Civics and Citizenship

Classes Nine and Ten



National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh

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Civics and Citizenship

Classes Nine and Ten

Revised for the year 2026

National Curriculum and Textbook Board, Bangladesh

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Preface

The importance of formal education is diversified. The prime goal of modern education is not to impart knowledge only but to build a prosperous nation by developing skilled human resources. At the same time, education is the best means of developing a society free from superstitions and adheres to science and facts. To stand as a developed nation in the science and technology-driven world of the 21st century, we need to ensure quality education. A well-planned education is essential for enabling our new generation to face the challenges of the age and to motivate them with the strength of patriotism, values, and ethics. In this context, the government is determined to ensure education as per the demand of the age.

Education is the backbone of a nation and a curriculum provides the essence of formal education. Again, the most important tool for implementing a curriculum is the textbook. The National Curriculum 2012 has been adopted to achieve the goals of the National Education Policy 2010. In light of this, the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) has been persistently working on developing, printing, and distributing quality textbooks. This organization also reviews and revises the curriculum, textbook, and assessment methods according to needs and realities.

Secondary education is a vital stage in our education system. This textbook is catered to the age, aptitude, and endless inquisitiveness of the students at this level, as well as to achieve the aims and objectives of the curriculum. It is believed that the book written and meticulously edited by experienced and skilled teachers and experts will be conducive to a joyful experience for the students. It is hoped that the book will play a significant role in promoting creative and aesthetic spirits among students along with subject knowledge and skills.

Civics and Citizenship Textbook helps students to understand the rights, responsibilities and duties of citizens in family, community, state and in international levels. Besides, it makes them aware of moral values, honesty, patriotism, characters, and responsibilities towards the society. By reading the book, the students will get ideas about the culture, law, freedom, constitution, political system of the country. It will make them self-confident. Moreover, they can play a positive role in political, social and economic development.

It may be mentioned here that due to the changing situation in 2024 and as per the needs the textbook has been reviewed and revised for the academic year 2026. It is mentionable here that the last version of the textbook developed according to the curriculum 2012 has been taken as the basis. Meticulous attention has been paid to the textbook to make it more learner-friendly and error-free. However, any suggestions for further improvement of this book will be appreciated.

Finally, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the book as writers, editors, reviewers, illustrators and graphic designers.

October, 2025

Professor Robiul Kabir Chowdhury
Chairman (Additional Charge)
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Chapter One

Civics and Citizenship

Civics and citizenship are called the science of citizenship because all matters related to citizenship are discussed in Civics. As citizens of the state, we all need to have a clear idea about Civics. In this chapter, different aspects of Civics and citizenship such as family, society, state, the origin of the state and government are discussed.

After studying this chapter, we would be able to-

- explain concepts about Civics and Citizenship.
- explain the necessity of studying Civics.
- explain the concepts of family, society, state and government.
- describe the origin of the state.
- analyze the relationships among family, society, state and government.

Civics and Citizenship

Civics is an English word. It is derived from two Latin words: 'Civis' and 'Civitas.' The word 'Civis' means citizen and 'Civitas' means city-state. In ancient Greece, citizens and the city-state were inseparable. At that time, a city-state was comprised of small regions. Those who directly participated in the functions of the city-state were called citizens. As slaves, women and foreigners did not enjoy this privilege, they were not called citizens.

The concept of the modern state took shape in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries through a long process. Slavery was abolished in 1807 and women got the right to vote in 1919. The modern state is formed based on sovereignty over a defined territory with a population where security is provided to citizens through the rule of law and judiciary, well-organized administration, and government. At the same time,the mordern state forms the Army, Navy, Airforce and paramilitary forces to protect the people form external threats, while the police, Ansar and other forces maintain internal law and order within the state. A modern state provides political, economic, social, and religious rights to all citizens, regardless of gender. In a modern state, all citizens enjoy all rights equally.

At present, the concept 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 165 million according to the census of 2022. We are all Bangladeshi citizens. Along with enjoying the rights of citizenship, we perform responsibilities and duties to the state. However, those under 18 years old among us cannot cast their votes and do not have the right to be elected. In addition, foreigners cannot enjoy any political rights. For instance, neither they can cast their vote nor nominated for election. In fact, the status accorded to the citizens by the state is called citizenship. Everything related to citizenship and state is the subject matter of 'Civics and Citizenship. Therefore, British political scientist E. M. White rightly said that Civics is such a valuable

branch of knowledge that deals with the past, present, and future of citizenship along with its local, national, and international dimensions of humanity in detail.
Ifrom the perspective of subject matter, civics can be discussed in two senses. In the broader sense, civics deals with all matters related to citizenship. For example—rights and duties, social and political institutions, local, national, and international issues of citizenship, the past, present, and future of citizenship. In short, the topics of rights and duties are included in civics.

Therefore, it can be said that the regular discussion of the behavior and functioning of citizens, families, society, and the state, through which ideal knowledge about civic life is imparted, is called "Civics and Citizenship."

Individual work: Make a diffrences between ancient and modem concepts of 'Civics and Citizenship'.

Scope or span of Civics and Citizenship
The scope of' Civics and Citizenship is vast and comprehensive. We are going to discuss it below:

1. **Citizens' Rights and Duties:** We enjoy state-given fundamental, social, political and economic rights as the state's citizens; similarly, we have to perform responsibilities and duties to the state. For example, expressing allegiance to the state, abiding by laws, paying taxes at the right time, educating children, serving the state, 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 to earning it and the ways to remove the obstacles are discussed in 'Civics and Citizenship.'
2. **Social and Political Institutions:** Social and political institutions have been develop to enrich citizens' lives. For example, family, society, the state, election and political parties etc. The origin, nature, and functions of these institutions are also discussed in 'Civics and Citizenship. Besides, the subject matters of 'Civics and Citizenship also include 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 develop centering us. These institutions are

as follows: Union Parishad, Pourashava and City Corporations, etc. Similarly, legislature, executive and judiciary are formed at the national level. International institutions like the UN and the Commonwealth are also formed at the initernational level. 'Civics and Citizenship' deals with the structure and functions of these institutions and their relationships with citizens.

4. **Past, Present and Future of Citizenship:** Civics and Citizenship focus on the past, present and future of citizenship. For instance, how citizenship was determined, how citizens' rights and duties were in the past, and what the present status of a citizen is. Based on Civics and Citizenship the guidelines are given for citizenship in the future.

Groupwork: Discus in groups why you will study Civics and Citizenship in the classroom.

Family

Family is the oldest institution of society. A family is a group of people related by blood or marriage and where the adults look after the minors. A unitary family may consist of parents and their children. Thus, by marriage between a man and woman, a family is formed with one or more men and women, their parents, and other relatives. According to American sociologist R. M. MacIver, a small group organized for giving birth and rearing of children is called a family. As there is affection, love, and compassion, in the family, there are also some important tasks of the family such as the economic develop-ment of the family members, management of the wealth, and their care and control is also done by family.

Classification of Family

We all live in the family. But the nature and structure of families are not homogenous. Therefore, a family can be classified based on some principles. For instance, (a) lineage count and leadership,(b) family structure and (c) based on marital status.

a. **Lineage count and leadership:** Family can be divided into two types based on this principle, such as patriarchal and matriarchal. In the partriarchal families, posterity is identified in line with father's lineage and father leads that family. Most of the families in our country are of this type. On the contrary, posterity is identified in matriarchal family with the lineage of mother and mother takes the

lead in that family. This type of family exists amongst Garos in Bangladesh

(b) . Family structure: Family can be classified into two types according to the structure. They are nuclear and extended family. The nuclear family consists of a mother-father and brother-sister. These families are small in size. In the extended families, father-mother, brother-sister, uncle-aunt and other members live together. Extended families are large families. Both types of families are seen in Bangladesh. However, at present, the number of nuclear families is on the rise. An extended family consists of several nuclear families.

c. Marital status: Three types of families are noticed according to the principle of marriage. They are monogamous, polygamous and polyandrous. In a monogamous family, one husband has one wife. In a polygamous family, one husband has several wives. Likewise, in polyandry, one wife has many husbands. In our society, most families are monogamous, but there are a few polygamous families. In Polyandrous families, a wife possesses more than one husband. These types of families are not seen in Bangladesh.

Individual work: Fill in the table below.	
Principles/basis	**Name of families**
1. Lineage count and leadership	1. 2.
2. Shape or structure	1. 2.
3.Based on Marital status.	1. 2. 3.

Functions of a family

A family performs manifold functions to make its members' lives beautiful and safe. Generally, a family has the following functions:

1. Biological functions: As our parents get married, we are born and raised by them. So one of the main functions of a family is to reproduce children and raise them accordingly. These functions are called biological functions.

2. Educative functions: Many of us become familiar with the alphabet before going to school. Family provides the first opportunity to learn values from its

members such as honesty, etiquette, kindness and punctuality. These are the educative functions of a family. Thus the children in the family receive their primary education. 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 of a family include handicrafts, fishing, agriculture, animal husbandry and so on. The spheres of functions of a family have changed due to splendid progress in science and technology and new employment opportunity has been created. In some spheres, it has been abated. However, a family still meets the needs of its members.

4. Political functions: In a family, parents and elder siblings act as guardians. We obey their instructions and guidance. They play their role in protecting our rights. They inculcate intelligence, conscience and self-control into us and help us to become good citizens. This education becomes worthy at a 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 with the elders in the family.

5. Psychological functions: A 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 find solace. Say, if anyone gets upset for some reason, it can be sorted out through discussions with parents and siblings. This sort of discussion helps wipe out mental agony. Besides, children learn kindness, tolerance and fellow-feeling from family. These enrich their mental strength.

6. Entertainment functions: By having a chat, sharing jokes, singing songs, watching TV, going out, family members enjoy their time. 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.

Pair/Group Work: Prepare a list of different types of functions of a family.	
Scopes of family functions	Short 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 an organized population that gets together to fulfill some common objectives. In other words, when a group of people is organized to fulfill some common purposes, a society is formed. By analyzing this concept of society, two characteristics can be noticed, such as 1) a group of people living together in an organized way, 2) they must have some common purposes for this organized living. Besides, some more characteristics are found among the members of the society. They are unity and mutual assistance, dependency, interaction, similarities, dissimilarities and so on.

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

Group work: Determine relationships between family and society in a group (helpful points for group work: inseparable/mutual influence/providing security /helping in personality development).

State

The state is a political institution. People all over the world live in a state. In our world, there are 195 small or large states. Every state has its definite territory and population. Besides, in order to operate a state, government and sovereignty are two

important ingredients. No state can exist 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 a state, such as 1. definite territory 2. population 3. government and 4. sovereignty.

1. Definite territory: In order to form a state, a definite territory is obligatory. The territory comprises land, water and sky areas. A state can be either small or large. For example, Bangladesh has an area of 1,47,570 square kilometers. But according to the signed land boundary agreement between Bangladesh and India, the exchange of enclaves between two countries on 31 July 2015 resulted in an addition of 10,050.61 acres of land to the total land of Bangladesh. Besides, the maritime area of Bangladesh has been increased. At present, the sovereignty of Bangladesh has been established on 1,18,813 sq. km in the maritime area. The People's Republic of China, the United States and Canada are much larger than Bangladesh in terms of area.

2. Population: Population is an inevitable element of state formation. If a population permanently resides in a definite territory, a state can appear to exist. However, there is no fixed rule about how much population is required for a state to form. For example, the population in Bangladesh is 165 million (Population and Housing Census 2022) in India 1210 million (2011) and in Brunei, it is about 400,000 (2015) . According to the political scientists, the population of a state should be consistent with the resources it possesses.

3. Government: Government is an essential element of a state. No state can exist without a government. Government operates all state activities. The government consists of three organs: legislative, executive and judiciary. Though the formation of government is the same in all states, forms of government vary from state to state. For example, in Bangladesh, we have the parliamentary form of government, but in the United States, it is the presidential form of government. Government operates all the functions of the state.

4. Sovereignty: Sovereignty is the most important and inevitable element of a state. This is the absolute power of the state. There are two facets of it, such as internal and external. Internal sovereignty means that the state exercises its authority over individuals and associations through inacting sevaral orders and directives. On the other hand, external sovereignty keeps the state free from external control.

Individual work: Discuss whether West Bengal, Rajshahi and chattogram are states or not.

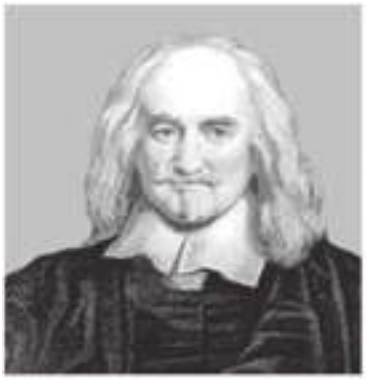
Origin of the state

It is hard to say when and how the state was originated. Political scientists, having examined history, past political events, have 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. They are not 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 institutions. Modem 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 idea of this theory is that the 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 begining of civilization, this is how states have come to existence. Critics labeled this theory irrational and wrong. They said that if states had survived by force, militarily weak states would have 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 the state has come into existence through mutual contract among the people living in the society. The architects of Social Contract Theory were British philosophers John Locke and Thomas Hobbes and French philosopher Jean Jack Rousseau.


Thomas Hobbes


John Locke


Jean Jacques Rousseau

According to this theory, before the birth of the state, man lived in the state of nature. But there was no authority to punish the offenders who violated laws in the state of nature. As a result, anarchy and disorder were created in social life. Men became selfish and egoistic. The strong in the society tortured the weak. Consequently, people's lives were painful 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: The main statement of this theory is – State was not emerged all on a sudden or for a special reason. Over a long period of evolution, the state emerged as different powers and factors slowly changed within various levels of society.

changes of different forces and elements at different stages in society. The state emerged after the confluence of elements like kinship, religious ties, wars, economic and political consciousness and activities. As regards historical or evolutionary theory, Dr. Garner said, 'State is not the creation of God, nor the creation of force rather been created out of historical evolution. Of all the theories related to the origin of the state, historical or evolutionary theory is the most logical and acceptable. This theory gives the right explanation as to the origin of the state. In fact, 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 favour of this statement.

Concept of government

Government is one of the essential elements of a state. No state can be formed without a government. The government runs the state. Government performs three kinds of functions to steer the state. It does legislative, executive and judicial functions. A government has three organs, such as the legislature, executive and judiciary. The legislature enacts the necessary laws for a country. The executive governs the country by enforcing these laws. Judiciary punishes the guilty and establishes justice in society by freeing innocents. So the government refers to that population that is associated with law making, governance and establishing justice. In a modem democratic state, the people elect the government through an election. The government works as the agent of its people.

Relationship between state and government

In ancient times there was no difference between state and government. Louis, the fourteenth of France, said, 'I am the state'. But in modem times, there are vast differences between a state and a government. These are as follows:

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

2. **Population:** A 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 the government is temporary and changeable. Change of government occurs due to people's demands. It also occurs to run the government conveniently. But there occurs no change in the state. For example, the government of Bangladesh has changed many times but the state remains unchanged.

4. **Nature and characteristics:** All the states have the exact nature and characteristics. But the nature and characteristics of government vary from state to state. For example, Bangladesh has the parliamentarian form of government whereas the USA has the presidential form.

5. **Sovereignty:** State is sovereign or the possessor of absolute power. Government is the only agent to implement sovereign power.

6. **Concept:** State is an abstract concept. A state can neither be seen nor imagined or felt. But the government is concrete because the persons who comprise the government are visible.

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

Group work: Determine the relationship between a state and a government

Sample Question

Multiple Choice Questions

1. What is the supreme, utmost, and highest power of a state?
   a) Population **b)** S pecific territory
   c) Government **d)** S overeignty

2. Psychological functions of the family are….
   i. t aking care of a sick person
   ii. b eing empathetic to others' sorrow
   iii. s tudying regularly

   Which of the following is correct?
   a) i and ii **b)** ii and iii
   c) i and iii **d)** i , ii, and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions no. 3 and 4:
Kabir lives in a village with his parents. Kabir's father works on their own farmland. Besides, fish are cultivated in a pond. Kabir's mother raises ducks and chickens at home. In her spare time, she sews quilts and sells them to neighbors.

3. What type of family does Kabir belong to?
   a) Nuclear family **b)** J oint family
   c) Polygamous family **d)** Polyandrous family

4. As a result of such activities by Kabir's family, ….

   i. e conomic disparity will be d ecreased
   ii. political awareness will b e i ncreased
   iii. women's empowerment will be risen

Which of the following is correct?
   a) i and ii **b)** ii and iii
   c) i and iii **d)** i, ii, and iii

Creative Questions:

Question-1:

Context

Habib is the only child of Shefali and Karim. Shefali takes Habib to school every day. At night, she helps Habib with his studies. One day, Habib goes to visit his classmate Selim's house. Selim's father is the chairman of their Union Parishad. In a very nice manner, Selim's father advises the people of the village to obey the laws of the state. Therefore, Selim's father's words deeply inspire Habib.During summer vacation, Habib visits his maternal uncle's house. At his cousin Tuhin's birthday party,

Habib was fascinated by gossiping with his uncle and aunt and listening to music. At one point of the story, Habib came to know that Tuhin goes on outings with his parents every Friday.

a) What is a family?
b) Why is a defined territory essential for the formation of a state? Explain.
c) Which function of the family is highlighted in Shefali‘s activities? Explain.
d) Identify the family functions reflected in the events at Selim and Tuhin‘s houses and analyze their social impact.

Question-2:

Scenario-1

A group of people are stranded on a deserted island. Some were farmers, some were students, some were teachers, some were leaders, and some were soldiers. Initially, everyone tried to survive in their own way. But shortage of food, lack of security, and conflict made their lives miserable. Eventually, everyone came together and discussed and agreed to follow some rules.

Scenario-2

In ancient times, people lived in small tribes without any central governance. Over time, tribes began to compete for resources. This resulted in bloody conflicts. Later, the tribal leaders came together and established a centralized government.

Scenario-3

In ancient times, people lived in small groups. Some groups were strong and brave. They attacked other groups or seize their land and assets. Gradually, they became larger group who made their own rules and regulations.

a) What is a state?
b) "The form of government varies from state to state." Explain.
c) Which d octrine of state formation is indicated in Scenario-1? Explain.

d) Identify the t wo doctrines of state formation that reflected in Scenario-2 and Scenario-3. Which one do you find more acceptable? Justify your answer.

Short Questions:

1. "Civics and citizenship are complementary to each other." Explain.
2. "He who does not live in society is either a beast or a god." Explain the quote.
3. Why are the state and government not the same? Explain.

Chapter Two

Citizens and Citizenship

We all are Bangladeshi citizens. As citizens, we 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 learn about good citizenship. Concepts of citizen and citizenship, way of acquring citizenship, Dual citizenship, characterisics of good citizens, rights and duties of citizens have been discussed in this chapter.

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

- explain the concepts of citizen and citizenship;
- describe the means to acquire citizenship;
- explain dual citizenship;
- explain the concept of good citizenship.
- describe a good citizen's rights and duties;
- explain the relationships between a citizen's rights and duties;
- be enthusiastic about performing a citizen's responsibilities and duties.

Citizen and Citizenship

Concepts of citizen and citizenship were originated in ancient Greece 2500 years ago. In ancient Greece, small city-states existed, called city-states. In those small city-states, those who directly participated in city-state governance were called citizens. They had voting rights. But in the city-states, women, foreigners and domestic servants were not treated as citizens. With time, the concept of citizenship has changed. At present, to be a citizen, no discrimination is made between individuals.

We are the citizens of Bangladesh because we are born in this country, living here permanently, and enjoying all kinds of state-given rights (social, political and economic) and carrying out our responsibilities and duties to the state. So the person who lives permanently in a state and admits his/her allegiance to the state enjoys state-given rights and performs duties to the state is called a citizen.

Some people use the concepts citizen and citizenship synonymously. But, 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 dignity one receives is one's citizenship.

Group work: Prepare a list of the characteristics of a citizen.

Ways to achieve citizenship

There are two ways of getting citizenship: a) by birth b) by approval

a. Methods to achieve citizenship by birth: Two principles are followed for attaining citizenship by birth, such as birth policy and the place of birth policy.

1. Birth policy: According to this policy, the citizenship of the 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 has a child in the UK. Then 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 country's citizens' parents are, the citizenship of their children is determined by the country in which they are born. For example, if children of Bangladeshi parents are born in the USA, they would be US citizens. Here, to determine citizenship, the state is given priority. According to this policy, if children of any parents are born on a ship or inside another country's embassy, they would be citizens of that country that owns the ship or the embassy mentioned above. It can be noted here that most 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 place of birth policy principle in granting citizenship.

b. Getting citizenship by approval: By fulfilling some conditions, citizens of one country can achieve citizenship in another by approval. Generally, the conditions that need to be fulfilled to get citizenship of another country are as follows: 1. to marry a citizen of that country; 2. to be employed in a government job; 3. to show honesty;
4. to know the 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 the government approves his application, he becomes a citizen of that country. The citizens of many countries globally, including Bangladesh, are enjoying citizenship by approval in such as the USA, Canada, the UK and Australia. In addition, citizenship is also granted on humanitarian grounds. For example, if a person takes shelter in any other country due to persecution, that country may give his/her citizenship upon his/her application for citizenship.

Group work: Briefly discuss the ways of getting citizenship.

Dual Citizenship

Generally, one person gets an opportunity to get citizenship in one country. When a person simultaneously holds citizenship of two countries, the phenomenon is called his/her dual citizenship. As two principles relating to birth exist regarding citizenship achievement, in some cases, it may result in dual citizenship. For instance, Bangladesh follows the birth principle to grant citizenship, while the USA follows both birth and place of birth principles. So when children of Bangladeshi parents are born in the USA, they become US citizens according to the place of birth principle. Again they become Bangladeshi citizens according to the birth principle. But after being an adult, he or she has to become either a Bangladeshi or a USA citizen.

Good Citizens

All citizens in a state are not good citizens. Those who are intelligent could solve problems easily, distinguish between good and evil, and stay away from bad deeds. Those who are self-controlled and could sacrifice petty interests to the cause of larger ones are called good citizens. In the light of the above discussion, we find three main qualities of good citizens: 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 family, society, and state problems and make the 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 its citizens wise by imparting proper education to them.

