order room service over room service and endlessly binge watch cheesy shows. Honestly, those books that you have been collecting over half a year thinking you'll read them eventually are going to be your best friends on this trip. Plus who doesn't want to live out a dreamy fantasy of looking incredible in a beret, sipping coffee, and reading a book while people around you gaze at you in amazement.

07. Translate the Passage into English :

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টেকসই কৃষি ব্যবস্থার মাধ্যমে খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা নিশ্চিত করা এবং কৃষকদের জীবনমান উন্নয়নে দ্বিতীয় পর্যায় কৃষি উন্নয়নে দীর্ঘমেয়াদী পরিকল্পনা বাস্তবায়নের উদ্যোগ নিয়েছে সরকার। সামগ্রিক কৃষির উন্নয়নে ক্ষুদ্র ও প্রান্তিক কৃষকদের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি, কৃষিজ আয় বহুমুখীকরণ, উৎপাদনশীলতা বৃদ্ধি, কৃষি খাতের দক্ষতা বৃদ্ধি, গবেষণা সম্প্রসারণ, সেবা কার্যকর ও স্থায়িত্বশীলকরণ ও উৎপাদিত পণ্যের ন্যায্যমূল্য প্রাপ্তিতে সরবরাহ ব্যবস্থার উন্নয়ন করার লক্ষ্যে এ কর্মসূচিটি বাস্তবায়নের প্রস্তাব করেছে পরিকল্পনা কমিশন। ভৌগোলিক অবস্থানগত কারণে বাংলাদেশ অত্যন্ত দুর্যোগপ্রবণ দেশ। এ ছাড়া জলবায়ু পরিবর্তনের কারণে বাংলাদেশ বিশ্বের সবচেয়ে ঝুঁকিপূর্ণ দেশগুলোর মধ্যে অন্যতম। প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ কৃষি খাতে সবচেয়ে বেশি ক্ষতি করে। বাংলাদেশের কৃষি উৎপাদন মূলত ছোট আকারের মিশ্র খামার প্রকৃতির। ধান ও অন্যান্য ফসলের উৎপাদনশীলতা এশিয়ার অন্যান্য দেশের তুলনায় কম। কৃষকের উৎপাদন ও গবেষণা পর্যায়ের উৎপাদন হারের মধ্যে ব্যাপক পার্থক্য রয়েছে। মৎস্য ও প্রাণিসম্পদের ক্ষেত্রেও একই অবস্থা বিরাজ করছে। উচ্চ মূল্যের কৃষি পণ্যের উৎপাদন বহুমুখীকরণের আশানুরূপ নয়। এসব সমস্যা হতে পরিত্রাণ পেতে দুর্যোগ সহিষ্ণু কৃষি প্রযুক্তির উদ্ভাবন ও ব্যবহার এবং দুর্যোগ ঝুঁকি হ্রাস বিষয়ক বিভিন্ন কর্মসূচি গ্রহণ ও বাস্তবায়ন করা প্রয়োজন। প্রকল্পের সফল বাস্তবায়ন সম্ভব হলে কৃষকের উৎপাদন ও আয় বৃদ্ধি পাবে, যা খাদ্য নিরাপত্তা ও কৃষির সমৃদ্ধি অর্জন নিশ্চিত করবে। তা ছাড়া বাজার সংযোগ জোরদার করার মাধ্যমে কৃষকের উৎপাদিত পণ্যের ন্যায্যমূল্য প্রাপ্তিতে সহায়ক হবে। কৃষি গবেষণা কার্যক্রম জোরদারকরণের মাধ্যমে প্রতিকূল পরিবেশ ও প্রতিবেশ সহিষ্ণু যেমন- বন্যা, খরা, লবণাক্ততা, জলাবদ্ধতা, বালাই ইত্যাদি সহিষ্ণু ও অধিক উৎপাদনক্ষম প্রযুক্তি উদ্ভাবন সম্ভব হবে।

08. Make sentences with the following words/phrases in your own language :

in an effort to, anathema, tout, safeguard, curb

09. Make WH questions of the following sentences :

- It should surprise no one.
- Taxpayers would have been hit twice.
- These industries are backed by significant voting blocs.
- The US is seeking the same mechanism.
- The policymaking process is closed to non-business stakeholders.

