

Unit-5, Lesson-1
Sheikh Kamal: Life of an Achiever

PART-1: READING TEST

1. Read the passage and answer the questions A and B. There are interesting traits in Kamal's character. He was the eldest son of a Prime Minister and later of a President. Yet, his life was very simple. He didn't take any advantage of his father's name and office. As he loved to spend time with his friends at Tungipara in his childhood, he loved to do the same during his college and university days. Watching good movies with them in Madhumita, Naz, or Balaka cinema hall was also something that he really liked.

Sheikh Kamal knew that there is no shortcut to success. He groomed himself up as a young man who earned success by dint of perseverance and commitment. When the Pakistan military began its genocide in Bangladesh he joined the liberation war and received military training at Camp Murtee, located at the Himalayan foothills in India. This tall young man who carried himself with dignity and possessed remarkable traits of leadership became the ADC of General Ataul Goni Osmani, the Commander in Chief of Bangladesh Armed Forces during the liberation war.

After independence, Sheikh Kamal could easily remain in Bangladesh Army and pass a secure life but he preferred to engage himself in country building and organizing the young forces to that end. Journalist Syed Ishtiaq Reza, in one of his columns "Ekjon Sheikh Kamal" in Bangla Tribune, rightly says that the unique qualities of Sheikh Kamal's character, especially his whole-hearted Involvement in sports and culture, are never seen in any son or daughter of any President, Prime Minister or high officials in Bangladesh.

This is unfortunate that just after 10 days of his 26 birthday and only after a month of his marriage with Sultana Kamal, a Dhaka University Blue in athletics, his life was cut short by a group of cowardly killers. Both he and his wife along with Bangabandhu, Bangamata and most members of their family were assassinated.

A. Choose the correct answer from the alternatives:

(a) The word 'cowardly' refers to ____

i. brave

- ii. Fearless
- iii. dastardly
- iv. valiant

(b) Which one of the folowings is true?

- i. Sheikh Kamal was aged above forty.
- ii. Sheikh Kamal was the Chief of Army.
- iii. Sheikh Kamal was a very handsome man.
- iv. Sheikh Kamal progressed by dint of hard work and quality.

(c) The word 'commitment' means____

- i. occurrence
- ii. Violation
- iii. dedication
- iv. indifference

(d) The word 'assassinate' refers to____

- i. murder by sudden attack
- ii. slay
- iii. kill
- iv. none of these

(e) Sheikh Kamal received military training from____

- i. the Himalaya
- ii. Camp Murtee
- iii. Mujibnagar
- iv. Meherpur

(f) How did Sheikh Kamal earn success?

- i. by means of shortcut
- ii. by dint of enthusiasm
- iii. by virtue of perseverance and commitment
- iv. by means of luxury

(g) What type of life did Sheikh Kamal lead?

- i. Ordinary
- ii. Extraordinary

iii. Gorgeous

iv. Grand

(h) What does the word ‘traits’ in the text mean?

i. a style

ii. a distinguishing quality

iii. types

iv. similarity

(i) Modhumita is the name of a____

i. river

ii. Auditorium

iii. cinema hall

iv. cafeteria

(j) ‘Genocide’ stands for____

i. the massive killing of a group of people

ii. the act of killing people

iii. to create a war

iv. to dominate people

B. Answer the following questions:

(a) What were the unique qualities of Sheikh Kamal?

(b) What traits of youth spirit do you find in Sheikh Kamal’s character?

(c) What type of life did Sheikh Kamal lead?

(d) What was Sheikh Kamal’s role in the liberation war of Bangladesh?

(e) Why didn’t he take any advantage of being a president’s son?

3. Write a summary of the following text.

I could hear very faint voices as if coming from the other side of the world. The time was about 4:00 in the morning and the date September 22,1961. I was feeling tired and exhausted and was encountering stiff opposition from the strong tide. I looked towards my accompanying motorboat carrying my manager Quazi Mohammad Ali, skipper Len Hutchinson and the official observer, Mr. J. U. Wood. They were all pointing towards the Kent shore. As I looked up. I could see flashes. I realized I was very close to the shore.

I asked what the time was and how far I had still to go. They told me that if I put the last ounce of energy into my swimming. I would set a new world record for France to England swim. This electrified me. The goal for which I had been striving for the past four years could be mine. The atm. which goaded me to swim the Channel six times, each time risking my life and reputation. was so close. Yet it could be far.....

The Channel, with its cold biting water, the winds, the waves and the tides does not make things easier. The unpredictable weather changes for the worse after a swimmer jumps in. It has never, to my knowledge, changed for the better for anyone yet... Apart from stamina and practice of long distance swimming, one must have the grit, determination and courage to subdue the Channel. Weather and ill luck have conspired and joined hands many a time to defeat Channel swimmers. They had defeated me no less than five times....

4. Read the following text and fill in the blanks with suitable word from the box. There are more words than needed. Make any grammatical change if necessary.

Literally and truly one cannot get on well in the world without (a)____ To be in (b) of it. is to pass through life with little (c)____ or pleasure: it is to be despised: it is not to be asked out to dinner, or noticed in the (d)____ it; is not to have your (e)____ consulted or else (f) ____with contempt, it is to be (g) ____by strangers and neglected by (h)____, it is to forego (i) ____,freedom, ease of body and mind, to be dependent on the goodwill and (j)____ of others.

5. Fill in the blanks with appropriate word in each gap.

Electronic mail, popularly known as e-mail, is the communication of textual messages via electronic means. Although telex communication is also electronic (a) ____ nature there are differences between a (b)____ and e-mail. While telex communication is (c)____ to terminal. e-mail communication is user (d)____user via the computer. In telex. (e)____destined to a number of users (f)____sent to the same terminal from (g)____ it is distributed in a printed (h)____ by an operation. On the other (i)____, e-mail is delivered to individual electronic (j)____boxes based in computers.

6. Rearrange the following sentences to make a coherent order.

- (a) Geneva is not a big city.
- (b) Mountains rise on all sides.
- (c) But Geneva is inter nationally important.

- (d) In summer the lake is a place for swimming and sailing.
- (e) There are many restaurants where you can have fresh milk.
- (f) Many meetings, and conferences take place in Geneva.
- (g) It has an area of only fourteen square kilometres.
- (h) You can walk across it from end to end in about an hour.
- (i) Mount Blanc, the tallest Peak in Western Europe, is, visible from all parts of the city.
- (j) Geneva lies at the west end of lake Geneva which is, sixty-five kilometers long.