2. Conscience: Citizens of a state have to be conscientious. By dint of this quality, citizens can distinguish between justice and injustice, honesty and dishonesty and good and 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 loyal to the state, abide by laws, 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/herself 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 among us having this quality can express their opinions freely. They are tolerant to other peoples' rights. In addition, every citizen must keep themselves above corruption, nepotism and partisan attitude. In this way democratic values emerge.

Group work: Distinguish between citizens and good citizens.

Citizen Rights

We get ideas about some rights from the pictures below. Besides these, we enjoy some other rights as citizens.



Right to education Right to have a family Voting rights

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

Sometimes we understand by rights doing whatever we wish to do. But doing whatever one wants to do is not rights. The state gives rights 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 characteristics of rights.

Classification of rights

There are mainly two kinds of rights. They are- 1. Moral rights and 2. Legal rights

1. Moral rights: Moral rights come from people's conscience and social morality or justice. For example- the weak have the moral right to get assistance. The state does not enact this. As a result, it has no legal basis. In addition, if someone violates this right, he/she cannot be punished. Moral rights vary from one society to another.

2. Legal rights: Legal rights are those recognized by the laws of the state. Again, legal rights can be divided into many parts. For example- a. social b. political and c. economic rights.

a. Social rights: We enjoy some rights in society to live peacefully and happily. These rights are called social rights. For example, the right to protect life, freedom of movement and expression, to have a family, right to education, right to equal treatment in the eye of the law, right to property, freedom of religion, etc.

b. Political rights: Right to vote, right to be elected, and redressing all complaints made by application are called political rights. Enjoying these rights, citizens indirectly get opportunities to run the state.

c. Economic rights: Rights to livelihood, developing the standard of living, and advancing life given by the state are called economic rights. For example, right to work according to competence, right to receive proper wage, right to enjoy leisure and the right to labour union.

Group Work: Prepare a chart on the classification of rights.
Pair Work: Describe the differences between social and political rights.

Right to information of the people of Bangladesh

'Information' refers to any souvenir, 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, an official note or xerox copy of the official note is not included in this category

'Right to information means 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. To ensure the right to information, every authority must preserve a list of data and information contents properly.

To protect the fundamental rights of the people of Bangladesh, Information Act is epoch-making. The unobstructed flow of information and to establish the rights of the people, a bill was passed in the National Parliament on 30 March, 2009 in this regard. After that, on 5 April 2009, the reverend President consented to this law. For establishing the people's rule, this information act is essential to establish the rights of the people. So, all the citizens should know this law.

Censored information

According to the law on the Right to information, the citizens of Bangladesh have the right to know about different institutions' information. But the authority is not bound to give some information. They are l. information posing threats to security, integrity and sovereignty of Bangladesh; 2. matters related to foreign policy by which relations with foreign countries or international, regional organizations 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 any individual or organization; 6. any information that might increase crimes hampering the enforcement of existing laws; 7. any information that might hamper the judgement of criminals or endanger the security of the people; 8. any information that might encroach upon the privacy of individuals; 9. any information that might threaten one'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 hinder the investigation process influences 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 be kept secret for strategic and commercial reasons; 16. any information related to the purchase-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.

Process of receiving information

1. Any person may ask the concerned authority to provide information in writing or by sending an e-mail. In that request, the points that need to be included are:

Requester's name, address, fax and e-mail numbers if applicable, 2. A correct and clear statement of the information requested; 3. to locate the requested information, it is essential to add other related information; 4. describe how the requester wants to get it. In other words, the requester must mention how he/she wants to get information, such as by a visit, receiving a xerox copy of a note, taking notes, or any other approved methods.

Way to Provide Information:

After receiving the request placed by a requester, the concerned officer will have to provide it in not more than 20 days. If the information asked for involves one or more than one unit or authorities, in that case, information has to be provided in not more than 30 days. Suppose the assigned authority fails to provide information within that

stipulated time. In that case, he/she has to apprise the requester of the reasons for the inability to give information within 10 working days after the application's submission date.

Groupwork: In the name of rights, we cannot do any work that harms an individual, society or the state. Describe this in the light of Right to Information.

Duties of a citizen

As citizens have rights to the state, they have duties as well. Without discharging duties, enjoying rights cannot be expected. By giving different rights to the citizens, the state makes citizens loyal and responsible. Citizens' lives grow by state-given rights. In exchange, the duties of citizens are to be loyal to the state, pay taxes regularly, obey laws, exercise their right to vote with honesty, and perform other state-given duties.

Classification of duties

Citizens perform responsibilities to enjoy rights. These responsibilities are called duties. Citizens' duties are divided into two categories: a. moral duties and b. legal duties.

a. Moral duties: Moral duties stem from people's conscience and social morality or justice. For example, to respect the elders, to help the poor, serving the state and coming forward to assist world humanity. These duties come 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. State laws recognize these duties. Every citizen must obey legal duties. Failing 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 expressed to the protection of independence and sovereignty of the state, respect for the constitution and 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. Abiding by laws: Law protects our life, property and liberty. Law is equally applicable to all. In the absence of law, social life becomes anarchic. Citizens' life without law cannot be imagined in the spheres of society and state. The state enacts laws to ensure the rights and freedom of the citizens. So it is the duty of citizens to abide by laws.

3. Pay taxes: To run the state, the government needs resources. For this reason, the government imposes direct and indirect taxes on the citizens. Therefore, every citizen must pay taxes regularly and properly.

Activity: Show differences between legal work and moral work.

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 essential right of the citizens. It is the duty of a citizen to cast his/her vote. Rights and responsibilities are correlated. So it can be said that discharging duties lie in enjoying rights.

Second, one's 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 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 society, we enjoy the right to education. By using such education, we develop society. To receive education is our right, but to apply it is our duty. In sum, we may say that rights and responsibilities arise from social consciousness. One cannot take effect without the other. Thus it can be said that rights

Group work: Rights cannot be enjoyed embedded in responsibilities -arrange a debate about this in the classroom.

Sample Question

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What kind of right is the right to property?

a) Social
b) Political
c) Economic
d) Moral

2. Economic rights include –

i. G uaranteed employment after completion of studies.
ii. F reedom to practice one's religion.
iii. P roviding rest and recreation

a) i and ii **b)** ii and iii
c) i and iii **d)** i, ii and iii

Read the following stimulus and answer questions no. 3 and 4:
Rafique and Shafique are two friends living in the same village. A very poor old man lives next to Rafique's house. One day, a storm destroys the old man's house. Rafique with his own efforts takes the initiative to repair the old man's house. On the other hand, Shafique finds a bag full of money on his way to the market. Later, Shafique handed the bag over to the local police station without opening it himself.3. What kind of duty is reflected in Rafique's actions?

a) Social
b) Political
c) Economical
d) Moral

4. As a result of Shafique's activities,….
i. peace and order are established in t he s ociety
ii. rule of competent individuals is established
iii. the helpless people of the s ociety are benefited.

Which of the following is correct?
a) i and ii
b) ii and iii
c) i and iii
d) i, ii and iii

Creative Questions:

1. Two friends, Suman and Rafid, live in a village. Due to drought, all the ponds of the village dried up and the tube wells stopped functioning. Suman united the villagers to dig a large pond. Later, the pond was filled with rainwater and the villagers could use the water from that pond all the year round. Once, a fair was held in the village of Rafid, a poor young man, a friend of Suman's. At the fair, there were delicious foods and everyday necessities on display. Rafid walked around the fair but returned home empty-handed. Seeing a cyclist had broken his leg in a r oad accident, Rafid took the cyclist to the hospital.

a) What is citizenship?
b) Why is t here n o punishment given to those who violate moral rights? Explain.
c) What qualities of a good citizen a re revealed in Suman's activities? Explain.
d) Identify the civic qualities reflected in the activities of Rafid and analyze their social significance.

2. A Bangladeshi citizen, Mr. Samad, moved to the USA with his wife Bilkis. After completing his studies, Mr. Samad got an important government job in the USA. Later on, he obtained U.S. citizenship. While residing in the United States, the Samad couple's son, Pervez was born. Mr. Samad and his son continued to enjoy all the facilities including education, medical care. But Mr. Samad's wife Bilkis failed to acquire citizenship of that country because she could not learn English. As a result, she is being deprived of medical treatment and other facilities.

a) Who is a good citizen?
b) —Rights are inherent in duties.‖ Explain.
c) By which method did Pervez acquire citizenship? Explain.
d) W hich m ethods o f acquiring citizenship are indicated by Mr. Samad and Bilkis? Analyze.

Short Questions:

1. Why does dual citizenship arise?
2. Why a re political rights essential?
3. Why is obeying the law important? Explain.

Chapter Three

Law, Liberty and Equality

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

At the end of this chapter, we would be able to
• explain law, liberty and equality
• describe the sources of law
• analyze the relationships among law, liberty and equality
• analyze the importance of the rule of law
• be loyal to and abide by laws.

Law

The word Law originates from the Latin word Lag, which means settled or fixed.Generally, by law we mean specific principles and rules that apply equally to everyone. The scholars have defined law in many ways.

Aristotle says, 'the expression of logic and reason in a society is the law."

According to Professor Holland, "The Principles that a state acknowledges and enforces in order to uphold justice are called law."

According to lawyer Salmond, "The body of principles recognized and apllied by the state in the administration of justice".

In short, the law means the accepted rules of the society approved by the state that controls the external gesture of the people. Laws are made for the welfare of the people. Law determines the relationship between onen with other individituals, and the state and between states. Laws are enacted and applied by the state or sovereign authority. Violation of the law is leads to punishment.

Characteristics of Laws

Some fundamental characteristics of law are noticed. They are discussed below:

1. **Statutory rules:** Laws are the collection of some customs, norms and rules.

2. **Related to external behaviour:** Laws control the external gesture and activities. For example- if one defies the law, he gets punished. It keeps a man abstain from doing crime for fear of punishment.

3. State approval and recognition: The rules and regulations approved by the state are made into laws. In other words, the state has the authority to make laws.

4. Savior of individual freedom: The law acts as the savior of the individual's freedom. For this reason, the law is called the foundation of an individual's freedom.

5. Universal: The law is universal. To the eyes of the law, all men are equal. The law is applied equally irrespective of caste, religion, race, tribe, gender, rich and poor.

6. Clear: The law will inevitably clear or else the innocent might be harmed.

7. Changeable: The law will be changeable in terms of nation and time.

Group Work: Explain why people should abide by laws.

Classifications of law

The classifications of law are not certain. Many scholars have given various opinions about this.

Professor Holland classifies law in two types:

1. National Law 2. International Law

He again classifies the national law in two types: (a) Private Law, (b) Goverment Law.

According to American sociologist professor RM MacIver, laws are of two kinds-

1. National law 2. International law. He divides national law in two ways (a) Constitutional law b. General law Laws are six kinds according to origin

1. Constitutional law
2. General law
3. Custom based general law
4. Laws formed by the Departmental Officer
5. Administrative law
6. International law

The common forms of law existing in a mordern state are:

1. Public Law
2. Private Law
3. International Law

1. **Public Law :** The laws enacted and applied by the government are called government laws. To run the state, many kinds of laws have to form and implement. The parliament formulates state-related laws. Public laws are as follows-

a. **Criminal laws:** To carry out the judiciary's role, these kinds of laws are enacted. If an individual's rights are violated, his or her rights are protected by this law. Criminal law has been applied to maintain law and order of society, keep the peace, ensure individual rights, and give punishment.

b. **Administrative laws:** These laws are enacted to manage organizations of the state and ensure services to the people and control the activities associated with these.

2. **Private laws:** Despite the law is not formulated by the state, it is accepted by the society. The law is enacted and enforced to protect the relationship between individual to individual and maintain society's discipline—for example- the law about agreement and deeds.

3. International laws: The laws made and applied to maintain relations with one state with other states are called international laws. International laws are dealing with how states will behave with one another, how one state deals with a citizen of other states, and finally, how international crises can be solved.

Sources of Laws

There are several sources of laws. These sources are described below:

1. Customs: Rules that have been in vogue in a society for a long time are called customs. Before the emergence of the state, people's behaviour was controlled by customs. After the emergence of the state, customs that received state approval turned into laws. Many laws in the United Kingdom have been created based on customs.

2. Religion: Religious edicts and scriptures are one of the sources of laws. Every religion has its own rules to be followed by its adherents. These edicts help to administer social life beautifully and in a disciplined way. As a result, many aspects of these religious edicts have become laws by state approval. For example- Muslim laws, Hindu laws etc. In our country, family laws and laws related to property have been 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 encyclopedias to find out the meaning of an unknown word. Similarly, when judges found it challenging to give their judgements, they sought help from other legal experts' commentaries. These judgements later became laws. For example, 'Law of the Constitution' by Professor Dicey and 'Commentaries on the Laws of England' by Blackstone.

3. Judgements: When judges find it difficult to give their judgements using an existing law, they depend on their intellect and conscience to interpret the prevailing

law and thus give a new judgement. Other judges as laws later follow these judgements. So judgements are sources of laws.

5. Sense of Justice: Sometimes, no law exists to judge a case in court. In that case, judges resolve these cases by using their sense of justice. Later on, these become laws.

6. Legislature: In modem times, the legislature is the primary source of laws. In keeping with public opinion, legislatures of different countries enact laws, amend old laws suitable to the changing context.

Individual work: Make a chart on the sources of laws.

Rule of Law in Civic Life

The rule of law means nobody is above the law. Everybody is subjected to the law. In other words, everybody is deemed equal in the eyes of the law. The opportunity to get equal treatment for all the people in the eyes of the law is said to be the 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 as equal regardless of their identities such as nationality, religion, gender and profession. As a result, the rich and poor, the weak and the strong, get equal rights. If the priority of the rule of law persists, the government shall refrain from abusing laws and the people shall abide by legal regulations.

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

The rule of law creates a good relationship between rulers and the ruled. Government becomes stable and peace is established in the state. Suspicions, movements and revolutions become inevitable in their absence. Disorder and conflict weaken the firm basis of society. The differences between the rich and the poor, the weak and the strong, take deeper root in society.

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

Group work: State a few notable 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 will. In an actual sense, liberty does not mean this sort of unlimited freedom. Because absolute freedom creates anarchy in society. For example, if somebody is allowed to do anything at his own will, it might harm others resulting in a conflicting environment. So liberty in civics is used in a 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 an environment where no one harms others. Everybody enjoys their rights. Liberty helps individuals to grow their personalities and eliminate all the obstacles to the enjoyment of rights.

Forms of Liberty

Liberty has different forms: 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 that does not harm others if it is enjoyed. For instance, to practice religion and maintain family secrecy. This sort of liberty is of an individual's matter.

2. **Social Liberty:** Social liberty includes the right to protect life, enjoy the property, and 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 be enjoyed in such a manner so that it does not harm others.

3. **Political Liberty:** Political liberty includes voting, the right to be elected and obtaining security abroad. This sort of liberty creates opportunities for individuals to participate in governing the state. Political liberty is very much crucial in the democratic system.

4. **Economic Liberty:** Economic liberty refers to taking on a profession according to one's competence and also to get a due wage. Citizens enjoy economic freedom to get financial benefits. Other liberties cannot be enjoyed without this liberty. Economic liberty is necessary for staying free from exploitation by other social classes.

5. **National Liberty:** Bangladesh is an independent state and free from interference by other states. This status of Bangladesh is known as national liberty. As a result of this freedom, a state remains free from the control of other states. Every independent state enjoys national liberty.

Group work: Explain the means to protect liberty.

Law and Liberty

Political scientists differ in their opinions about the relationships between law and liberty. Many of them say that the relationships between law and liberty are intimate. Again some political scientists say that law and liberty are mutually antagonistic. As a matter of fact, this relationship is not mutually hostile, rather intimate. It is discussed below:

1. **Law protects freedom:** Law acts as a protector of freedom. For example, we have the right to live. We enjoy the right to live because of the law. John Locke rightly said, "Where there is no law, there is no freedom."

2. **Law is the guardian of freedom:** Law acts as a guardian of liberty just as parents keep their children safe from dangers, so laws protect freedom from all kinds of opposing forces.

3. **Law is a condition of liberty:** A single law is a single piece of freedom. All can enjoy freedom as there exists the control of law. According to Willoughby, freedom is protected as there exists the reign of law.

4. **Law broadens freedom:** Law enlarges the freedom of the citizens. Law creates the necessary conditions for a peaceful and orderly life. In the process, though laws control freedom, laws broaden freedom.

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

Equality

Etymologically, 'equality is understood as the equal status of all in 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, or racial identities, all people, according to their qualities, receive equal opportunities. By utilizing these opportunities, they can develop their skill. 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 beings require multiple opportunities for multifaceted development. To enjoy these numerous opportunities, equality can be divided into different types. 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 of 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 participating in the state's activities by all. For political equality, citizens enjoy the right to express an opinion, be elected and the right to vote.

3. **Economic equality:** It means the opportunities for a job according to one's competence and to get a just wage. Economic equality includes getting rid of unemployment and getting a legitimate profession.

4. **Legal equality:** Keeping everybody equal in the eyes of the law despite their varying ethnic, religious, and racial identities is legal equality. Legal equality ensures that nobody should be arrested without offence and 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 eliminating barriers such as ethnic identity, religion, race, lineage and status among human beings.

Individual Work: Students will prepare a list they enjoy as equality.

Relations between Equality and Freedom

There are two opinions in political science regarding the relations between equality and freedom. They are: 1. equality and freedom complement each other and 2. equality and freedom are mutually antagonistic. The genuine relationships between these two will be revealed if we explain these opinions.

1. **Mutually dependent:** Equality and freedom are mutually dependent. Just as freedom cannot be imagined without equality, so equality also cannot 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 the rights of the people, so freedom is needed. If equality and freedom do 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 alternative and complementary to each other. Equality based society cannot be possible unless we enjoy political, social and economic freedom. With this 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 liberty means equality.

Sample Question

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What is the main source of law in modern times?
a) Judges' verdicts
b) Legislature
c) T reatise of Jurists
d) Religion

2. When there is rule of law, ….
i. individual's freedom remains intact.
ii. the government is accountable to the people for its actions.
iii. t he disparity between rich and poor is in society will be eliminated.

Which of the following is correct?
a) i and ii
b) ii and iii
c) i and iii
d) i, ii, and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions no. **3** and **4**:
In the village of Rasulpur, there is a large pond on government land that villagers have been using for ages. The villagers consider the pond as their own. Later, they leased the pond officially from the government for 100 years in their name. Meanwhile, Mr. Karim, an influential man in Rasulpur village, occupied the land of some very poor people. The victims informed the Imam of the local mosque. The Imam advised Mr. Karim to act according to the religious rules and principles. Realizing his wrongdoing, Mr. K arim apologized to the Imam.

3. Which source of law is reflected in the actions of the v illagers of Rasulpur?
a) Judicial verdict **b)** Sense of justice
c) Religion **d)** Custom

4. If any law is implemented according to the actions of the Imam, then….
i. the laws of inheritance i s properly established
ii. t he family system is preserved in the society.
iii. Communal harmony is created.

Which of the following is correct?
a) i and ii **b)** i and iii
c) ii and iii **d)** i, ii, and iii

Creative Questions:

Question-1

Scenario-1: Rahela works on daily wages. When she received her salary in the evening, she found that she had been paid two hundred taka less than her assistants.

Scenario-2 : : Rahima expressed her desire to vote for her preferred candidate in the Union Parishad election. But her in-laws forced her to vote for their chosen candidate. On the other hand, Rahima's friend Nila has got married recently. After the wedding, she finds out that her brothers sold off their entire father's property without informing her and moved to Dhaka.

a) What is national independence?
b) Why is individual freedom necessary? Explain.
c) Which of Rahela's freedoms has been violated in Scenario-1? Explain.
d) Do you think t hat t he same freedom has been curtailed in the case of Rahima and Nila in Scenario-2? Analyze.

Question-2

Scenario-1

Day wage worker Mizan tries to admit his sick wife to the hospital. While Karim from the neighboring house is able to do so, Rahim fails to admit his wife to the hospital'

Scenario-2

Rahima has been working in a factory for five years on the same salary. When she requests f or a raise, the owner threatens to fire her.

Rahima's brother Karim works as a daily wage laborer in the village. Karim expressed his desire to run for the post of member in the Union Parishad elections. But due to opposition from influential locals in the village, he was unable to become an election candidate.

a) What is personal equality?
b) Why is legal equality necessary in society?
c) What kind of equality Mizan has been d eprived ofin the stimulus? Explain.d) Do you think the same type of equality has been violated in Rahima and Karim's cases? G ive reasons in support of your answer.
d) Do you think the same type of equality has been violated in Rahima and Karim's cases? G ive reasons in support of your answer.

Short Questions:

1. Why is law universal? Explain.
2. Why is the sense of justice considered as one of the s ources of law?
3. 'Law preserves freedom.'' Explain.
4. Freedom and equality are complementary to each other. Explain.

Chapter Four
State and System of Government

The state is a political institution. And the government is one of the essential elements of the state. As a 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 about different kinds of states and systems of government.

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

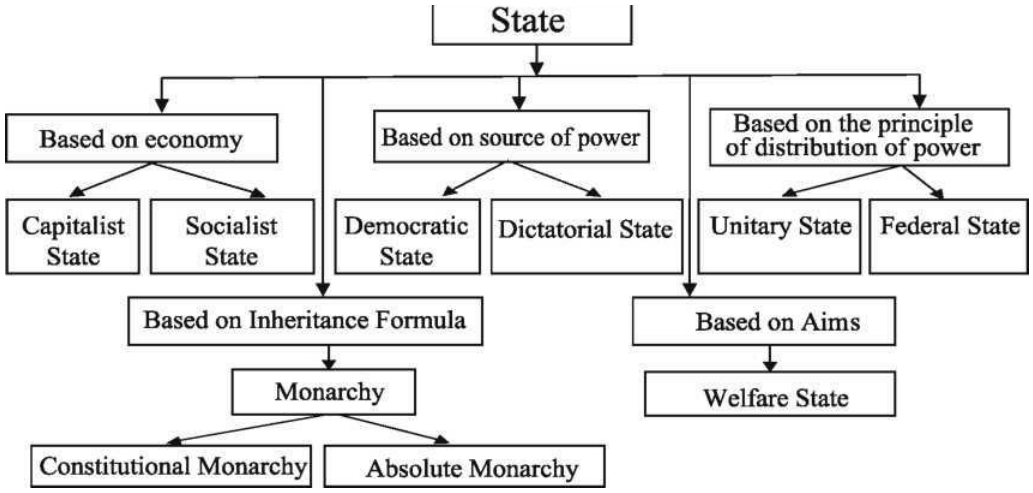
- describe various types of states and forms of government;
- explain the position of citizens and their relationship with their government;
- determine the differences between democracy and dictatorship;
- be inspired to learn and apply democratic behaviour in real life.