Some optional question patterns (08-16) 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.

10. Change the parts of speech of the following words as directed :

Expropriation (verb), give (noun), interest (verb), evidence (adverb), regulate (adjective)

11. Transform the following sentences as directed :

- Make no mistake. (affirmative)
- Such provisions make it hard. (negative)
- The US is seeking the same mechanism. (passive)
- Economic research clearly shows the argument. (passive)
- Australia is not happy with how the US and Mexico manage trade in sugar. (simple)

12. Fill in the gaps with the suitable words/phrases from the table :

comparatively, retain, approaches, appearance, viable

Some realistic (a)..... have been raised in the recent conference about the (b)..... things of the organization. As a matter of fact, this gigantic cooperative institute is much more different than it looks in outer (c)..... The TPP, in fact, has been tailored for the sole purpose of reining the business and commerce of (d)..... weak countries in the agreement. Ensuring free trade is not the motto of the organization. Already some members have showed their reluctance to (e)..... their membership with this mission.

13. Re-write the following sentences in your own language :

- The biggest regional trade and investment agreement in history is not what it seems.
- New Zealand has threatened to walk away from the agreement over the way Canada and the US manage trade in dairy products.
- Economic research clearly shows the argument that such intellectual property rights promote research to be weak at best.
- International corporate interests tout ISDS as necessary to protect property rights where the rule of law and credible courts are lacking.
- The obligation to compensate investors for losses of expected profits can and has been applied even where rules are non-discriminatory and profits are made from causing public harm.

14. Fill in the table :

Noun	Adjective	Verb	Adverb
Freedom	Free	(a).....	x
Monopoly	X	(b).....	X
(c).....	Sober	x	x
Nonsense	(d).....	x	x
(e).....	Evident	x	X

15. Correct the following sentences.

- The regulations go very further.
- Profits are creating from causing loss to the people.
- What would happen if they had lost the match?
- A few years back, Canada has the same fault.
- Everybody expects that developed countries will act wisely.

16. Complete the following sentences with appropriate prepositions.

- All the privileges were closedthe convict.
- The institute steppeda new era of administration.
- He had to pay.....his mistakes.
- The culprit was excluded.....the committee.
- This ware is made.....some metals.

Student Work

Essay- Bangladesh as a Middle Income Country

Bangladesh's recent graduation to the World Bank's lower-middle-income category from a low-income category was only a matter of time. The country experienced steady growth in the 2000s and boosted its per capita income. It's from a mere 2.8 per cent in the 1970s to 6 per cent in the 2010s, and per capita income increased from only US\$90 in 1973 to US\$1314 in 2015. Bangladesh has manifested the features of a modern economy. It has changed structurally from traditional agricultural dependency to industry and services sectors. The strength of the economy is also reflected through its integration into the global economy, through higher exports, imports, remittances and foreign direct investment. More than 60 per cent of the economy is globally integrated. Despite several problems, such as lack of power and energy, technological bottlenecks and political instability, Bangladesh's favourable policy environment and continuity of policies contributed to the growth of the country.

After adopting a market-oriented economy in the 1980s under the Structural Adjustment Programmes of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, Bangladesh undertook various reforms. These included withdrawing agricultural subsidies, privatising state-owned enterprises, liberalising the financial sector and withdrawing import quotas. The liberalisation process was consolidated in the 1990s and built further momentum in the 2000s. Bangladesh's currency, the taka, was made convertible on the current account. The country adopted a floating exchange rate, significantly reduced import duties, removed controls on the movement of foreign capital and deregulated interest rates to allow competition among banks.

Global policies and institutions also contributed to higher growth in Bangladesh. For example, income from ready-made-garments (RMG) — the major export item — and remittances from migrant workers have helped sustain high growth. This provided a major boost to RMG exports from Bangladesh's textile industry. As RMG is a major source of income and employment — particularly for women — the sector also contributes towards poverty reduction. Bangladeshi workers participating in global labour markets have earned a significant amount of remittances, which have also contributed to higher national savings. Yet the country's higher income status also implies that it will have more opportunities, including easier access to commercial loans from global credit markets and foreign direct investment.

