

# C. Affairs Mock

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## Question No. 3

### INTRODUCTION

Bangladesh recently witnessed a political storm. The repercussions were faced by the sitting PM Sheikh Hasina. The protests started against the quota reserved for "children and grandchildren of those freedom fighters who helped liberate the country." The ambiguous quota was misused by the government to appoint its own blue-eyed candidates to official posts. Protests took a form when the incumbent government used lethal force resulting in the deaths of over 200 protesters. Riled up, agitational protests began and they finally ended when the sitting PM was forced to flee the country. The possible fallout for the region and the country are many but include the country plunging into civil war, an economic crisis and so on.

### GENESIS OF THE PROTESTS

The protests started as small scale

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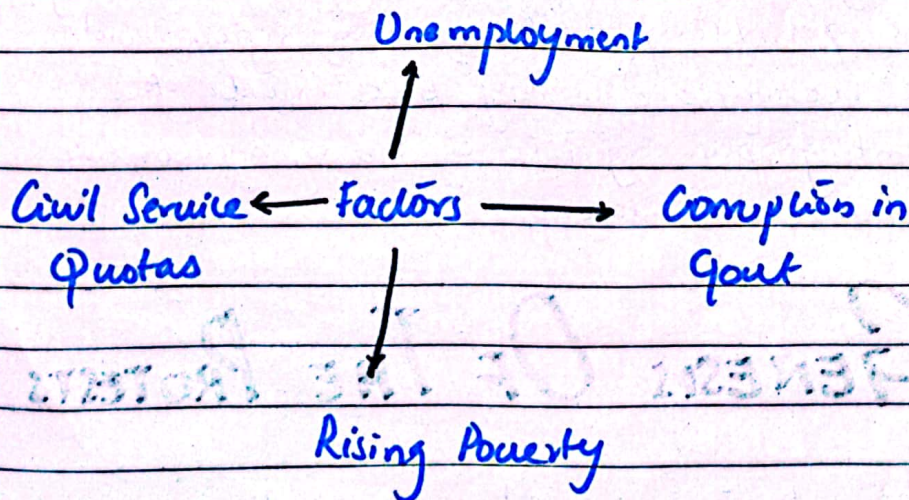
demonstrations against the government's decision to reimpose the quota for the freedom fighters' descendants.

This decision was once put aside in 2011 by the Bengali Judiciary. The protestors argued that these quotas are discriminatory and favoured people from those having connections to the Awami League (AL) more than others.

Corruption, nepotism and unemployment fuelled the growing rage in the student protestors.

## POLITICAL EARTHQUAKE IN B'NESH AND ITS ANALYSIS

### Factors that led upto the protests



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→ Unemployment levels in B'desh at an all time high - 5.08%

→ Sheikh Hossina was accused of embezzling close to \$50m through her household assistants and her confidants

→ 18.7% population lived below the poverty line

→ 55% quotas reserved for various groups whereas 30% reserved for descendants of freedom fighters (BRC)

The country of Bangladesh produces fertile worth \$40Bn that it exports around the world. However, these jobs pay little and university graduates do not prefer these menial jobs. The country's <sup>big</sup> unprecedented growth has not been able to create the job market for educated university graduates. Like many countries in the region, students preferred government/civil service jobs. These jobs acted as a climbing ladder in the social and economic ladder of B'desh. However, close to 85% of these jobs are reserved for various groups/quotas.

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Principle demand of these protestors was the removal of three justices. Moreover, there was growing discontent among the youth as the growth witnessed by the country was not being translated into the betterment of their situations on the ground.

This resulted in peaceful small scale protests. Incendiary and hate filled speeches by the sitting PM aggravated the protests and turned the tide against her.

## Resignation of Sheikh Hasina

After the brutal and violent crackdown by the government, and the protestors demanded the resignation of the incumbent Sheikh Hasina feeling the pressure of the protestors resigned on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2024.

Protestor eventually stormed the Prime Minister's residence and looted/displayed her personal belongings.

The Prime Minister fled to India where her future whereabouts are unknown.

## ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

The situation in B'desh cannot be analyzed

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in a vacuum. Several factors came together that finally led to the toppling of the government. The civil service job quotas <sup>were</sup> an indication of the growing of discontent within the youth of the country. The dwindling economic situation of the workers might tell another story. Similarly, hate filled speeches by the premier were the last straw for the protestors.

It can be said that if not now then sooner or later this anger was bound to get released. It could have been avoided if the premier had done what the protestors had demanded in the first place.

## POSSIBLE FALLOUTS FOR B'DESH AND THE REGION

### Anarchy to Prevail in B'desh

If the interim government fails to satisfy the protestors, the country might witness an anarchic transition to power. The streets and the corridors of power would be filled with chaotic scenes, if the transition is not smooth and is not

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legitimacy.

## India - B'desh Relations to Sour

There was already a perception of Sheikh Hasina as Delhi's woman in Dhaka. This was later confirmed when she flew to Delhi. After her ouster, the relations may get soured as the Bangladeshi state may request the Indians to hand Sheikh Hasina back.