State and Government

Many a time, the terms 'state' and 'government' are synonymously used. But there are fundamental differences between these two. A state is a complete and permanent institution. It possesses sovereignty or absolute power. Government is one of the four elements (population, territory, government and sovereignty) of a state. Although all states are 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 in the world. In the chart below, we see the various forms of state.



State based on Economic System

Based on the economic system, states are classified into capitalist and socialist states.

Capitalist state

In a capitalist state, the government does not regulate or influence economic decisions in a market economy. All inputs to economic production (land, labour, capital, and management) are privately owned. Even all assets are privately owned. The price of commodities is regulated based on demand and supply. In this system, capitalists produce commodities at the lowest cost to maximize profit. Mostly, maximum profit is achieved by paying low wages to the workers. In this case, the owners of capital have control over all the assets. The workers work only for wages. Most of the countries in the world today are capitalist

Socialist state

The main objective of the socialist state system is to eliminate the class discrimination created in the society due to capitalism and to form a state based on equality. Therefore, instead of private ownership, socialist states introduce state-owned assets and factories. A socialist state works to end the exploitation of workers by a small number of capitalists and to provide workers with fair rights. All economic production initiatives and equitable resource distribution are made through the central decisions of the state. Through the central decisions, the government also adopts policies for welfare services for its citizens. The biggest limitation of a socialist state system is that it is more likely to form a dictatorial government because huge power rests on the government.

Pair Work: Make a chart on the differences between capitalist and socialist states

State-based on the Source of Power

Based on power, states are classified into two- democratic and dictatorial states.

Democratic State

In a democratic state, the power to rule is vested in all members of the state or the hands of the people. People participate in this form of governance, and they form this government. This is a form of governance that is run for the welfare of the people by direct participation of the people. In a democratic state, people enjoy the right to express an opinion and to criticize the government. In this form of state, the government is changed through elections held in a constitutional way. In a democratic state, there is more than one political party. This form of governance ensures interests for all and recognizes citizens, rights and the rule of law. Bangladesh, India, the United States, the UK, etc. are democratic states.

Pair Work: Make a chart on characteristics of democratic states and hang it on the class room wall.

Advantages of the Democratic State System

There are many positive features of democracy. some qualities of democracy are described below-

1. Safeguard of Individual Liberty: In democratic states, people can express their opinions independently. They can criticize the government. People participate in running the government. As a result, individual liberty expands. Citizens' rights are protected in a democratic state.

2 Responsible Governance: In this governance, people's 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, the government's stability depends on the people's trust. As a result, the government attempts to perform its duties with honesty to gain the people's trust. This results in an increase in government efficiency.

4. Symbol of equity and equal rights: All are equal in democracy. All enjoy equal rights and opportunities regardless of ethnic, religious, and racial identities in this form of governance. All can 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, they can realise their importance. This is how patriotism is created in them. It developes personality and enhances dignity.

6. Established on logic and consent: Democratic system is based on the consent of the people. There is no scope for the use of force in democracy. In the end, people's will and logic get priority.

7. Gaining Political Education: In this form of state, citizens avail themselves of the opportunity to think of complicated political matters. People's political consciousness increases 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 the systematic procedure. There is no need for a revolution.

Besides, democracy allows freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of participation in elections for rulers and legislators, and the scope for criticizing government policies

Disadvantages of Democratic State System

Despite many positive qualities, there are some demerits in democracy. These are discussed below:

3. Priority of number over qualities of competence: Loss and win in democracy is determined by election, so the number enjoys more importance than qualities. In other words, it counts heads but undermines merit.

2. Party Governance: Democratic governance is party governance. The party that wins the majority in elections forms the government. The elected party runs the government considering their interests. A political party could be mighty and may suffer from complacency.

Steps for a successful democracy and democratic behaviour

In the present world, democracy is the best and most acceptable system of governance. But there are many obstacles on the way to its successful exercise or implementation. To remove these obstacles and make democracy successful, many factors are required to be fulfilled. The success of democracy requires an educated and conscious population, economic equality and social system established on justice, efficient administration and appropriate leadership. In addition to these, other factors can make democracy successful. They are tolerance, the 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:

• Citizens have to be tolerant of others' opinions. All have to be allowed to express their opinions. Others' opinions must be respected and the mentality is 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 applies to all citizens and political parties. The opposition should not work for the opposition only. All have to work for the welfare of the country.

• Besides securing own rights, respect should 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 are to be maintained by different communities and groups.

• Respect is to be shown to individuality. Along with this, the qualities of a good citizen have to be achieved. Citizens have to be intelligent, 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 votes with consciousness so that incompetent persons cannot be elected. This is how democracy becomes stronger.

• the rule of law is the heart of democracy. For this reason, all have to obey laws. All are equal in the eyes of the law. So all have to be treated equally. In other words, providing equal rights and opportunities is essential.
Every citizen has to be careful to learn and practice these democratic norms to make the democracy successful.

Group Work: Prepare a list of behaviour required to establish democracy.

Dictatorial State System:
Dictatorship is an arbitrary system of governance. In this form of state, the power of government lies not in the hands of the people but an arbitrary ruler. Here, the leader possesses all powers. He/She is said to be a dictator. The dictatorial rule is assisted by ministers or advisors. But they abide by the orders of the ruler. The dictator's 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 the head of the government. The party is run according to his wish and the party comprises of his blind followers.

In dictatorship, mass media (radio, television, newspapers, etc.) are controlled by the leader and his/her party. These are not allowed to be used neutrally. Instead, these are only used to praise the government. In this form of government, the 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 the ideals of dictatorship. The

main principle of a dictatorial state is that everything is for the state and nothing is beyond or against it.

Pair Work: Make a chart/table/concept map 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 an arbitrary rule. Because dictators are not accountable to any authority, their words are laws, which leave no room for an individual's freedom of thought and exchange of free ideas. Dictatorship is a system of arbitrary governance.

3**. An obstacle to creating leadership and political consciousness:** One man is dominant in this form of governance, leaving no room for alternative leadership development. As people cannot participate in such governance, so political consciousness is not created.

4. **Possibility of revolution:** The fear of revolution arises from the lack of participation in this system of dictatorial governance. Dictatorship cannot last long due to internal opposition and mass uprising against this form of government.

5. **Against World Peace:** Dictatorship holds and fosters aggressive nationalism. Power and greed for power instill a war-mongering mentality into the dictator. Hitler created havoc all over the world by having such a war-mongering mentality.

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

Group Work: Determine differences between democracy and dictatorship.

State-based on the principles of the distribution of power

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

Unitary State

In a 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 the central government, if needed, could retain such powers. In this form of government, provincial or regional governments act as agents of the central government and run governance

according to the central government's directives. Bangladesh, UK are examples of unitary states.

Federal State

In this state system, more than one region or province merges and creates a state. This is called federal state.

For the convenience of the central government's rule, power is distributed between centre and province or region through the constitution. In a federal state, small states stay side by side to form a large state. The state becomes more robust. In addition, the federal government mobilizes resources from its smaller states. Thus a large economy is created. 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 the state assume power through inheritance. These kinds of states are called monarchies. In the monarchy, the son or daughter of the King becomes either King or Queen. There are two types of monarchy, absolute monarchy and constitutional monarchy.

Absolute Monarchy:

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

Pair work : Show Differences between absolute and constitutional monarchy.

State based on Objectives

Welfare State

The state which works for the bare daily needs of the people is called a welfare state. This kind of state creates opportunities for employment, gives unemployment benefits and provides 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:

- The state strengthens social security measures for the welfare of society. It fulfills the basic needs of the people such as food, clothing, education, health and shelter. The state provides road infrastructure, orphanages, temporary lodging, subsidy on food and

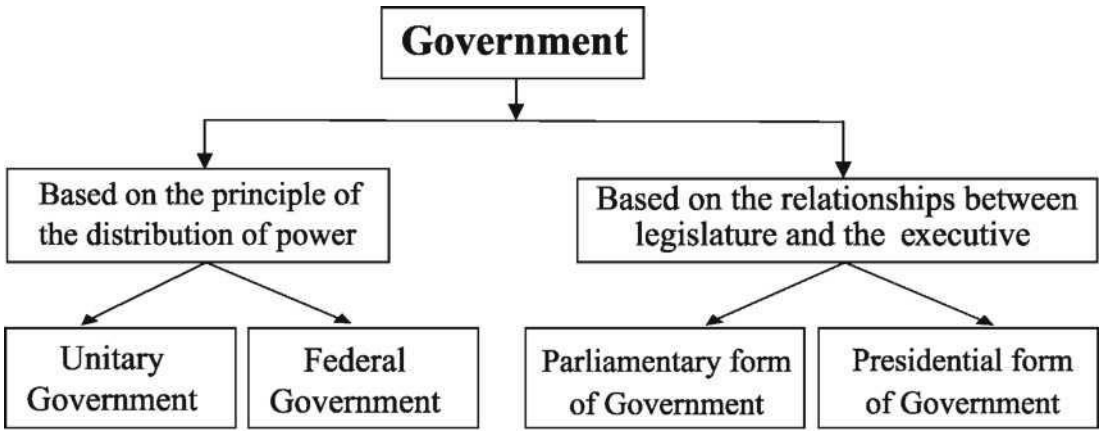
employment opportunities. It also provides people with unemployment allowance, pension and allowances for the handicapped.

- The 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 the destitute.
- It fixes minimum wages for the interest of farmers, labourers and workers so that they can maintain their standard of living.
- The state allows farmers, workers and labourers to form cooperatives.

Explain with reason whether Bangladesh may be regarded as a welfare state or not.

Classification of Governments

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



Classification based on the principle of the distribution of power

Based on the distribution of power principle, governments can be classified into two types: 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 a unitary government. In this system, power is not distributed between centre and province. The state consists of provincial or administrative regions. In this type of government, the regional government has no separate entity. But they act as agents or facilitators of the centre Bangladesh, Japan, the UK are examples of the unitary government.

Pair Work: Prepare a concept map/chart based on the characteristics of a unitary form of state.

Merits of Unitary Government

Unitary government has the following merits:

1. Easy Organization System: The organization of a 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 made at the centre, it can be easily implemented all over the country. Besides, unified laws, policies and plans are put 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 province. As a result, the same administrative principles and laws are made for the whole country, which helps to keep national and territorial integrity.

3. Cost-effective: In a unitary government, the administrative cost is low. Because the government only remains at the centre in this form of government. Here, central government takes all the decisions and implements them gradually. High officials are not necessary at every level, so the cost decreases.

4. Quick decision-making: Unitary government can take a quick decision as it does not have to consider regional interest or it does not have to consult with the provincial government. No complexity arises in decision-making.

5. Suitable for the Small States: Unitary state is suitable for a state which is geographically small and has a homogenous culture. For example, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Demerits of Unitary Government: Just as the unitary government has its merits, it has demerits too. They are:

1. Workload: As all the powers are vested in the hands of the central government, the central government has much workload. As administrators of the central government, have to perform all functions, they cannot pay attention to the welfare of the people due to heavy workload.

2. Unfavorable for local leadership development: In this system, power is exercised and decisions are taken at the centre. No scope is left for political participation at the provincial or regional level. As a result, local leadership cannot flourish.

3. Negligence of local development and problems: Unitary government adopts unified plans or decisions for the whole country. But different localities may have different problems, and the central government cannot notice all these problems. Moreover, as the regions are far away from the centre, central govemment cannot understand and solve the local issues.

4. Unsuitable for large states: Unitary government is unsuitable for large states. In large states, language, culture and tradition differ from one region to another. These differences altogether cannot be tackled alone by the central government. In running the state, the government has to face multifaceted problems. People become suspicious of the government. For this reason, separation may develop 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:

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

Pair Work: Make a list of the characteristics of federal government.

Merits of the federal government

There are several merits of the federal government. For example:

1. **Create coordination between national unity and regional individuality:** This kind of government creates national unity by maintaining regional individuality and differences. By recognizing regional characteristics and differences, these are fostered in this form of government. Thus unity in diversity develops.
2. **Lessen the workload of the central government:** In this form of government, power is distributed through the constitution between the centre and provinces, relieving the central government's burden. The centre can perform its functions with ease.
3. **Conducive to solving regional problems:** In the federal system, the regional government can easily comprehend and identify the problems of regions and solve those problems.
4. **Increases political awareness and helps develop local leadership**: People are loyal to two governments and abide by two kinds of laws in the federal system. Thereby, people become politically more conscious. This system helps to grow local leadership.
5. **Help to reduce arbitrary behaviour of the centre:** Due to the distribution of power between the centre and provinces, the centre cannot assume absolute power. As a result, the centre has no chance to have any arbitrary attitude.

Demerits of federal government

Following demerits may be noticed in federal governments:

1. **Complicated nature of rule:** The organization of federal government is of complicated nature. It is like a government within a government. Consequently, complexities arise regarding determining the relationship between the centre and province, power distribution, and law-making and application.

2. **Conflicts of power:** In this system, conflicts may be created between centre and province or between provinces 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 an emergency. Decisions are delayed if opinions of the regional governments are required.

4. **Fear of secession:** Provinces are separate and autonomous in federal governments. Taking advantage of this opportunity, any region or province may attempt to be separate.

5. **Costly:** As dual structures of government exist, the cost of administration increases.

Group work: Determine the differences between unitary and federal governments.

Classification of governments based on the relationship between legislature and executive:

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

Parliamentary Government

The form of government where the relationship between the legislature and executive is close and the executive's stability and functional capacity depend on the legislature is called a parliamentary form of government or cabinet form of government. In this system, executive powers are vested in the hands of the ministers. The party which wins the general election forms the cabinet. The dependable person in the party becomes the prime minister. He appoints ministers from the important members of the party and distributes portfolios among them.

Usually, ministers are selected from among the legislators or members of parliament. That is why this form of government is called the parliamentary form of government. Bangladesh, India, UK, Canada, Sweden and Australia have a parliamentary form of government.

This kind of government has a constitutional president. But the cabinet of ministers under the leadership of the prime minister holds real administrative power. In this system, the importance of the prime minister is the highest. In fact, the president does not do anything without the advice of the prime minister.

In the parliamentary form of government, the legislative council holds absolute power. The cabinet, including the prime minister, are accountable to the legislative council for their

activities. The cabinet falls if they lose the confidence of the legislative council. Besides, a member has to resign if parliament brings a motion of no confidence against him/her. In this system, the same person holds both legislative and administrative power because ministers are selected from parliament members.

Pair Work: Describe the characteristics of the parliamentary form of government by making a chart.

Merits of parliamentary government

The merits of parliamentary government are as follows:

1. **Responsible governance:** Parliamentary government is a responsible government. Here, ruling and opposition parties are both accountable to the people for their deeds.
2. **Relations between the legislature and the executive:** As members of the executive are the members of the legislature, the relationship between these two remains cordial and friendly.
3. **Status of opposition:** In this form of government, the opposition is said to be an alternative government. In times of national crisis, 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 the ruling or the opposition sides criticise the government. The government maintains self-restraint in its activities and tries to do good activities.
5. **It gives a political lesson:** 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

The parliamentary form of government has some demerits. They are

1. **Absence of stability:** Parliamentary government may suffer from instability. If the cabinet loses its confidence in the legislature or loses its majority, the government collapses. This sort of situation might destabilize the country. For this reason, the parliamentary government is called the tyranny of the majority.
2. **Indivisibility of power:** Legislative and executive powers are vested in one centre i.e., in the hands of the cabinet 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 depend on the majority of the 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-nakibg: In this form of government, decisions are made after a lot of discussions and suggestions. Many activities are not possible to perform in time.

Group work: Make a list of the merits and demerits of parliamentary government.

Presidential form of government

A presidential form of government means where the executive power is conducted by the president. The president forms the cabinet comprising persons to his liking. The president and members of the cabinet are not 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, the president holds all powers. He is the absolute ruler and head of the government. He might either seek the advice of ministers or not. The USA has the presidential form of government.

Merits of presidential form of government

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

1. Stable governance: In the presidential form of government, the president is elected for a definite tenure. During this time, he can not be removed without impeachment (impeachment is a process for removing the president with a two-thirds majority in the parliament if he is accused of a specific charge). As a result, governance stays stable.

2. **Quick decision making:** In this system, the president can make quick decisions without consulting with the legislative council. In times of war, emergency, or any other crisis, the president shows his efficiency in making quick decisions.

3. Efficient governance: In this system, the president and ministers do not have to engage too much in law-making and are not accountable to the legislature. So they can spend more time in matters of administration which makes the administration more efficient.

4. Separation of powers: In this governance, three branches of government (executive, legislative and judiciary) separately work and simultaneously keep relations among them. Separation of powers thus maintains check and balance.

5. Less reflection of partisan attitude: The voting of the legislature members in passing the bill does not have any influence on the stability of the government. Partisan influence is less evident in this system of governance. The president places more importance on national interests than on party interests.

Demerits of the presidential form of government

1. **Arbitrary rule:** All powers are vested in the president's hands 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 anybody, he can 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 antagonism arises. This kind of situation might throw the government into a fragile condition.

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

By studying this chapter, we have learnt about the state and different forms of governments along with their merits and demerits. Instead, a mix of more than one system has created various forms of states and governments. The USA is a democratic state. It is a federal form of government under the rule of the president. The UK is a parliamentary form of government with a constitutional monarchy. Differences in the forms of state and government result from socio-economic conditions of the state, people's aspirations and practical requirements.

Group work: 1. Discuss which form of government is better: parliamentary or presidential? 2. Discuss which form of government matches with the system of government in Bangladesh.

Sample Question

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Which of the following is a democratic behavior?
a) Tolerance **b)** P redominance of personal interests
c) P redominance of party interests **d)** Separate laws for everyone

2. In a welfare state system, ….
i. t he fundamental rights of the people are protected
ii. equal tax is imposed on all
iii. interests of professionals are protected

Which of the following is correct?
a) i and ii **b)** ii and iii
c) i and iii **d)** i, ii and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions no. 3 and 4:
Mr. Karim is the head of organization _A.' He makes his colleagues work from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mr. Karim does not take the opinions of his co-workers into consideration. If anyone mentions a problem, he stops by scolding them. On the other hand, Mr. Rahim is the head of an organization called _B.' Mr. Rahim is friendly and easy going with his co-workers. When his colleagues face any problem, he solves it quickly. As a result, the employees of Mr. Rahim's organization work spontaneously.

3. Which system of government is similar to the activities of organization _A'?
a) Democratic **b)** Autocratic
c) Capitalist **d)** Socialist

4. If a state operates like organization _B', there ….
i. patriotism will increase
ii. political awareness will increase
iii. the government will be accountable to the people

Which of the following is correct?
a) i and ii **b)** i and iii
c) ii and iii **d)** i, ii and iii

Creative Questions:
Scenario-1
Mr. Kamal is the owner of a private organization. He has branch offices in every district of the country. He controls all branches from the head office.
Scenario 2
Mr. Bashar is the head of another private organization. His company has eight directors. They manage the branch offices of every department in the country.

Except for some important matters of the country, the directors of the company operate their branches independently.

a) What is a parliamentary government?

b) Why is quick decision-making possible in a presidential government? Explain.

c) W hat kind of state system work is similar to the work of Mr. Kamal's organization? Explain.

d) Identify the s imilarity of the g overnment system in your textbook that resembles w ith the activities of Mr. Bashar's organization and discuss them in comparative manner with Bangladesh.

Short Questions:

1. Why is the possibility of revolution less likely in a democratic state system?

2. —Autocracy is another name for dictatorship.‖ – Explain.

3. Why is Bangladesh called a unitary g overnment?

4. Why is a federal government needed for the development of local leadership?

5. Why d oes the legislature have sovereign power in a parliamentary government?

6. —Only in a presidential government, separation of powers is possible.‖ – Explain.

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 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 are clearly recorded in the constitution. Therefore, every citizen of the state must have a clear concept of 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 various kinds of constitution, the history of making the Bangladesh constitution and its salient features 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 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 and its importance

The constitution is the fundamental document of running a state. The collection of the rules by which a state is conducted is called the constitution. How the government will be elected, how the legislative, executive and judiciary will be formed, what their form and power will be, what state conferred rights the citizens will enjoy, and what the relationship will be between the citizens and the government all these are stated in the constitution. The state cannot make any decisions regarding these things which go against the constitution. So constitution is called the driving force of the state. The father of political science says that the 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 approval: 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, made 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 planning : The constitution can be drafted through discussion among the constituent assembly members 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 was also drafted through discussion in the Constituent Assembly in 1972.

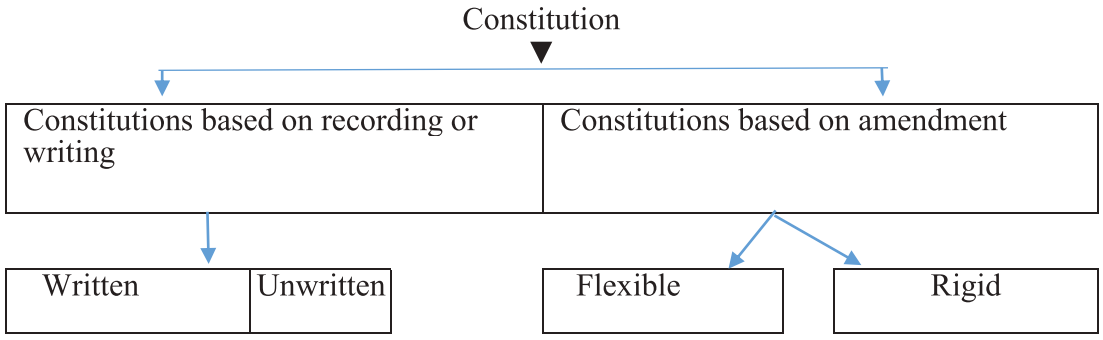
3. Through revolution: When the ruler does any work contrary to the interest and welfare of the people, a change of the autocratic ruler is brought about through a revolution and a new regime assumes power and makes a new constitution. The constitutions of Russia, Cuba and China have been made in this process.

4. Through evolution: In some cases, the constitution appears to exist through evolution. For instance, the constitution of Britain evolved gradually based on 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.

