

Lecture Content



Essay Writing

Important area that should be covered in BCS Essay writing

- (A) Societal issue (rural life)
- (B) Cultural issue (=Bangladeshi culture)
- (C) State affairs (Democracy and good governance)
- (D) Literature (literature & society)
- (E) Language movement and liberation war (the spirit of liberation war)
- (F) Science and Information technology)
- (G) Social Media (uses and abuses of social media)
- (H) Attainments and goals of the incumbent government.
- (I) Current issues (Covid 19)
- (J) Climate change (global warming)
- (K) Imaginary issue (If I were a BCS cadre)

A few words about essay writing

Essay is generally a written composition giving expression to one's own personal ideas or opinions on some topic. In broad sense, it covers any written composition, whether it expresses personal opinions, or gives information on any given subject, or details of a narrative or description.

Characteristics of a good essay

1. Unity (বিভিন্ন অংশের সমন্বয়ে রচিত সমগ্রতা)

An essay must be a unity, developing one theme with a definite purpose. The subject may be treated in a variety of ways and from different points of view.

2. Order (বিন্যাস)

The essay should follow a certain ordered line of thought and come to a definite conclusion.

3. Size (আকার)

The length of an essay is mainly defined by the questioner. In BCS examination, a candidate is required to write an essay in 1000 words. Of course, it is a long essay.

4. Style (রচনশৈলী)

The style of an essay must be more dignified (গভীর) and literary. Slang (অপশব্দ), colloquial terms (কথ্য প্রয়োগে ব্যবহৃত) and free and easy constructions are not proper in essay. The language and sentence construction should be simple, direct and natural.

5. The Personal Touch

An essay should reveal the personal feelings and opinions of the writer. Examples from real life may be included in the essay to give clear idea about the topic.

Classification of Essays

Essays are mainly classified as follows:

- (a) Narrative Essays
- (b) Descriptive Essays
- (c) Reflective Essays
- (d) Expository Essays
- (e) Imaginative Essays.

(a) Narrative Essays

A narrative essay consists mainly in the narration of some event, or series of events. It may include historical stories or legends (Battle of Palashy), biographies (life of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani); incidents festival, (the first day of Bangla calendar); an accident or natural disasters (a flood, a shipwreck, an earthquake); a journey or voyage (a journey by boat); a story (real or imaginary).

(b) Descriptive Essays

A descriptive essay consists of a description of some place or thing. It usually includes animals, plants, minerals, towns, countries, buildings, manufactured articles and so on.

(c) Reflective Essays

A reflective essay consists of reflections or thoughts on some topic, which is generally of an abstract nature; for example (a) habits, qualities (patriotism, heroism, truthfulness) (b) social, political and domestic topics, such as riches and poverty, caste, democracy, liberty, family life, education, business, etc., (c) philosophical subjects, such as right and wrong, consciousness, etc., (d) religious and theological topics.

In treating such themes, you should try (i) to explain, for example, the importance of advantages of possessing good habits and qualities, and the risk and disadvantages of lacking them; and quote stories, fables, or historical or literary references in support of your statements; (ii) discuss the importance of social institutions etc.;

(d) Expository Essays

An expository (or explanatory) essay consists of an exposition or explanation of some subject; e.g.: (a) institutions, industries, occupations; (b) scientific topics (such as gravitation, astronomy, etc.); (c) literary topics (such as nature of poetry).

(e) Imaginative Essays

Essays on subjects such as the feelings and experiences of the sailor wrecked on a desert island may be called imaginative essay. Such subjects as “If I were a king,” or “The autobiography of a river,” would call for imaginative essays.

Hints on Essay-Writing

(i) Defining the subject

It is very important that you have a clear and accurate conception of the essay before you attempt to write on it. For example, “The uses of computers.” The subject is not how computers work. Nor is it the history of computers. The subject in this case is the uses of computers in offices, in industries, in aircraft, in spacecraft etc.

(ii) Collecting materials

When you have got clear idea of your subject, the next step will be to think of what you can say about it. Some subjects are so simple that a little reflection should supply with sufficient material for a short essay; but for others, special information will be needed for which you may have to do some special reading. For example, if you want to write a descriptive essay on

‘Contribution of garments industry to the economy of Bangladesh,’ you need some specific information before you can write it.

(iii) Collection

As you think over the subject ideas, facts, and illustrations will pass through your mind. But if you don’t catch them as they come, you may forget them just when you want them. So, as you catch birds and put them in a cage, catch and cage these fleeting thoughts by jotting them down on a piece of paper just as they come into your head.

(iv) Selection

When you think you have collected enough material for your essay, or you can’t think of any more points, read over the notes you have jotted down to select the points most suitable for your purpose.

(v) Making the outline

Bearing your subject definitely in your mind and with your purpose clearly before you, sketch out a bare outline of the main heads, under which you will arrange your various materials in a natural, logical and convincing order— from a brief introduction to an effective conclusion.

Writing Introduction and Conclusion of an essay

Introduction

An introduction of an essay should arouse interest in reading the next parts of the essay. It may be a very short paragraph. But it should always be arresting and pertinent to the subject. The introduction may consist of a definition or a quotation, proverb, general remark, leading up to the subject.

Conclusion

As the introduction should arouse interest, the conclusion should satisfy it. An effective and satisfying end to an essay is as important as an arresting beginning. An abrupt or feeble ending may spoil the whole effect of the essay. A good conclusion may consist of: (a) a summing up of the arguments of the essay; (b) final conclusion drawn from the subject matter; (c) a suitable quotation.

Suggested Essays (English)

- 1) Literature and society
- 2) Sea based blue economy
- 3) Graduation of Bangladesh from LDC: prospects and challenges
- 4) Corruption: an invisible monster
- 5) Fourth Industrial Revolution: challenges and Opportunities.
- 6) Fifty years of Bangladesh: achievements and shortcomings
- 7) Global warming, its impact and steps taken
- 8) Natural disasters and Bangladesh
- 9) Social media: uses and abuses
- 10) Bangladeshi culture
- 11) Green economy
- 12) Degradation of social values and its remedies
- 13) Good governance
- 14) Patriotism
- 15) If I were a BCS cadre!
- 16) Challenges in Rohingya Repatriation

Essays

(1) Global warming and its impact

Introduction: Killing thousands of lives in the hands of deadliest natural disasters, vanishing homelands within moments in riverbed owing to river erosion, salinity intrusion and water logging in the houses and cultivable land in coastal area, long lasting flood, cyclone, unavailability of drinking water, draught, ground water declination caused by global warming are pushing millions of people throughout the world in distress and making them destitute every year. If the human beings living on the earth do not want to be controlled by the catastrophic consequence of global warming, they will have to go for immediate, rapid and large scale reductions in greenhouse gases responsible for global heating.

What global warming is:

Global warming is the gradual heating of Earth's surface, oceans and atmosphere. Most of the leading scientific organizations in the world acknowledge the existence of global warming as fact. Furthermore 97 per cent of climate scientists agree that the rate of global warming trends the planet is now experiencing is not a natural occurrence, but is mainly the result of human activity. The effects of global warming are already visible in many areas of the world. Montana's Glacier National Park, may be taken as an example where about 150 glaciers were once located, only 25 glaciers larger than 25 acres remain, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS). The extent of future global warming depends on the steps that the people of the world will take to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and to decrease the rate at which fossil fuels are burned.

Causes of global warming: Various natural and man made activities cause global warming. The main causes of global warming are as follows:

- (i) **Solar radiation**
- (ii) **Rapid and Unplanned Urbanization:**
- (iii) **Deforestation:**
- (iv) **Excess carbon emission:**
- (v) **Emission of Methane (CH₄), Nitrous Oxide (N₂O) and other gases: Experiments of nuclear bombs:**

Impact of global warming: Many impacts of global warming have already been observed on flora and fauna. The visible impacts of global warming are as follows:

- (i) **The rise of sea level:**
- (ii) **Changes in rainfall pattern:**
- (iii) **Changes in frequency of extreme weather events:**
- (iv) **Infertility of Agricultural Land:**
- (v) **Health hazards**
- (vi) **Imbalance ecosystem and biodiversity:**
- (vii) **Changes in weather pattern:**

Efforts to control global warming: There are many steps humans can take to lessen the effects of global warming. Reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and stabilizing the levels of these gases in the atmosphere plays important role in reducing global warming. Besides, people can reduce global warming by adapting to the climate change already happening. Development of clean energy, including solar, wind and geothermal energy has immense potential to reduce the amount of coal and oil burned in powering electrical generating plants. More sustainable transportation

options, such as mass transit and alt-fuel vehicles, will also reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Even individual efforts such as lowering thermostats ($Z_{vc}^{-}vcK$) in winter, and using energy efficient light bulbs can help address global warming. But more climate researchers also stress the immediate need for large scale international policies to address the complex causes and effects of global warming.

Conclusion: To make the universe habitable for humans and other fauna by reducing global warming is one of the greatest challenges the world leaders will have to face in the days coming ahead. If they fail to reach consensus over the matter, millions of people living in islands and coastal belts of the world may be climate refugees losing every belongings. However, it is a matter of hope that in the UN climate change conference held in Paris in September 2016, the world leaders have agreed to reduce carbon emission. The earlier the deal is implemented, the better we, the inhabitants of the planet, will feel.

(2) Bangladesh, a role model of development

Introduction

Bangladesh, once treated by a bottomless basket, has miraculously changed almost all the indices of the economy and emerged as a wonder of development superseding many developing countries in Asia and Africa. The unstoppable success of Bangladesh from poverty reduction to power generation even from atomic power plant has enhanced the dignity of this country in each and every corner of the world. The progress and prosperity of Bangladesh even after having one of the highest densities of population and extremely limited natural resources has drawn the attention of the world. Now many countries of the world are keen to following the footprint of Bangladesh to change their socio-economic status and to improve life and livelihood of their people.

Why Bangladesh is considered a role model of development

Bangladesh is considered a role model of development for its worth mentioning success in the following fields.

(i) Poverty reduction

Bangladesh has an inspiring story of reducing poverty supported by sustainable economic growth which has been recognized by international institutions. Since 2000, the country has reduced poverty by half. In the last decade and half, it lifted more than 25 million people out of poverty. According to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data, the population living below the national poverty line dropped to 20.5 % in 2019 from 24.3% in 2016 which had been 40% in 2005. Extreme poverty rate also dropped to 10.5% in 2019 from 12.9% in 2016 which had been 25.1% in 2005. As recognition of poverty alleviation, Bangladesh has got South South Award. Dr. Samsul Alam (a member of the planning commission) said to a online news portal in an interview that as of June 2020, the country's poverty rose to 29.5% due to Covid-19, as huge population lost jobs during March-June period. But the rate of poverty will come down as about 95% economic activities have already reopened, and it started to decline as people are going back to their respective work.

(ii) Increase in food grain production

Though Bangladesh experienced acute food crisis in the first few decades of independence, it has become self sufficient in food in recent years. Bangladesh's rice, wheat and corn production is expected to increase due to good weather and increased plantings, according to Global Agricultural Information Network report from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA). Rice production for 2020-21 marketing year is expected to rise to 36.3 million tonnes in Bangladesh as further

cultivation of hybrid and high yield variety plantings increase. Besides, wheat production for marketing year 2020-21 is also projected to increase.

(iii) Rise in literacy rate

Bangladesh has greatly raised its literacy rate over the last two decades. The rise is shown in the table below—

Year	Literacy rate
2019	74.68%
2018	73.91%
2017	72.89%
2016	72.76%
2015	65.14%
2014	61.09%
2013	61.02%
2012	57.86%
2011	58.77%
2007	46.66%
2001	47.49%
1991	35.32%
1981	29.23%

(iv) Increase in average life expectancy

When Bangladesh was born in 1971, average life expectancy was only 47.6 years. This gradually increased and reached 73 years in 2021.

Average life expectancy of Bangladesh

Year	Life expectancy
2021	73.00
2020	72.72
2019	72.43
2018	72.15
2017	71.88
2016	71.61
2015	71.33
2011	70.01
2001	65.56

Data source: World Bank

(v) Growth in per capita GNI

The growth in per capita GNI of Bangladesh is shown in the table below

Growth in per capita GNI of Bangladesh (in US dollars)

Year	Per capita GNI
2020	2010
2019	1940
2018	1750
2017	1520
2016	1370
2015	1220
2011	890
2001	440

Data source: World Bank

(vi) Women empowerment

“There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women”

Kofi Anan

Women's participation in politics and labour force is one of the main drivers of Bangladesh's development story. Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, has prioritized and continued women's holistic development and participation in the mainstream socio economic activities. Now the literacy rate for females is 72.34 percent and 65 percent of all primary school teachers in Bangladesh are women. Women's life expectancy is 74.2 and it is higher than that of men. At present, 1276 women are working as class 1 officers in Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS), and the number of women employees in government jobs has rapidly increased as women friendly government is in power for a long time in Bangladesh. Moreover, Bangladesh has achieved significant progress in attaining SDGs which focuses on gender equality, and has closed to 72.6% of its overall gender gap, according to the Global Gender Gap Index 2020.

(vii) Gaining most of the MDGs

Bangladesh has made commendable progress in achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Since 1990, there has been a remarkable reduction in child mortality with an estimated 57% reduction in child mortality and 66% in maternal mortality. This review highlights that Bangladesh is on track for achieving MDG 4 and 5A. Six countries including Bangladesh received the UN Millennium Development goal (MDG) awards for their significant achievements towards attaining the goal. For this, the former UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon said, “Bangladesh is considered a role model for other developing economies in achieving sustainable development”.

(viii) Diversification of exports

Diversification of the country's export may be complemented by increased access to major markets in the region including India and China. India has already offered duty free market access to 61 Bangladeshi products and China has given GSP facility to over 8625 Bangladeshi products.