Going forward, Bangladesh has to strive for further growth and higher income so that it can generate enough resources to continue its development. In particular, it must achieve the capacity to repay foreign loans and fund development with domestic resources. Bangladesh will need higher growth to move forward and escape the 'middle income trap'. This will depend on how reforms and institutional strengthening take place in the country. Despite impressive recent growth rates above 6 per cent (which is why Bangladesh has been described as a 'development surprise'). The growth rate has become a 'new normal', and rate requires major qualitative changes in the economy. These include reforming public administration and strengthening the Anti-Corruption Commission to improve financial transparency and economic governance. Unfortunately, neither of these institutions is capable of discharging its responsibility without political influence.

Future growth potential will also depend on the capacity of the country to attract more investment. Investment growth was modest in the 2000s. Moreover, this investment comprised mainly public sector investment, through upscaling annual development programs. Investment in infrastructure — such as the transport and energy sectors — is needed to attract investment in other sectors. Investment is also needed for developing human resources, upgrading technology, innovation and research and development. Despite Bangladesh's growth, productivity has not improved due to lack of adequate investment in these areas. For example, productivity in the RMG sector is the lowest among its competing countries such as China and Vietnam. Bangladesh is poised to move forward. It will have to focus not only on growth, but also the quality of growth so that sustainability is ensured. This will hinge on whether Bangladesh can energise its investment regime through regulatory and institutional reforms, diversify its exports and reduce inequality through creating decent jobs for all.

Md. Shahriar Alam MP, State Minister for Foreign Affairs informed the Ministers of the Least Developed Countries that Bangladesh is well on its way to graduate from the LDCs, and is confident to reach its target in time. Shahriar Alam mentioned that under Vision 2021 of the present government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Bangladesh has been formulating and implementing all necessary policies in its national development plans to reach the middle income status by the golden Jubilee of our independence.

Shahriar Alam shared this information with the Ministers from LDCs and other development partners plus UN agency representatives during the LDC Ministerial Meeting on New Partnerships for building productive capacity in the Least Developed Countries that is being held in Cotonou, Benin on 28 - 31 July 2014. The meeting was inaugurated by the President of Benin on 28 July 2014. The State Minister for Foreign Affairs chaired the First Thematic session on the first day of the Ministerial Meeting on policy framework and institutions for productive capacity building, where he explained the vision and the perspectives of the present Government of Bangladesh in the context of importance of policy framework and institutions for productive capacity building.

Senior representatives from Governments, international agencies and intergovernmental organizations made presentations as panelists, while several high level dignitaries from different countries made interventions from the floor. The discussions stressed on the importance of giving high priority to the issue of building productive capacity in the LDCs for addressing the various challenges faced by these vulnerable countries in the issues of social, environments and economic areas. The State Minister also disclosed that in the recently adopted Open Working Group outcome document, the productive capacity featured prominently which is the first priority area of Istanbul Program of Action for LDCs (IPoA). Shahriar Alam campaigned for the candidatures of Bangladesh for membership of the Human Rights Council, and for the post of Council Member of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) among participating dignitaries. He also attended a dinner hosted by the President of Benin on the first day of the meeting. Ministers and high level dignitaries from around 50 countries including Least Developed Countries and donor countries as well as Heads of different UN Agencies are attending the meeting in Benin. The State Minister for Foreign Affairs is scheduled to return to Bangladesh from Benin on 1 August 2014.

Developed countries refer to those economies which have been able to bring about high standard of living for their citizens by raising the per capita real income at the highest possible level through utilizing human and natural resources by applying most modern production technique and up-to-date scientific knowledge and latest technological know-how. National income and per capita income are very high in developed countries. Equitable distribution of wealth and income here ensures higher standard of living of the people. Mass production of goods and services through modern scientific technology here provides huge quantities of goods including luxury commodities. In fine, people here get the opportunity of leading a pleasant life with basic necessities of life along with the comforts and luxuries produced with modern technology and techniques. Fundamentally developed countries are predominantly industrialized. The sphere of education and cultural fronts are uplifted here. Population increase rate is compatible with the economic growth rate of the country. Unemployment here may prevail in a little degree but the social security system is very strong here. Balance of payments is always favorable here. People of developed countries usually enjoy high standard of living. USA, Britain, Canada, France, Australia, Germany, Japan, Russia and few other countries of European countries are developed countries.