Pair work: Which is the best method of making a constitution? Explain your reasons.

Classifications of constitution

The classifications of constitution are shown below:



1. **Classification of the 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 are recorded in a document. For example, the constitutions of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and the United States are written.

b. **Unwritten Constitution:** Most of the rules in an unwritten constitution are not compiled in any document. This type of constitution is based on 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 mainly written is called a written constitution. And the constitution, whose subject matter is primarily unwritten, is called the unwritten constitution.

2. **Constitutions based on amendment:** There are two types of a constitution based on amendment. For example, A. Flexible constitution and B. Rigid constitution. The British constitution is flexible.

a. **Flexible Constitution:** The articles 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.

b. **Rigid Constitution:** The articles 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. The 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 changing 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:** As everything is written in this constitution, 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 the federal government:** A written constitution is suitable for the 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 had not been written. 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 ruler's power will be, what rights the citizens will enjoy are stated in a written constitution. As a result, the ruler and the people can clearly understand their power and rights.

Group work: Identify merits and demerits of written constitution.

Characteristics of an unwritten constitution

1. **Helpful to 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 to the changed conditions in society. Therefore, an unwritten constitution supports progress. However, too much change can again create an obstacle to progress.

2. **Helpful to urgent need:** Because an unwritten constitution is easily changeable, it can effectively meet urgent needs. However, a permanent policy and programme cannot be taken due to frequent changes 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. Since an unwritten constitution can be changed, there is less scope for a revolution.

4. **Miscellaneous:** An unwritten constitution is not suitable in a 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 important differences between a written and an unwritten constitution.

Characteristics of an ideal constitution

All countries in the world have their constitutions. The more developed constitution a country has, the more advanced its governance is. The following are the characteristics of an ideal constitution:

1) **Clear:** In an ideal constitution, most of the subject matters are written. The language of this constitution is easy, lucid and straightforward. 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 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 based on public opinion. The demands and expectations of the people are reflected in this constitution. Besides, social manners, 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 of any section in an ideal constitution is brought about 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 administration are stated in the ideal constitution. For example- in the Bangladesh constitution, Nationalism, Socialism, Democracy and Secularism have been inserted as fundamental principles of governance.

8) **Welfare Oriented:** The laws which cannot bring welfare to people are not regarded as an ideal constitution. So, an ideal constitution should be welfare-oriented.

Any constitution having the above characteristics may be called an ideal constitution.

The Constitution of Bangladesh

After the independence of Bangladesh, a 34-member constitution drafting 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. Working hard, this committee prepared a draft constitution and presented it at the Constituent Assembly on 19 October. The constitution draft was placed and reviewed in the Constitution Assembly and accepted on the 4th November 1972. After the discussion by different members of the Constituent Assembly, the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh was officially adopted on 16 December 1972.

Characteristics of Bangladesh Constitution

Notable characteristics of the present 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 seven schedules.

2. **Rigid:** The constitution of Bangladesh is rigid. This is because the consent of a two-thirds majority of parliament members is required for making any changes or amendments to it.

3. **Basic principles of governance:** Nationalism, Socialism, Democracy and Secularism have been determined as fundamental governance principles. In matters of governance, different authorities run their activities based on the state principles.

4. **Fundamental right:** Constitution is the highest law of a state. As the rights we can enjoy as Bangladeshi citizens are clearly stated in the constitution, their importance has increased. For example- right to live, right to move more, 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, whatever their caste, religion, race, gender, occupation may be.

6. **Republic:** According to the constitution, Bangladesh is a republican state. Here people are the owners of all the properties. Elected representatives of the people will administer the country.

7. **Parliamentary government:** The constitution of Bangladesh introduces a parliamentary or cabinet form of 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 is no provincial government here. The whole country is run by one central government.

9. **Legislature:** The legislature of Bangladesh is unicameral. It is a sovereign lawmaking institution. Its name is "Jatiya Shangshad". At present, it has 350 members and its duration is 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 is an independent and impartial judiciary in the constitution of Bangladesh.

Group Work: Is the constitution of Bangladesh an ideal one? Give reasons.

Amendments of the Constitution of Bangladesh:
After 1972, the constitution of Bangladesh has been changed 17 times. The main characteristics of these amendments are as follows:

Amendment and year	Subject
First Amendment July 1973	• Provision was made to trial people accused of a crime against humanity in the War of Liberation in 1971 and 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 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 intriduction rule of only one party .
Fifth Amendment April 1979	• The Fifth amendment legalised all orders, promulgations and amendments to the constitution made by the military government after august 15, 1975. • The basic state principles were changed. • 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 Abdus 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 as the state religion and six benches of the High Court Division were set up outside Dhaka.
Ninth Amendment July 1989	• 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 and Vice President for more than two consecutive terms.
Tenth Amendment June 1990	• The period of 30 reserved seats for women in parliament was increased to 10 years.
Eleventh Amendment August 1991	• All measures taken by Chief Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as acting president were legalised and provision for his return to his post of chief justice was made.
Twelfth Amendment August 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 June 2011	• Dissolution of caretaker government system • Restoration of the four basic state principles of Nationalism, Democracy, Secularism and Socialism in the Constitution of 1972.

	• Alongside keeping Islam as the state religion, practice was ensured for activities of all religions. • Provisions were made to raise reserved seats in parliament to 50.
Sixteenth Amendment September 2014	• Removal of judges of the supreme court is restored to the parliament.
Seventeenth Amendment, July, 2018	In the parliament, reserved 50 seats for the women will exist more 25 years.

Different governments amended the constitutions at various times for their own interest. One weakness of our constitution is that it can be amended easily. The consequence is that it could not function well. It failed to arrange national elections at regular intervals.

Group Work: Compare in brief the power of the president and the Prime Minister according to the fourth and twelfth amendment of the constitution.

Sample Question

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Which of the following is a feature of a good constitution?

a) Supportive of progress **b)** Large in size
c) Helpful in emergencies **d)** Balanced in nature

2. The characteristics of the Constitution of Bangladesh are … .

i) p eople are the source of all power
ii) t he source of all laws
iii) easily amendable

Which 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 scenario and answer questions no. **3** and **4 :**
Rayhan is a member of a cooperative society. A constitution is created with everyone's consensus to run the cooperative society. This constitution contains all the matters related to the management of the cooperative society. As a result, the cooperative society continues to run successfully. On the other hand, Kawsar is a member of another cooperative society where decisions are made through discussions and mutual opinions. If any rule of the cooperative society needs to be changed, everyone sits down and resolves it easily.

3. The activities of Rayhan‘s cooperative society resemble with which method of constitution formulation?
a) R atification
b) Discussion and consensus
c) Revolution
d) Gradual evolution

4. If a state is governed according to the activities of Kawsar‘s society, then—
i. public dissatisfaction will be d ecreased
ii. it will be easier to govern a large state
iii. emergency needs of the state can be met

Which of the following is correct?
a) i and ii
b) i and iii
c) ii and iii
d) i, ii and iii

Creative Questions:
1. Mr. Rahim formed a cooperative society in his area. The society does not have its formal rules of its own. The society is being operated based on the community’s own opinion. On the other hand, Mr. Karim formed another cooperative society. To run the association, all the members sit down and discuss and create a constitution. The constitution clearly spells out the roles of all the members, including the committee chairperson, and general secretary.

a) What is a rigid (non-amendable) constitution?
b) Why is the constitution called the driving force of the state? Explain.
c) W hich type of constitution does Mr. Rahim‘s cooperative society‘s activity resemble? Explain.
d) Identify the t opics in your textbook that are similar to the activities of Mr. Karim‘s cooperative society, and compare it with the Constitution of Bangladesh.

Short Questions:
1. ―The British Constitution was not created, it h as e volved‖ – Explain.
2. Why is a written constitution suitable for a federal government system?3. Why is an unwritten constitution supportive of progress?

Chapter Six

Government System in Bangladesh

The word 'government' is very common in our everyday life. Every country of the world has a government system. In chapter four, we have learnt what government is. The government, basically a country's maintains administrative operation.Though, every country has a government, it is 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 Government of Bangladesh (Mujibnagar government) was formed on 10th April 1971. Bangladesh is a People's Republic. People are the source of all power in this country. Besides, Bangladesh is also a unicentric state. In our country, we have a parliamentary government system. In this system of government president is the highest person of the state. According to constitution, the president discharges duties bestowed on him. According to the custom of the parliamentary government, a cabinet of Ministers are made under the leadership of the Prime minister. The cabinet and the prime minister are jointly accountable to the parliament.

Group Work: Prepare a chart of the main features of Bangladesh Government.

Various Divisions of Bangladesh Government

Like governments of other countries, Bangladesh government also has three divisions. They are 1) Administrative 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. It is normally formed by the President, Prime Minister and the cabinet.

The President

The President is the head of the State of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The President is elected by the majority vote of the parliament members. He holds office for five years. He can be re-elected. But, an individual cannot be in the position for more than two terms whether consecutive or not. During the tenure of the presidentship, none can take any legal action against him in court. But, in case of a severe complaint and breach of the constitution, he can be impeached from the office before the expiry of his term by the parliament.

The president must be a citizen of Bangladesh and be at least 35 years old. Besides, he must be eligible to be elected as a parliament member. If any person is removed from the post of the president through impeachment, he will never be eligible to become president again.

Pair Work: Discuss the appointment process of the president and make a list of his main qualifications.

Power and Activities of the 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 are run in his name. He appoints the Prime Minister. He also appoints other ministers, deputy ministers, etc. He also appoints the leading executives (Director General of Auditors, ambassadors, and other top-level executives). He is the chief of the armed forces. He appoints the chief of the army, navy and air force. But, he makes the appointments with the prime minister's suggestions except those of chief justice and the prime minister.

2. The President performs some legislative duties. He calls the session of the parliament and with the advice of the Prime Minister, he can adjourn it. He can make a speech and send messages to the parliament. A bill is accepted as law if he has given consent to it or considered that he has given consent.

3. Without the permission of 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 in any circumstances.

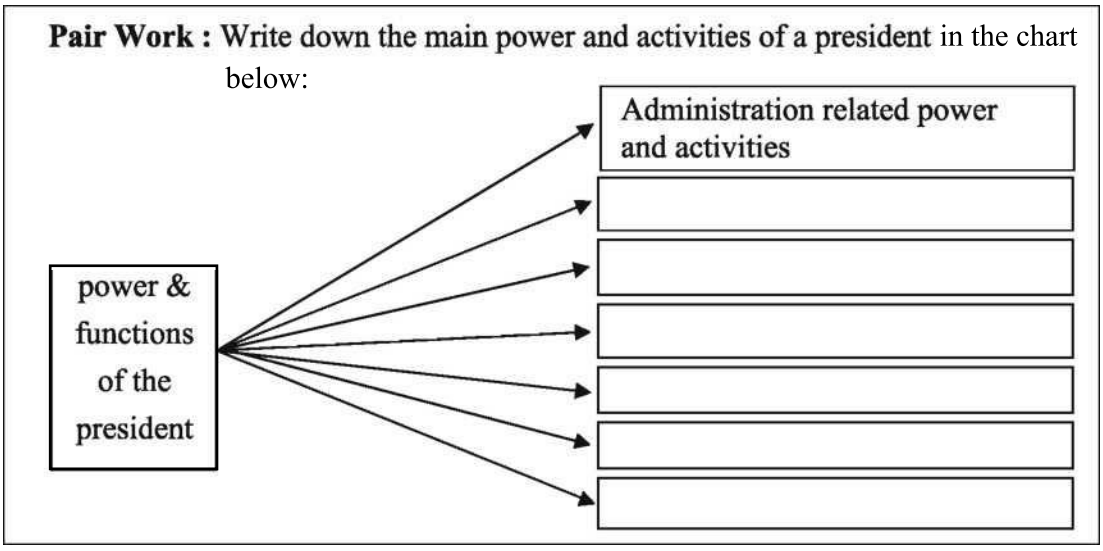
4. The President appoints the chief justice, and upon his advice, he appoints other judges at appellate & high court divisions. He can reduce or condone the punishment of a condemned person given by a court or any other authority.

5. He can declare a state of emergency in the country if the safety and peace of the society are endangered by war, attack by an external enemy or internal clash. But, in this case, he must take prior approval from the Prime Minister.

6. The President performs many other duties as well. He chairs the national programs. He confers the titles, medals and honor to eligible persons of the state. Various state-level contracts and deeds are drafted and signed upon his instruction. He receives the appointment letter of the foreign ambassadors. He conducts the oath of the Prime Minister, other ministers, and the chief justice.

7. The President must be accountable to the Prime Minister.

Pair Work : Write down the main power and activities of a president in the chart below:



The Prime Minister

Bangladesh has a parliamentary form of government. In this system, the head of state is the Prime Minister. The administration runs under the leadership of the Prime Minister. The President appoints the Prime Minister. He/She selects the member of parliament who appears to him/her to command the support of the majority of the members of parliament. According to the constitution, the prime minister will hold his/her office until a successor takes over the charge. But, for losing the support of the majority parliament members, the prime minister has to resign or he/she has to request the president in black and white to dissolve the parliament. If the prime minister resigns, the cabinet dissolves too. For this reason, the prime minister is called the pillar of the government. He is the leader of the parliament and head of government.

Pair Work: Discuss the differences between the appointment system of the President and Prime Minister.

Power and Activities of The Prime Minister

The Prime minister has to perform numerous duties:

1. As per the constitution, the prime minister runs the country's administration as the head

of the government. He/She performs all the administrative duties with the help of the cabinet. According to his/her advice, the president appoints ministers, constitutional positions and ambassadors to foreign countries.

2. The Prime minister is the head of the cabinet. He/She fixes the number of the ministers and distributes portfolio among them. He/she supervises the activities of the ministers and coordinates the responsibilies among various ministries. The ministers take suggestions and approval for all the important jobs. He/She can advise the president to terminate any minister if he/she wants.

3. The Prime minister is a member and leader of the parliament. He/she plays a vital role in the parliament. For example- on a fixed date, he/she answers the questions of the parliament members and delivers a speech upholding the programmes and activities of the government. Apart from these, he/she requests the president to convene prorogue and dissolve the session of the parliament.

4. To pass a bill in the parliament, it is discussed earlier in the cabinet meeting. If the prime minister and the cabinet ministers accept the proposal, only then it is placed in the parliament as a bill. Moreover, the finance minister calculating the income and expenditure of the country prepare and present the national budget taking the advice of the prime minister.

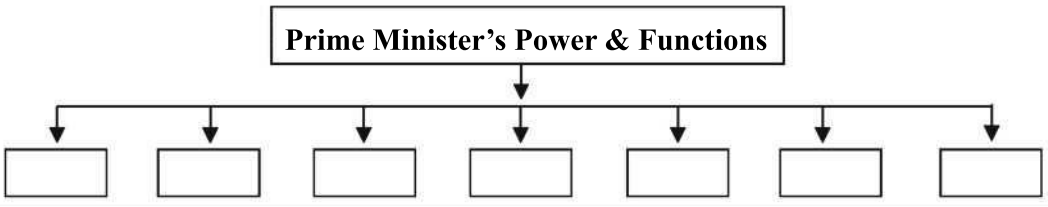
5. He/she plays an important role regarding foreign affairs. No international treaty can be signed without his/her permission. He/she represents the country in international summits.

6. In a state of emergency, he/she can give any instruction without the cabinet's decision.

7. The Prime minister is the preserver of the national interest. He/She makes speeches and statements on state activities to maintain harmony for the national interest.

8. However, the Prime Minister will be accountable to the parliament. The parliament can initiate accountability by voting against the Prime Minister.

Pair work: Write down the main areas Prime Minister's power and activities.



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

The comparison between the parliamentary government and the presidential government:

1. In the parliamentary system, the power of governance rests in the hands of the elected parliament while in the presidential system, the power is vested in the elected president. The scope of people's participation is higher in the parliamentarian system of government.

2. In the parliamentary system, the Prime Minister is accountable to the parliament, hence the power is vested not in one person. Thus, it is just the opposite of the presidential government system.

3. In the parliamentary system, the government is formed by the political party having majority seats in the election, thus there is a wide scope for maintaining the check and balance, on the contrary, in the presidential government, the president forms the cabinet.

4. In the parliamentary system, the government runs both the administration and parliament which is found separate in the presidential government.

5. In the parliamentary system, the Prime Minister can dissolve the parliament while the president cannot dissolve the parliament or call for an election in a presidential form of government.

The Cabinet

To run the government, there is a cabinet or council of ministers. The Prime minister is their leader. He selects the number of ministers, deputy and state ministers and forms the council. The ministers are selected from among the parliament members. A person who is eligible to be elected as a parliament member can also be chosen as a 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 cabinet. The Prime Minister distributes the duties and responsibilities among the ministers. The ministers perform their task of being accountable to the parliament individually and collectively. The cabinet is dissolved if the Prime Minister resigns or parliament is dissolved for any reason. The Prime Minister can change the portfolio of any minister if he wants. A minister can resign from his office too.

Power and Functions of the Cabinet

The cabinet is entitled to hold 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 cabinet members share the power and functions of the administrative power and run the administration as the Prime Minister's colleagues. They perform the duties of their ministries. The cabinet members has to be accountable to the parliament for the failure of the cabinet members.

2. Cabinet meetings are 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, controlling food situation, etc.) are discussed in these

meetings, and necessary policies and decisions are made.

3. The cabinet of ministers co-ordinates the task of their respective ministries.

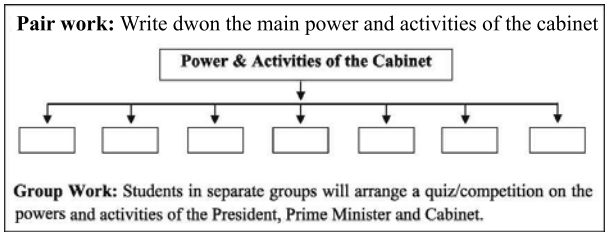
4. Issuance of new laws, amendment of existing laws, leading the parliament are the significant tasks of the cabinet. Besides, the draft new laws, place them in the parliament for approval and take necessary measures to pass them.

5. Every year, the government prepares a 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 the approval of the draft budget in the parliament.

6. To safeguard the sovereignty and ensure the state's security is an important task of the cabinet. To ensure law and order in the country and safeguard the people is another task of the ministers.

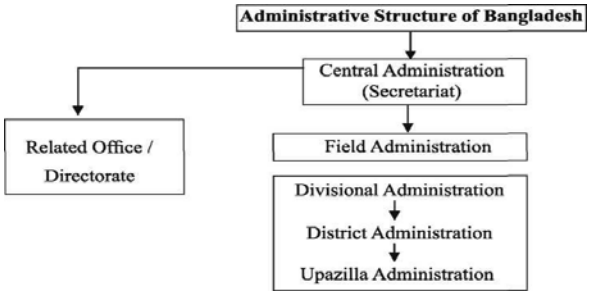
7. The cabinet prepares the foreign policy under the leadership of the Prime Minister The cabinet has the responsibility to sign treaties with other countries, establish diplomatic relationships, and operate international trade. The cabinet performs these tasks keeping the national interest and honor intact.

8. The cabinet works as a bridge between government and the people. They convey the government policy to the public and ensures their support in this regard.



The Administrative Structure of Bangladesh

The administration is responsible for carrying out the administrative activities of the state. A reasonable administration has no other alternative than to maintain the law and order situation in the country and the development of the state. For this reason, the administration is called the heart of the country. The administration is run under a proper structure. A chart for the administrative structure of Bangladesh is given below -



From the above chart, we can observe that the administrative structure of Bangladesh is structured in tires. It has two main levels. The first level is the central administration (Secretariat). All administrative policies and decisions are adopted here. The policies and decisions taken by the central administration are implemented through field-level administration.

The second level of Bangladesh state administration is the field level administration. The first step of the field administration is divisional administration. District administration is on the second level and the Upazila administration is spread to the root level. The central administration controls field-level administration.

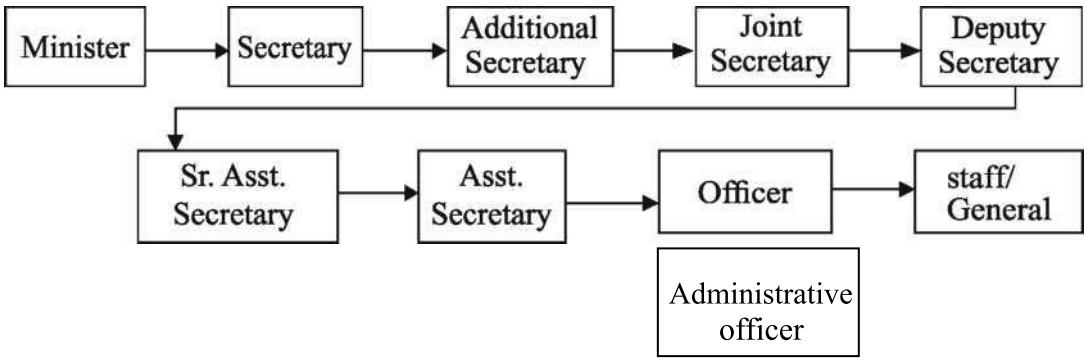
The central administration or the secretariat is comprised of few ministries. Different departments and offices are attached to each ministry. The Director-General is the head of this office or directorate. Ministries also have under them various autonomous, semi-autonomous organizations, boards and corporations. The activities of these office/directorates are extended to the division, district and Upazila levels. These organizations act as a line organizations to execute various government activities.

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

Central Administration

Secretariat is the central point of the Central Administration. The place where different ministers hold their offices is called the secretariat. A ministry is placed under a minister. The main job of the minister is to design projects and outline policies. Secretary is responsible for helping the minister to implement policy and support administration. The secretary is the administrative head of each ministry. He advises the minister to make decisions and policies. A secretary is responsible for the implementation of all activities of the ministry.

Administrative Structure of the Secretariat



The Additional Secretary is the second main administrative officer. He helps the secretary to carry out various responsibilities. In the 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 with different issues. He performs the duties to maintain the staff and office of the ministry. The Deputy Secretary performs the duties to maintain one or more departments of the ministry. He helps the Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary to initiate a policy through suggestions and cooperation.

Every department has a Senior Assistant Secretaryand an assistant secretary. They carry out responsibilities in serious issues consulting the deputy secretary. There are many officers and general staff in the ministry. They also play an important role in the activities of the ministry.