(ix) Social safety net

The major social safety net programmes (SSNPs) in Bangladesh can be divided under four broad categories: (i) employment generation programmes; (ii) programmes to cope with natural disasters and other shocks; (iii) incentives provided to parents for their children's education; and (iv) incentives to families to improve their health status. The SSNPs in Bangladesh have led to increased school enrolment and attendance especially among girls in secondary schools and closing the gender gap. With a lingering coronavirus pandemic leaving millions without jobs and pushing low income people and vulnerable groups into further distress, the government has

decided to help them with financial support. In the budget proposed for FY 2021-22, the Finance Minister has set aside Tk 107,614 crore for social protection, which is 17.83% of the budget and 3.11% of GDP. It was Tk 95,574 crore in the revised budget for the ongoing fiscal year. At present, widows and destitute women in the most poverty stricken 112 upazilas are covered under the government's social safety scheme. An additional Tk 255 crore will be allocated to include another 4,25,000 beneficiaries in an additional 150 poverty stricken upazilas.

(x) Reduction in infant and mother mortality rate

Infant mortality has been falling in Bangladesh over the past few decades, from 40.5 deaths per 1,00,000 live births in 2009 to 25.6 in 2019. This figure helps assess the overall healthcare system's efficacy, because child birth and infant care require more direct patient care than any other period of life. Similarly, measures taken to combat infant mortality often have spillover effects, improving the entire healthcare systems. In addition, in 2017, maternal mortality ratio for Bangladesh was 173 deaths per 1,00,000 live births. Between 2003 and 2017, maternal mortality ratio of Bangladesh was declining at a moderate rate to shrink from 395 deaths per 1,00,000 live births to 173 per 100000 live births in 2017.

(xi) Rise in efficiency and capacity in climate and disaster management

Bangladesh, a populous and disaster prone country, has achieved significant progress to address climate change and to manage natural disasters. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has received UN's highest environmental accolade- Champions of the Earth – in recognition of Bangladesh's far reaching initiatives to address climate change.

(xii) Laudable growth in health and sanitation

Bangladesh's achievement in health and sanitation is laudable. The country has established 14577 community clinics across the country. About 3000 of them ensure normal maternity service. People get 30 types of medicine with free of cost. 81% people of our country are under the coverage of sanitation system. Sheikh Hasina, the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, has been given the second ever Vaccine Hero Award by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. "Sheikh Hasina is a true champion of immunization," said Dr. Seth Berkley, CEO of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Under her leadership Bangladesh has made tremendous strides in immunization and child health.

(xiii) Mega infrastructural projects

A number of mega infrastructural projects are under construction in Bangladesh. Soon after completion of these projects the wheel of the economy of Bangladesh will move fast resulting in overall change in the economy.

(a) Padma Bridge

The largest bridge of Bangladesh is being constructed entirely with the country's own resources over the mighty river Padma. It is expected to transform the lives of 30 million Bangladeshis through increased trade and connectivity. According to the survey report, the economic impact of the bridge will help increase the annual GDP of the south by 2.0 per cent and the overall GDP of the country by more than 1.0 per cent.

(b) Atomic power plant

The government of Bangladesh is building its first nuclear power plant in Rooppur on the east side of the river Padma near Iswardi in Pabna district of Bangladesh. The project is being implemented by the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC), under the guidance of Science and Technology Ministry of the Government of Bangladesh. The nuclear power plant (NPP) includes two units, Rooppur Unit-1 and Rooppur Unit-2 with a capacity of 1.2 GW each. Rooppur Unit-1 is scheduled to commence operation in 2023, while Rooppur Unit-2 is due to come online in 2024. The Rooppur nuclear power plant uses cutting edge technologies and follows the safety guidelines of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The IAEA supported the country in the assessment of sites and development of a radioactive waste management system for the nuclear

power programme. This nuclear power plant is being built with the help of Russia. The new plant will raise the country's power production and enable it to achieve energy independence.

(c) Bangabandhu Satellite -1

The Bangabandhu Satellite -1 is the first Bangladeshi geostationary communications and broadcasting satellite. It is named after the father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. It was manufactured by Thales Alenia Space and launched on 12 May 2018. The satellite was the first payload launched by a SpaceX Falcon 9 Block 5 rocket. Operator of this satellite is Bangladesh Communication Satellite Company Limited. Mission duration of this satellite is 15 years. Orbital station of this satellite is 119.09 degree east. After successful launching this satellite, Bangladesh has placed its position as 57th country of the world having satellite on their own. Launching own satellite in the space, Bangladesh has largely raised its honour in the world stage.

(d) Installation of solar home system and raising power generation

Since 2003 more than 4 million solar home systems have been installed throughout the nation. Bangladesh is now the highest number of this solar home system in the world. It is benefiting 13 million people. Apart from this, power generation has exponentially increased over the last decade. Since 2009, power generation has increased over four times from under 5000 megawatt to over 21000 megawatt in 2021. As a matter of wonder 99% people of the country have been brought under the coverage of electricity.

(e) Matarbari deep sea port

Based on Japanese ports Kashima and Niigata, Matarbari deep sea port under construction will be the first deep sea port and fourth sea port in Bangladesh. The port is planned to reduce pressure on the port of Chittagong. During the first stage, one 300 metres (980 ft) long multipurpose terminal and one 460 metres (1510 ft) length with a maximum permissible draught of 16 metres (52ft) is under construction. Ships with the capacity of 8000 TEU containers will be able to dock. The container terminal will be built on 18 hectares and annual capacity of 6,00,000 to 1.1 million TEU. Later the container terminal will be expanded upto 70 hectares, with a 1850 metres (6070 ft) berth, and have a 2.8 million TEU capacity. Total expenditure of the port estimated to be 17,777 crore of which 12, 892 crore will be provided by Japan as loan, and the rest will be provided by Bangladesh government (2672 crore) and Chittagong port (2213 crore). The Roads and Highway Department and Chittagong Port are implementing Matarbari deep sea port project jointly, and all of the designs are being prepared by the Japanese experts. The Chairman of the Chittagong port expects that the deep sea port can start commercial operation by 2026. It is expected that transportation cost will reduce by 15 per cent as soon as the port starts its operation.

(f) Dhaka Metro Rail

Bangladesh is set to embrace a new era of communicating with a new mode of transport hitherto unseen on our land- the elevated metro rail of Dhaka. MRT Line 6 is projected to serve more than 60,000 passengers per hour, with wait times approximately 4 minutes. The entire route (from Uttara to Motijheel, distance 20.1 km) will be able to be travelled in less than 40 minutes at a speed of 100 km/h. This journey takes about two hours on a regular day. Metro Rail is expected to start its run by December 2022. The benefits of an elevated metro rail in an over populated, rapidly urbanizing country like ours- forever jostling for space are many. It will not only significantly reduce travel time in daily commute but will also carry a large number of passengers, easing the pressure on other transport services. The flexibility, ease and speed of communications, and consequent economic potential that this service promises to bring, may have profound impacts on the equality of life.

(g) Union digital centres

To ensure connectivity for all, Bangladesh has started “Bottom Up Level Approach”. As part of this approach, union digital centres were established at first so that the people living in the villages can be provided with internet facilities. Moreover, high speed cyber optical broadband connectivity has been ensured upto union level. Then the government has established municipality digital centres, and finally digital centres at city corporation level. It can be said with confidence that ‘Bottom Up Level’ of digitalization has proved its effectiveness, and hence following the footprint of Bangladesh many countries of the world are following this approach.

(h) ICT Industry

With an eye to transforming labour based industry to knowledge based one, Bangladesh has given emphasis on establishing ICT Industry. In the last ten years, one million jobs have been created in ICT sector because of ICT friendly and business friendly policy. The target of our ICT division is to create another one million jobs in the next four years. Bangladesh’s achievement can be inferred from the report provided by Oxford University Internet Society. According to its report, Bangladesh is the second largest source of online workers. Six hundred thousand IT freelancers are contributing 16% of our global outsourcing industry. Our government is giving training for the youth under Learning and Earning Development Projects; educating and training women under another project and establishing 28 High-tech Parks across the country to provide working opportunities not only for the employees and employers but also for the innovators and entrepreneurs.

(i) Special economic zones

Following the success of special economic zones (SEZs), especially in China, and export processing zones (EPZs) in Bangladesh, the Government of Bangladesh has decided to establish a total of 100 SEZs over the next 15 years. By providing attractive fiscal and financial benefits and serviced industrial plots, these zones are expected to mobilize private investments from home and foreign sources. The Seventh Five Year Plan of Bangladesh also intends to use SEZ as a policy tool to generate inclusive growth by means of promoting development in lagging regions.

(j) My Village, My Town

It was the election manifesto of the Awami League in 2018. It is based on the article 16 of the constitution. It is the plan of the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. The ministry of LGRD is charged to implement the project. The duration of the project is from 2019 to 2023. The aim of the project is to provide the facilities of the cities in village level. To reduce the discrimination between the city and village through revolution in agriculture and development in power generation is the main goal of this project.

Pillars in achieving unstoppable development

(i) Demographic dividend

According to the United Nations, if the 50 percent people of a country are active in work force and the fertility rate is below 2.1, it enjoys population dividend. According to the Bureau of Statistics, 10.35 crore i.e., 68 percent of the population of our country is aged between 15 and 65 and fertility rate is 2.04. Bangladesh will enjoy this demographic dividend at least upto 2042.

(ii) Connectivity for all

In the early years of the 21st century, Bangladesh was one of the countries in south Asia lagging behind the rest. Its citizens relied on out of satellite system while neighbouring countries were benefiting from high speed fibre-optic cable connections. This disadvantage was slowing down Bangladesh’s development. To address the issue, Bangladesh government supported by Islamic Development Bank developed a submarine fibre-optic cable to provide fast, reliable and secure access to the internet and to improve mobile phone connection.

(iii) E- governance

E-governance involves the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and its numerous applications by the government for the provision of information and e-services to the citizens of the country. To accelerate e-governance, the government has launched an Access to Information (a2i) programme, an UNDP and USAID supported project (programme) having its office at the Prime Minister's office. The overall objective of the project is to provide support in building digital nation through delivering services at the citizens' doorsteps. E-governance reduces time, cost and visit for getting government services to a great extent.

(iv) Exponential growth in foreign remittance

Exponential growth in foreign remittance over the last decade is surely another pillar of unstoppable development. Growth of foreign remittance of the country is as follows—

Year	Amount (in billion taka)
2021-2022	158.77
2020-2021	164.61
2019- 2020	155.62
2018-2019	115.61

Source: Bangladesh Bank

(v) GDP growth

Year	percentage
2015	6.55
2016	7.11
2017	7.28
2018	7.86
2019	8.13
2020	5.24

Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics

Conclusion

“ If you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together”

The above quotation can exactly be quoted while narrating the story of Bangladesh's emergence as an economic power. The strategy adopted by Bangladesh in PPP (Public Private Partnership) is nothing but a strategy of inclusive development. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh firmly believes that the government cannot do business but can create opportunities for the private sector to do business. It must be acknowledged that the inclusion of Bangladesh in the highway of development has been quicker as we have been able to utilize the pillars of unstoppable success for having visionary leadership. However, a lot of things are yet to be done to make this development sustainable. Corruption free administration, training for a greater number of people for transformation, access to high speed internet upto remote villages can accelerate the speed of development. It will not be an exaggeration to say that one day Bangladesh will upgrade further and place herself in the list of the developed countries.

(3) Fourth Industrial Revolution: Challenges and Opportunities

Introduction

If we live in such a world where everything is connected, everything is equally excellent, where performance is reaching perfection, there is only one space left that is innovation. Fourth industrial revolution has brought about a new world order before us where we are in the central point of transformation fueled by digitalization, mobilization, augmentation, disintermediation and automation. How will we discover new opportunities in one of the most transitional times in human history? Are we driving change, or are we being driven by it? Decision lies in our hands. We all know future does not just happen, rather it gets happened. With embracing technology we can not only live better but also lead the world in the new normal on the days coming ahead.

Industrial revolutions in modern history

The process of change from an agrarian and handicraft economy to one dominated by industry and machine manufacturing has happened through industrial revolutions. These technological changes introduced novel ways of working and living and fundamentally transformed society. This process began in Britain in the 18th century and from there spread to other parts of the world.

(i) First Industrial Revolution

The first industrial revolution was the transition to new manufacturing processes in Europe and the United States in the period from between 1760 to 1820 and 1840. This transition included going from hand production methods to machines, new chemical manufacturing and iron production processes, the increasing use of steam power and water power, the development of machine tools and the rise of mechanized factory system. The industrial revolution began in Great Britain, and many of the technological innovations were of British origin. As a result of the first industrial revolution, hundreds of woven cottages were brought together in single cotton mill, and the factory was born. In its initial stages it seemed to deepen labourers's poverty and misery. Their employment and subsistence became dependent on costly means of production that few people could afford to own. Job security was lacking: workers were frequently displaced by technological improvements and a large labour pool. Lack of worker protections meant long work hours for miserable wages, living in unsanitary tenements and exploitation and abuse in the work place.

(ii) Second Industrial Revolution

Following the first industrial revolution, almost a century later the world went through the second. It started at the end of the 19th century. With massive technological advancements in the field of industries that helped the emergence of new source of energy, electricity, gas and oil. The result of this revolution was the creation of the internal combustion engine that started to reach its full potential. Other important points of the second industrial revolution was the development of steel demand, chemical synthesis and methods of communications such as the telegraph and telephone. Finally, the invention of automobile and the plane in the beginning of the 20th century are the reasons why to this day, the second industrial revolution is considered the most important one.

(iii) Third Industrial Revolution

The first two industrial revolutions made people richer and more urban. Another century passes and we bear witnesses to the third industrial revolution. The third industrial revolution was the digital revolution, with the wave of information and communication technologies which gave birth to new "knowledge economy". This has created thousands of new businesses and millions of new jobs, and laid the foundation for sustainable global economy in the 21st century. Third industrial revolution started in the second half of the 20th century and brought-fourth the rise of electronics, telecommunications and computers. Through the new technologies, the third industrial revolution opened the doors to space expeditions, research and biotechnology. In the world of the industries,

two major inventions, Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) and Robots helped give rise to an era of high level automation.

