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BCS Written

English

Comprehension Batch

Practical Class Practice – 06

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

Bangladesh is the only country in the world whose people fought for their mother tongue and dedicated their lives to have it recognized as a state language. For the above reason during its 30th General Conference in September 17, 1999, UNESCO recognized 21st February as the International Mother Language Day.

To **commemorate** this grate day, Muktohdara Publishing House started a little sale in front of Bangla Academe in the 21 February 1972. Later, other book publishers joined unofficially. Gradually it became official and the most popular book fair of Bangladesh.

Bangla academy took over organization of the fair 1978. In 1984 it was named Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela. Its popularity increased at a quick pace from 1989. The number of buyers and readers increased in the same manner. Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela wore a different look in 1992 when its scope and size took an enormous shape. The number of participating organizations including publishers rose to 270. In order to extend Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, the academy opened a wider gate by **demolishing** a part of its eastern wall. In addition to the stalls installed within the premises of the academy, smaller stalls were set up on either side of the street. In 1993, the wider space accommodated 484 stalls owned by 338 participating organizations.

Since then Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela has consistently maintained its amazing look and vastness with more and more publishers being interested in participation

and with even more and more people **assembling** each year thousands of people gather everyday not only to purchase books but also to spend time in the company of their authors with a patriotic **zeal**. As a result, Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela has now earned the title of million Mela (A Fair of Union). The word Ekushey comes from Ekush, a Bangla word which means 21. Ekushay literally means the twenty first day. Historically Ekushey means the twenty first day of February in the year that give birth to Bengali nationalism. Ekushey February comes to be known as the martyrs' day because a number of people including students were killed when they demonstrated in support of Bangla as one of the state languages of Pakistan on 21 February 1952. Poems and patriotic songs were written in memory of the day.

Books are not only the main attractions but also many cultural activities, like poetry and music, are held on the bangla academy stage, where traditions of the nation are highlighted. Baul and other folk songs are presented for the amusement of the gathering. Discussions on literature are also held throughout the month of February. Famous writers and intellectuals deliver lectures to enlighten the audience. In one stage programme, Ekushey Padaks are handed over to recipients **amid** the presence of the top intellectuals of the country.

Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela is one of the most important and popular events of Bangladesh. It is important because this is devoted to the martyrs of 21st February in 1952 who have sacrificed their life for mother language. Now this is not merely book fair, it also reflects the history and cultural of Bangladesh. Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela holds such importance that it is regarded as the cultural reunion of Bangladesh.

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

- a) Which history can Bangladesh take pride in?
- b) How did the Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela begin?
- c) What does the Ekushey symbolize?
- d) When did the first book fair start?
- e) What is Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela?
- f) How does it affect our culture?
- g) How does it help our readers?
- h) What are the co-events of Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela?
- i) How does Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela unite readers and writers?
- j) Describe the outcome of Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela.

02. Write meaning of the following five words used in the passage. The meanings are provided in the box below. There are more than five words in the box. Choose the appropriate meanings:

- A. Commemorate
- B. Demolish
- C. Assemble
- D. Amid
- E. Zeal

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

Noun	Verb	Adjective
*	Recognize	(a)
Participation	*	(b)
Symbol	(C)	*
*	Inaugurate	(D)
*	Research	(E)

04. Correct the following run-ons by using appropriate subordinates (such as -----although, because, after, as, while etc.)

a) Bangladesh should be proud; it is the only nation who has the glorious history to sacrifice lives for the mother tongue.

b) 21st February has got the recognition as the international mother language day by UNESCO, it is observed all over the world.

c) All publishers as well as writers participate in the fair the readers can get any kind of books they want.

d) The parents are busy, they should take their children to the Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela.

e) The culture programme also goes on, the Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela is held.

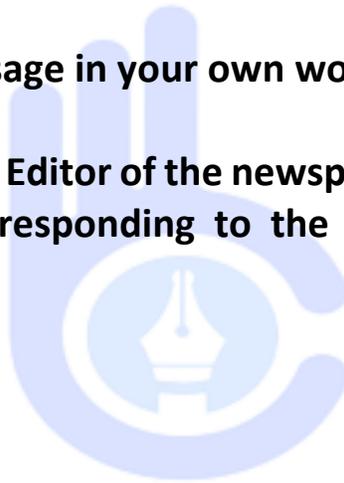
5. Use appropriate capitalization, punctuation and quotation marks where required:

a) last night deepak said we should be proud that unesco recognized 21 february as the international mother language day

b) bangla academy took over the responsibility of holding grantha mela in 1978

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

7. Write a letter to the Editor of the newspaper in which the passage appeared as a feature, responding to the news on 'Amer Ekushey Grantha Mela'.



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