It is mentionable that there is no limit to ministries in the government and the number of Additional Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Senior Assistant Secretaries Assistant Secretaries in a ministry. Their number is fixed based on the work volume of the ministry.

Divisional Administration

There are eight divisions in Bangladesh. Divisional Commissioner is the head of the administration of each division. He works as the divisional administrative head as a representative of the central administration. He is accountable to the center for his activities.

The divisional commissioner suprvises the activities of the district commissioners. He implements and oversees the developmental work of the division. He also coordinate the task of collecting land tax and looks after the government's 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 oversees the public welfare and service-oriented activities. In case of a natural disaster, he ensures relief and rehabilitation for the victims.

District Administration

There are 64 districts in Bangladesh.District administration is an important stage of the field level administration. District commissioner is the main executive. He is an experienced member of Bangladesh Public Service Commission. He is the central authority of the administrative activities operated in the district. We shall learn about the activities of the District Commissioner below:

1. **Administrative work:** District commissioner executes and implements all the decisions and orders from the center. He monitors and guides various activities of the district and co-ordinates them. He recruits people for the vacant positions of district level administration.

2. **Revenue Related and Monetary Activities:** District commissioner is the treasurer and director of the district treasury. He is responsible for collecting all the revenues of the district; that is why he is also known as the collector. Besides, he also resolves the disputes related to land development, registration and revenue.

3. **Law and order related activities:** To maintain the law and order situation in the district and to ensure the security of the people is his responsibility. He carries out the responsibility with the help of the police administration.

4. **Development work:** District commissioner is the center point of all development of the district. He is responsible for the implementation of the developmental works (education, agriculture, industry, roads and communication system etc.) He is liable for taking necessary measures for rehabilitating victims of natural diaster.

5. **Local administrative activities:** District commissioner looks after the local autonomous organizations (upazilla parishad, municipality, union council). He co-ordinates the work of all the departments and organizations in the district.

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

Upazilla Administration

Bangladesh has 495 administrative upazillas. Upazilla Executive Officer is the head of the upazilla administration. His main responsibility is to supervise the administrative work of the upazilla. Besıdes, he coordinates after all the development work of the upazilla and the expenditure of the government fund. He is the head of the Upazilla Development Committee. He arranges relief and rehabilitation for the victims of natural disasters. He takes initiative to face and prevent the disasters. He is the treasurer of the Upazilla Treasury. He also performs various duties as assigned by the government.

Group work: Prepare a chart of administrative structure of Bangladesh in groups and hang it on the wall or board of the class. Each group will discuss about an indivdual administrative tier.

The Parliament of Bangladesh

The Parliament is one of the three organs of the government. The parliament of Bangladesh is known as the 'Jatiya Sangsad'. It is a unicameral parliament. The Number of members is 350. Among those, 300 members are directly elected by the citizens of Bangladesh. Rest of the seats are reserved for women. Bangladesh is divided into 300 constituencies. The women members are selected by the 300 elected members of the parliament. But, the women can be elected through direct contest in the three hundred seats of the parliament.

There is a speaker and a deputy speaker in the parliament. They are elected by the Members of the Parliament. Their duty is to conduct the sessions of the parliament. The temure of the parliament is five years. But, the president can dissolve the parliament with the advice of the prime minister at any time. The two sessions of the parliament should be held within sixty days. A parliamentary session can be operated in presence of a quorum of 60 members. Prime minister is the leader of the parliament. The leader of the party winning second position as per number of seats holding in the election acts as the leader of the opposition. The parliament forms various types of committees in order to execute different kinds of parliamentary jobs. The parliament membership is cancelled if a member remains absent from the parliament session for 90 days in a row.

The parliamentary election is held every five years. Any citizen of Bangladesh aged 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 any other country, or if he has been sentenced to imprisonment by the court .

Task: Students shall make a concept map on the board about the structure of the national parliament. through open discussion among themselves.

Power and Functions of The Parliament:

The power and functions of the national Parliament are as follows:

1. The Parliament of Bangladesh holds the supreme power of making and approving laws. The parliament can enact any new law, change or amend the existing laws. To pass a new law, it has to be brought to the parliament as a draft bill. It becomes law if approved by the majority of the parliament members.

2. The Parliament oversees the activities of the executive branch. The Prime minister and the members of the cabinet are accountable to the parliament. The cabinet dissolves if the parliament brings a no-confidence proposal on the prime minister. Jatioya Sangsad holds control over the government through questions, censure adjournment motion, no-confidence motion and discussion. In this respect, the opposition party plays a very important role.

3. The Parliament is the protector of the funds of the state. No tax can be imposed and received without the approval of the parliament. Parliament approves the budget every year. Finance Minister places the draft budget to the parliament. The members of the parliament approve that based on long discussions and amendments.

4. The parliament has judiciary power. If any member behaves against the code of conduct of the parliament, the speaker can send him out of the session. The parliament can also impeach the President and can direct a vote of no confidence in the parliament against the Prime minister and cabinet for their breach of the state's constitution and remove them from the concerned office.

5. The parliament can amend the constitution based on the rules mentioned in the constitution. In this case, it requires votes of at least two-thirds of the parliament members.

6. The members of the parliament elect the speaker, deputy speaker and members of various parliamentary committees. They also elect the women members against the reserved seats. They elect the President of the country too.

Bangladesh has a parliamentary form of government. Parliament is the center of all the national activities of the country. Honest and competent members are desired for making the parliament successful and effective. It is also necessary to have a strong and responsible opposition party. We should be conscious to elect honest and competent candidates.

Task-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 and activities of the national assembly. Each group will discuss about an indivdual activity.

The Judiciary of Bangladesh

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

Structure of the Judiciary

The judiciary of Bangladesh comprises of the Supreme court, Subordinate courts and Administrative tribunal.

Supreme Court

The highest court of the judiciary is the Supreme Court. It has two divisions: Appellate Division and High Court Division. The Supreme Court is headed by a justice known as the Chief Justice of the country. President appoints him upon the advice of the prime minister. Supreme Court is formed with the required number of judges for each department. President appoints the judges of the two divisions consulting the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice and other Justices are entirely independent to perform their judicial activities. A person must be a citizen of Bangladesh to become the judge of the Supreme Court; he must have experience of 10 years of working as an advocate at the Supreme Court or in the judiciary position of Bangladesh for at least 10 years. The judges at the Supreme Court can work up to the age of 67 years.

Pair work: Discuss the structure of the Supreme Court

Power and Functions of the Supreme Court

The appellate division and the high court division have their work periphery. 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 if he wants an explanation of any law.

• It can order someone to be present before the court or present documents 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.

Authority and Functions of the High Court Division

• Can impose a ban to protect the fundamental rights of the citizens.
• Can restrain a person from doing harmful activities and can declare this type of work is illegal.
• Can transfe a case to the highcourt if complexity arises in the lower court because of the explanation of the constitution.
• Accepts appeal against the judgment of the lower courts.
• Provides the job description of lower courts and operates them.

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

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

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

District Judge Court: There are district and judge courts under the supreme court. This court deals with civil cases (land, loan agreement, etc.) and criminal cases (fight, conflicts at the district level. The district judge is the head of this court. Additional district judge, joint judge, and assistant judge execute judgement separately. The verdicts of these courts may be appealed in the district court. Besides appeal, the district judge basic cases.

Special Tribunal

According to constitutution, a parliament can establish one or more special tribunals. No court can give judgement to the case under a special tribunal.

Sample Question

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Which of the following is a function of the Cabinet?
a) Approving the draft budget
b) Convening sessions of the National Parliament
c) Presenting the finance bill
d) Determining foreign policy

2. District administration….
i. protects p eople's lives and properties
ii. p rovides advice to the government
iii. assists in achieving economic stability

Which of the following is correct?
a) i & ii **b)** i & iii
c) ii & iii **d)** i, ii & iii

Read the scenario and answer Questions no. **3** & **4 :**
Mr. Rashed works in an organization. He provides directive advice in formulating various policies of the institution. He has several assistants who help him in his work. Mr. Salam works in another organization. There he follows the orders and instructions of the higher authorities of the organization. He supervises the development activities and monitors expenditure of all the departments under his jurisdiction. He also takes steps to prevent child marriage and violence against women through various measures in the areas under his jurisdiction.

3. W hich level of a dministrative structure of Bangladesh is similar to the activities of Mr. Rashed?
a) Central administration
b) Divisional administration
c) District administration
d) Upazila administration

4. If the a dministration i s c onducted according to the level of administration that is similar to the activities of Mr. Salam, then—
i. l ocal government will be dynamic
ii. development work will be accelerated
iii. Government's land revenue will increase

Which is correct?
a) i & ii **b)** ii & iii
c) i & iii **d)** i, ii & iii

Creative Questions:
1. Scenario 1

Mr. Milton founded a new communication platform Protyay. As it can be used through radio link, its popularity has increased significantly. However, the communication platform 'Protyay' allows the unrestricted use of personal information due to its data usage policy, which raises concerns about the violation of people's privacy. An individual appealed to an organization named A against this policy. The organization 'A' considered the policy to be against individual freedom and decided to cancel it.

Scenario-2
Mr. Faisal is a prominent industrialist. His company has 5 million shareholders. These shareholders elected 100 directors to manage the company. Among the directors, Mr. Faisal was nominated as the Managing Director. The directors elected Mr. Salam as the chairman through a direct vote. Although all the activities were conducted in the name of Mr. Salam, Mr. Faisal himself took all the important decisions of the company as the Managing Director. The company is being run under the direction of Mr. Faisal.

a) What is the Secretariat?
b) Why is the executive branch a ccountable to the National Parliament for its
work? Explain.
c) Based on Scenario 1, which department of Bangladesh is similar to the activities of the o rganization 'A'? Explain.
d) Are t he nature of work of Mr. Faisal and Mr. Samad performing similar roles? Analyze it in t he context of executive branch of Bangladesh.

Short Questions:

1. Why is all the government actions carried out in the name of the President?
2. Why the Prime Minister is called the pillar of the government?
3. Why is a quorum required in the legislature?
4. Why is the electoral power required for the National Parliament?

Chapter Seven

Political Parties and Election System in Democracy

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

By the end of 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, authority power and proceedings of the Bangladesh election commission.

Political party

A political party is that part of a country's populace that is organized to resolve the national problems based on an ideology or some principles or programs. The main goal of a political party is to run the country according to its policies and ideals and to implement election commitments. A political party works in the interests of everyone irrespective of all religions, races, men, women, classes and professions. One of the characteristics of a democratic system is the presence of 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. For example, in Uganda in the African continent, all political parties were banned until 2005.

Characteristics of a political party

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

Forming Goverment: The main goal of a political party is to form a government by constitutionally gaining power.

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

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

Election-related activities: Election plays a pivotal role in a modern political system and in a democratic or autocratic government system. The importance of election in a democratic government system is more than that in an authoritarian government system. During all these elections, the party and its workers carry out various activities like preparing for the election, nominating candidates, designing and planning the party program in an election, election campaign and collecting votes.

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 at the central level, there is leadership at the local level.A local level leader can also become a central level leader through his/her service, dedication for the people and commitment to the party. The Prime Minister of the Bangladesh government is the leader of his/her party. The politi-cal party and the people work to create leaders.

Formation of government: The primary 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 opinions: One of the functions of a political party is to create public opinions in favour of its ideals and programs. In making this public opinion, a political party adopts programs like 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 programs and criticize the programs of other parties. People come to know many issues related to the running of the state from the opinions, discussions, etc. The ordinary 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 and take decision not aligned with public then the main task of the opposition would be to point out the government's mistakes through constructive criticism.

Establishment of social unity: There are people of different religions, races, and classes in a society. 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 to go to power. A party, after assuming power, adopts a policy to implement its program. Social unity depends on the implementation of this policy.

Individual task: Prepare a list of the activities of a political party that create hope in the minds of the people.

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 a multi-party system in Bangladesh. Presently, there are many political parties in Bangladesh. Noteworthy among these are Bangladesh Awami League, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Jatiya Party (JP), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Bangladesh Jamaat- E- Islami. A brief profile of these political parties is given below.

Bangladesh Awami League

Bangladesh Awami League is one of the major and old political parties in the country. On 23 June, 1949 the party was founded as Awami Muslim League in Dhaka. Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani was the founder president of this party. Later, in 1955 the word ‘Muslim’ was removed from the name of the party. The basic principles of Awami League are Bengali nationalism, democracy, secularism and the construction of a society free from exploitation.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP)

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is one of the largest political parties in Bangladesh. Valliant freedom fighter President Ziaur Rahman formed Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on September 01, 1978. The ideals or principles of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party are - belief in Islamic values, Bangladeshi nationalism, democracy and free market economy.

Jatiya Party:

This Party was founded on 1st January 1986 under the leadership of Lt. General Hossain Mohammad Ershad. In the written Jatiya party ideologies are adopted, they are: Independence and sovereignty, Islamic Ideals and freedom of all religions, Bangladeshi Nationalism, Democracy and Social progress, that is, economic emancipation.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami is a religious political party.On August 26, 1941, under the leadership of Moulana Abul A'la Moududi this party was founded in British India. Its name was Jamaat-e-Islami Hind at that time. After the establishment of Pakistan, it became Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan.During the Bangladesh Liberation war, the party worked in favor of preaserving the unity of Pakistan.

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 Bangldesh (CPB)

The communist Party in undevided India, and leter Communist Party of East Pakistan formed on march 6, 1948, eventually lead to the emergence of the Communist Party of Bangladesh after independence. This party is known as Marxist-Leninst Communist Party. Comrade Moni Singh (died in 1990) was the founding leader of the Communist Party

Political Parties for the Development of Democracy

Democracy means the participation of many political parties. The importance of a political party in the success of democracy is unlimited. This is because public opinion is well-organized by a political party and it 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 the opportunity to share their opinions and be tolerant of others' opinions when taking a party decision. A political party launches a movement to set up a democratic government by removing a government that works against the public interest. The protest against such governments is withnessed in many countries across the world.

In a democratic system, power is transferred after completion of a fixed term. The 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 Task: Students will highlight the role of political parties in a democratic system through a chart.

Election:

The election is the method of selecting people's representatives. All citizens with voting rights choose representatives from local to national levels. The process of choosing representatives is called an election. Those who cast votes are called electors or voters. A number of voters collectively are called the 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 systems.

In a democratic system, the importance of elections is very high. Through the election, the voters elect a deserving candidate from a list of candidates. The party which gets maximum 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. Generally, if a party, when elected, does not work properly for the people, then in the next election, the people do not elect that party anymore. This is true in a developed democratic country, so it is true too in underdeveloped countries. For example, in the UK, the USA, and Germany, the power is transferred from one party to another through the election system.

Types of Elections

Elections are of two types. They are - direct election and indirect election.

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

Indirect election: People elect a public representative or an electoral college through votes. When these public representatives elect the president or members of the reserved seats in parliament, it is called an 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 : Why are the selectors important in democratic system. Give some reasons.

Voting System

The voting method implies how a candidate is selected through voting. Presently, there are two methods of casting votes: (A) the Open ballot method (B) the 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 hands to show their support. On the other hand, in the secret ballot method, the voters either put a tick mark or 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 for the candidate of his choice. The competing candidate who gets the highest number of votes is elected.

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

Election Commission

An effective election system is a pre-condition to building a democratic institution.An excellent and neutral election system is the safeguard for democracy.The responsibility of holding this credible and impartial election lies in the hands of the election commission.

Formation

The election commission is formed according to the Bangladesh constitution. It is a constitutionally created institution.The election commission is forced included 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 tenure of the chief election commissioner and the other commissioners is five years from their assuming responsibility. The government and other authorities must 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 secretariat to carry out its work. The independence and neutrality of the election commission are necessary for holding a reasonable and impartial election and for forming parliament with the elected representatives. The election commission is dependent on the government for its workforce and financial power. That is why for staffing and financial decision independence of the election commission is necessary.

Reponsibilities and Functions

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, the election commission must select the nomination papers of the candidates in the election, make policies

related to parties and election-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. The Parliament members are elected through the direct votes of the people. A constituency is determined based on its geographical size and number of voters. In addition to the geographical area based on 300 seats, there are 50 more reserved seats in the Bangladesh parliament. These seats are reserved for women. The 300 directly elected parliament members indirectly elect them.

Group work: 'The role of the election commission is key to holding a fair and impartial election'– Arrange a class debate on this motion.

Sample Qustion

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. How many commissioners are there in the Election Commission?
   a) Two **b)** Four
   c) Five **d)** Six

2. R ole of Political Parties in the Development of Democracy:
i. Builds harmony with the people
ii. Establishes voting rights
iii. Protects the interests of the l eaders

Which of the following is correct?
   a) i & ii **b)** ii & iii
   c) i & iii **d)** i, i i & iii

Read the following stem and answer questions no. **3** & **4**:

Shafique and his friend Rafique joined a political party named _A' and began participating in various party activities. Local leaders advised Shafique on how to maintain contact with the people and how to solve various problems.While working for the party; Shafique began to play an important role in solving various problems of the people of the area.
On the other hand, Rafique began encouraging various educational institutions to implement the political programs of party _A'. He organized rallies and carried out various activities in neighborhoods to promote the programs of party _A' among students.

3. Which role of a political party is evident from Shafique‘s activities?

a) Political education **b)** Public opinion formation

c) Leadership development **d)** Establishing social unity

4. A s a result of Rafique's activities—

i. people will become politically aware.

ii. the opposition party will correct government flaws.

iii. people will b e able to p articipate in the g overnance of the state.

Which of the following is correct?

a) i & ii **b)** ii & iii

c) i & iii **d)** i, ii & iii

Creative Questions:

Scenario-1

The people of Rupnagar village discussed among themselves and formed an association called Srijani.‘ They elected a president and other members through elections to run the association.

Scenario-2

The people of Manpur area formed a club called Udayan.‘ To run the club, they first formed a committee through elections. Then, a president was elected by the members of the committee.

a) What is an election?

b) Why is ―One person, one vote‖ a universally accepted method?

c) Which election method from your textbook was followed in forming the committee of Srijani‘ a ssociation in Scenerio-1? E xplain.

d) Identify the election method followed in forming the committee of the Udayan‘ club as described in your textbook and make a comparative discussion with the election system of Bangladesh.

Short Questions:

1. Why are political parties necessary in a democracy?

2. W hy is the role of political parties important in establishing social unity?

3. ― Fair election is one of the key conditions of democratic governance.‖ Explain.

Chapter Eight

Local Government System in Bangladesh

Local government system developed alongside the central administration to solve local problems at the grassroots level in addition to running the state's governance properly. Bangladesh has a well-defined the local government system. Through local government system, people get the opportunity to directly participate in the state governance. That is why the local government is an indispensable part of the democratic system. This chapter focuses on the structure, scope and functions of the local government system.

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

- describe the structure, authority and functions of local government system
- explain the interrelationships between different stages of local government system
- explain the importance of local government in the development of citizenship
- describe the importance of local government in providing civic facilities

Local Government

Local government refers to dividing the state into different regions and conducting administration and execute measures within those regions under the central or provincial government. Since it is not possible for the central government to execute all the duties of the state singlehandedly, particular duties and powers are delegated to the local government in order to relieve the workload of the central government. Based on the relationship with the central or federal government, local governments can be of two types: a) local government or local non-representative government and b) local self or autonomous government. The first one is called single units of the administration. This type of local government is run by the officials of the central government and their main responsibility is to implement the instructions of the central government. On the other hand, local self-government is administered by representatives elected by the local people. Thus the local self-government system is understood as formed by the elected representatives empowered by law in order to meet the local needs of smaller regions. Created by law, this type of government is accountable to people and after expiration of its term new representatives are elected for this government. In our country, Union Council, Upazilla/Thana Parishad

(Sub-district Council), District Council, Pourashava (Municipalities) and City Corporation are examples of local self-government.

Importance of Local Government

British political philosopher John Stuart mill opined that local government paves the way for the local people to participate in government and political activities, thus making them conscious about these matters. Local government provides different kinds of services to the citizens at the local level. It is not possible for the central administrators to protect the interest of the local people, solve their problems, and have clear conception about local development. In these regards they have to rely on the local government. By providing information to the central government related to these matters, local government helps central government to make policies and implement development work.

Nature of Local Government System in Bangladesh

Local government in Bangladesh has a long history. Beginning from the Mughal period till the British rule, the structure of local government took shape through a variety of legal reforms. During the Pakistan period, its structure remained unchanged. After the emergence of independent Bangladesh, everything in a new state was required to be furnished anew. In the Constitution of 1972 special importance was laid upon forming local government.

At present a three-tier local government exists in Bangladesh. These are: Union Parishad, Upazilla Parishad and Zilla Parishad. Apart from these, there are Pourashavas in the towns, City Corporation in big cities, Chattogram Hill Tracts Regional Parishad and three Hill District Parishad (Khagrachari, Bandarban and Rangamati). Of the above-mentioned three-tier local government, Union Parishad is deemed to be the most effective form of local government at the base lavel.

Union Parishad and Upazilla Parishad are close to the villages. In the cities, there are Paurashavas, Zilla Parishads and City Corporations. Besides, a special form of local government exists in hilly areas.

Local Government in Bangladesh

Village based Local Government	City based Local Government	Under the Ministry of Chattogram Hill Tracts
Upazilla Parishad (492)	Zilla Parishad (61)	Chattogram Hill Tracts Regional Parishad
Union Parishad (4554)	City Corporation (12)	1. Bandarban Hill District Parishad
	Pauroshova (330)	2. Rangamati Hill District Parishad
		3. Khagrachari Hill District Parishad

Union Parishad /Council Structure

Union Parishad consists of 10-15 villages. Each Union is divided into 9 Wards. Union Parishad has one elected chairman and twelve members including nine elected members from nine wards and three elected women representatives (reserved seats).

In every local government of Bangladesh emphasis is given on the representation of women. One woman member for three wards is elected through direct polls. The tenure of Union Parishad is 5 years. But before the end of the tenure chairman or any member of the Parishad can be removed by two-thirds votes of no-confidence of the members. In Bangladesh, there are 4578 Union Parishads.