(iv) Fourth Industrial Revolution

Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) refers that technological change is a driver of transformation relevant to all industries and parts of society. Furthermore, it highlights the idea that at certain stages in history, sets of technologies emerge and combine in ways that have impacts far beyond incremental increases in efficiency. Industrial revolutions are revolutions in the systems that surround us, step changes in the complex interplay between humans and technology, and transitions that result in new ways of perceiving, acting and being. Industry 4.0 represents a series of significant shifts in the way that economic, political, and social value is being created, exchanged and distributed. These shifts in values are intimately related to the emergence of new technologies that span the digital, physical and biological worlds and they are most powerful when they combine and reinforce one another. It represents the integration of tools already used in the past (big data, cloud, robot, 3D printing, simulation etc.) that are now connected into a global network by transmitting digital data. The implementation of this new paradigm represents a huge change for companies, which are faced with big investments. In order to benefit from the opportunities offered by the smart revolution, companies must have the prerequisites needed to withstand changes generated by “smart system.” The Fourth Industrial Revolution was developed in Germany in 2013 but is spreading rapidly in Europe and the world as a whole.

Industry 4.0 is based on the concept of smart factory, where the machines are integrated with men through cyber physical system (CPS). In other words, Industry 4.0 is a new level of organization that manages and controls the whole value chain of personalized product to satisfy customer need. Digitalization is the most important element in industry 4.0 because it allows to connect man and technology.

What Fourth Industrial Revolution covers

Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) covers three fundamental aspects:

- (i) Digitalization and increased integration of vertical and horizontal value chains: development of custom products, customer’s digital orders, automatic data transfer and integrated customer service system.
- (ii) Digitalization of products and service offerings: complete description of the product and its related services through intelligent networks.
- (iii) Introduction of innovative digital business models: the high level of interaction between systems and technology opportunities develops new and integrated digital solutions. The basis of industrial internet is the integrated and real time availability and control of systems across the enterprise.

Technologies used in fourth industrial revolution

Internet of things: Internet of things technology, which is designed to establish a connection between the physical and digital worlds, has brought about revolutions in numerous sectors. In fact, billions of devices are already interconnected and more and more devices are becoming smart.

Big Data: It is certainly one of the most important technologies adopted in Industry 4.0. It is related to the large collection, processing, and analysis of structured and unstructured data with intelligent and algorithms. It has recently become a topic widely debated in the business and university world, as it offers a number of new opportunities for business.

Cloud computing: Another important technology is cloud computing that allows to manage huge data volumes in open systems and ensure real-time communication for production system. Cloud computing allows access to information from anywhere in the world at any time, thus increasing flexibility.

Cyber security: In intelligent factory, data are transmitted digitally; so cyber security plays a key role in the new industrial revolution. IT security systems are important to enable the full potential of the other technologies.

Automated robots: Industry 4.0 includes the use of automated robots managed directly by the intelligent factory and connected to the rest of the enterprise system. Processing is automatically handled by cyber physical system. Generally, automatic robots are used for ergonomically difficult or highly tiring jobs.

Additive manufacturing techniques and 3D printing: The evolution of technological systems and the increasingly personalized demand of customers have led to the evolution of additive manufacturing techniques and 3D printing. Through this technique, it is possible to construct prototypes but also finished products in three sizes for most different processes.

Augmented reality: New educational models 4.0 exploit increased reality technology through augmented reality. Through virtual reality, it is possible to educate operators, by teaching the right operations to do for maintenance or machine set up. The augmented reality system aims to replace old paper manuals that are difficult to understand.

Horizontal and vertical integration technology: Through this technology, it is possible to cross company data integration based on data transfer standards. In other words, computer and command processes are increasingly networked and integrated.

Simulation system and software: Through these tools, it is possible to simulate business systems and manufacturing processes and analyzing system input and output in real time and obtaining a detailed report about the process under study.

Challenges caused by Fourth Industrial Revolution

Fourth Industrial Revolution is accompanied by the following challenges.

(i) A gap in technical skill

A gap in technical skill will be a great challenge on the days coming ahead. When looking to fill open positions, the businesses should look for applicants who possess “digital dexterity” in that they understand both the manufacturing processes and the digital tools that support those processes. Only with right workforce will businesses models be able to successfully implement new technology and maintain operators. Training existing operators with specific skills in managing digital jobs is also a challenge for many companies.

(ii) Data sensitivity

The rise in technology has also led to increasing concerns over data and IP privacy, ownership and management. To successfully implement an AI algorithm, data are required to train it and test it. For this to happen, the data must be shared. However, many companies are reluctant to share their data with third party solution developers.

(iii) Interoperability

Another significant issue is the lack of separation between protocols, components, products and system. Unfortunately, interoperability impedes companies’ ability to innovate. Further, since they cannot easily “swap out” one vendor to another or one part of the system for another, interoperability also limits options to upgrade system component.

(iv) Security

Threats in terms of current and emerging vulnerabilities in the factory are another significant concern. The physical and digital systems that make up smart factories make real-time interoperability possible. However, it comes with the risk of an expanded attack surface. When numerous machines and devices are connected to single or multiple networks in a smart factory, vulnerabilities in any one of those pieces of equipment could make the system vulnerable to attack. To help combat this issue, companies need to anticipate both enterprise system vulnerabilities and machine level operational vulnerabilities. Companies are not fully prepared to deal with these

security threats, with many relying on their technology and solution providers to scope out vulnerabilities.

(v) Handling data growth

As more companies become dependent on AI usage, companies will be faced with data that is being generated at a faster pace and presented in multiple formats. To wade through these vast amounts of data, AI algorithms need to be easier to comprehend. Further, these algorithms need to be able to combine data that might be of different types and timeframes.

(vi) The need for funding to start planning at the national or regional level for the implementation of the systems 4.0.

(vii) Maintaining continuous professional development.

(viii) Minimizing discrimination in availing the opportunities.

Opportunities accompanied by fourth industrial revolution

(i) Increased productivity

Industry 4.0 will allow one to collect real time information across the entire supply chain, from suppliers to users, and analyze and use this data to improve and enhance operation, designs and products through instant feedback, thus improving manufacturing productivity.

(ii) Reduced waste through efficiency and quality in processes

According to a new report by the International Solid Waste Association(ISWA), technologies such as big data, artificial intelligence (AI), automation, and the Internet of Things (IoT)—all of which form the core of the Industry 4.0 revolution—can play a significant role in revolutionizing waste management. ISWA believes that Industry 4.0 creates new opportunities to prevent, reduce and even eliminate waste from specific sectors and streams, to advance resource recovery, to achieve high standards of treatment and disposal, and substantially reduce pollution.

(iii) Greater safety for workers

Automated machines and robots can either replace workers or sustain them by making their tasks flexible, safer, and socially more inclusive. With the help of sophisticated robots, dangerous and risky work can be accomplished and safety of the workers can be ensured.

(iv) Enhanced decision making

In Industry 4.0 will ensure enhanced decision with data based tools.

(v) Improved competitiveness

In Industry 4.0 competitiveness is improved by developing customized products that satisfy customers' need.

(vi) Promotion of circular economy

The circular economy is a model of production and consumption, which involves sharing, leasing, reusing, repairing, refurbishing and cycling existing materials and products as long as possible. In this way, life cycle of products is extended. In practice, it implies reducing waste to a minimum. When a product reaches the end of its life, its materials are kept within the economy whenever possible. This can be productively used again and again, thereby creating further value. This is a departure from the traditional, linear economic model which is based on a take-make, consume, throw away pattern.

(vii) Promotion of more sustainable patterns of production and consumption

Sustainable consumption and production refers to the use of services and related products, which respond to basic needs and bring a better quality of life while minimizing the use of natural resources and toxic materials as well as the emissions of waste and pollutants over the life cycle of the service or product so as not to jeopardize the needs of future generations.

Response of Bangladesh in meeting the challenges and deriving the opportunities

It is quite challenging for both the developed and developing nations to keep pace with fourth industrial revolution. Developed nations would perhaps be able to cope with it because of their technological progress and skilled workforce with specialized know-how, training and experiences. The World Economic Forum (WEF) claimed that about 800 million people worldwide could lose their jobs by 2030, while approximately 5.7 million unskilled Bangladeshis would be sacked from their jobs abroad and at home due to lack of technological skills. For example, in 2013, the RMG sector employed 4.4 million workers in Bangladesh, a figure that dropped significantly to 3.5 million by 2018. It is argued that one machine can potentially lay off 10 workers. The question naturally arises: what will happen to developing countries like Bangladesh? Will we be able to generate enough job opportunities in our country? In order to adopt and adapt to the changes, there is an urgent need to create a skilled and technology focused employment sectors. As ours is a densely populated country with a strong demographic dividend, we must grab this comparative advantage of demographic dividend and transform this huge population into capable human resources for national development through appropriate technical and vocational education training and various other skill development programs, and these should be made to happen continuously. Realizing this, our present government has focused on the followings-

- (i) Knowledge based sector
- (ii) IT based sector
- (iii) E-commerce
- (iv) Online services
- (v) Microprocessors
- (vi) Software design

With an eye to transforming labour based industry to knowledge based one, Bangladesh has given emphasis on establishing ICT Industry. In the last ten years, one million jobs have been created in ICT sector because of ICT friendly and business friendly policy. The target of our ICT division is to create another one million jobs in the next four years. Bangladesh's achievement can be inferred from the report provided by Oxford University Internet Society. According to its report, Bangladesh is the second largest source of online workers. Six hundred thousand IT freelancers contributing 16% of our global outsourcing industry. Our government is giving training for the youth under "Learning and Earning Development Projects", educating and training women under another project and establishing 28 High-tech Parks across the country to provide working opportunities not only for the employees and employers but also for the innovators and entrepreneurs.

Conclusion

Like all other revolutions of modern history, fourth industrial revolution has brought about myriad challenges before mankind. If we get scared and remain seated lazily without getting ourselves involved in the process of transformation, we cannot avail ourselves of the opportunities tied to fourth industrial revolution, and thus we will have to face dreadful consequence that may result in survival threat. Realizing this, the ministry of industry and the ministry of ICT division of Bangladesh have taken myriad pragmatic steps. As a result, we have already started deriving benefits. However, a lot of things are yet to be done to transform a labour based economy to knowledge based one. If we can identify all the challenges and find out solutions to fix the same, we can save our economy and employments of millions of people from the kickback of the fourth industrial revolution

(4) Literature and society

Introduction

“Literature is the art of discovering something extraordinary about ordinary people, and saying with ordinary words something extraordinary”

Boris Pasternak

Literature holds mirror to the society and reflects the reality of the society and thus there is a close relationship between literature and society. It is clear that a literary man is as much a product of his society as his art is product of the society because man is described as the social animal. His dreams and aspirations, his joys and sorrows, victory and defeat is seen in the background of his society. What happens in a society is reflected in literary works in one form or other.

What literature is:

Literature is the representation of social life in the form of dramas, plays, short stories, tales, poems, prose, satires, fables and so on. Literature is judged in connection with the quality of life. It often reflects the ‘time spirit’. A writer cannot escape the influence of his age. According to Goethe, “every man is citizen of his age as well as his country”. It means every work of art is the product of the time spirit and the society. Literature studied as a reflection of spirit of the age creates a new spirit for us. With the help of literature we travel into the minds of others. Thus literature has become a sociological approach. It is the commentary of history.

What the functions of literature are:

Knowledge sharing

Upbringing

Communication

Entertainment

Shaping the aesthetic taste

Self development

Pleasure

Shaping speech

What society is:

A society is a group of people related to one another through their continuous and uninterrupted relations. It is also a group of likeminded people largely governed by their own norms and values. Human society is characterized by the patterns of relationship between individuals who share cultures, traditions, beliefs and values etc.

Relationship between literature and society

(i) Better understanding of culture and history

Literature allows us to step back in time and learn about life on Earth from the ones who walked before us. We can gather a better understanding of culture and have a greater appreciation of them. We learn through the ways history is recorded, in the forms of manuscripts and through speech itself by going through different literary works written by enlightened people.

(ii) Understanding the thinking of other individuals

Literature is the reflection of humanity and a way for us to understand each other. By listening to the voice of another person we can begin to figure out how that individual thinks.

(iii) Pointing out prejudices and superstitions of the society and suggesting ways to rectify the same

- (iv) **Forming enlightened society**
- (v) **Changing political system**
- (vi) **Bringing out social reformation**
- (vii) **Coming in touch with different cultures**

In periods from ancient Egypt, we can gather their history through hieroglyphics and paintings. The symbols Egyptians left behind are what we now use to understand their culture. This is different to Greek and Roman culture, which is found with greater ease, because of their innate desire for accuracy in their writing.

The impact of controversial literary works on the society

Sometimes it is noticed that many charges are labelled against literature as well as society. A literary writing is banned because an opposite section of society finds it mirroring beliefs and norms against that society. The examples of Salman Rushdie's *The Satanic Verses*, Taslima Nasrin's *Lazza* and PB Shelley's *The necessity of atheism* provide testimony to such charges.

Conclusion:

Literature has had a impact on the development of society. It has shaped civilization, changed political system and exposed justice. Literature gives us a detailed preview of human experiences allowing to connect on basic levels of desire and emotion.

(5) Blue Economy and Bangladesh

Introduction: The ocean is becoming a new focal point in the growth and sustainable development both at national and international level at present. As pollution and contamination is on the increase, the world is in many ways at a turning point in setting its economic priorities in the ocean. The countries having vast ocean areas and long coast find immense prospects not only in influencing regional politics but also in booming the wheel of economy. A very few countries of the world are blessed with ocean based blue economy within their territories. The door of blue economy has started to open a new horizon for Bangladesh as soon as the verdict over maritime dispute from International Tribunal for the Sea (ITLOS) and United Nation Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) has gone in favour of Bangladesh. This maritime settlement has blessed Bangladesh with the expansion of territorial area comprising more than 1,18,813 square kilometres of water including 200 nautical miles of exclusive economic zone and sovereign right in the sea bed extending to 354 nautical miles. Utilizing this vast coast, Bangladesh can place herself in an important position in geopolitics and can enhance capacity for collecting oil and gas, catching fish and producing renewable energy.

