

Pioneers

Class: IX-X

Materials Designed by BRAC University Centre for Languages (CFL)

A. Who is she?.....
Read the following information to identify the person in the picture.
Is she Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain or Begum Sufia Kamal or Jahanara Imam?

- Is a famous poet, feminist and activist in Bangladesh.
- Was born in a zamindar family in Barisal.
- Knew 6 languages: Bangla, English, Hindi, Urdu, Arabic and Persian.
- First book was *Shanjer Maya*.
- First short story collection was published in 1937.
- Actively participated in our Liberation War.
- Called herself a romantic poet.

Who is she?.....



B. Read the following text about Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain with correct/incorrect forms of verbs. Put a tick (✓) mark on the correct forms.

Begum Rokeya (1) **is/was** born with the name Roquia Khatun, but she (2) **achieves/achieved** prominence as Begum Roquia Sakhawat Hossain. Later she (3) **writes/wrote** down her name 'Rokeya' in English.



Her father (4) **is/was** a highly educated Zamindar (Land Lord), but she (5) **does/did** not get the chance to receive any institutional education. Her eldest brother Ibrahim (6) **helps/helped** her to learn Bengali and English at home and after marriage her husband Bahadur Sakhawat Hossain (7) **encourages/encouraged** her to continue her learning. He also (8) **inspires/inspired** her to start writing. So, she (9) **starts/started** writing and (10) **adopts/adopted** Bangla as the medium of her work. She (11) **starts/started** her literary career with a Bangla story named *Pipasha*.

She (12) **established/establish** 'Sakhawat Memorial Girls' High School' at Bhagalpur for Muslim women. Later she (13) **have/had** to shift the institution to Kolkata. Begum Rokeya (14) **founds/founded** "Anjuman-e-Khawteen-e Islam" to hold active debates and conferences for uplifting women's status and education. She (15) **was/were** the first Islamic Feminist in the Indian sub-continent. To raise consciousness, especially among the women, she (16) **wrote/writes** a number of articles, stories and novels in Bangla. Her most influential writings (17) **are/were** *Sultana's Dream*, *Oborodhbashini*, *Motichur*, *Poddorag* and *Narir Adhikar*.

Word List:

Activist (Noun): A person who believes strongly in political or social change and works hard to make this happen.

Feminist (Noun): A person who believes in women's rights, often being involved in activities that are intended to achieve changes.

Partition (Noun): The division of a country into separate countries or areas of government.

Publication (Noun): The act of making information, books or stories available to people in a printed form.

Prominence (Noun): The state of being easily seen or well known.

- B:** 1. was; 2. achieved; 3. wrote; 4. was; 5. did; 6. helped;
7. encouraged; 8. inspired; 9. started; 10. adopted; 11. started;
12. established; 13. had; 14. founded; 15. were; 16. wrote;
17. are.

- D:** 1-Activist; 2-Feminist; 3-Publication; 4-Kolkata;
Personality: Sufia Kamal

ANSWERS

C. Read the following text and match column A with column B to make sentences about Shaheed Janani:

**Jahanara Imam
A mother, a writer and an activist**

Jahanara Imam was born on 3rd May, 1929, in Murshidabad, West Bengal. She was the eldest daughter in her family. At that time, there was immense social pressure on Muslim women pursuing studies but her parents had high ambitions for their daughter.



Her elder son Rumi became 'Mukti Joddha' (freedom fighter) in 1971. Rumi fought bravely against Pakistani Army but unfortunately one night he was arrested and he never came back. Her husband was also picked-up by the Pakistani army and was tortured. He returned home and died three days before the Victory Day.

During the war, Jahanara Imam wrote a dairy which was published as one of the most important publications about the Liberation War of Bangladesh. The name of the book is *Ekatturer Dinguli*.

After the war, she became the leader of "Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee" (Committee to exterminate the Killers and Collaborators of Liberation war) for the trial of the 1971 war criminals.

She completed Bachelor's degree from Lady Brabourne College, Kolkata, in 1947. After the partition of India, she came back to Bangladesh and started her career as a teacher in Vidyamoyee Government Girls' High School. She got married in 1948 and joined Siddheswari Girls' School as Head Mistress. Jahanara Imam had two sons, Rumi and Jami.

She passed away on 24th June, 1994, in USA, suffering from mouth cancer. She was buried in Dhaka as she had wished. She is remembered to millions as "Shaheed Janani".

	Column A	Column B
1	On 3rd May, 1929	a. She got married.
2	In 1947	b. Jahanara Imam passed away in USA.
3	In 1948	c. Jahanara Imam was born in Murshidabad.
4	In 1971	d. She completed her Bachelor's Degree from Lady Brabourne College.
5	In 1994	e. Rumi became the freedom fighter and fought against Pakistani Army.

1. Jahanara Imam was born in Murshidabad on 3rd May, 1929.
OR. On 3rd May, 1929, Jahanara Imam was born in Murshidabad.
2.
3.
4.
5.

D. Word Game: Read the meanings to identify the words. Write the letters in the boxes and then arrange those letters from the dark boxes to find out the name of the person:

1. A person who strongly believes in social and political changes and works hard to bring those changes. ----

c v t

2. A person who believes in freedom of women. ----

e n s

3. An action of making something (book, newspapers etc) known to the public. ----

P i n

4. It is a name of a place where Jahanara Imam studied. ----

o a a

"Widely recognized cultural personality in Bangladesh"----



Learning Outcome: Skimming, Scanning and Using Past Tense



Cold wave making life miserable

Cold wave has hit the country. Specially in the northern region of Bangladesh, the situation has become unbearable. People are suffering most as they don't have adequate clothes to fight the unusual chill. Our kind donation of a blanket or a warm cloth can help a poor family to beat the harsh cold-wave. This generous help can bring some warmth to their life.

Our little support can give big comfort to some.