Functions

Union Parishad Ordinance assigns 39 functions that can be undertaken by the Union Parishad. Union Parishad plays an important role in solving problems in the village, in enhancing mass awareness and in creating responsible leadership. Some important functions of Union Parishad are as follows:

1. preparing five-year plans and other term based plans
2. developing, sustaining and maintaining village infrastructures
3. undertaking activities relating to primary and mass education
4. implementing tasks relating to health and family planning

5. taking necessary measures for financial development in the fields of agriculture, fisheries and livestock
6. taking necessary steps in controlling pandemic and disaster management
7. determining and collecting different types of taxes, fees and tolls
8. taking necessary steps for resolving family conflicts and ensuring the welfare of women and children
9. taking initiative and assisting in sports, social development and culture
10. taking necessary measures for the improvement and sustenance of the environment
11. fulfilling responsibilities delegated by the government and taking necessary steps to maintain law and order situation
12. registering birth and death of local people

Sources of Income

Union Parishad funds are generated mainly from three sources:

a) Revenue income
b) Government grants
c) Other sources

a) Revenue Income

1. taxes or union rate imposed by appropriate scheme on the annual value of buildings and lands
2. approved building-plan fee at fixed rate on the basis of total area of building
3. taxes levied on profession, business and calling
4. taxes on cinema, drama, theatre and other recreational activities
5. fees on licence and permit
6. fees or lease money from markets and ferry stations inside union boundary
7. Fraction of money fixed by the government on the handover of water-bodies inside the boundary of the Union
8. Fraction of money fixed by the government on the income of stone-bodies (pathormahal) and sand-bodies (balumahal) inside the boundary of the Union
9. taxes on handover of immovable properties
10. birth registration fees

11. death registration fees
12. marriage registration fees
13. taxes on land development
14. taxes on advertisements
15. taxes and fees under any laws of the Union Parishad Act

b) Government Grant

Salaries and allowances for the employees, allowances for the development sector, lump-sum grants

c) Other Sources

Other sources include subscriptions by people or institutions, profit or rent from properties, funds gained from other sources fixed by the government

Group Work: 1. Prepare a list of city based and village based local governments
2. Make a list of the sources of union parishad's income

Upazilla Parishad

Upazilla or Thana is an important administrative tier in our country.

Structure

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

Chairmen of Union Parishads and Pourashavas (if any) will assume its ex-officio membership. Elected women representatives of the Union Parishad and Pourashavas (if any) will elect three women members from their cohort. Upazilla Executive Officer will act as secretary to the Parishad. The tenure of the Parishad is 5 years. At present, there are 495 upazillas in Bangladesh.

Functions

The Upazilla Parishad has been assigned 18 functions to perform:

1. to adopt development plans of various terms
2. to build, repair and maintain the inter-union connecting roads for the development of communication and infrastructure
3. to ensure the proper use of water and implement small irrigation projects according to the directions of the government
4. to ensure public health, nutrition and family planning services
5. to ensure the supply of safe drinking water and the development of sewerage
6. a) to inspire and to help the spread of education in the upazilla level
   b) to supervise the activities of secondary and Madrasa education and provide help for their quality development
7. to take measures for the establishment and flourish of cottage and small industries
8. to assist the co-operatives and non-government voluntary organizations and co-ordinate their activities
9. to review the activities of the police department along with improving the law and order situation of the upazilla and to send reports to the higher authority
10. to co-ordinate and examine the development work of the union parishad and provide necessary assistance

Sources of Income

Upazilla Parishad has basically three sources of income. These are: tax, fees and tolls fixed by the Upazilla Parishad, government allocations and funds received from other sources.

Individual Task: Prepare a list of differences between the formation of Union Parishad and Upzilla Parishad

Zilla Parishad

Although Zilla Parishad had been in existence as a local government in various forms from the period of the British Colonial rule, it did not exist for approximately one decade since its abolition in 1991. After the revival of Zilla Parishad Act in 2000, initiatives were taken to form Zilla Parishad in all the districts of the country. The tenure of Zilla Parishad is 5 years.

Structure

Zilla Parishad consists of one chairman, fifteen members and five women representatives in reserved seats. According to the law, the member of parliament of a Zilla (district) acts as an advisor of that Zilla Parishad. The law prohibits the members of parliament, chairmen or members of local government organizations from becoming candidate for chairman or member posts in the Zilla Parishad elections.

According to the law, the chairman and members of a Zilla Parishad are elected by the mayor and commissioners of the city corporation (if any) inside that zilla, by the chairmen and vice-chairmen of upazilla parishads, by the mayors and commissioners of pourashavas, and by the chairmen and members of the union parishad under that zilla. Thus the representatives of the Zilla Parishad are elected by indirect polls. In 2016, for the first time in history, Zilla Parishad was formed through elections.

Functions

Under the Act of 2000, the Zilla Parishad is vested with 12 compulsory and 16 optional functions. Planning and development, development of industries and commerce, hospitals, family clinics and development of educational institutions are some of the functions of Zilla Parishad. It also constructs and maintains inter-district roads, supervises police activities and helps them maintain law and order. Moreover, it gives recommendations regarding the control of terrorism and supervises upazilla activities. Zilla Parishad prepares 5 year-long development plans and send it through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to the Planning Commission for approval.

Sources of Income

Under the Zilla Parishad Act 1998, Zilla Parishad receives funds from taxes, tolls, fees, income or profit from property, grants from individual, government and other institutions, profit from investments and money received from other sources. Apart from these sources, Zilla Parishad gets 1% of land transfer fees and 5% of land tax. In addition, Zilla Parishad receives extended lease money from markets, ferry stations and water-bodies.

Pourashava

As the villages have union parishads, so the cities have pourashavas. At present there are 330 pourashavas in Bangladesh.

Structure

According to Local Government (Pourashava) Act 2009, a Pourashava consists of at least 9 wards. But the number of wards may be higher in line with the area and population of the wards. The Ministry of Local Government takes decision in this regard. According to law, one mayor, one counselor from each ward, and one woman member from every 3 wards are elected through direct votes of the people.

Tenure

Pourashavas have 5 year-long tenure. After formation, the tenure of Pourashava is five years from the date of the first meeting. Although according to the law, the previous mayors and counselors of the Pourashava can continue their tenure until the first meeting of the newly elected representatives is held.

Functions

Pourashava performs the responsibilities regarding the solution of problems of the local people and implement development works. In discharging these duties, Pourashava has to do a lot of work. Some of its notable works are as follows:

1. Pourashava establishes educational institutions and provides them grants. It builds hostels and provides scholarships to the poor and meritorious students. In addition, it sets up adult education centres, night schools and libraries, etc.

2. Pourashava performs public healthcare related activities. It builds roads, ponds and dustbins for preserving public health. It manages treatment for epidemic and infectious diseases. It builds and takes necessary steps to run hospitals, maternity clinics, children's homes and family planning centres.

3. Pourashava builds and maintains grave-yards for the burial of the dead and crematorium for cremation. It builds orphanages and shelters for the orphans and the destitute.

4. Pourashava takes steps for the supply of drinking water to people and also constructs drainage system.

5. Pourashava employs night guards for protecting life and property. It takes actions to control dangerous games and professions.

6. Pourashava plants trees on the roadside and preserves forests in order to beautify and improve the local environment. It builds and preserves parks, auditoriums and gardens for people's entertainment. It also preserves open spaces.

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7. Pourashava arranges for the raising and treatment of poultry and cattle, sets up animal farms and also arranges for selling and registration of animals. It also captures and kills dangerous animals and removes dead bodies of animals.
8. It takes necessary steps to stop selling adulterated and stale foods. It also imposes restrictions on the sale of drugs and alcohols. Similar restrictions are imposed on the making, selling, buying and supply of harmful drugs and foods. It punishes those who violate these restrictions.
9. It permits the building of structures for the development of well-planned cities. It destroys unapproved and illegal structures.
10. It adopts and implements plans for building well-planed cities and also for preserving balanced environment.
11. It controls the plying of vehicles and provides licence for vehicles.
12. It provides assistance, necessary service and relief to the affected people during natural disasters.
13. It takes actions against those who break laws to maintain a peaceful environment.
14. It can adjudicate the civil and criminal cases worth 5000 tk. maximum. For this a court is set up consisting of a mayor and four counsellors.

Sources of Income

Pouroshava maintains its expenditure by the money received from different sources. These are: taxes imposed on households and shops, on various services like electricity, water and matters of entertainment. In addition, it earns money from market rents, by leasing ferry stations and hat-bazars, from licence-permit, transport registration fees and government allocations.

City Corporation

City Corporations have been established in some cities of Bangladesh. There are 12 City Corporations in Bangladesh. These are: Two City Corporations in Dhaka (Dhaka North and Dhaka South) and Chattogram, Rajshahi, Khulna, Sylhet, Barishal, Rangpur, Narayanganj, Cumilla, Gazipur, Mymensingh City Corporations.

Structure

Each City Corporation is divided into a definite number of wards. The number of wards is fixed by the government. The mayor of City Corporation, one counselor from each ward, and one woman member from every three wards are elected through direct votes of the people. Although women can contest for general seats apart from contesting for

reserved seats. The City Corporation is deemed to have formed if elections are held for 75% counselor posts including the mayor post and after gazettes have been published having their names. The mayor is regarded a counselor of the City Corporation. The tenure of City Corporation is 5 years.

Functions

City Corporation performs many important tasks including the maintenance of peace in city areas, solving various problems and implementing development works. These are discussed below.

1. City corporation builds and maintains roads in the city. It issues licence for vehicles except cars, buses and trucks. It also regulates the traffic on roads and streets.
2. For the protection of public health, City Corporation cleans drains, roads and residential areas to keep them tidy. It also builds healthy public toilets, wash-rooms, dustbins and dumpsters. Besides, it builds and runs hospitals, maternity clinics, children's homes, and family planning centres.
3. It takes steps for the supply of drinking water to people by sinking tube-wells and wells and also builds drainage system.
4. It takes measures to stop selling and supply of adulterated and stale foods. It also regulates the supply of food and drinks. It issues licence for producing and importing foods and beverage.
5. It sets up vaterinary medical centres in metropolitan areas for livestock and poultry. In addition, it makes registration of animals, captures and kills dangerous animals and removes dead animals. It also establishes poultry farms.
6. It helps the poor in metropolitan areas and establishes centres for public welfare and orphanage. It takes necessary steps to prevent begging, prostitution, gambling, drug addiction and anti-social activities.
7. City Corporation supports and rehabilitates the victims of natural disasters.
8. It sets up adult education centres and night schools in metropolitan areas. In addition, to spread education, it establishes new educational institutions, provides grants to educational institutions, builds hostels, provides scholarships, sets up and runs libraries.
9. It builds auditoriums, art galleries, information centres, museums, open stages for cultural development.
10. In order to improve the environment and enhance the beauty of metropolitan areas, City Corporation plants and preserves trees on the roadside and in open areas. It also preserves forests. It developeds and maintains park's for people's entertainment at leisure time.

11. City Corporation gives permission to build houses in metropolitan areas. It destroys unapproved structures and evicts illegal occupants.
12. It conducts birth and death registration.
13. In order to keep peace in metropolitan areas, City Corporation conducts small trials. It employs peacekeepers to maintain peace and to resolve disputes. It also takes necessary measures to stop burglary, robbery, hijacking and terrorism.
14. On the whole, City Corporation adopts and implements plans for the overall development of metropolitan areas.

Sources of Funds

a. Taxes imposed by City Corporation of any sorts such as tax, sub-tax, toll, fee, etc ;
b. Income or profit received from all kinds of properties belonging to the City Corporation ;
c. Grants from the government or any other authority ;
d. Donation by any local institution, individual or authority ;
e. Income received from trusts belonging to the Corporation ;
f. Profit received from investments by the Corporation ;
g. Money received from other sources ;
h. Money received from fines by law etc.

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

Special Local Government System in the Chattogram Hill Tracts

The special local government in the Chattogram Hill Tracts was formed according to the peace treaty signed on 2 December, 1997.

Hill District Parishad

Smaller ethnic groups live in the Chattogram Hill Tracts. In addition, the mainstream Bengalis also live there. There are different types of problems in this region which call for different solutions. Besides, a special system of development is needed here as nature and lifestyle of this region are different. For these reasons, three special Hill District Parishads have been established in the hilly districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban. The tenure of the Parishads was 3 years in the past. At present it has been extended up to 5 years.

Structure and Nature

Each district Parishad comprises of 34 representatives including 1 chairman, 30 general members and 3 female members. All are directly elected by the people. Both Bengalis and Paharis are members of the Parishad. The number is determined according to the proportion of the population. Apart from seats for female members, reserved seats for the Paharis are distributed among smaller ethnic groups. Of the 3 female members, 2 would come from smaller ethnic groups. Although the seats of membership are divided between the two communities, voting rights are equal. Apart from the reserved seats for women, women can contest in other seats. A government employee acts as secretary to the Parishad. The tenure of the Parishad is 5 years.

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

Functions

The functions of the Hilly District Parishad are as follows:

1. to preserve, supervise and develop law and order and police forces in the district
2. to assist in coordinating and implementing the development work of the local authorities in the district
3. to spread and develop education and create necessary opportunities
4. to implement health care, public health development and family planning programmes
5. to preserve and develop agriculture and forestry
6. to develop animal husbandry and fisheries
7. to encourage co-operative movement
8. to spread local industries, trade and commerce
9. to help flourish shelters for orphans and the destitute and to do other social welfare activities
10. to preserve and develop the culture of smaller ethnic groups and also to develop local sports and arrange sports tournaments
11. to develop the communication system in the region
12. to develop water supply system and irrigation
13. to do land management

14. to protect and develop the environment

15. to develop local tourism

16. to settle disputes among the Paharis according to their tradition and customs

Sources of Income

Sources of income of the Parishad include:

a. Partial amount of imposed taxes on the transfer of immovable properties

b. Holding tax on land and buildings

c. Tolls on roads, bridges and ferries

d. Registration fees for vehicles

e. Tax on purchase and sale of commodities

f. Holding tax on industries

g. Fees on social adjudication

h. Tax on lottery

i. Tax on entertainment activities

j. Part of royalty on forest resources

k. Part of royalty received from permits issued by the government in order to extract mineral resources

l. Any sorts of tax imposed by the Parishad empowered by the government

Chattogram Hill Tracts Regional Parishad

To co-ordinate the activities of the three hill districts parishads, a Regional Parishad has come into existence covering the whole region

Structure

The Regional Parishad is to be formed comprising 25 members including a chairman, 12 members from ethnic groups, 6 members from outside the ethnic groups or from Bengalis, 2 female members from ethnic groups, 1 female member from outside the ethnic groups or from Bengalis and the 3 chairmen from the three hill district parishads. The chairman must be from an ethnic group and will have the status of a state minister. Among the 12 members from the ethnic groups there will be 5 from Chakma, 3 from Marma, 2 from Tripura, 1 from Murong or Tonchainga, and 1 from either Lusai, Bom, Pankho, Khumi, Chok, Khiang ethnic groups. Of the 6 members from outside the

ethnic groups there will be 2 from each hill district. Of the 2 female members of ethnic groups, 1 will be from the Chakma group and the other from the rest of the ethnic groups. The female Bengali member will be from any of the three hill districts. Except the chairmen of 3 hill district parishads, the chairman and all other members of the Regional Parishad will be elected by the members of the district parishads indirectly. The chairmen of the three hill tracts districts will be ex-officio members of this Parishad and they will have voting rights. A government official will act as an executive officer of the Parishad. The tenure of the Parishad will be 5 years.

Functions

The functions of the Chattogram Hill Tracts Regional Parishad are as follows:

1. Coordinating all the development projects of the three hill district parishads and supervising all activities vested in them
2. Supervising the local parishads including the pourashavas and coordinating their activities
3. Supervising the Chattogram Hill Tracts Development Board
4. Supervising and coordinating the general administration, law and order and development of hill districts
5. Supervising and upholding the traditions, customs and social judgments of small ethnic groups
6. Approving licences to establish heavy industry in the region in accordance with the national industry policy
7. Operating disaster management and relief programs and coordinating the activities of the NGOs.

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 parishads, the amount of which will be determined by the government from time to time
b. Profit from all assets of the Parishad or from the assets granted to them
c. Loan from the government or other authorities

d. Donation from any individual or organization

e. Profit from investment by the Parishad

f. Any money acquired by the Parishad

g. Money from other sources of income vested in the Parishad by the government

Relation of Goverment with Hill District Parishad and Regional Parishad

According to the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, hill district councils/parishads and regional council/parishad have been formed as special arrangements. Both parishads are given specific powers and authorities according to law. For example, no land, hill or forest controlled by the zilla parishad can be taken or transferred by the government without discussing with the parishad and without its consent. About issues relating to law-making, it is stated that if the government takes to create or amend a law regarding the parishad or Chattogram Hill Tracts, it has to be done after discussing with and taking consent from parishad. District parishads and regional parishad can make laws in accordance with the laws and provisions of the country. However, it is the prerogative of the government to make any laws. On the other hand, if it is necessary the government can direct the activities of the zilla parishads and even dissolve the regional parishad through gazette notification.

Local Government in the Development of Citizenship

From the period of the British rule there has been a relation between the urban and rural citizens of Bangladesh with the local government. The local government has been playing an important role in developing citizenship which is discussed below:

1. Local government in providing citizen services: All sorts of people contact the office of the local government for various needs. For example, students have to go to the union parishad office to get their father's income certificate attested and to get birth registration certificate. Union parishads, pourashavas and city corporations publish statements of guaranteed service, which is called 'Citizen Charter'.

To make citizen service available to people, e-service is provided through the local governments. The local people get various services from the digital centres set up by the local government such as getting certificates and paying bills and other public services. This new addition to the local government is a groundbreaking event.

2. Participation of people in local administration: In villages the local government connects the rural people with the government. Through the union parishads the people participate in budget preparation, planning and project implementation at the local level. Besides, the citizens are associated with fixation and collection of taxes.

3. Settling disputes: Union parishad court has been established and commissioned by the government to settle down small disputes easily and quickly. This court, formed under the jurisdiction of union parishad is named 'village court'. According to law, a village court is formed with 5 persons including the chairman of the union parishad and two members of the disputing groups. The court is formed under the jurisdiction of the union parishad in which the crime has been committed or the dispute has arisen. According to law, the village court can fine a person up to 75 thousand taka. But the village court has no jurisdiction to give punishment. Since there is scope for resolving small disputes without the help of attorneys through village courts, it does not incur any cost. So the rural people can resolve disputes easily without going to town.

Case-1: Abul Kalam and his nephew of Dhonia union, ward no 4 gets into a dispute over land and the dispute continues for a few years. The dispute is solved through village court. If Abul Kalam had gone to town, it would have cost him plenty of time and money. Abul Kalam was relieved of this hassle.
Pair Work: Explain the role of village court in settling Abul Kalam's land dispute.

4. Women's empowerment: Half of the total population of Bangladesh are women. No society can progress keeping half of it deprived of rights. That is why the present world is giving priority to women's empowerment. Women's empowerment denotes the ability of women to participate, express opinion and take decisions in the matters of family, society and the nation. For women's empowerment it is necessary to equalize the rights of men and women in all spheres: economic, political, social, and cultural. Realizing its importance, the United Nations published the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 and took some steps to develop the status of women. In 1951, the International Labour Organization (ILO) declared equal wages for equal work for both men and women. In 1952 it declared the political rights of women, enabling them to vote and contest in elections. The charter for the removal of discrimination in employment and occupations was declared in 1960 which was accepted by the General Assembly of the 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 now are able to win elections and influence the decisions of the local government in upazilla parishad, pourashava and city corporations.

It is notable that under the Act of 1997, 13452 female member seats were created in 4498 union parishads. In each union parishad 3 seats have been reserved for women who can be elected by direct polls. Female participation in other spheres of the local government has also been ensured. Thus the road towards the empowerment of women has been made smooth.

5. Establishing the rights of the minority:

At present racial identity or regional or gender based differences are no longer impediments to acquiring citizen rights. In the three districts of Chattogram Hill Tracts, through forming special local governments, the citizen rights of 13 small ethnic groups have been established.

Thus the small ethnic groups of those regions have earned their due status as Bangladeshi citizens through the development of education and other social and cultural activities.

In the 15th amendment of the constitution (July 2011), the dignity of the citizen rights of the hilly people has been strengthened by recognizing their own identity.

6. Developing democratic attitude and leadership:

The citizens enjoy right to franchise in both national and local level. The rate of casting votes in local elections is higher than that in the national elections. Through voting in local government elections the people elect their local representatives. The difference between the representatives in national and local level is that people get more access to the latter. This is because the local representatives stay closer to people. So, the local people can force them to be accountable to them. This is more true in the case of union parishad. Practising voting rights in the local level makes the citizens is instrumental in internalizing democratic values. Thus local leadership develops which later on evolves into national leadership

Sample Question

Multiple choice questions:

1: Which of the following is a task of the City Corporation?

a) Providing safe drinking water
b) Resolving family disputes
c) Maintaining law and order in the district.
d) Developing the local tourism industry

2. Local government….

i. develops democratic spirit
ii. ensures civil rights
iii. punishes criminals

Which of the following is correct?

a) i & ii **b)** ii & iii
c) i & iii **d)** i, ii & iii

Read the following stem and answer questions no. **3** and **4:**
Abdul Hannan is the head of a non-government organization called Shikha.' His organization has earned a widespread recognition in the entire area by constructing permanent sanitary latrines in villages with installment payment facilities. This organization also encourages rural women to establish small cottage industries by providing training.

On the other hand, Mr. Jabbar runs a non-Governmental organization named Shesh Thikana.' This organization helps in the construction of cemeteries and crematoriums in the area. In addition, this organization establishes shelter centers for the homeless, helpless, and distressed people of the society.

3. Which local government institution in Bangladesh is similar to the activities of the Shikha' organization?

a) Union Parishad
b) Upazila Parishad
c) Zila Parishad (District Council)
d) Municipality

4. If the activities of _Shesh Thikana' are conducted by the corresponding tier of local government, then ….

i. people will be ensured access to safe drinking water
ii. planned cities will be developed
iii. the tourism industry will be expanded

Which of the following is correct?

a) i and ii **b)** ii and iii
c) i and iii **d)** i, ii, and iii

Creative questions:
Question-1
Scenario-1:
Abdul Hannan is the head of a non-governmental organization called Chetona.‘ His organization provides various types of technical training and financial assistance to small cooperative societies in the area. Additionally, this organization also contributes to the expansion of the tourism industry by building different types of hotels and resorts.

Scenario-2:
Mr. Jabbar runs a non-governmental organization named Protyasha.‘ When they receive complaints related to family disputes, they resolve the dispute through arbitration. They train the poor and destitute women of the villages to become self reliant. They assist the people in the development and repair of village roads.