Meaning and background of blue economy:

Law of Sea:

Sea based blue economy and prospect for Bangladesh: Gaining a vast maritime territory which is equivalent to 80 percent of the country's original size has brought tremendous prospect for Bangladesh. Bangladesh can take full advantages of its sea borne resources like oil and gas exploration, fisheries, ship building and ship breaking, salt collecting, coastal tourism and so on. The prospect of blue economy is as follows-

- (i) **Increase in maritime transport:**
- (ii) **Exploration of oil and gas:**
- (iii) **Sources of renewable energy:**
- (iv) **Sources of fishery**
- (v) **Ports economy:**
- (vi) **Exploring minerals:**
- (vii) **Coastal tourism:**

(viii) Salt collection:

(ix) Ship building and ship breaking: Marine biotechnology:

(x) Geo-political influence:

Challenges of Blue Economy for Bangladesh: Though vast ocean has brought about immense prospects for Bangladesh in various sectors, the country cannot enjoy all the benefits smoothly or without facing some challenges. The challenges that Bangladesh will have to come across are as follows:

(i) Maintaining sustainable ocean economy:

(ii) Ensuring security of the vast sea-area:

(iii) Ensuring sovereignty over the entire coastal area:

(iv) Protecting the area from international smugglers and sea robbers:

(v) Controlling coastal pollution:

Steps to be taken: To get full advantages of ocean based blue economy and to maintain sustainable ocean economy Bangladesh will have to take myriad steps. These include encouraging research institutes and providing fund and logistic support for opening up this promising field, making proper short term and long term plans to carry out multiple survey in the Bay in order to identify potential oil and gas, ensuring security of the people working in the sea and coast, maintaining good relationship with the countries having maritime border with Bangladesh and establishing maritime surveillance.

Conclusion: The utilization of ocean and its valuable resources have led many countries of the globe to the path of development and prosperity. Such a golden opportunity has been lying before Bangladesh since the settlement of maritime disputes against Myanmar and India. It goes without saying that Bangladesh can gain all the prospects of sea-based blue economy by adopting a number of prudent and effective state policies while avoiding unnecessary bureaucratic bottleneck and dilly dally of the policy makers.

(6) Misuse of Social Media

Introduction: Social media, a new phenomenon of present world, have brought the whole world in the fist of all ages of people. Now, human beings are just one click away from all sorts of information— education to entertainment, politics to sports, trivia to disaster. Indeed, social media have opened a vast horizon for people to get connected with information super highway and to express their feelings, opinions, reactions through like, comment, reply, share and so on. Because of vivid use of social media, they have got mounting popularity among the people of both the developed and developing countries. In spite of having a lot of uses, social media are not an unmixed blessings. Rather, they are double edge swords which have invited myriad nuisances and made many people's lives poisonous throughout the whole world.

Definition: Social media are the collection of online communication channels dedicated to community based input, interaction, content sharing and collaboration. Websites and applications dedicated to forums, microblogging, social networking, social bookmarking, social curation, and wikis are among the different types of social media. Prominent examples of social media include Facebook, Twitter, Google, Wikipedia, Linkdin, Reddit, Pinterest, Instagram, Snapchat and so on. Social media facilitate the development of online social networks by connecting a user's profile with those of other individuals and / or groups.

Misuses of Social Media: The visible misuses of social media are as follows:

(i) Cheat and deception:

(ii) A platform of hurting ideological and religious belief:

(iii) Spreading pornography to all ages of people:

(iv) Spokesperson of ill culture:

- (v) **A tool of developing nexus among terrorists:**
- (vi) **Creating social unrest through spreading wrong and provoking messages:**
- (vii) **Loss of privacy:**
- (viii) **Increasing the conflict between the old and the young:**
- (ix) **Making family bonding delicate:**
- (x) **Cyber bullying:**
- (xi) **Causing moral turpitude:.**
- (xii) **Loss of social skill:**

Conclusion: Social media have made millions of people addict causing killing of valuable time, destroying family and social bonding, spreading pornography to all ages of people, leaking sensitive and valuable personal information, raising cheat and deception and so on. Indeed, it has gripped human beings like Octopus from all sides. The matter has been worse as culprits use social media to commit crimes and many youngsters do the same because of not having enough maturity of using such media which link millions of people belonging to various culture, ideology, belief and so on. To cope with the crisis, responsible behaviour of the users, and strict monitoring from regulatory authority are highly essential.

(7) Bangladeshi Culture

Introduction: Bangladesh is a country of cultural diversity with people having distinct cultural traits. The feelings and sentiments, fervour and festivity, affection and devotion of Bangladeshis for their culture are well known not only in Indian subcontinent but also in the whole world. The age old culture of the country is so deep rooted that the people irrespective of religions, castes, creeds and clans adhere to it and raise voice whenever they notice even the least deviation from their own culture. It is needless to say, the rich culture of our country plays significant role to hold the image of non-communal and moderate Muslim country in the world stage.

Bangladeshi culture and its main components: Culture is the characteristics and knowledge of a particular group of people encompassing language, religion, cuisine, social norms and habits, music, arts, jazzs, customs, beliefs, way of thinking, theatre, literature, attitudes, rituals, values, heritage and so on. The culture of Bangladesh refers to the way of life of the people of Bangladesh. It has evolved over the centuries and encompasses the cultural diversity of several social groups of people. The Bengali Renaissance of the 19th and early 20th centuries and noted Bengali writers, saints, authors, scientists, researchers, thinkers, music composers, painters and film makers have played a significant role in the development of Bengali culture. The culture of Bangladesh is composite and over the centuries has assimilated influences of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Christianity. Main components of Bengali culture include the followings

- i) Language:**
- ii) Religion:**
- iii) Festivals:**
- iv) Art and Music:**
- v) Values and morals:**
- vi) Social norms:**
- vii) Clothes :**
- viii) Custom and tradition:**
- ix) Cuisine and culinary tradition:**
- x) Heritage:.**
- xi) Folklore and folktale**
- xii) Beliefs and superstitions:**
- xiii) Kinship:**
- xiv) Flattery:**

Recent trend in Bangladeshi culture:

Influence of globalization and western dominance in our culture:

- i) Pornography
- ii) Change in marital system:
- iii) Strange fashion and clothing :
- iv) Celebrations

How to prevent our culture from the naked claw of globalization: To prevent cultural degradation we will have to take some steps including imparting our young generation about our culture, patronization of the state in arranging cultural activities in educational institutes, instilling cultural traits among children by parents, discouraging the practice of ill-culture, encouraging young people in participating cultural activities, getting Bangladeshi born foreign citizens introduced to our culture, prohibiting children from getting addict to foreign culture, prohibiting porn sites, arranging seminars to make people aware about culture, raising family bonding, raising morality and ethics, following religious rituals perfectly, strict monitoring in case of allowing foreign movies, monitoring social media, introducing safe net, banning harmful websites and so on.

Conclusion: The culture of Bangladesh that has evolved over the centuries is inseparably linked to people's lives. It is needless to say that evolution in culture goes on continuously and it is as flowing as the stream of a river. Though in today's cultural aggression, myriad cultures are sufferings from the survival threat losing their distinct identity, Bangladeshi culture has not been badly affected because the people of this country rear their culture in their heart and have been practising it for hundreds of years. We have nothing to get worried in the process of evolution of the culture as our culture is not delicate enough to die down falling in the stream of ill culture. Rather, it will be enriched further with the passage of time.

(8) Degradation of social values and its remedies

Introduction: Social values , a set of moral principles, are implicit guidelines that provide orientation to individuals to conduct themselves properly within a social system. Being an important part of the society social values account for the stability of social order. Deviation from these deep rooted norms and rituals surely creates bubbling at the initial stage before making the entire social system violent and poisonous. Bangladesh, a country having conservative culture, has long practised its social values which have made the social environment amicable, friendly and hearty. But in recent years, we have noticed with great regret that some vested quarters of the society are putting their wicked effort to harm our age old social values and are inviting myriad dangers not only for the society but also for the entire country. If they become successful in their plan, our whole society will become violent and beyond livable.

Glorious social values in the past :

Present state of social values:

Causes of degradation in social values: There are a number of causes of degradation in social values. These include

- i) Lack of moral education:
- ii) Acute income discrimination
- iii) Misuse of power:
- iv) Thirst for money and wealth:
- v) Influence of western culture:
- vi) Addiction towards social media
- vii) Influence of Hindi serial:
- viii) Lack of proper family education:

ix) Drug addiction:

x) Children's deprivation of parental time:

Xi) Revengeful politics:

Xii) Lack of good governance

Xiii) Rise in the number of broken families

XIV) Bad association:

XV) Lack of proper religious education:

Remedies: To save the society from further degradation in terms of social values, a number of remedial measures will have to be taken. These are as follows :

- i) Imparting moral education
- ii) Reducing income discrimination
- iii) Reducing addiction towards social media
- iv) Giving enough time to children
- v) Raising family and social bonding
- vi) Strengthening ties among friends and relatives
- vii) Bringing back sound political environment
- viii) Removing the politics of division, vengeance and confrontation
- ix) Ensuring good governance and rule of law
- x) Stopping the culture of impunity
- xi) Curbing the ill competition of making more and more money
- xii) Bringing the drug dealers under strict law
- xiii) Rousing fellow feelings among people
- xiv) Stopping extra-judicial killing
- xv) Developing social relationship among people

Conclusion: In conclusion it can be said that in recent years Bangladesh has been witnessing a sharp and steep decline in social and moral values. Everyday we hear series of harrowing, gruesome tales that were unheard of even a few decades ago. A homogenous nation as we are with rural root and common culture, the society is now in the process of gradual disintegration into a fragmented, greed oriented, selfish entity. This gradual degradation of values makes our society less humane. If the present trend of degradation prolongs, we will find such a society where life will be full of all material things but will have not a drop of peace or tranquility; society will have a lot of people, but none of them will be conscience stricken. Meaning of life will be a big zero. Thus, without wasting even a few seconds, all will have to work without blaming or rebuking others for the revival of our glorious and age old social values.

(9) Corruption, an invincible monster

Introduction

Meaning of corruption

Methods of corruption

Present scenario of corruption in Bangladesh

Causes of corruption

- (i) Corruption friendly system
- (ii) Corruption friendly society
- (iii) Culture of impunity
- (iv) Greed for money and wealth
- (v) Future financial worries and anxieties

- (vi) Poor salary and other benefits**
- (vii) Insufficient social safety net**
- (viii) Life devoid of ethics and morality**
- (ix) Lack of proper education and upbringing**
- (x) Inadequate measures by Anti-corruption Commission**

Effects of corruption in social and individuals' life

- (i) Harassment of the service seeking people**
- (ii) Acute income discrimination**
- (iii) People's deprivation of benefits from resource distribution**
- (iv) Negative impact on market mechanism**
- (v) Creating imbalanced situation in the society**

Steps taken to control corruption

- (i) Rise in salary and other benefits**
- (ii) Digitalization of systems**
- (iii) Increasing social safety net facilities**
- (iv) Up gradation and amendment of laws**
- (v) Making Anti-corruption Commission independent**

Corona virus

Introduction: A pandemic is defined as an epidemic occurring worldwide or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people. The classical definition includes nothing about population immunity, virology or disease severity. On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared the outbreak of a new type of Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, that causes COVID-19 respiratory disease, a global pandemic. Though some vaccines are discovered and some are on the pipeline, the deterioration of the situation cannot be mitigated yet.

Overview of this diseases: The coronavirus family causes illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), according to the WHO. They circulate in animals and some can be transmitted between animals and humans. Several coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans. The new coronavirus, the seventh known to affect humans, has been named COVID-19.

Origination of corona virus: COVID-19 is thought to have originated in a seafood market where wildlife was sold illegally. On February 7, Chinese researchers said the virus could have spread from an infected animal to humans through illegally trafficked pangolins, prized in Asia for food and medicine. Scientists have pointed to either bats or snakes as possible sources.

Signs and symptoms of corona virus: Symptoms of COVID-19 are variable, ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Common symptoms include headache, loss of smell and taste, nasal congestion and rhinorrhea, cough, muscle pain, sore throat, fever, diarrhea, and breathing difficulties. People with the same infection may have different symptoms, and their symptoms may change over time.

Three common clusters of symptoms have been identified: one respiratory symptom cluster with cough, sputum, shortness of breath, and fever; a musculoskeletal symptom cluster with muscle and joint pain, headache, and fatigue; a cluster of digestive symptoms with abdominal pain, vomiting, and diarrhea. In people without prior ear, nose, and throat disorders, loss of taste combined with loss of smell is associated with COVID-19.

Transmission: Coronavirus disease 2019 spreads from person to person mainly through the respiratory route after an infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks or breathes. A new infection occurs when virus-containing particles exhaled by an infected person, either respiratory droplets or aerosols, get into the mouth, nose, or eyes of other people who are in close contact with the infected person. During human-to-human transmission, an average 1000 infectious SARS-CoV-2 virions are thought to initiate a new infection.

Diagnosis and prevention: The standard methods of testing for presence of SARS-CoV-2 are nucleic acid tests, which detects the presence of viral RNA fragments. As these tests detect RNA but not infectious virus, its ability to determine duration of infectivity of patients is limited. The test is typically done on respiratory samples obtained by a nasopharyngeal swab; however, a nasal swab or sputum sample may also be used. Preventive measures to reduce the chances of infection include staying at home, wearing a mask in public, avoiding crowded places, keeping distance from others, ventilating indoor spaces, washing hands with soap and water often and for at least 20 seconds, practicing good respiratory hygiene, and avoiding touching the eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

Vaccines: Two vaccines have been on the pioneering position so far. There are lots of vaccines which are already on the pipeline.