This category of countries is one which has been successful in bringing about certain degree of economic development through application of development strategy and plan. Here a stage has been inlaid on and the economic and social infra-structure and overheads built by now, is providing facilities for increasing production. The position of these countries has been termed as 'take off stage' by the economists. The level of development in these countries although lower compared to the developed ones, there are brisk activities for upgrading the country to a high economically and socially developed position. Virtually these countries are gradually moving forward in respect of economic and social indicators like those of the developed countries. Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Srilanka, Nepal, Bhutan among others of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Now-a-days another nomenclature is used in explaining the socio-economic position of certain countries. International authorities and organizations including World Bank, IMF fashionably describe certain countries putting them into a new variety. Practically these are the countries which are in the front line of developing countries. A developing country virtually falls in the group of Less Developed Countries (LDCs). During last four decades few countries have come out of this bracket to the middle income countries.

The World Bank has categorized MICs into lower MICs and upper MICs. The lower MICs include among others: India, Indonesia, Iraq, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Vietnam, Paraguay, Ukraine and Bhutan. The upper MICs among others include: Hungary, Albania, Algeria, Libya, Malaysia, South Africa, China, Thailand, Brazil, Mexico, Lebanon and Venezuela. Per capita income in the lower MICs varies from US \$ 1046-4125 while in upper MICs it varies between US\$ 2126-12745. The indicators of MICs are in brief: Moderately high per capita income, fairly equitable distribution of wealth and income, use of sufficiently modern technological know-how in productive process, provision of a base of socio-economic infra-structure, tolerable volume of unemployment, favorable balance of payments, availability of necessities of life in reasonable price along with the luxury goods are some to be mentioned.

UNCTAD Report (2014) on LDC says that statistical indicator for entering MIC is minimum per capita income US \$ 1190, Human Resource Index-66 and that of Economic Vulnerability Index 32. Maldives has by now entered the MICs. In recent years it is said as a political utterance in different forums that the economic indicators of the country are advancing forward in such a way that by the year 2021 Bangladesh would reach the middle income group countries. As per report-2014 of the UNCTAD the per capita income as on 2013 of Bangladesh stands at US \$ 900, Human Resource Index is 547 and Economic Vulnerability Index is 32.4. The upward moving trend of the first two indicators and low trend of the third are hopeful for the economy. From 1975 upto 2012 Bangladesh remains enlisted as a Less Developed Country (LDC) by the United Nations standard. This year (2015) UNO would make an assessment on the matter. But there is no chance for Bangladesh to be included in the MIC group list. The next time assessment in this field by UNO is scheduled to be done in 2018. If Bangladesh aspires to be included in MIC by 2018-19, massive advancement in various sectors and economic indicators would be necessary. For promotion of Bangladesh from LDC to MIC is not a far away dream. The political philosophy of Rupkatha (Vision) 2021 envisaged by the present government to become a MIC by the stipulated time is very likely to be materialized. The economic variables of the country are noticed to be advancing and running uninterrupted.

In GDP growth exports, remittances, monetary inclusiveness, food security, foreign exchange reserve, social indicators of MDGs and the like provide hope and potentiality of materialization of the dream of Bangladesh. But occasional political upheavals and turmoils may drive away the dream. Moreover, structural changes of the economy are highly necessary for proper use of natural resources for multi dimensionalization and specialization of the economy that upgrade the country to a MIC by the stipulated time. To come out of the LDC group the GDP growth of Bangladesh has to become 8-10 percent. Absence of good governance is another impediment in the way of coming out of the LDC into MIC. The number of LDC countries now is 48 in the world. From 1971 only four countries have come out the LDC bracket. In the interest of prestige, honor and international recognition if Bangladesh desires to enter the MICs, we must have to be successful in pushing back infrastructural weaknesses, political instability and absence of good governance.