Scenario-3:
The organization ‘Pragga‘ works on various issues including improving the quality of education, raising awareness about law and order, and providing health services to the people. The organization organizes health camps in various areas. In these camps, people receive free medical prescriptions and medicine from the doctors.

a) What is local government?
b) Why is local government necessary for leadership development? Explain.
c) Which type of local government system of Bangladesh resembles the activities in your textbook in Scenario-1?
d) Identify the types of local government that have similarities with the activities in Scenario-2 and Scenario-3. Which one plays a greater role in leadership development? Analyze.

Short question:
1. Why is local government needed for public awareness?
2. Why is the Union Parishad useful for developing local leadership?
3. Why is local government needed for women's empowerment? Explain.
4. Why is local government needed to provide public services? Explain.

Chapter Nine

Problems of Citizens and Our Responsibilities

In the previous chapters we discussed the relationship between citizenship and civics, concept of citizenship, qualities of a good citizen, relations between citizens and government and citizens and state. Using these ideas, in this chapter we will discuss various problems in civic life and about their solutions.

After studying this chapter, we would be able to-

- identify the main problems of civic life
- analyze the causes of population problems, its affects and means of solution
- describe the causes of illiteracy, its affects and ways of solution
- explain the causes of food security crisis and its solution
- describe the idea of environmental disasters
- describe the ways of managing environmental disasters
- explain the sources of terrorism, its impact on social life and the ways of eliminating it
- describe the causes of violence against women and the means of redress
- describe the role of citizens in solving civic problems

We all are the citizens of Bangladesh. Irrespective of whether we live in villages or towns, we face various problems as citizens along with enjoying several benefits. Besides, we live in families and societies from birth till death, and this entails quite a few family-related and social problems. Such problems and means of their solutions are discussed below.

1. Population problem and its solution

What is population problem?

If the birth rate in a country exceeds its wealth and employment rate, population becomes a problem there. Because, it is not possible to fulfil the requirements of the exceeding population with the limited wealth of the country. At present population problem is one of the main problems for Bangladesh and other countries of the world. Although in some countries it is not deemed a problem for various economic and social reasons. That is why it is said that only population increase is not responsible for all problems everywhere.

Aspects of population problem in Bangladesh

Bangladesh is the 8th largest country in the world by population and the 5th in Asia. The land area of this country is 1,47,670 square kilometres and the population is near 165 million. Population is much higher than the land area. In Bangladesh 1171 people live in per square kilometre, whereas in China 140 people live in per square kilometre despite it having 1.4 billion people, and in India 362 people live in per square kilometre although its population is 1.2 billion.

According to the census conducted in 2021, the population growth rate in Bangladesh is 1.22 Over population is one of the major problems in the civic life of Bangladesh. Because of limited wealth, it is a big challenge for the government to fulfil the needs of the growing population. In the cities it is not always possible to provide every civic facility to the citizens due to continuous population growth. Because of the lack of adequate employment opportunities in the villages, unemployed people from there are migrating to towns. Besides, to provide housing for the increasing population, settlements have developed in cultivable lands and forests are being destroyed. Rivers, canals and lakes are being filled up. In spite of these problems, Bangladesh is earning a huge amount of foreign exchange by exporting manpower and thus has transformed this problem into a prospect. But this is not yet sufficient compared to the total population.

Causes of population growth in Bangladesh

Influence of climate: Bangladesh is located in the tropical region and so the climate of this country is hot. Due to the impact of hot climate boy and girls become capable of reproduction at an early age. As a result, the rate of population growth is high here.

Child marriage and polygamy: In our country marriage is considered a religious and social obligation. Apart from this sense of duty, other economic and social causes are responsible for child marriage. Due to getting married at an early age the number of children is increasing. Moreover, in some cases men have multiple marriages. Especially it is a common trend in low-income families. In this way population of Bangladesh is rapidly increasing due to child marriage and polygamy.

Poverty and socio-economic security: Generally, because of lack of consciousness and willing to increase income, poor people give birth to more children. Besides, some people think that a male child would be able to provide economic and social security to his old parents. For more security, they want more than one male child. Thus population increases.

Lack of Education: Because of lack of education, many people of our country have several children without thinking about how they would provide them food and clothing, education, medical treatment and lodging. So, population is increasing rapidly.

Social point of view: Marriage in our country is considered essential for social status and adisciplined life. Especially, there is a tendency to marry off female child at an early age considering her social security. It has a tremendous effect on population increases. Most of the parents of our country become worried that if their children remain unmarried when they are adult, they might get involved in immoral activities and social crime. This anxiety and the possibility of being dishonoured in the eyes of society compels them to marry their children off at an early age and thus avoid danger. In his way population is increasing rapidly.

Lack of awareness: People in our country are not conscious that small family is a happy family. Moreover, there is a lack of family planning facilities and people are not aware about its benefits. This is also a cause of population growth.

Ways of Solving Population Problem: Government and Non-government initiatives

Due to the rapid increase of population, various problems has arisen in Bangladesh. If this population is not converted into manpower, Bangladesh may face a lot of economic, social and political problems. To solve the population problem, following measures might be taken.

Redistribution of population: The density of population in Bangladesh is not the same in all regions. So, the population has to be realigned by relocating people from high density regions to low density regions. In this way the rate of employment and the standard of living will increase.

Export of manpower: Steps should be taken to send the youth of our country to the Middle East, Far East, Africa and the developed countries of Europe after providing them training on

technology and on various skills. Thus, income from foreign currency will rise and unemployment will be minimized. The government has already taken initiative in this regard.

Increase of employment: To solve the population problem, opportunities for employment should be boosted. The income and standard of living of the people will upsurge with the increase of employment. Besides, if people are provided with jobs and are free from poverty, they will become self-conscious and dutiful.

Spread of education: Education makes people conscious. Educated people strive to upgrade their standard of living. And they also cause a decrease in population growth as they are more inclined to keep their family small.

Economic development: Through agricultural and industrial development, creating developed markets and communication system, the pace of economic growth should be accelerated. Cultivation of high yielding crops and several crops on the same land should be done. By producing raw materials, industries will have to be build. With the raw materials produced in the cottage industry, heavy industries should be established. For easy marketing and selling at fair price of agricultural and industrial products, markets and the communication system should be developed. If all these are done, population will turn into manpower instead of remaining a problem.

Population control and family planning: Population increase should be controlled by lowering the high birth rate. Government should strengthen the family planning activities to make the slogan 'two children is enough whether boy or girl' a reality. The Ministry of Health and Family Planning should employ more field-workers. Family Planning equipment should be made easily available and adequate clinics should be set up to provide population control services. Besides, mass awareness should be created through massive campaigns on birth control and family planning.

Adoption of population policy: In 2004 the government adopted the new population policy by modifying the population policy of 1976. Under this policy the government has undertaken various initiatives and programmes to control population growth. Among them the mentionable are: to decrease birth rate

by increasing the adoption of family planning methods, to arrange educative programmes on family planning, and to make health service relating to it easily available, to provide information, advice and services about birth control to the young people in order to make them conscious, to make the people aware of the benefits of birth control through mass-media, and to help create equality between men and women and ensure women's empowerment. These aspects of the population policy should be implemented.

Motivating the less-privileged in birth control: Through various govt. and non-govt. initiatives for population control, the standard of service should be improved in under-privileged areas and the poor and the destitute should be inspired to control population. The government and non-government physicians and health workers should work together to implement population control schemes.

Individual Work: Identify one of your neighbouring over populated family and find out the nature and impact of their problem.

Our responsibilities in solving population problem as citizens:

It is urgent to control population growth for the social and economic development of Bangladesh. As conscious citizens it is our responsibility to play a role in population control. Firstly, we can ourselves be aware of the evils of population growth and make others aware of the same. Secondly, if there is any illiterate child or person in our neighbouring family, we can motivate him/her to become an asset by providing the opportunity of education. Having more population than resources is a burden not only for the family but also for the nation. But if we can build a skilled manpower by imparting proper education and awareness, it will be an asset for the nation.

Illiteracy is one of the major civic problems in Bangladesh. An illiterate person cannot be of any use for the society and state rather he/she is a burden for society. An illiterate individual is that person who does not have any basic knowledge regarding reading and writing. In 1997 the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education launched the 'Total Literacy Movement'. The said ministry took a political decision to eradicate illiteracy from the country through the 'Total Illiteracy Movement". Apart from this, various programmes to eradicate illiteracy have been going on in the private sector.

Eradicating illiteracy: What is to be done by the government and the citizens

It is not possible for the government singlehandedly to make the illiterate population literate. Every educated person should take up this responsibility. The illiterate should also be keen to become educated. National development would be possible if all people can solve this problem together.

To make the huge population of the country literate, the actions that should be taken by the government and the citizens are discussed below.

Collection of Information

The accurate number and location of the illiterate people have to be ascertained. In this regard, the problems and causes of problems of conventional occupations in various areas and locations should be detected. The government can do this by taking up projects and forming taskforce. The citizens should spontaneously come forward to provide correct information.

Adult Education

The government shall have to take up special programmes for adult education and food for education or it should engage NGOs for this job. In this respect the unemployed educated people might be utilized.

Vocational Education

Usually the illiterate adults are not interested in vocational education. If they are brought inside the scope of vocational education by connecting it with their professions, they will not forget their acquired education and basic literacy so easily.

Providing Loan and Donation for Education

Although the education of the illiterate is not formal, the illiterate would be interested in education if they are provided with scholarships and stipends. It is not possible for the government alone to provide such loans, donations, scholarships and stipends. The educated and the rich have to come forward as well. For the development of the people and the state all should come forward with a spirit of generosity.

Involvement of citizens

For eradicating illiteracy people from all spheres of the society should be motivated to participate in providing study materials and establishing educational institutions. To eradicate illiteracy several NGOs of the country such as Ahsania Mission, BRAC, Swanirvar Bangladesh, Gono Shakkhorata Ovijan, UCEP, etc are operating. A strong foundation for national development will be made if illiteracy is eliminated with the participation of all. Through vocational education literate people will be transformed into manpower.

If there is anyone illiterate in our family, we can personally make them literate. Again, we can set up literacy club along with our friends. We can voluntarily provide education to the poor children. As citizens, our initiative in this regard will play an important role in building the nation.

3. Food Security

What is food security?

Food security refers to availability of food, purchasing capacity and nutrition. Since the staple food of Bangladeshis is grain, specially rice, here food security mainly includes the supply of rice and the stability of its price.

Nature of food insecurity in Bangladesh

A huge number of people of Bangladesh are victim of food-based poverty. They do not have the ability to purchase sufficient food for receiving the required amount of 2,122 kilo calories per head. Besides being short in calories, food of this poor community is not balanced. Food grain is dominant in each of their meals of the day. 80% of calories they take comes from food grains, mainly rice. They take very little fat, oil or protein. Because of consuming this imbalanced food, their immunity decreases and especially children suffer from malnutrition.

Causes of Food Insecurity

Production of insufficient food: In respect of the population, the production of fruit, pulse, oil seed, fish, meat, egg, milk is insufficient in the country. On the other hand, food insecurity arises owing to lack of purchasing power.

Low Income: The per capita income in our country is less than that of most of the other countries. For this reason, they cannot buy their necessary food. Thus food insecurity ensures.

Lack of knowledge of nutrition: A notable portion of the people have a lack of knowledge about nutrition. For this reason, they cannot select proper food for their health.

In recent times the government has taken up a number of initiatives to increase food production. Besides, food grains and other commodities are being imported. Moreover, the government is providing the poor people opportunity to buy food at a lesser price. Especially, the government provides food to poor people during natural calamities. But it is not possible to ensure food security only by giving food relief.

Ways of Gaining Food Security

An appropriate food policy is needed to ensure food security. The primary challenge for the food policy of Bangladesh is to ensure food security by eradicating poverty. Stocking of foods by the government ensures minimum supply of foods during emergency. It is the poor people who mostly suffer if shortage of food occurs due to natural calamities or other reasons. To deal with this crisis, the government adopts social security programmes. 95% expenditure under the social security programmes is done for food distribution. It includes providing relief, education, medical facilities, training on improving income generating skills and building infrastructure. Among the food support programmes of the government, these three are remarkable: Vulnerable Group Development (VGD), Food for Education, and Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF).

To ensure food security, it is important to develop market structure and marketing system along with increasing food production. Because, farmers incur loss if they do not get assistance in food production and marketing. Besides, if farmers are provided loans on easy terms and conditions, they can try to increase food production by utilizing this loan.

Moreover, adulteration of food is a big hindrance towards food security. It is very harmful for health. It has become urgent for the government to control food adulteration by applying conventional laws, or by reforming laws, if necessary.

Group Work: Going to market, Karim finds that the price of rice is high and its supply is not adequate. Identify the causes of these problems and find out the ways of solution.

What we should do as citizens to gain food security

In Bangladesh until the year 2000, 44% people led their life below the absolute poverty line. In 2005 it reduced to 25%. These extremely poor people cannot meet their minimum requirements of food. As citizens we all have some responsibility to gain food security. Learning well about food security, we can take initiatives to ensure it. We can cultivate various crops on empty lands around our homes and thus fulfil the demand of food. Being aware of our food habits personally we can ensure our food security.

4. Environmental Disaster

Our environment is made up of everything around us including rivers, canals, hills, mountains, trees, etc. Sound natural environment is the basis of sustainable development and healthy life. Environmental disasters happen when the activities of human beings harm the natural condition of the environment.

Causes of Environmental Disaster

Human beings grow with the environment surrounding them. Again, it is because of human beings that the environment is polluted in one way or the other. For economic progress through industrial revolution humans are building mills and factories and cutting down trees and forests. For this, the various elements of the environments are getting polluted. The mills and factories in the towns are usually build up surrounding water-bodies. The unprocessed waste from the mills and factories that are thrown into drains are mixing with river water and polluting them. Besides, water is polluted because of the use of fertilizer and insecticides in lands. Due to pollution the river Buriganga in Dhaka is dead. The rivers Shitolakkha, Turag and Balu are going to face similar consequences. The river Karnaphuli of Chattogram is also the victim of

serious pollution. Due to pollution by the cement factories situated by the Dhaleshwari river in Munshiganj, the water, land and air of that area are becoming toxic.

Another example of environmental disaster is deforestation. Wood is used in a large scale as fuel in brick fields and household kitchens, in construction, in making doors, windows and furniture for houses. For sustaining the ecological balance of the country, 25% of its total area has to be forests. But in our country forests constitute only 17% of total land area.

Harmful Aspects

Due to reduction of forests, occupying and polluting the water-bodies, the biological diversity of the country has reduced at alarming rate. The local varieties of crops, fish, flora and fauna are facing the threat of extinction. Although under pressure from the environment campaigners the government has banned the use of polythene bags, it is not always followed. Moreover, use of plastic for the packaging of various commodities is gradually increasing. As a result, in towns and even in villages the amount of plastic and non-decomposable organic materials is increasing. Due to the increasing usage of disposable materials after one-time use, the amount of clinical waste is increasing rapidly and many toxic and radioactive elements remain in those waste. For want of proper and separate removal system, these waste materials are getting mixed with general refuge and poisoning the environment.

On the other hand, climate change has become a big threat for the existence of Bangladesh. Climate change is affecting Bangladesh in various ways and will continue to do so. Among these the most noteworthy are the increase of salinity due to rising of sea level, extreme flow of river currents, rise of natural disasters, and spread of diseases and epidemics. Because of the density of population, these effects of climate change are increasing the possibility of crores of people to become homeless and jobless. This may create environmental disasters in Bangladesh. For this reason, from long term perspective, climate change has become the greatest challenge for Bangladesh. We all should be conscious to deal with this challenge.

Government and non-government efforts to deal with environmental disasters

In fact, it is mandatory to protect the environment in order to develop Bangladesh. Due to over population, the number of people affected by environment pollutions has increased a lot. These

problems have taken a serious turn because of the small land area and high density of population in Bangladesh. To get rid of this terrible situation, the following measures are needed to be taken.

- to lay off mills and factories that have been set up in an unplanned way
- not to permit establishment of mills and factories in residential areas
- to identify the industries responsible for highest pollution and declare them closed
- to arrange necessary education and training for industry-workers
- not to dump garbage everywhere
- to gear up tree plantation and inspire everyone in this regard
- to take up extensive social tree plantation programmes and strengthen the movement for tree plantation
- to control cutting of hills
- to prohibit the use of polythene bags and properly implement laws in this regard
- to stop the use of plastic
- to take effective steps to stop burning wood in the brick fields
- to make people aware of the rules of hygiene so that they may become conscious about the adverse effects of environment pollution
- to stop massive use of fertilizers and insecticides and encourage the use of organic fertilizer
- to motivate the people to participate in the movement for preserving the environment
- to form teams of specialists to measure harmful elements and take required actions

What We Should Do as Citizens

We have responsibilities as citizens to protect the environment. We should not cut off trees illegally. We should plant trees on the yards of our houses and on the road sides. We should not use harmful polythene bags, and not dump garbage in drains nearby. We have to mobilize ourselves and make people aware of the evils of environment pollution.

Group Work: Write down the actions you will take to keep the rivers and canals surrounding your house pollution-free, and present them in the class.

5. Terrorism

What is Terrorism?

Terrorism means creating fear by applying force and thus try to fulfil certain objectives. This may be done by miscreants or anti-social persons, or this can happen in the context of state or the whole world. Terrorism has been going on in the society for ages. The main sources of terrorism are mentioned below.

- Adoption of violence in order to attain certain objective
- Conducting violent and extremist activities in the name of preserving the human rights of the deprived
- To attack on the lives and properties of innocent people or to make state establishments target of attack
- Taking up violent methods in spite of having the possibility of legal procedure and peaceful solution

Types of Terrorism

Terrorism committed by criminal groups

Terrorist activities are conducted by organized groups. They have a top leader who remains behind the scenes and employ his thugs for intimidation, extortion and murder. They create fear in the minds of people by various means.

Political Terrorism

Some political parties, organizations or communities do terrorist activities in the name of politics. Some of them are seen to resort to terrorism in the name of religion. Some other parties or organizations carry out terrorist activities in the name of class struggle. At times political parties are seen to do terrorist activities in the name of political programmes.

Ideology based Terrorism

Certain groups can resort to terrorism in order to establish their ideology. In the past, many political murders were committed in the name of killing enemies of the proletariat. Using religion to attain political objective, religious extremist groups kill general people and cause harm to national institutions.

State Terrorism

Making various excuses, state sometimes take resort to terrorist activities in order to oppress certain organizations or people. This is called state terrorism. For example: the state of Israel has been committing various atrocities upon the people of Palestine. This kind of atrocities are seen to be done on the minorities or on different communities inside a state.

Causes of Terrorism: There are two types of causes of terrorism a) General causes b) External causes

General Cause

Economic disparity

Inequitable distribution of wealth in any society causes one class of people to become richer and another class to become poorer. This enrages the deprived. Besides, unemployment is a social disease in our country the negative effect of which is discerned in the capable youth. For this reason, the youth engage themselves in criminal activities in order to build their fortune and to become economically solvent.

Narrow political culture

If the political culture of a country entails using politics to fulfil personal and party interest, it is not unnatural for terrorism to rise in that political culture. Because, the terrorists are nourished for personal interests.

Lack of good governance

It is the responsibility of the law and order enforcing agencies and the administration to find out the criminals and punish them. But sometimes due to administrative weakness and political pressure, the administration plays a silent role. Besides, the law enforcing agencies have structural weakness such as insufficient training, outdated arms, imbalanced ratio of police and people, and the lack of modern security equipment. All these weakens the ability of the law enforcing agencies to restrain terrorism. For these reasons, many weak terrorists are able to show their strength. Besides, due to lack of modern training the existing detective agencies fail to deal with contemporary terrorism.

External reasons

In terrorism, there might be external influences in addition to internal causes. It is assumed that the availability of illegal arms and supply of illegal money work behind terrorism.

Prevention of terrorism and means of remedy

In Bangladesh terrorism is a social disease. It might be prevented as well as cured. In order to eradicate the emergence of terrorism and prevent the terrorists from harming the lives and properties of people, the following measures might be taken.

Application of anti-terrorism laws: To suppress terrorism, anti-terrorism laws must be appropriately applied against the terrorists. If severe punishment is meted out to the terrorists for political or other kinds of terrorist acts, it is hoped that terrorism will be minimized.

Reformation of Police Administration: The police force should be provided with modern arms and equipment and appropriate training in order make them capable of deterring terrorism. The police to population ratio in our country is not satisfactory. Here there is one policeman for every 800 people. This situation should be changed. It is necessary to increase the number of police, police boxes and police stations.

Increasing employment and providing allowance to the unemployed: In the country cottage industries, heavy industries and mills and factories should be established. The vacant posts in all sectors have to be fulfilled and new employment opportunities have to be created. If it is possible to eradicate unemployment, terrorist activities will be reduced. The unemployed should be provided with minimum allowance to survive if it is not possible to provide as much allowance to the unemployed as in the developed countries. Unemployment allowance is an effective social security scheme.

Education for all and awakening of values: Through creating the opportunity for education for all, social and moral values should be aroused in the minds of the citizens. To this end, moral education has to be introduced in schools and in various educational programmes. In this way, we will be able to control and prevent terrorism.

Giving no shelter to terrorists in the political parties: No terrorists should be given shelter in the political parties. If any political party helps or shelters a terrorist, its registration should be cancelled. Laws should be passed in the National Assembly to ban any such political party from participating in the elections.

Administrative rigour: Rigorous administrative measures should be taken to stop terrorism, bribery, corruption, and nepotism. It should be ensured that the police administration and general administration work freely and neutrally.

Mass Awareness: People's conscious resistance can play an active role in suppressing terrorism. If people consciously become vocal against terrorism and become organized, terrorism will reduce to a great extent.

What we should do as citizens: As citizens we should be conscious about terrorism. We have to know about the evil aspects of terrorism. We should take the help of the law enforcing agencies to prevent terrorism. We should conform to the social and religious values.

Individual Task: Identify a terrorist activity recently published in a daily newspaper and write your recommendations for solution.
Group Work: Make a list of ways to prevent terrorism and hang it in the class room.

Violence against Women: Causes and Remedy

What is violence against women?

According to the Beijing Declaration, violence against women refers to such actions or behavior which are directed against women and cause physical or mental harm to them. Besides, it includes threatening to do harm and depriving women of her freedom in personal or social life by applying force. Two cases of violence against women are described below.