Pfizer: The European Community approved the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine. Vaccinations began to be administered on 27 December 2020.

AstraZeneca: The Moderna vaccine was authorized on 6 January 2021 and the AstraZeneca vaccine was authorized on 29 January 2021.

Treatment for corona virus: There is no specific, effective treatment or cure for coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), the disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Thus, the cornerstone of management of COVID-19 is supportive care, which includes treatment to relieve symptoms, fluid therapy, oxygen support and prone positioning as needed, and medications or devices to support other affected vital organs. Due to a shortage of mechanical ventilators, a bridge ventilator is being used to automatically actuate a bag valve mask. Most cases of COVID-19 are mild. In these, supportive care includes medication such as paracetamol or NSAIDs to relieve symptoms (fever, body aches, cough), proper intake of fluids, rest, and nasal breathing. Good personal hygiene and a healthy diet are also recommended.

Covid-19 in perspective of Bangladesh: The COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh is part of the worldwide pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The virus was confirmed to have spread to Bangladesh in March 2020. The first three known cases were reported on 8 March 2020 by the country's epidemiology institute, IEDCR. Since then, the pandemic has spread day by day over the whole nation and the number of affected people has been increasing.

Medical experts feared that not enough tests were being conducted. Newspaper reports and social media continued to report about additional deaths of patients with COVID-19 symptoms. Some of the deceased were treated at COVID-19 isolation centres at hospitals in the districts and others were denied treatment, though no tests were conducted to confirm contagion. For a long time, testing was centralised to only Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) in the capital Dhaka, although patients with symptoms were reported all around the country.

The government has already arranged for Social distancing measurement, repatriation of Bangladeshi citizens, travel and entry restrictions, fighting disinformation, proper testing. Recently, the government has relaxed lockdown to some garments industries, markets and shopping centers and allowed them to run their business keeping social and physical distance along with maintaining all the rules of health and sanitation to stop COVID-19 transmission in the community.

Non-Government Response: Most of the private companies are contributed to lessen the outbreak of this lethal diseases. They are providing food, medication, PPP and other necessary elements.

Economic impact of COVID-19 on Bangladesh: The COVID-19 pandemic has heavily impacted household and individual level earnings in Bangladesh with around 13 percent of people have become unemployed; lower and middle-income classes have been experiencing a significant drop in income for the last few months. Consequently, the disposable income of the country people is following a declining trend. Meanwhile, the national poverty is forecasted to increase by 25.13 percent, claimed by Bangladesh Institute

of Development Studies (BIDS). The pandemic has taken a heavy toll on almost all sectors of the economy, inter alia, most notably, it has caused a reduction of exports by 16.93 percent, imports by 17 percent, and also a decline of average revenue for all small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by 66 percent in 2020 compared to 2019. Exceptionally, only remittance inflow has seen an 11 percent increase this year. Even though garment factories were allowed to continue operating under the country's lockdown, an estimated one million garment workers, or one-quarter of the workforce, were laid off due to declining orders for export.

Conclusion: It is vivid that Corona Virus transmission is increasing in an alarming rate in Bangladesh, retiring all the government and non-government responses. Hence the national task force needs to be more strict to stop community transmission of corona virus as well as a high-tech technology needs to be introduced to the physicians and health workers to take care of the COVID-19 patients in Bangladesh to end this pandemic.

Key-Notes of the Essay

1. Introduction:

↘ Important points:

A pandemic is defined as an epidemic occurring worldwide or over a very wide area.

The classical definition includes nothing about population immunity, virology or disease severity.

2. Overview of this diseases:

↘ Important points:

The coronavirus family causes illnesses ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. Several coronaviruses are circulating in animals that have not yet infected humans.

The new coronavirus, the seventh known to affect humans, has been named COVID-19.

3. Origination of corona virus:

↘ Important points:

COVID-19 is thought to have originated in a seafood market where wildlife was sold illegally. Scientists have pointed to either bats or snakes as possible sources.

4. Signs and symptoms of corona virus

↘ Important points:

Symptoms of COVID-19 are variable, ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness.

Common symptoms include headache, loss of smell and taste, nasal congestion and rhinorrhea.

5. Transmission:

↘ Important points:

Coronavirus disease 2019 spreads from person to person mainly through the respiratory route.

A new infection occurs when virus-containing particles exhaled by an infected person.

6. Diagnosis and prevention:

↘ Important points:

The test is typically done on respiratory samples obtained by a nasopharyngeal swab.

Preventive measures to reduce the chances of infection include staying at home, wearing a mask.

7. Vaccines against corona virus:

↘ Important points:

The European Community approved the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine.

The Moderna vaccine was authorized on 6 January 2021.

8. Treatment for corona virus:

↘ Important points:

There is no specific, effective treatment or cure for coronavirus disease.
Due to a shortage of mechanical ventilators, a bridge ventilator is being used.
Good personal hygiene and a healthy diet are also recommended.

9. Covid-19 in perspective of Bangladesh:

↘ Important points:

The COVID-19 pandemic in Bangladesh is part of the worldwide pandemic of coronavirus disease.
The virus was confirmed to have spread to Bangladesh in March 2020.
The first three known cases were reported on 8 March 2020.

10. Economic impact of COVID-19 on Bangladesh:

↘ Important points:

The COVID-19 pandemic has heavily impacted household and individual level earnings.
The disposable income of the country people is following a declining trend.

11. Conclusion:

↘ Important points:

It is vivid that Corona Virus transmission is increasing in an alarming rate in Bangladesh.
The national task force needs to be more strict to stop community transmission of corona virus.

Padma Bridge

Introduction: The dream of Padma Bridge has turned into reality with its construction inauguration on 12 December 2015. The Padma Bridge is a multipurpose road-rail bridge across the Padma River to be constructed in Bangladesh. When completed it will be the largest bridge in Bangladesh and the first river crossing for road traffic. It will connect Louhajong, Munshigonj to Shariatpur and Madaripur, linking the southwest of the country, to northern and eastern regions. The Bridge will contribute to a great extent to our communication, economy, and industrialization.

The construction project of Padma Bridge: The Padma Bridge project has been undertaken with the main aim of improving the social, economic and industrial development of the southwest region of Bangladesh. The project also aims to provide the people in the southwest region with improved access to markets and services throughout the rest of the country while accelerating growth in Bangladesh as a whole.

The Design and Construction of Padma Bridge: The bridge design contract was awarded to a team led by Maunsell AECOM, the new Zeland business of AECOM. The design team also includes experts from North-west Hydraulic consultant, SMEC International, ACE consultants, Aas Jakobsen, and HR Wallingford. The bridge will be approximately 6.15km long and 18.10m wide. It will be a double-deck composite steel truss structure and will use 41 pieces. The main spans will be 150m long. The upper deck will contain a four lane highway, while the lower deck will house a rail line. Gas transmission pipeline, optic fiber cable and power transmission lines.

The Multipurpose Bridge named Padma at a glance:

Carriers: Motor vehicles, railway

Crosses: Padma River

Locale: Louhajong, Munshigonj to Shariatpur and Madaripur, linking the southwest of the country, to northern and eastern regions.

Maintained by: BBA (Bangladesh Bridge Authority)

Designer: Maunsell AECOM

Contractor: China major Bridge Engineering Corporation

Design: Truss bridge

Material: steel

Total length: 6150m

Width: 18.10m

Construction begins: December 2014

The Financing sources of Padma Bridge: The donor agency including World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the JICA promised a loan of \$1.9 billion for the project. But the loan was canceled by the donors on the allegation of corruption conspiracy against former communication minister Sayed Abul Hossain. However, the government dismissed the World Bank's allegation and decided to construct the bridge in its own fund. The government has made an allocation of Tk. 8100 core for Padma bridge project in the Annual Development program. And thus the government will fund for the project for its total cost.

The Economic and social transformation brought by Padma Bridge: Reliable infrastructure plays a key role in economic growth. Studies have found positive relationship between infrastructure and economic output in many countries. This happens through gross domestic capital formation, employment, trade and human capital. Good infrastructure enhances productive capacity and improves competitiveness of a country. There is ample evidence that infrastructure and output are mutually beneficial. That is, infrastructure boosts output and higher output also leads to better infrastructure. The Padma Bridge is estimated to increase the GDP of the country by more than one percent. It will benefit about three crore

people across 21 south-western districts of Bangladesh. These districts will be connected with the growth centers through better connectivity. They can be used as economic corridors. This will create opportunities for employment and income. The transportation system will be improved as movement of people will be enhanced. Supply chains within the country will be connected better. Goods and services will move smoothly from one place to another. People from the south-western parts of the country are also expected to have better access to education, healthcare and other services.

The benefits perceived through many factors: Infrastructure generates economic benefit to the extent they create services for people. In other words, benefits from infrastructure are not automatic and it cannot work in isolation. The return from investments depends on enabling policy framework and supporting measures. One of the preconditions is the development of all regions including the rural areas and creating opportunities for people everywhere. Decentralization of services and opportunities is critical for reaping benefits from such infrastructure. For example, setting up of industries in the newly connected districts will help stop migration from the rural areas to the big cities for work. Better access to finance for small and medium businesses such as agro-processing, handicrafts and food industries will also help create jobs. Besides, improvement of facilities such as uninterrupted electricity, internet, education and healthcare in the villages will restrain people from crowding the cities.

Earlier, the Jamuna Bridge which linked the north-western districts with the rest of the country had also created a lot of hope. However, much of that hope remained unfulfilled. With much dismay we observe how farmers of Sirajganj and other districts have to throw milk on the road as they do not get fair prices. Potato and other vegetable producers in the villages have to do the same due to lack of better prices for their produce. On the other hand, students from the rural areas have to come for higher studies to Dhaka. Critical patients have to be brought to big cities for treatment despite having clinics at district and sub-district levels. Professionals and doctors do not want to live outside Dhaka. In many districts there are medical colleges and universities. Still those places are not the desired destinations due to lack of other essential amenities. Because Dhaka is the centre of all economic, administrative, social and cultural activities, people cannot do without living in and around this mega city. This is deterring the development of the rural areas.

The Challenge against building Padma Bridge: Crossing Bangladesh's Padma River, the world's third largest, has always been a challenge. Often a tiring and sometimes dangerous journey due to unreliable and limited ferry connections, there are regularly long waits for overcrowded boats and ferries.

The lack of connectivity has prevented timely and effective access to medical care, education, and has also hindered mobility and economic activity. The proportion of the population below the poverty line in the south west region is about 5% higher than the national average. Primarily due to lack of connectivity, the region economically lagged behind the rest of the country. Trucks and buses sometimes have to wait for days a ferry so they can move people and goods from the South West to economic centers such as Dhaka and Chittagong. Even when there's no backlog, the journey to Dhaka often takes over 4 hours with almost half of the journey taken by the river crossing.

The Quality and Transparency about Padma Bridge: Given the paramount impact the project will have on the lives of millions of people, the World Bank is partnering with the Government of Bangladesh and other development partners to ensure that the highest quality standards are maintained from start to finish of the bridge. The Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank agreed on a jointly developed Governance and Accountability Action Plan that aims at integrating good governance in project design, enhancing supervision to guarantee quality and ensuring oversight and transparency for greater accountability to the people of Bangladesh.

Conclusion: Construction of Padma Multipurpose Bridge with own fund was a courageous initiative of Bangladesh government. It proves our valor and strength and inspires us to come out of dependency that will help us to take bigger projects in future independently. The completion of Padma Bridge will fulfill the ever cherished dream of the people of Bangladesh.

Key-Notes of the Essay

1. Introduction:

✎ Important points:

It's the largest bridge in Bangladesh and the first river crossing for road traffic.
It will connect Louhajong, Munshigonj to Shariatpur and Madaripur.

2. The construction project of Padma Bridge:

✎ Important points:

The Padma Bridge project has been undertaken for improving the industrial development.
The project also aims to provide the people in the southwest region with improved transportation.

3. The Design and construction of Padma Bridge:

✎ Important points:

The bridge design contract was awarded to a team led by Maunsell AECOM.
The bridge will be approximately 6.15km long and 18.10m wide.
It will be a double-deck composite steel truss structure and will use 41 pieces.

4. The Multipurpose Bridge named Padma at a glance:

✎ Important points:

Maintained by: BBA (Bangladesh Bridge Authority)
Total length: 6150m
Width: 18.10m

5. The Financing sources of Padma Bridge:

✎ Important points:

World Bank, Asian Development Bank, and the JICA promised a loan for the project.
The government has made an allocation of Tk. 8100 core for Padma bridge project.

6. The Economic and social transformation brought by Padma Bridge:

✎ Important points:

Good infrastructure enhances productive capacity and improves competitiveness of a country.
The Padma Bridge is estimated to increase the GDP of the country by more than one percent.

7. The benefits perceived through many factors:

✎ Important points:

Decentralized opportunities is critical for reaping benefits from such infrastructure.
Improvement of facilities in the villages will restrain people from crowding the cities.

8. The Challenge against building Padma Bridge:

✎ Important points:

Crossing Bangladesh's Padma River, the world's third largest, has always been a challenge.
The lack of connectivity has prevented timely and effective access to medical care, education.

9. The Quality and Transparency about Padma Bridge:

✎ Important points:

The Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank agreed on a jointly.
They ensure oversight and transparency for greater accountability to the people of Bangladesh.

10. Conclusion:

✎ Important points:

Construction of Padma Multipurpose was a courageous initiative of Bangladesh government.
The completion of Padma Bridge will fulfill the ever cherished dream of the people of Bangladesh.

Mujib-100-year-anniversary

Introduction: Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader of the Bangali nation, the architect of independent Bangladesh, and the greatest Bangali of all times, was born in 1920 at Tungipara village of the then Gopalganj sub-division, now district. He was the third among six siblings — two sons and four daughters — born to parents, Sheikh Lutfur Rahman, and Sheikh Sayera Khatun.