Overview of Bangladesh Economy :

With a continued average economic growth of over 6% in the last ten years (2004-2014), Bangladesh now proudly stands as an emerging trade and investment destination in South Asia. The steady growth in export business, hard-working labour force and committed entrepreneurs supported by the pro-business, pro-investment policies of the Government are leading Bangladesh towards the line of global business competency.

The country's unequivocal position for peace and harmony, regional stability, cooperation, economic development through international and regional trade with its development and trade partners and an increasing flow of remittance by expatriate Bangladeshis living across the world have helped the country achieve and retain the impressive economic status. It is expected that GDP will grow around 7% in the FY 2015-16. A strong domestic demand, high export growth and continued expansion of infrastructural facilities attributed to the accomplishment of accelerated growth amidst the fragile pace of global economic recovery.

International Monetary Fund (IMF) in its World Economic Outlook, 2015 has ranked Bangladesh as the 56th largest economy in the world in terms of nominal GDP in 2014. World Bank's ranking of Bangladesh in the same category is 58th (2013), the United Nations' (2013) - 57th and the World Fact Book of the CIA has placed Bangladesh in 56th position (2014). The country registered a gross domestic product of US\$ 186.6 billion in 2014, US\$116.03 billion in 2013 and US\$111.91 billion in 2012, while GDP in terms of purchasing power parity was US\$ 535.6 billion in 2013. Although more than half of the GDP is generated through the service sector, almost half of the total population are employed in agriculture. Garment exports, the backbone of Bangladesh industrial sector and 80% of total exports, surpassed US\$18 billion in 2014. Remittances sent by Bangladeshi expatriates totalled US\$15.30 billion in 2014-15 financial year, also forms a very important pillar of the country's economy.

Bangladesh experienced a satisfactory FDI in the last five years. World Investment Report 2014 ranked Bangladesh 16th among 74 FDI-recipient countries with a record US\$ 1.59 billion FDI inflow in 2013. This is the third time Bangladesh's FDI has exceeded the billion dollar mark in a single year. Standard & Poors latest credit rating for Bangladesh stands at BB-. Moody's rating for Bangladesh sovereign debt is Ba3. The transfer and convertibility (T&C) assessment remains 'BB-'. The Government of Bangladesh has planned a long-term perspective plan, with a target to make Bangladesh a middle-income country by 2021, by raising the real per capita income to US\$ 2,000 which now stands at US \$ 1,314 (in real terms).

In Bangladesh, a strong middle class is gradually forming which according to some estimates is close to 18 % of the population. Due to emerging middle class and in general better income level of common people, domestic demand is growing and that becomes an important driver of economic activity. As major economies of the world are gradually losing their competitiveness, manufacturing has been gradually starting to take root in the country. Bangladesh has now emerged as an important manufacturing base for textile products, pharmaceuticals, finished leathers, light and medium industries, IT and shipbuilding. While world trade was severely disrupted by the global recession in recent past with exports of most countries declining sharply, the export of Bangladesh shows satisfactory growth.

Bangladesh has emerged as the second largest exporter in the world apparel market and is also doing exceedingly well in the exports of finished leathers and leather goods, frozen foods, jute and jute goods, pharmaceutical products, light engineering products and small ocean going vessels. In 2014-15, Bangladesh posted US\$ 31.2 billion export earnings, while at the corresponding periods the country registered import bills of US\$ 38.5 billion. Most of the items in the import list are petroleum products, capital goods and industrial raw materials. Bangladesh has also attained a satisfactory foreign currency reserves in recent months. Until April 2015, reserves stood at US\$ 23.35 billion. Apart from remittances by expatriate Bangladeshis, the increase in export earnings and decrease in import cost played their role in boost.

