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BCS Written

English

Comprehension

Home Practice – 03

Read the following passage and answer question no. 1-7

Terrorism is a daunting problem in today's world. In Bangladesh, the risks and vulnerabilities created by terrorism have become a serious threat to national security. Terrorism has become a threat to life, the economy and political and religious pluralism in Bangladesh. Religious assassinations, political violence and bombings in public places of festivity, entertainment and worship, have stunned the country. The word "terrorism" generates a variety of different and sometimes contradictory meanings depending on the political and sociocultural context. Constant changes in the manifestations and motivations of terrorism compound this confusion. A rational description for terrorism could be "a systematic employment of violence and intimidation to coerce a government or community into acceding to specific political demands." In the South Asian regional context, terrorism is a serious and growing threat to regional security. South Asia has a violent history of terrorist incidents. Most internal security crises in South Asia have had a cross-border dimension, and many are inter-related. Compared to the other South Asian states, terrorism in Bangladesh is relatively new, and is a largely home-grown phenomenon. Bangladesh has witnessed a sharp rise in terrorism since the mid-nineties. Over the last two decades, a number of militant groups have established their presence through violent acts of terrorism in Bangladesh.

As a result, critical sectors in Bangladesh, including energy, transportation, law enforcement, information technology, finance and public health, have all become increasingly vulnerable to terrorist activities. Political terrorism

largely stems from unhealthy competition to retain/gain power at any cost. This is the most dangerous form of terrorism in Bangladesh. The competition for political support has caused the cost and repercussions of this kind of terrorism to be largely ignored by mainstream political parties. This ignorance and inaction not only further exacerbates the issue, but perhaps even promotes political terrorism by signaling tacit acquiescence. Religious terrorism, using violence in the name of religious ideologies, has seen a sharp rise in the country. In all its manifestations, it is one of the most serious security challenges currently confronting Bangladesh. Anti-state terrorism constitutes acts of terror directed specifically against the government and state institutions and officials. An example of this is the case of the Sarbahara party, the objectives of which include overthrowing the existing establishment and reconfiguring state ideology. Ethnic terrorism in Bangladesh is rooted in the quest of indigenous minorities to protect their lands from encroachment and to safeguard their own ethnic identity. This can result in terrorism arising from conflicts in interest between majority and minority groups in a region, which may both resort to violence to further their political agenda.

A set of congruent policies is necessary to combat terrorism in Bangladesh. The incumbent government should also take initiatives to reduce economic inequality.

Counter terrorism instruments must be diversified. Counter terrorism should be pursued at the structural and political level, which requires development and reform of political institutions and law enforcement agencies. A strategy to combat terrorism must be well-researched, integrated and comprehensive and the will of the government and the policy makers is essential.

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

- a) What is the passage about?
- b) What do you understand by terrorism?
- c) Why does terrorism generate a variety of different and sometimes contradictory meanings?
- d) What type of dimension do most internal security crises in South Asia have?
- e) How old is terrorism in the context of Bangladesh?
- f) What are the dreadful impacts of terrorism on Bangladesh?
- g) How does political terrorism largely on Bangladesh?
- h) What, according to the author, is the most dangerous form of terrorism?
- i) What, according to the passage, are the objectives of Sarbahara party?
- j) Give a suitable title of the passage?

2. Guess the meaning of the following words/expression using content clues: (the words are underlined in the passage)

- a) Intimidation
- b) Repercussion
- c) Tacit
- d) Encroachment
- e) Acquiescence

3. Fill in the table by putting words in the empty cells according to their parts of speech:

Noun	Verb	Adjective
a. motivation		
	b. coerce	
c. encroachment		
	X	d. congruent
	e. exacerbate	X

4. Join the sets of sentences into one sentence:

- Risks and vulnerabilities have been created by terrorism. Risks and vulnerabilities have become a serious threat to national security.
- Terrorism is a serious threat to regional security. Terrorism is a growing threat to regional security.
- Terrorism in Bangladesh is relatively new. Terrorism in Bangladesh is a largely home-grown phenomenon.
- Religious terrorism uses violence in the name of religious ideologies. Religious terrorism has seen a sharp rise in the country.
- Political terrorism seeks to retain at any cost. Political terrorism largely stems from unhealthy competition.

5. Write a sentence with each of the following words/expressions. Copying of any sentence from the passage above must be avoided.

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| a) pluralism | b) manifestation |
| c) motivation | d) indigenous |
| e) incumbent | f) comprehensive |
| g) daunting | h) compound |
| i) phenomenon | j) stem from |

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

7. Write a feature to the editor of renowned English daily on 'The growing tendency of terrorism in Bangladesh and the ways to subdue it'.



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