Celebration of Mujib 100 years: The nation is set to celebrate the day through extensive programs with fanfare and gaiety amid Covid-19 pandemic. Bangladesh missions abroad have also chalked out elaborate programs to celebrate the day. The theme of this year's birthday of Bangabandhu and National Children's Day is "Bangabandhur Janmadin, Shishur Ridoy Hok Rangin" (Let children's lives become more colourful on Bangabandhu's birthday).

Foreign guests: Maldives' President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is scheduled to join Bangladesh's Independence golden jubilee and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birth centenary celebrations. He would then pay homage to Bangabandhu by placing a wreath at his portrait on the premises of Bangabandhu Memorial Museum on March 17. Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on March 19 on a two-day tour. Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari is likely to reach Dhaka on a two-day tour on March 22, and Bhutanese Prime Minister Lotay Tshering on March 24.

President on this celebration: In observance of the day, President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will issue separate messages, to pay profound respects to the memory of Bangabandhu and greet the children.

Prime minister on this celebration: Marking the day, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to virtually address a program marking the occasion of the birth centenary of Bangabandhu, and the National Children's Day-2021, on the premises of the mausoleum of Bangabandhu at Tungipara in Gopalganj at 10:30 am on Wednesday. The day is a public holiday.

Media on this celebration: Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, and other private TV channels and radio stations are likely to air special programs highlighting the significance of the day. The portrait of Bangabandhu – Guinness World Record breaking art on a field – was captured by a drone in Bogra on Tuesday, March 9, 2021. Besides, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to arrive on March 26 and depart on March 27.

Arrangement of programs: A 10-day special program is ready to kick off at the National Parade Ground from March 17, marking the birth centenary of Bangabandhu and Golden Jubilee of the Independence of the country. Chief Coordinator of Sheikh Mujib's Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury announced the programs at a press conference on March 12. Naser informed that the events would be held between March 17 and 26 following the health guidelines as guests from both home and abroad are supposed to join the programs. The theme of the 10-day event is "Mujib Chirantan," but separate themes for each day have been set in place. "Bengechho Duar Eshechho Jyotirmoy" is the theme of March 17, while "Mohakaaler Torjoni" for March 18 event, "Jotokal Robe Padma Jamuna" for March 19, "Tarunner Alokshikha" for March 20, "Dhongsostupe Jiboner Gaan" for March 21 events, "Banglar Mati, Amar Mati" for March 22, "Nari Mukti, Shammo o Shadhinota" for March 23, "Shanti, Mukti O Manobotar Ogrodoot" for March 24 events, "Gonohottar Kalratri O Aloker Obhijatra" for March 25 and "Shadhinatar Ponchash Bochor O Ogrogotir Shubornorekha" for March 26. Around 500 guests from both home and abroad are supposed to attend the events at the National Parade Ground on March 17, 19, 22, 24, and 26. All the programs – including on March 18, 20, 21, 23, and 25 – would be aired on television channels, online, and social media.

World leaders visiting: On March 17, Naser said Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is supposed to attend the inauguration session of the 10-day event on March 17 as a guest of honour, while Chinese President Xi Jinping and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau are scheduled to deliver the welcome speeches virtually. He informed that Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is supposed to deliver the welcome speech on March 18, while OIC Secretary General Dr Yousef bin Ahmed Al-Othaimeen would deliver speech on March 20, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga on March 22, and South Korean Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun, and Friend of Bangladesh, Takasi Hawarkawar's, son Osamu Hawakawa, on March 25.

Bangabandhu's fight for an independent Bangladesh: Nicknamed Khoka, Bangabandhu got involved in politics in his adolescence, and was arrested for the first time as an eighth grader of Gopalganj Mission School for joining the movement against British rule.

He founded the Chhatra League in 1948 and was instrumental in the founding of the Awami Muslim League, which later became the Awami League, in 1949. Through his dynamic leadership, Bangabandhu organized the Bangali nation in the struggle against exploitation and repression by

Pakistani rulers between 1947 and 1971. On March 7, 1971, he delivered the historic speech that inspired Bangalis in their movement against subjugation and subordination by West Pakistan, declaiming, "Our struggle is for our freedom. Our struggle is for our independence."

A few weeks later, in the early hours of March 26, he declared Bangladesh's independence before being arrested by the Pakistani occupation army. The movement culminated in the emergence of independent Bangladesh through a nine-month Liberation War in 1971. On returning from imprisonment in Pakistan after liberation, Mujib began rebuilding the war-ravaged state. On August 15, 1975, the great leader, along with most of his family members, was assassinated by a disgruntled group of army men.

Salient features of the birth centenary observance: The whole nation marked the birth centenary of the Father of the Nation through various programs. Additionally, under the supervision of Unesco, the entire world will celebrate the centenary. Through the celebrations by the United Nations, the history of Bangabandhu's long struggle and his great sacrifice for the nation and the people of Bangladesh will be projected before the world. In Bangladesh, the celebrations will begin with fireworks at 8pm at Suhrawardy Udyan today, marking the moment of Bangabandhu's birth.

Venues of celebration: Organizers of the centenary celebrations have selected Suhrawardy Udyan for the inauguration of the Mujib Year with fireworks, considering the site to be historic as Bangabandhu had at the place delivered his momentous March 7, 1971 speech leading to the Liberation War and eventual independence, said Birth Centenary Celebration National Implementation Committee chief coordinator Dr Kamal Abdul Naser Chowdhury at a media briefing yesterday. Earlier, the countdown for the celebration's opening began on January 10, coinciding with Bangabandhu's homecoming in 1972.

Although Bangladesh had earlier planned large-scale events to mark Mujib Year, the authorities later scaled down the inauguration fanfare by revising the schedule because of coronavirus.

Types of programs: Most of the programmes were made indoors to avoid public gatherings. The original plan to organise the grand inaugural ceremony of the "Mujib Borsho," or Mujib Year at the National Parade Ground in Dhaka has been postponed. The program will be concluded with a pixel-laser show, which will be broadcast live from the south plaza of the National Parliament. The committee has named the whole program "Muktir Mohanayok - The great hero of freedom"

There will be a broadcast of a recorded poem recitation by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, written by her sister and daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Rehana. The government also cancelled all kinds of programs at schools for celebrating the Mujib year. This year, there will be no Shishu Samabesh (congregation of children) in schools. However, teachers will organise tree plantation programs by avoiding mass gatherings at the school premises.

Celebration in different levels: Different socio-cultural and political organisations from the grassroots to national levels, ministries and divisions have drawn up programmes to celebrate the birth centenary inaugural. The Awami League will celebrate the day through floral wreath laying, special prayers at religious institutions, giving food to underprivileged people and making fireworks, said AL general Secretary Obaidul Quader.

Conclusion: Mujibur maintained close ties with India. He signed the 25-year Indo-Bangladeshi Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace, which pledged extensive economic and humanitarian assistance and training from India for Bangladesh's security forces and government personnel.

Key-Notes of the Essay

1. Introduction:

↘ Important points:

Bangabandhu, the undisputed leader of the Bangali nation, was born in 1920 at Tungipara. He was the third among six siblings.

2. Celebration of Mujib 100 years:

↘ Important points:

The nation is set to celebrate the day through extensive programs with fanfare and gaiety. Bangladesh missions abroad have also chalked out elaborate programs to celebrate the day.

3. Foreign guests:

↘ Important points:

Maldives' President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih is scheduled to join Bangladesh's Independence. Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa is scheduled to arrive in Dhaka on March 19.

4. Media on this celebration:

↘ Important points:

Bangladesh Television air special programs highlighting the significance of the day. The portrait of Bangabandhu was captured by a drone in Bogra on Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

5. Arrangement of programs:

↘ Important points:

A 10-day special program was ready to kick off at the National Parade Ground from March 17. All the programs be aired on television channels, online, and social media.

6. Bangabandhu's fight for an independent Bangladesh

↘ Important points:

Nicknamed Khoka, Bangabandhu got involved in politics in his adolescence. He founded the Chhatra League in 1948. Pakistani rulers between 1947 and 1971. On March 7, 1971, he delivered the historic speech.

7. Venues of celebration:

↘ Important points:

Organizers of the centenary celebrations have selected Suhrawardy Udyan for the inauguration. The authorities later scaled down the inauguration fanfare by revising the schedule.

8. Conclusion:

↘ Important points:

Mujibur maintained close ties with India. He signed the 25-year Indo-Bangladeshi Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace.

Golden jubilee of Bangladesh Independence

Introduction: Independence of Bangladesh was gained through a nine-month guerilla war against the Pakistan Army, and their collaborators including paramilitary Razakars which resulted in the death of about 3 million people, as per Awami league and Indian sources, in the Bangladesh War of Independence and Bangladesh Genocide. The violent crackdown by the Pakistan Army led to Awami League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declaring East Pakistan's independence as the state of Bangladesh on 26 March 1971.

The preparation for the celebration of Golden jubilee of Bangladesh independence: The nation celebrates 50 years of its Independence and National Day today coinciding with the grand celebration of the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The grand celebration of the birth centenary of Bangabandhu and the golden jubilee of Bangladesh's independence, which marked the physical attendance of five heads of states and governments and virtual attendance of other global leaders, started on March 17 at the National Parade Square in the presence of Maldivian President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih. The 10-day grand celebration will end today following the celebration of the Independence and National Day with the attendance of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in person as the guest of honour.

The presence of respectable personalities in the program: Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa, Nepalese President Bidya Devi Bhandari and Bhutanese Prime Minister Dr Lotay Tshering joined the grand celebration in person since March 17.

Government's elaborative programs: Marking the day, the government has taken elaborate programs maintaining the health guidelines in view of the global pandemic coronavirus. On the occasion, President M Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina issued separate messages extending heartfelt greetings and warm felicitations to the countrymen living both home and abroad.

The venues fixed for the grand celebration: The National Memorial at Savar will be the main venue of the celebration of the day where President Md Abdul Hamid and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will place wreaths early in the morning as a mark of profound respect to the memories of the martyrs.

Celebration of people from walks of life: People from all walks of life, including families of Bir Shreshthas, war wounded freedom fighters, members of the diplomatic corps, leaders of different political parties, social, cultural and professional bodies, will also lay wreaths at the national memorial in the morning of the day.

Schedule of the programs held: The day's programs will begin by heralding a 50-gun salute early in the morning as a mark of profound respect to the heroic struggle of this nation, which suffered a protracted subjugation under foreign rules from time to time till achieving their coveted Independence in 1971. The national flag will be hoisted atop all government, semi-government, autonomous and private buildings with the rises of sun while all streets and important city intersections will be decorated with national and multi-coloured miniature flags and festoons.

Important buildings and establishments as well as city streets and islands will be illuminated with colorful lights.

Media's activities on the celebration: National dailies will bring out special supplements while Bangladesh Betar, Bangladesh Television, private radio stations and television channels will air month-long special programs on Liberation War and highlighting the significance of the day.

National cultural institution's activities on this celebration: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangla Academy, National Museum, Liberation War Museum, Bangladesh Shishu Academy, and other social and cultural organisations will arrange discussions, cultural programmes and sports competition while painting competition for children, essay and debate competitions will be organized virtually. Liberation War based documentaries and movies will be screened at cinema halls across the country maintaining the health guidelines, including wearing face masks.

Local programs based on this day: Reception will be accorded to freedom fighters and the members of martyred freedom fighters at city, zilla and upazila levels, while Bangladesh Postal Office will publish commemorating postal stamps. Special prayers will be offered in all mosques, temples, churches and other places of worship across the country seeking divine blessings for the eternal peace of the departed souls of Father of the Nation, four national leaders, martyrs of the War of Liberation and all other patriotic sons of the soil. Improved meals will be served to the inmates of hospitals, jails, old homes and orphanage centres to mark the day. The country's all children's parks and museums will remain open for all.

All children parks and museums will remain open for all in terms of maintaining health guidelines while naval ships of Bangladesh Navy and Coast Guard will be exhibited at Chittagong, Khulna, Mongla and Payra ports and the jetties of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in the city's Sadarghat, Pagla in Narayanganj, Barisal and Chandpur from 2pm until the sun sets.

The missions abroad will also celebrate the day through similar programs.

Different political Parties celebration of this memorable day: Different political parties including ruling Awami League as well as socio-cultural and professional organisations have also taken various programs to observe the day in a befitting manner. Every year, the March 26 brings the most tragic reminiscence of the history's blackest episode that heralded a nine-month bloody ordeal from the night of March 25, 1971, achieving the long-cherished independence on December 16 the same year at the cost of a sea of blood.

The man behind this grand celebration: In the wake of the military crackdown, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who became the undisputed leader of the then Pakistan following the massive victory of his party, Awami League, in the 1970 general elections, declared the independence of Bangladesh through the then EPR (East Pakistan Rifles) wireless at 00-30 hours on March 26 (the night following March 25) in 1971 at his historic Road-32 residence at Dhanmondi. The great leader also called upon the people to build up strong resistance against the Pakistani barbaric occupation forces. The Pakistani military junta, in a bid to stop the legitimate movement of the Bangalees, arrested Bangabandhu on that night following his declaration of independence. Later, Bangabandhu was taken to the then West Pakistan where he had to spend nine months in a dark condemned cell. Bangabandhu wrote down the declaration of independence soon after the Pakistani army cracked down on the fateful night of March 25, 1971.

Experts attribute Bangladesh's growth story to a range of factors: one of the world's most competitive garment industries, the education and empowerment of women, a vibrant network of nongovernmental organizations, and high levels of remittances. As C. Raja Mohan notes in Foreign Policy, the country is poised to become a bigger player in regional and global geopolitics—thanks in no small part to this growth.

But Bangladesh's economic success has been accompanied by a descent into authoritarianism. The ruling Awami League (AL) party, led by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina—the daughter of independence hero Rahman—has consolidated its rule through harsh crackdowns on the opposition and the muffling of dissent. While the AL enjoys genuine support, many analysts argue the party won elections in 2018 and 2014 that were neither free nor fair. Bangladesh's Freedom House democracy score declined by 35 percent between 2013 and 2020.