Neglecting female children

Case-1: Mina is a student of Economics in Jagannath University. She is meritorious from her childhood. Her one-year older brother reads with her in the same class. After passing HSC, Mina got the chance for admission in Sylhet Medical College and her brother got the chance for admission in Mymensingh Medical College. Mina's father admitted his son in Mymensingh

Medical college but compelled Mina to study in Jagannath University on the ground of high expenses for medical education. Mina's life-long dream of becoming a doctor was shattered due to deprivation from the family.

Dowry

Case-2: Marjina who is a student of class nine lives in a village. His father bears the cost of running his family from the money he gets by selling crops of his paternal land property. In spite of being meritorious in the family of four siblings, Marjina is married off by her father to a grocer. But her husband incurs loss in business due to his lack of attention. After a few days of marriage, Marjina's husband tells her to bring money from her father. After two years he tells that he would go abroad and creates pressure on Marjina to bring two lac taka from her father by selling land property. All the in-laws of Marjina also tell her to bring money. For this reason, antagonism between Marjina and her in-laws continues. One day, Marjina is found dead in her bed room.

Primary reasons for violence against women in Bangladesh

Male's domination over female is going on for ages. Men think that women are helpless and are unable to protect themselves. That is why women's place is confined within family. From the same viewpoint, men neglect to show proper dignity to women as human beings. In Bangladesh, the condition of the educated women is slightly better but on the whole, women are still neglected and oppressed.

Lack of economic freedom

Financial self-dependence makes the status of women strong in the family and society. But in our country most of the women are still dependent on their husband's income. As a result, for shopping for the family or for fulfilling any desire, women have to depend on the decision of their father, brother or husband. Still now, a lot of women fall the victim of oppression for the lack of financial self-dependence.

Lack of Awareness

Most of the families in our country are poor. Women in impoverished families are deprived of education. As a result, they are unaware of their rights. Taking this opportunity, their husbands, relatives even society torture them physically and mentally.

What we should do to prevent violence against women

It is necessary to stop violence against women to improve the condition of women in the society. It is possible by eliminating the causes of violence against women. For this, importance should be given to women's education and employment. Women's empowerment through establishing various rights of women can play an important role in this respect. Moreover, the following measures are important to prevent violence against women.

Strict enforcement of law: To prevent violence against women, strict enforcement of the prevailing laws is necessary. If any weakness exists in the laws, it is the responsibility of the government to amend them and make the laws stronger. The abusers of women should be brought to justice properly.

Raising Awareness:

To raise awareness about violence against women, it is necessary to present discourse against violence on women in family, schools and other social organizations. Through plays, poetry, recitations, songs and discussion meetings, the punishments for the perpetrators of violence against women should be presented. Men and women have to be united and organized in their protest against violence on women.

Legal Aid: In many cases women do not get proper judgment in courts. Especially the poor women cannot go to the court for want of money. So, the state and the non-government organizations should come forward with legal aid for these women.

Group task: Mention your responsibilities as citizens to prevent violence against women and preserve their rights.

Sample Question

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What is t he p osition of Bangladesh among Asian countries in terms of population?

a) Second **b)** Fourth
c) Fifth **d)** Sixth

2. C auses of population growth in Bangladesh are….

i. lack of financial security for parents'
ii. lack of employment for women
iii. lack of administrative efficiency

Which of the following is correct?

a) i and iii **b)** ii and iii
c) i and iii **d)** i, ii, and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions no. **3** and **4:**

Rahim is a member of organization _A'. Aiming to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor in society, they raid the houses of wealthy villagers to loot cash and gold ornaments. Later, they donate these assets among the poor in the community.

Rahim's friend Karim works in a private organization. The main goal of this organization is to reduce any gap between men and women in society. The organization establishes night schools for rural women. It also provides loans to village women to raise chickens, ducks, cows, and goats.

3. What type of organization is indicated by the activities of organization A'?

a) Political terrorism **b)** Criminal gang terrorism
c) Ideology-based terrorism **d)** State terrorism

4. As a result of the activities of Karim's organization —

i. w omen's empowerment will be i ncreased
ii. t he dowry system will be reduced
iii. discrimination between rich and poor will be eliminated

Which of the following is correct?

a) i and iii **b)** ii and iii
c) i and iii **d)** i, ii, and iii

Read the following stimulus and answer questions no. **3** and **4:**

Scenario-1

Mr. Javed is a wealthy businessman. Recently, he took the initiative to build a two-story house in his village. At that time, a local leader demanded a donation of one lakh taka and threatened to halt the construction if the demand was not met.

Scenario-2

Sajir, a ninth-grade student, went on a trip to the Buriganga River with his uncle. After getting on the boat, he almost felt suffocated from the stench. Sajir noticed that the passengers were covering their noses with handkerchiefs while crossing the river. When Sajir couldn't find any fish in a fisherman's boat, he asked the fisherman about the reason. The fisherman replied that due to various wastes being dumped into the river water, fish are no longer available here.

a) What is meant by f ood security?
b) Why is vocational education necessary to eliminate illiteracy?
c) What type of terrorism does the incident in Scenario-1 indicate? Explain.
d) Identify the topic in your textbook that relates to the incident in Scenario-2, and analyze the measures that should be taken to tackle the issue.

Short Questions:

1. "Child marriage and polygamy are o ne of the m ajor c auses of population growth." Explain.
2. "Lack of nutritional knowledge is one of the reasons for food insecurity." Explain.
3. "Terrorism originates due to economic inequality." Explain.

Chapter Ten

Bangladesh and International Organization

There are numerous countries on the planet named earth. The countries are spread over different regions of the world's seven continents. Despite being independent and sovereign, the countries can't exist alone. Cooperation, friendship and amity are indispensable for the development of these countries. For this, various cooperative organizations have developed in the world. For example, SAARC, Organization of Islamic Co-operation, Commonwealth, the United Nations, etc. In this chapter we will learn about these important international and regional organizations and their relation with Bangladesh.

After studying this chapter, we will be able to -

- 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 of OIC, its objectives and its relation with Bangladesh.
- analyse the formation and objectives of the SAARC and its relations with Bangladesh.

United Nations

We are aware that in only 25 years, there were two world wars. The first one was from 1914 to 1918 and the second one was from 1939 to 1945. Different countries of the world were involved in the war. These two world wars were significant obstacles to the progress of 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 could not last long. As a result, in 1939, the 2nd world war engulfed the world. In this war, other countries suffered a tremendous loss. Two Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were completely destroyed and millions of people died.

After observing the widespread devastation in the 2nd world war, people of the world panicked and became speechless. So, they became strongly inspired and committed to establish peace in different countries. In addition to this, they felt that war must be avoided for the benefit of humanity. Mutual cooperation among the countries can bring peace and progress in the world. As a result, in 1941, world leaders took the initiative to establish the United Nations. With the initiatives taken by former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and the president of the 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 the 2nd world war with the great hope of peace, the greater walfare United Nations came into being.

Initially, the number of members of the United Nations was 51. 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 the first Secretary-General of the United Nations. The name of the present Secretary-General is Antonio Guterres, a Portuguese citizen. Guterres was elected in January 2017 for the next 5 years. The color of the flag of the United Nations is light blue. There is a round world map in the middle of the white background; olive branches surround two sides.



UN Headquarters



UN Symbol

The United Nations have different development organizations.
They are as follows: UNICEF, UNESCO, World Health Organization, World Food Program, World Human Rights Commission, etc.

Group work: Discuss the background of the establishment of United Nations and write in brief its necessity.

Aims of the United Nations

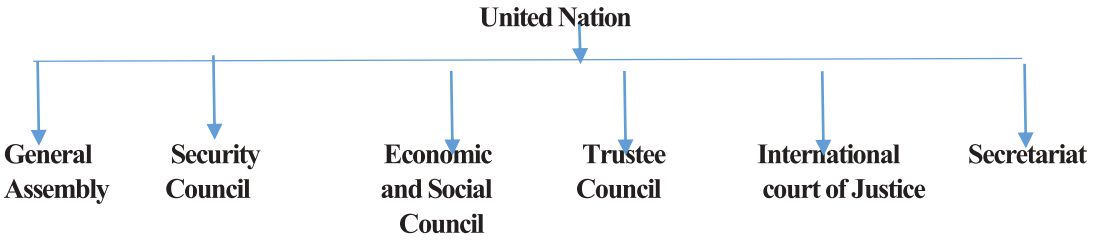
Established with the noble objective of world peace and cooperation the aims of the United Nations are as follows.

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 issues;
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 the formation and activities of different organizations and branches of the United Nations.

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



1. The General Assembly

Formation

The General Assembly is like the legislature of the United Nations. All member countries of the United Nations are members of the general assembly. Generally, this council holds its session once a year. But at 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

To establish peace and support of the world, the role of the General Assembly is significant. It discusses international peace, security and human rights. In addition, it appoints the secretary-general, collects new members, approves budgets, fixes the

subscription of the member country, appoints members of the different organizations and elects non-permanent members in the Security Council.

2. The Security Council

Formation

The Security Council is regarded as the governing branch of the United Nations. The Security Council comprises 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. They are known as the five great powers. Non-permanent members are elected for two years.

Functions

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

3. The 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 state. 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 activities to improve the living standards of the countries, solve the unemployment problem, expand the facilities of education, agriculture, food, treatment and rehabilitation, and ensure the fundamental rights of the people. Apart from this, one of the tasks of this council is to send its recommendations regarding the human walfare initiative to the general assembly.

4. The Trusteeship Council

The territory which has a separate entity but no freedom and sovereignty and is run under the supervision of another country is called a 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 the member country of the United Nations, permanent members of the Security Council and other elected members. It has no fixed number. The number of members is fixed based on the number of trustee areas.

Functions

The United Nations takes the responsibility of the undeveloped area through this Trustee Council. Its primary responsibility is to develop the trustee area by expanding education and creating awareness among the area's people 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 thorough inspection of the trustee area, observe the practical situation and submit reports.

5. The 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 the Netherlands.

Formation

It is the court of the United Nations and has been formed with 15 judges for 9 years. The general assembly and the security council appoint the judges of this council.

Functions

Any member country of the United Nations can seek 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 the 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. The 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, undersecretaries, other officials and employees. The Head of this department is the Secretary-General. The general assembly elects him for 5 years.

Functions

The secretariat performs administrative activities. All the related activities are carried out by centering the secretary-general. He also discharges his responsibility as 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, his activities include preparing the budget, collecting contributions from the member countries, calling meetings of different departments, reviewing different development activities and preparation of a report on the trustee area. Execution of the decisions taken by the general assembly and security council is also his responsibility. He can also recommend any action against the countries which violate the order of the United Nations. The Secretary- General is the main executive officer of the United Nations. He carries out huge activities with the cooperation of others in the secretariat.

Group Task: Make a chart showing functions of the branches of the 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 shown unwavering adherence 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 in executing different activities of the United Nations. Practically the deep relationship and friendship started to grow between United Nations and Bangladesh's liberation right from the time of the liberation war of Bangladesh. Some important factors are as follows:

•During the liberation war in 1971, the United Nations gave 10 million Bangladeshi refugees, who took shelter in India, the opportunity to survive by providing them with food, cloth, accommodation and treatment as humanitarian assistance. United Nations also helped Bangladesh after its liberation war to reconstruct the country.

•After gaining 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 has gained the membership of the Security Council twice as a non-permanent member, which is considered a rare honor for the country. Besides this, Bangladesh was elected member of other councils of the United Nations.

•Different organizations of the United Nations have been working for Bangladesh's social, political, economic, and cultural development as a real friend. These organizations have also been helping Bangladesh enormously in 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 disasters and calamities. The United Nations has significantly honoured our mother tongue, Bangla, by declaring our Martyr's day 21st February as International Mother Language Day. These activities of the United Nations have played a significant role in strengthening the relationship 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, the United Nations has been extending a comprehensive support to Bangladesh. By showing proper respect to the decisions of the United Nations, Bangladesh has been playing an active role in the maintenance of peace by sends its troops to the peacekeeping forces of the United Nations in different countries of the world. Bangladesh is playing an active role in the execution of the decisions taken by the United Nations through total trust in its charters and participating in different sessions of die United Nations.

Group work: Create separate charts showing achievement & contribution of the UN organization in Bangladesh.

Role of Bangladesh in the international peacekeeping forces

The UN doesn't possess any armed force. The soldiers sent from the member states are its main strength. Under the guidance of the Security Council, the peacekeeping force is created by collecting military, civilians and sub-military men from different countries. Bangladesh is one of the members of peacekeeping forces in the United Nations. Since the beginning, it has been supporting activities of the peacekeeping forces and playing an active role. In 1988, Bangladesh sent its army personnel to the peacekeeping forces for the first time. They were sent to Namibia (UNITAG) and Iraq-Iran (UNIIMOG) to take part in two operations. From then till 2019, Bangladesh sent peacekeepers to 40 countries to participate in different peacekeeping missions of the UN. Bangladesh occupies the highest position among die countries that sent their troops

to the United Nations Peace Keeping Force. It has sent almost 1.46 lac soldiers to the UN peacekeeping forces. From 2010 till now, 710 women peacekeepers returned home finishing their missions there.



Recognition of the special contribution of Bangladesh Armed Forces in UN Peace Keeping Force



Members of Bangladesh Armed Forces in Peace Keeping Force

The position of the Bangladesh army in the peacekeeping forces is glorious. The contribution of Bangladesh to the UN peacekeeping forces is a matter of pride for us. In recognition of that contribution, many high officials of the Bangladesh army have been appointed commanders and in high positions. It is another recognition of the role of Bangladesh that increased the dignity of the country. In recognition of this contribution of Bangladesh, BBC has termed Bangladeshi peacekeepers as "The cream of the UN peacekeepers." Participation of the Bangladeshi army in the peacekeeping forces of the UN has helped Bangladesh earn foreign currency; as a result, the country has achived substantial economic prosperity.

Group work: Prepare a short report on contribution & sacrifice of Bangladeshi peacekeepers in keeping peace of the world.

The Commonwealth

Formation

We know that once the British empire spread 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 retain the bonds between the countries which got freedom from British rule. Britain took the initiative to establish it. Britain and other British-ruled countries are the members of this organization, but a country can abstain from being a member of the Commonwealth. Presently it has 56 members.

The Commonwealth is an international organization. It was established in 1949. Its name was the 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 secretariat to carry out its activities.

The head of the secretariat is called General Secretary and its headquarter is situated in London. A conference of the heads of governments of member countries is held every two years.



Symbol of Commonwealth

Aims and objectives of Cominonwealth

The main aim of the Commonwealth is to inaintain the minimum relationship between Britain and its independent colonies. This organization aims to assist the developmen of member countries in socio-economic, cultural, and political sectors and help in the exchange of education, science, and technology by maintaining this relationship.

Commonwealth and Bangladesh

Bangladesh attained the membership of the Commonwealth after its independence on 18 April 1972. There has been a strong relationship between the Commonwealth and Bangladesh since its emergence, especially the relationship with Britain, the main initiator of the Commonwealth is much closer. During our war of independence, the British media created public support in favor of Bangladesh. During the war of independence, Britam was the main center for publicity in favor of the Bangladesh government. An assistance fund was founded there to help Bangladesh. Other member countries of the Commonwealth also extended their assistence and cooperation in different ways. Our neighbouring country India, one of the member countries of the Conmmonwealth, gave shelter and food to almost 10 million Bangladeshi citizens. Other member countries helped Bangladesh by sending medicine, food and clothes.

Bangladesh secured the membership of the commonwealth due to its liberal diplomacy. In protest against the decision taken by the Commonwealth, Pakistan withdrew its membership from the Commonwealth.

Being an ardent member of the Commonwealth, Bangladesh participates in each conference. It also helps to execute the policies aud 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 to maintain peace and prosperity in the world. It is working for agricultural, educational, health and technological development and trying to reduce apartheid and the rich and poor disparity.

Group work: Discuss the contribution of the Commonwealth in the liberation war of Bangladesh.

Organization of Islamic Co-operation (OIC)

Formation

OIC is an international organization of Muslim majority countries in the world. Its full name is the Organization of Islamic Co-Operation (OIC). We are aware that there has been a conflict between the Islamic countries in the Middle East and the western countries for a long time regarding the establishment of the State of Israel. On 21 August 1969, Israel suddenly set fire on Al-Aqsa Mosque, a sacred shrine of Muslims. The Muslim world expressed indignation 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 from 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, establishing an organization was necessary and OIC came into being on 25 September. Malaysian Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman was elected its Secretary-General. In this way, it started its journey. Initially, the number of members was only 23. At present, it has 57 members. All Muslim countries of the world are its members. The OIC headquarter is situated in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia.



Symbol of OIC

Aims and Objectives 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. They are as follows:

1. To strengthen the Islamic brotherhood and solidarity;
2. To increase the cooperation between the member countries in the social, economic, cultural, scientific activities and other important sectors;
3. To eliminate racism and colonialism;
4. To ensure the security of Islamic sites, liberate sacred places and support the struggle of the people of Palestine;
5. To safeguard the dignity of Muslims and help accelerate the struggle of Muslim nations;
6. To support and ensure international peace and security;
7. To increase the cooperation and fraternity between the member countries;
8. To show respect to the freedom and sovereignty of the countries; and
9. To resolve any conflict between the countries peacefully through dialogues, mediations, 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 became closer. Since the beginning, Bangladesh has been taking an 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.

Besides its significant role in the OIC, Bangladesh was also able to receive cooperation from the member countries of OIC. Membership of Bangladesh in OIC has helped it a lot to gain the recognition of various Muslim countries and gain the membership of UN and other international organizations. Bangladesh received assistance from the oil-rich Muslim countries for rehabilitation work. It is worth mentioning that Bangladesh sent a huge workforce to the oil-rich Muslim countries, which created job opportunities and earned enormous foreign currency, which played a significant role in its economic development.

Apart from the economic assistance, Bangladesh has been receiving the cooperation of OIC member countries in the educational, social and cultural 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 Ancient Mosques. the Islamic University of Technology, situated in Gazipur, has been built with the financial aid of OIC and run by it.

After gaining the membership of OIC, Bangladesh plays a vital role in executing the policy and decisions of OIC.

Group Work: Evaluate the contribution of OIC to the economy of Bangladesh.

SAARC

The full form of SAARC is the "South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation." It was established initially with seven developing countries; later, Afghanistan was included as the 8th of SAARC. This organization has been established to achieve political, social and cultural progress with the mutual cooperation of member countries. It is a regional organization for development.

Formation

SAARC started its journey by holding its first conference in Dhaka on the 8th of December 1985. Presently, the number of member countries of this organization is eight. The member countries are 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 Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. Its head is called the Secretary-General. A summit conference of the heads of the SAARC member countries is held annually. SAARC symbolizes the hopes and aspirations of almost 175 crore people of the South Asian countries.



SAARC symbol



SAARC Seceretariat, Kathmandu, Nepal

Aims and objectives of SAARC

The developing countries in South Asia are beset with different kinds of problems Poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition, overpopulation, natural disaster, etc., have been problems for ages. So, SAARC has been established to eradicate the problems and overcome the challenges those problems through cooperation and accelerate the development programs of SAARC countries Apart from these, there are some other specific objectives. They are discussed below:

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 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 Task: Explain the aims behind establishment of SAARC.	

Relationship of SAARC with Bangladesh

There is a profound connection between Bangladesh and SAARC. In the eighties, though the initiative of the formation was taken, it started its journey in 1985 through the summit in Dhaka.

As the initiator of SAARC, Bangladesh has played a significant and strong role in its different activities. As one of the member countries, it has also been making continuous effort to expand the trade between the member countries, maintain the balance, and solve the regional conflicts and existing crises between neighboring countries. Apart from this, Bangladesh is committed to prevent human trafficking, combat terrorism, protect the environment, developing of communication and technology and to eradicate diseases etc. In this regard, different collaborative endeavours have been taken for mutual cooperation. Bangladesh is extending its all-out cooperation to accelerate the progress of SAARC through the execution of these programs.

Group work: Discuss 1 or 2 notable events of SAARC and present them in the class from your experience.

Sample Question

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. What is the function of the UN Secretariat?
- **a)** Collecting contributions from member states
- **b)** Improving the standard of living of people
- **c)** Implementing fundamental human rights
- **d)** Establishing international peace

2. The objectives of the OIC are:
- **i.** to ensure equal rights for all people
- **ii.** to prevent the dominance of powerful states
- **iii.** to increase regional cooperation

Which of the following is correct?

a) i and ii **b)** ii and iii
c) i and iii **d)** i, ii, and iii

Read the following stem and answer questions no. **3** and **4:**

Rahim and Karim are two volunteers working for a charity. As a part of his duties, Rahim traveled to a war-torn country where country's roads were destroyed and schools and hospitals were closed. Rahim met with local leaders. On the other hand, Rahim's friend Karim traveled to another country for work. Karim discussed the country's socio-economic development with the head of government. Later, with the help of the voluntary organization, Karim established various types of industrial factories, hospitals, and educational institutions.

3. Which UN body‘s activities are similar to Rahim's activities?
a) General Assembly b) Security Council
c) Trusteeship Council d) International and Social Council

4. If a UN agency is run according to Karim‘s activities, then.…
i. human rights would be ensured
ii. self-sufficiency in agriculture would be achieved
iii. life and property of the people would be secured

Which of the following is correct?
a) i and ii` b) ii and iii c) i and iii d) i, ii, and iii

Info-1	Info-2	Info-3
Socio-economic development of people	Session begins on a specific day of the year	Functions like an executive branch
Shows respect for the territorial integrity of neighboring countries	All member states have equal status	Member states do not have equal status
Improving relations with other organizations	Makesrecommendations to other organizations	An essential and powerful organization

a) What is the Commonwealth?
b) Why is the role of the International Court of Justice important in resolving disputes among member countries? Explain.
c) Which organization in your textbook resembles the activities mentioned in Information-1? Explain.
d) Identify the activities of Information-2 and Information-3, and evaluate which one you think is more effective in maintaining international peace.

Short Questions:

1. Why was the United Nations formed?
2. Why is the role of the International Court of Justice important in resolving inter-state disputes?
3. Why was the Commonwealth established?
4. Why was the OIC established?

The End

2026 Academic Year

Classes Nine and Ten : Civics and Citizenship

যে সৎপথে চলে, সে পথ ভোলে না।



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