Sample Answer of Reading Comprehension (Lecture - 08)

1. Answer :

- a. People out there have logical reasons to think that Bangladesh is going to emerge as a big consumer opportunity as she is earning good days of economic flourishing.
- b. This flow of development suggests that Bangladesh is earning the status of a middle income country gradually.
- c. The policy makers predict that a large number of people are going to join the affluent class due to their healthy economic status.
- d. The progress of Bangladesh is deprived of highlight because of the bigger achievement of the bigger neighboring country like India.
- e. Another side story about the prosperity of Bangladesh is about the innumerable development contribution of the micro credit activities prevailing in Bangladesh.
- f. About two million people of Bangladesh join the middle class every year.
- g. The 'Bangladesh magic' behind the growth is the combination of garments industry and the micro credit that prevail in the country giving it the appropriate impetus to prosperity.
- h. Food production in Bangladesh has multiplied three times now than it was in 1971.
- i. The social safety programs are the welfare activities prevalent in the society. They include the saving of money, association, cooperative forums, poverty reduction committees and so on.
- j. The disappointing aspects in Bangladesh are the monstrous corruption and the malfunctioned politics.

2. Answer :

Overshadow = Shroud;
Buttress = strut;

Spawn = mother;
Behemoth = leviathan

Burgeon = proliferate

3. Answer:

- a. He appears to earn quite a meager amount though he leads a very extravagant life.
- b. The girl walks as if she were the president of USA.
- c. Give the customer the mobile number of the chairman in case he wants to make a deal.
- d. As he passed the whole year without having a single look at the syllabus, he could get hold of no question in the test.
- e. Unless people from all walks of life come forward to remove gender discrimination, girls will be getting fewer advantages.

4. Answer :

- a. Kamal, my student at Asia Pacific University in the department of English has helped the PhD thesis of the department chairman, Mr. Chowdhury.
- b. Seeing the rising sun, the girl said, "How amazingly golden the sun is!"

-: Optional Questions :-

08. Answer :

(a) Wordy; (b) Engolden; (c) Shine; (d) Provision; (e) feed.

09. Answer :

- a. In many sectors, Bangladesh has attained pride.
- b. The social safety programs have leapfrogged and are now 12 percent of the GDP in the country.
- c. Many good attempts are worth trying for.
- d. The country already achieved a satisfactory food solvency.
- e. Many phenomena are getting improved day by day.

10. Answer :

- Bangladesh is going ahead with a view to being a middle income country sooner.
- Though the country has gained laudable progress in many areas, she has not attained the recognition because of India.
- Many public and private organizations are working together so that the country can achieve its desired status.
- Even though the country was once called a bottomless basket, now she has the ability to export food.
- Given the fact that we have garnered accomplishments in versatile sectors, we deserve international accolade.

11. Answer :

- The society has been pockmarked by corruption.
- We can also attribute the phenomenal growth of Bangladesh to the huge amount of foreign remittances.
- The growth story of neighboring India unfortunately overshadowed Bangladesh's growth story.
- Giant steps have also been taken by Bangladesh in improving health and education.
- Corruption is being tried to contain by Bangladesh.

12. Answer :

- The social safety programs have not failed.
- Isn't the first disappointing aspect corruption?
- The Diaspora belongs to both the poor and rich families.
- Birth control has never been involuntary.(negative)
- The Bangladeshi farmer is not left without diversifying crop production.

13. Answer :

- About 50 percent of the pupils have succeeded the progressive test lately.
- Corruption needs to be contained by hook or crook.
- Many technological apparatus are being used in the farming sector.
- Infant mortality has been reduced quite satisfactorily so far.
- Much of the economic development emerges from the peasants.

14. Answer :

- Many gifts were entitled to the chairman.
- Good luck has been bestowed upon this country.
- Despite attaining a notable growth, Bangladesh is not so highlighted as India.
- The country is now in a position to export food.
- All these precious developments are marred by the nasty politics.

15. Answer :

Contort = the derogatory comment of the chairman has contorted my mental health.
at times = At times it seems that human life is more vulnerable than anything.

Solicit = he solicited the controversial issue between the manager and the secretary.

Leapfrog his honest plan for the company has leapfrogged all sorts of machinations.

Cantankerous = the cantankerous relation between the two sister in laws has ruined the fame of the family.

16. Answer :

Phenomenal = Tiny;

Exotic = native;

Spurring = cool down;

Dubbed = retain

Diaspora = settlement