Other Asian countries, such as China and Singapore, have enjoyed economic growth without democracy, but Bangladesh's democratic backsliding risks imperiling its economic success, as FP's Sumit Ganguly wrote last November. The AL's consolidation of power could contribute to corruption and cronyism, and Dhaka's severe curbs on internet freedoms could constrain the country's digital economy and scare off foreign investment.

Conclusion: Despite its impressive track record, Bangladesh's economy still faces major challenges, including persistent income inequality and poor transportation infrastructure. If its democracy continues to suffer, Bangladesh's confident march to middle-income status could experience more setbacks—with a future not as bright as the proud nation's extended 50th birthday celebrations suggest.

Key-Notes of the Essay

1. Introduction:

➤ Important points:

Independence of Bangladesh was gained through a nine-month guerilla war against.
Awami League leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman declared East Pakistan's independence in 1971.

2. The preparation for the celebration of Golden jubilee of Bangladesh independence:

➤ Important points:

The nation celebrates 50 years of its Independence.
The grand celebration marked the physical attendance of five heads of states and governments.

3. Celebration of people from walks of life:

➤ Important points:

People from all walks of life will also lay wreaths at the national memorial in the morning.

4. National cultural institution's activities on this celebration

➤ Important points:

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Bangla Academy will arrange discussions, cultural programs.
Liberation War based documentaries and movies will be screened at cinema halls.

5. Experts attribute Bangladesh's growth story to a range of factors:

➤ Important points:

Bangladesh's economic success has been accompanied by a descent into authoritarianism.
Bangladesh's Freedom House democracy score declined by 35 percent between 2013 and 2020.

6. Conclusion:

➤ Important points:

Despite its impressive track record, Bangladesh's economy still faces major challenges.
If its democracy continues to suffer, Bangladesh could experience more setbacks.

Bangabandhu Satellite-1

Introduction: Today almost all the modern and enlightened nations have their own satellite in the orbit. A sovereign country, in a pursuit of sustainable development, needs its own satellite in order to reduce its dependency on other nations. BTRC started working with the vision to open new dimension of possibility in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh by launching its first ever satellite. Preliminary implementation activities are in progress with the consultation of USA based consultancy firm Space Partnership International (SPI) and specialist advice of International Telecommunication Union (ITU). A country like Bangladesh is highly exposed to natural disaster risk because of its unique geographical location. Telecommunication system in Bangladesh has always been suffering from interruptions and problems as erratic disasters hit the country. During such emergency situation, Satellite network can play an important role in ensuring uninterrupted telecommunication services in Bangladesh.

Overview of Bangabandhu-1 Satellite: Bangladesh has entered a new era as a proud member of the satellite club as the flag of Bangladesh has also been hoisted in the space through launching of the Bangabandhu-1 Satellite. The launch made Bangladesh the 57th nation in the world and fourth in South Asia after India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to own a satellite. On 14 June 1975 Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman initiated the country's first space mission by inaugurating the country's first land satellite station at Betbuniya. Finally, on November 11, 2015, Bangladesh signed the agreement with France's Thales Alenia Space for the construction of the first land-based artificial satellite "Bangabandhu-1". Later on, May 12, 2018, after the successful launch of the Satellite at 2:14 am Bangladesh gets its place in the Elite Society of the satellite-owned countries.

What Is a Satellite & Why satellites are important: A satellite is a moon, planet or machine that orbits a planet or star. For example, Earth is a satellite because it orbits the sun. Usually, the word "satellite" refers to a machine that is launched into space and moves around Earth or another body in space. Earth and the moon are examples of natural satellites.

The bird's-eye view that satellites have allows them to see large areas of Earth at one time. This ability means satellites can collect more data, more quickly, than instruments on the ground. With satellites, TV signals and phone calls are sent upward to a satellite.

Baseline Characteristics of the country's first Satellite: Bangladesh has planned to launch a Communication & Broadcasting Satellite consisting 24 Ku and 16 C-band transponders. The priority satellite applications are Direct to Home (DTH), VSAT, Backhaul and Trunking, Network Restoration, Disaster Preparedness and relief etc. The Primary Service Area (PSA) would be Bangladesh and neighboring countries and the Secondary Service Area (SSA) would be South East Asia, Europe, MENA, and East Africa depending on orbital slot. The system concept of the proposed satellite comprises with satellite payload requirements, orbital slot/frequencies, coverage area(s), ground segment, user terminal design characteristics, satellite operations and environmental factors.

Current Project Activities: The preparatory project has made significant progress since its inception in the area of feasibility study, frequency coordination for achieving an orbital slot, arranging source of fund, RF survey for finalizing two locations for satellite ground stations and preparation of DPP for the next project named "Bangabandhu Satellite Launching Project" etc. The project team has taken training on Satellite systems in Washington D.C., USA and is working relentlessly to fulfill the major objective of the project of having country's first satellite in orbit. In addition to regular activities, the project office communicates with ITU and maintaining liaison as and when required. Now, Bangladesh is looking forward to a successful launch of the country's first satellite which will ensure improved and uninterrupted connectivity with the rest of the world.

Bangabandhu satellite 1 design and development: Based on the Spacebus 4000B2 platform developed by Thales Alenia Space, the Bangabandhu satellite has a launch mass of 3,500kg. It includes two deployable solar arrays with batteries and has a design lifespan of 15 years. Thales Alenia Space was selected as the prime contractor to provide turnkey systems, including design, production, and testing services for the BD-1 satellites, in November 2015. The contractual scope also includes the development of the ground segment. BD-1 satellite's communications module integration work was carried out at Thales Alenia Space's plant located in Toulouse, France. The critical design review (CDR) of BD-1 satellite was completed in January 2017.

Bangabandhu satellite communication capabilities: The Bangabandhu satellite is fitted with 26 Ku-Band and 14 C-Band transponders. The major applications of the spacecraft include DTH, very small aperture terminal (VSAT) communications, backhaul and trunking, network restoration, and disaster preparedness and relief. The primary service area (PSA) of the satellite is Bangladesh and neighbouring countries, while secondary service areas (SSA) include South East Asia, Europe, Middle East and North Africa (MENA), as well as East Africa.

The Launch and operation of Bangabandhu Satellite-1: Bangabandhu Satellite-1 was launched at 20:14 UTC on 12 May 2018, on a SpaceX Falcon 9 launch vehicle at the Kennedy Space Center, USA. It was the first payload to be launched using the new SpaceX Block 5 model of the rocket. The satellite was originally planned to launch 10 May 2018. However the rocket carrying the payload triggered an automatic abort as it entered internal power and control at T-58 seconds. The rocket launch was pushed back 24 hours, and it was finally launched on 11 May 2018. The satellite uses ground control stations built by Thales Alenia Space with its partner Spectra primary ground station in Gazipur Secondary ground station is at Betbunia, Rangamati. The first test signal after launch was received by the operators on 12 May 2018.

Financing for Bangabandhu satellite 1: The development of the BD-1 satellite was completed at a cost of \$248m. The Bangladeshi Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) approved \$37.58m in funding for the development of the country's first satellite in September 2014. Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) provided \$17.46m for the construction of the BD-1 and its ground equipment.

What purpose will it serve: The priority operation of BS-1 would be: Direct to Home (DTH) service for TV channels, VSAT, backhaul and trunking, network restoration, disaster preparedness and relief. As of now, Bangladesh rents all of these services from satellite service providers in the region.

Coverage Areas of 'Bangabandhu-1' Satellite: The satellite's coverage zone encompasses Bangladesh and the surrounding region offering the capacity in Ku-band over Bangladesh and its territorial waters of the Bay of Bengal, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Philippines, and Indonesia; it also provides capacity in C-Band over the whole region. In the event of unexpected disasters hitting the country, telecommunication system in Bangladesh might be unavailable. During such emergency situations, satellite network can play an important role in ensuring uninterrupted telecommunication services in the country.

Conclusion: This essay has presented an overview of communication satellite where the Bangabandhu-1 satellite has been taken as an example. A simple explanation of satellite communication has been given with the help of a block diagram. It appears that BS-1 will enable a dramatic development in the current telecommunication and internet connectivity of the country as well as weather forecasting. BS-1 has added a new pace to the country's IT and economy for establishing digital Bangladesh.

Key-Notes of the Essay

1. Introduction:

✎ Important points:

A sovereign country needs its own satellite in order to reduce its dependency on other nations. Satellite network can play an important role in ensuring uninterrupted telecommunication services.

2. Overview of Bangabandhu-1 Satellite:

✎ Important points:

Bangladesh has entered a new era as a proud member of the satellite club. Bangladesh gets its place in the Elite Society of the satellite-owned countries in 2018.

3. What Is a Satellite & Why satellites are important:

✎ Important points:

A satellite is a moon, planet or machine that orbits a planet or star. With satellites, TV signals and phone calls are sent upward to a satellite.

4. Baseline Characteristics of the country's first Satellite:

✎ Important points:

Bangladesh has planned to launch a Communication & Broadcasting Satellite. The proposed satellite comprises with satellite technological and environmental factors.

5. Current Project Activities:

✎ Important points:

The preparatory project has made significant progress since its inception. Bangladesh is looking forward to a successful launch of the country's first satellite.

6. Bangabandhu satellite 1 design and development:

✎ Important points:

It includes two deployable solar arrays with batteries and has a design lifespan of 15 years. Thales Alenia Space was selected as the prime contractor to provide turnkey systems.

7. Bangabandhu satellite communication capabilities:

✎ Important points:

The Bangabandhu satellite is fitted with 26 Ku-Band and 14 C-Band transponders. The primary service area (PSA) of the satellite is Bangladesh and neighbouring countries.

8. The Launch and operation of Bangabandhu Satellite -1:

✎ Important points:

It was the first payload to be launched using the new SpaceX Block 5 model of the rocket. The rocket launch was pushed back 24 hours, and it was finally launched on 11 May 2018.

9. Financing for Bangabandhu satellite 1:

✎ Important points:

The development of the BD-1 satellite was completed at a cost of \$248m. The (ECNEC) approved \$37.58m in funding for the development of the country's first satellite.

10. What purpose it will serve.

✎ Important points:

The priority operation of BS-1 would be: Direct to Home (DTH) service for TV channels. Bangladesh rents all of these services from satellite service providers in the region.

11. Coverage Areas of 'Bangabandhu-1' Satellite:

✎ Important points:

It provides capacity in C-Band over the whole region. Satellite network can play an important role in ensuring uninterrupted telecommunication services.

12. Conclusion:

✎ Important points:

A simple explanation of satellite communication has been given with the help of a block diagram. BS-1 has added a new pace to the country's IT and economy for establishing digital Bangladesh.

One Belt One Road (OBOR)

Introduction: The Belt and Road Initiative, known in Chinese and formerly in English as One Belt One Road or OBOR for short, is a global infrastructure development strategy adopted by the Chinese government in 2013 to invest in nearly 70 countries and international organizations. It is considered a centerpiece of Chinese Communist Party general secretary and paramount leader Xi Jinping's foreign policy, who originally announced the strategy as the "Silk Road Economic Belt" during an official visit to Kazakhstan in September 2013.

Overview and Benefits of the One Belt One Road: One Belt One Road (OBOR), the brainchild of Chinese President Xi Jinping, is an ambitious economic development and commercial project that focuses on improving connectivity and cooperation among multiple countries spread across the continents of Asia, Africa, and Europe. It has been dubbed as the “Project of the Century” by the Chinese authorities, OBOR spans about 78 countries. OBOR is a project that focuses on improving connectivity and cooperation among multiple countries in Asia, Africa, and Europe. OBOR's scope has expanded over the years to include new territories and development initiatives. Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan support OBOR thanks to the massive investments by China in local transmission projects in these nations.

How One Belt One Road Works: Initially announced in the year 2013 with the purpose of restoring the ancient Silk Route that connected Asia and Europe, the project's scope has been expanded over the years to include new territories and development initiatives. Also called the Belt and Road Initiative, the project involves building a big network of roadways, railways, maritime ports, power grids, oil and gas pipelines, and associated infrastructure projects. The project covers two parts. The first is called the “Silk Road Economic Belt,” which is primarily land-based and is expected to connect China with Central Asia, Eastern Europe, and Western Europe. The second is called the “21st Century Maritime Silk Road,” which is sea-based and is expected to will China's southern coast to the Mediterranean, Africa, South-East Asia, and Central Asia. The names are confusing as the ‘Belt’ is actually a network of roads, and the ‘Road’ is a sea route.

Six economic corridors:

1. The New Eurasian Land Bridge, which connects Western China to Western Russia
2. The China-Mongolia-Russia Corridor, which connects North China to Eastern Russia via Mongolia
3. The China-Central Asia-West Asia Corridor, which connects Western China to Turkey via Central and West Asia
4. The China-Indochina Peninsula Corridor, which connects Southern China to Singapore via Indo-China
5. The China-Pakistan Corridor, which connects South Western China through Pakistan to Arabia sea routes
6. The Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar Corridor, which connects Southern China to India via Bangladesh and Myanmar

Additionally, the maritime Silk Road connects coastal China to the Mediterranean via Singapore-Malaysia, the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea, and the Strait of Hormuz.

The Financing of one belt one road:

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB): The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, first proposed in October 2013, is a development bank dedicated to lending for infrastructure projects. As of 2015, China announced that over one trillion yuan (US\$160 billion) of infrastructure related projects were in planning or construction. The primary goals of AIIB are to address the expanding infrastructure needs across Asia,

enhance regional integration, promote economic development and improve public access to social services. In November 2014, Xi Jinping announced a US\$40 billion development fund, which would be separate from the banks and not part of the CPEC investment. The Silk Road Fund would invest in businesses rather than lend money to the projects. The Karot Hydropower Project, 50 km (31 mi) from Islamabad, Pakistan is the first project. The Chinese government has promised to provide Pakistan with at least US\$350 million by 2030 to finance this station. The Sanxia Construction Corporation commenced work in January 2016.

Special Considerations: OBOR's Importance to China: OBOR is of prime significance to China as it aims to boost its domestic growth and is also a part of the country's strategy for economic diplomacy. By connecting the less-developed border regions like Xinjiang with neighboring nations, China expects to bump up economic activity. OBOR is expected to open up and create new markets for Chinese goods. It would also enable the manufacturing powerhouse to gain control of cost-effective routes to export materials easily. Any excess capacity in terms of production can be channelized effectively to regions along OBOR routes. China has announced investments of over \$1 trillion in the various infrastructure projects and is funding them by offering low-cost loans to the participating countries.

Many participating countries, like Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, support the OBOR due to massive investments by China in local transmission projects in these nations. Landlocked Nepal has recently joined OBOR by signing a deal that will help it improve cross-border connectivity with China, and Pakistan is set to benefit from the \$46 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) that will connect southwestern China to and through Pakistan, allowing access to Arabian Sea routes. While China continues to pitch OBOR as an all-inclusive project for regional development, other nations perceive it as a strategic move by the Asian powerhouse to attain significance and control at a regional level and to play a larger role at the global level by building and controlling a China-focused trading network. China sees this venture as an opportunity to emerge as a regional leader. In the future, we may see a boost in the Chinese yuan, with increased usage in the OBOR region.

Transportation through the one belt one road: One Belt One Road has assisted many countries in developing infrastructure from transportation to electrical energy. For example, China has invested \$14 billion in Eastern Africa Kenya's Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). SGR is 485km single-track railroad, and acts as one of the most significant projects since Kenya became independent in 1963. SGR stretches from Mombasa to the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, and in December 2015, Kenya loaned \$1.5 billion from China to extend the SGR further to Naivasha in the north-west. The SGR also facilitates local industries and trade between Africa and China.

Economic benefits of one belt one road: One Belt One Road promotes trade between each country and generates mutual economic benefits. For example, Kazakhstan is a landlocked country in Central Asia, and as its winters are very cold, there is barely any vegetable production.

One Belt One Road connects Kazakhstan and the northwestern Chinese Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. The cross-border trade of vegetables provides Kazakhstan's people with their basic needs.

Conclusion: The One Belt One Road Initiative can be argued to be China's economic masterpiece that came into play after the global economic crises. It was an initiative that opened up China for trade with other states of the world, increasing trade and relations. The OBOR initiative reflects a multifaceted interplay of realism, liberalism, constructivism, and altruism between China and the rest of the world. It is expected that the rise of China and the principal powers of the existing world order will have to go through a considerable period of struggle, adjustment, and tension. So, it is imperative for Bangladesh to prepare from now to reap full benefit of this initiative.

Key-Notes of the Essay

1. Introduction:

✎ Important points:

The Belt and Road Initiative is adopted by the Chinese government in 2013. It is considered a centerpiece of Chinese Communist Party general secretary.

2. Overview and benefits of the One Belt One Road:

✎ Important points:

It has been dubbed as the “Project of the Century” by the Chinese authorities.

OBOR's scope has expanded over the years to include new territories and development initiatives.

3. How One Belt One Road Works:

✎ Important points:

The ancient Silk Route project's scope has been expanded over the years.

The names are confusing as the ‘Belt’ is actually a network of roads, and the ‘Road’ is a sea route.

4. Six economic corridors:

✎ Important points:

The New Eurasian Land Bridge, which connects Western China to Western Russia

This Corridor, which connects South Western China through Pakistan to Arabia sea routes.

This Corridor connects Southern China to India via Bangladesh and Myanmar.

5. The Financing of one belt one road:

✎ Important points:

Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB):

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank dedicated to lending for infrastructure projects.

The primary goals of AIIB are to address the expanding infrastructure needs across Asia.

The Silk Road Fund would invest in businesses rather than lend money to the projects.

6. Special Considerations: OBOR's Importance to China:

✎ Important points:

It aims to boost the country's strategy for economic diplomacy.

It would also enable the manufacturing powerhouse to gain control of cost-effective routes.

It improve cross-border connectivity with China, and Pakistan.

7. Transportation through the one belt one road:

✎ Important points:

It has assisted many countries in developing infrastructure from transportation to electrical energy.

The SGR also facilitates local industries and trade between Africa and China.

8. Economic benefits of one belt one road:

✎ Important points:

One Belt One Road promotes trade between each country and generates mutual economic benefits.

The cross-border trade of vegetables provides Kazakhstan's people with their basic needs.

9. Conclusion:

✎ Important points:

It was an initiative that opened up China for trade with other states of the world.

It is imperative for Bangladesh to prepare from now to reap full benefit of this initiative.

DELTA PLAN 2100

Introduction: A delta is a geo morphological area, largely defined by its low lying surface form and location in landscape and coastal area that forms at the mouth of a river. Deltas form from deposition of sediment carried by a river as the flow leaves its mouth. Over long periods, this deposition builds a dynamic and characteristic geographic, ecological and social pattern of the delta and its features. The most expansive definition of the Delta is the Bangladesh Delta that includes all districts that face various natural hazards owing to the deltaic formation of Bangladesh and the related interface with the vast river networks, the Bay of Bengal and climate change. For Bangladesh, Delta Plan is a visionary project by which Bangladesh will get her desired results from unwanted climatic disorders.

Perspective of delta plan: The government would spend \$37 billion by 2031 for ensuring food and water security and fighting disasters, according to a draft of the Delta Plan 2100. The government of Bangladesh, in cooperation with the government of the Netherlands, aims to create the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100. The Delta Plan will integrate planning from delta-related sectors and from all across the country to come to a long-term, holistic and integrated plan for the Bangladesh Delta. The Delta Plan will be grounded in a long-term vision of the Delta's future. This long-term vision, combined with the use of scenarios, allows planning to be adaptive and dynamic by constantly taking into account uncertainties in future developments in climate change, socio-economic development, population growth and regional cooperation. The Delta Plan aims to provide the foundation for permanent delta governance in Bangladesh through the outlining of a Delta Framework.

Bangladesh on Delta plan: Bangladesh is the largest delta of the world. Its rivers and floodplains make up 80% of the country and support life, livelihoods and the economy. Bangladesh is a rapidly developing country, envisaging to become a middle-income country in 2021. The country faces major inter-related delta challenges in water safety, food security and socio-economic development and is prone to natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, and droughts. There is already high pressure on the available land and water resources in the delta.

The formulation of Delta plan 2100: The formulation of the plan is led by the General Economics Division of the Ministry of Planning, and is supported by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Technical assistance is provided through the Dutch-Bangladeshi consortium and by Bangladeshi research organization Policy Research Institute, bringing together cross-sectoral expertise from the Netherlands and Bangladesh. Having started in 2014, the formulation of the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100 was expected to be completed in 2016.

Key Points of the Bangladesh Delta Plan:

- The Bangladesh Delta Plan integrates all delta-related sector plans and policies, enveloping a Delta Vision and strategies that make it possible to integrate sector plans and policies for the long term and to present actionable interventions with a roadmap for realization. It will change the individual sector approach of project planning and implementation into a multi-lateral coordinated approach and related program management.
- It enables the government to integrate climate change adaptation in a more strategic, knowledge-based and consistent way, making efficient use of limited natural and economic resources in Bangladesh. Lessons learnt in other countries like the Netherlands will be explored and reflected upon.
- The Delta Plan enhances good governance through its focus on institutional strengthening, policy or institutional reform, coordination and cooperation, on capacity building and transparency and integrity.

- The Delta Plan enables coordination of the funding process among the different government bodies and private stakeholders, thus using limited funds and investments more effectively.
- The Delta Plan creates an opportunity to harmonize regional and local development plans for agriculture, water management, environmental affairs, ecosystem management, urbanization, tourism, etc. with the national plans.
- The Delta Plan provides a means for strengthening international cooperation, both with development partners and neighboring countries e.g. on trans-boundary river issues.
- The Delta Plan creates an opportunity to harmonize regional and local development plans for agriculture, water management, environmental affairs, ecosystem management, urbanization, tourism, etc. with the national plans.

Time span to achieve Delta plan: The plan took four years to formulate with the help of local, national and international experts and involved a huge number of stakeholders from all walks of life. In each and every stage of its formulation till its final approval, it went through the scrutiny of technical experts and also the policy makers in the government. We are looking forward to the active participation, contribution and support from the government, private and civil society, and media equally in this respect.

Benefits of the Bangladesh Delta Plan:

1. Enabling the Bangladesh government to integrate climate change adaptation, in order to optimize the efficient use of limited resources.
2. A plan for a future delta that ensures water safety, food security and economic growth.
3. Making Bangladesh's short-, medium- and long-term planning robust for a future uncertain with climate change and rapid up-river and socio-economic developments.

Challenges to achieve Delta plan 2100: Challenges mainly lie with its successful implementation. There are few challenges which should be addressed in a systematic and articulated manner. The challenges are namely, financing of its investment plan; capacity building of the implementers who will take the plan in the field; coordination among/between/within agencies and ministry/divisions; aligning planning, implementation and financing activities of Delta ministries/divisions with BDP 2100; aligning delta implementation works with Annual Development Programme (ADP); designing the appropriate mode of financing for PPP related projects under investment plan; climate financing under BDP 2100; practising appropriate feasibility studies before taking up delta investment works; rationalization and effective functioning of water management infrastructures keeping climate change and ADM principle in view; funding and effective O&M suggested under BDP 2100; and designing new projects taking climate change impacts into consideration.

Solution to achieve Delta plan 2100: Successful implementation of BDP 2100 is earmarked as the major concern in the coming days. Successful implementation mainly lies with the appropriate skills and technical capacity of the relevant organizations. To address this challenge, GED is currently working on a project to support the implementation of BDP 2100. The project aims to support capacity building, institutional strengthening, facilitating implementation, supporting investment planning and financing, validating investment plan, reviewing and updating of BDP 2100, if deem necessary with continuously evolving new knowledge and tools.

Coordination and cooperation: Coordination and cooperation among implementing agencies as well as cooperation with upper riparian countries are considered crucial for the successful implementation of BDP 2100. The cooperation is vital in the following areas namely-- strong regional cooperation for Trans-boundary water management issues; basin wide water management and sharing approach for the Ganges, Brahmaputra and the Meghna basin; continuing efforts for signing treaty for sharing water of the Teesta and all other trans-boundary rivers; pursuing construction of the Padma Barrage in suitable location following basin wide Approach through mutual cooperation for retention of water in the dry season; international cooperation on water uses and development in the next 12 years; realising the potentials of blue economy; supporting the Delta Coalition formed by 13 countries for mutual benefits and exchanging/accessing water technologies for improved production and consumption for both home and industrial use; sensitising development partners for mobilising support to the implementation of BDP 2100 Investment Plan.

Holistic plan for Bangladesh Delta: The government of Bangladesh, in cooperation with the government of the Netherlands, aims to create the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100. The Delta Plan integrates planning from delta-related sectors and from all across the country to come to a holistic plan for the Bangladesh Delta. The Delta Plan will be grounded in a long-term vision of the Delta's future. This long-term vision, combined with the use of scenarios, allows planning to be adaptive and dynamic by constantly taking into account uncertainties in future developments in e.g. climate change, socio-economic development, population growth and regional cooperation. The Delta Plan is more than just a one-time planning exercise and aims to provide the foundation for permanent delta governance in Bangladesh through the outlining of a delta framework.

Conclusion: It is a guideline to harness the huge potentials of Bangladesh as a Delta country through extensive water resources management, ensuring food and water security and tackling natural disasters. Implementation of the plan successfully could underwrite the security and viability of Bangladesh well beyond the next 100 years.

Key-Notes of the Essay

1. Introduction:

✎ Important points:

Deltas form from deposition of sediment carried by a river as the flow leaves its mouth. This deposition builds a dynamic geographic social pattern of the delta and its features.

2. Perspective of delta plan:

✎ Important points:

The government would spend \$37 billion by 2031 for ensuring food and water security. The Delta Plan will be grounded in a long-term vision of the Delta's future.

3. Bangladesh on Delta plan:

✎ Important points:

Bangladesh is the largest delta of the world.

There is already high pressure on the available land and water resources in the delta.

4. The formulation of Delta plan 2100:

✎ Important points:

The formulation of the plan is led by the General Economics Division of the Ministry of Planning. Technical assistance is provided through the Dutch-Bangladeshi consortium.

5. Key Points of the Bangladesh Delta Plan:

↘ Important points:

It enables the government to integrate climate change adaptation.

The Delta Plan enables coordination of the funding process among the different government.

The Delta Plan creates an opportunity to harmonize regional and local development plans.

6. Time span to achieve Delta plan

↘ Important points:

The plan took four years to formulate with the help of local, national and international experts.

It went through the scrutiny of technical experts and also the policy makers in the government.

7. Benefits of the Bangladesh Delta Plan:

↘ Important points:

Enabling the Bangladesh government to integrate climate change adaptation.

A plan for a future delta that ensures water safety, food security and economic growth.

8. Challenges to achieve Delta plan 2100:

↘ Important points:

There are few challenges which should be addressed in a systematic and articulated manner.

The challenges are namely, financing of its investment plan; capacity building of the implementers.

9. Solution to achieve Delta plan 2100:

↘ Important points:

Successful implementation of BDP 2100 is earmarked as the major concern in the coming days. Successful implementation mainly lies with the technical capacity of the relevant organizations.

10. Holistic plan for Bangladesh Delta:

↘ Important points:

The government of Bangladesh aims to create the Bangladesh Delta Plan 2100.

The Delta Plan will be grounded in a long-term vision of the Delta's future.

11. Conclusion:

↘ Important points:

It is a guideline to harness the huge potentials of Bangladesh as a Delta country.

Implementation of the plan could underwrite the security and viability of Bangladesh.