## Martial Law may be Imposed

B'desh was not governed democratically during the previous government of Sheikh Hasina. She locked up her rivals and used the RAB (Rapid Action Brigade) to arrest and torture dissidents. Given the country's past, it may slide into rule by the military if the law and order situation doesn't get better.

## Economy Plunges into a freefall

Bangladesh exports close to \$40 Billion in textiles to the world. Seeing the violent protests, international creditors and investors may pull their money from the

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country, leaving the already weak Taliban to plunge into a spiral of chaos.

## Possible Civil War in the Country

Angered by the incumbent's ouster, the AL supporters may take up arms against the transitional government and the state itself. Recent reports of AL supporters vandalizing and pillaging shops and markets raise a probable concern that they may take this step.

## Protests might Erupt if New Govt Unable to meet Demands

If the new elected government is unable to meet the demands of the protesters a new set of protests might erupt, which might signal the end of stability and peaceful transition of power between the incumbents and the new government.

## Mujib-ur-Rehman's Legacy to Finish Altogether

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The growing discontent against the Sheikh's family ~~was~~ and legacy was evident during the protests. After the removal of the ~~the~~ government protestors defaced and removed murals, statues of Sheikh Mujib-ur-Rehman. The students were frustrated at his legacy and finally took it out on his granddaughter.

## CONCLUSION

The students who protested in Dhaka craved out a new future for the country. They got rid of the government. The country will only move forward if the new government manages to come up to the expectation of the protestors, else a new series of protests might ensue.

## QUESTION No. 8

### INTRODUCTION

Islamabad-Kabul have long been at logger heads over the latter's persistent harbouring of the TTP and other anti-Pakistan elements within its borders. The



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TTP, Hq B and others have continued to operate from Afghanistan using safehavens provided by like-minded officials of the Afghan government. Border incursions, terrorist attacks inside the country and skirmishes on the peripheries have increased. The solution for us to end is engage with the Government and in Afghanistan diplomatically and stabilizing the peripheral areas economically and strategically.

## KABUL, ISLAMABAD AND TTP

### Border Incursions in Waziristan,

The TTP have reorganized themselves and regrouped with a new strengthened objective. Recent border incursions in Gorda Sector in Waziristan are evident that the TTP is working more fiercely to destabilize the peripheral areas. Entire battalions of TTP fighters are used to overwhelm the posts on the border.

### Terror Attacks on Chinese Workers

The Hq B (Hafiz Gul Bahadar) Group recently claimed responsibility for the suicide attack

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On Chinese workers in Bisham. 5 Chinese workers were killed in the latest series of attacks. The HGB group is an outfit of the TTP, the suicide bomber belonged to Afghanistan and was trained in the country by the TTP.

## Attacks on Police Installations

'On average, 3-4 cops are being killed in KP due to terror attacks every single day.'

The TTP have put police stations, checkpoints and other installations used by the KP police in their sights. Due to them being, lightly armoured, they attack the police posts/installations and scuttle back to Afghanistan.

## Cross Border Skirmishes

The peripheral areas and border is witnessing a skirmish close to every day. This results in the deaths of men from our side. TTP aided by the Taliban use their posts to launch and attack Pakistani posts on this side of the border. Although the attacks are repulsed they inflict a heavy cost.

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## ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

It is without a doubt that the TTP has the support of the regime of in Kabul. Without their backing, the group cannot manage logistics, training and manpower for their ongoing campaigns.

Countering this new threat requires, the government of Pakistan to leverage its diplomatic and strategic position. Economic rehabilitation of the area is necessary so that the locals don't provide support to the TTP. Without local support, these terrorists cannot manage to continue their campaign. Similarly, ~~across the~~

Lastly, the situation ~~is~~ on the ground is fluid and has various actors involved such as India and so on.

For Indian support to the group is already established. ~~For~~ Diplomatic pressure can be used to ~~stop~~ stop the Indian support; however, it would require a lot of pressure.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE CRISIS

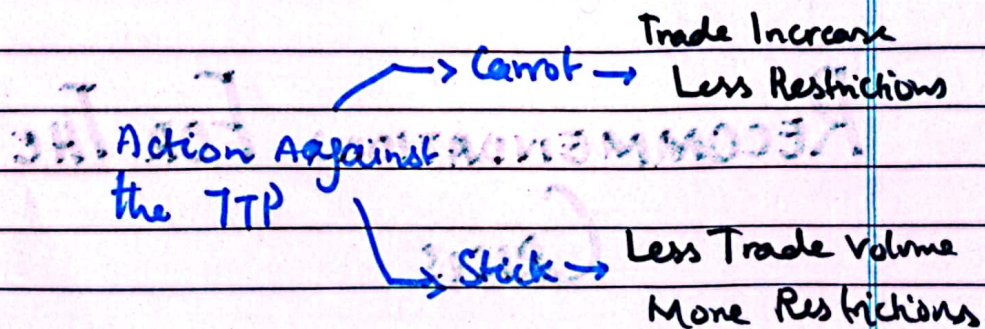
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## Economic Rehabilitation of Peripheral Areas

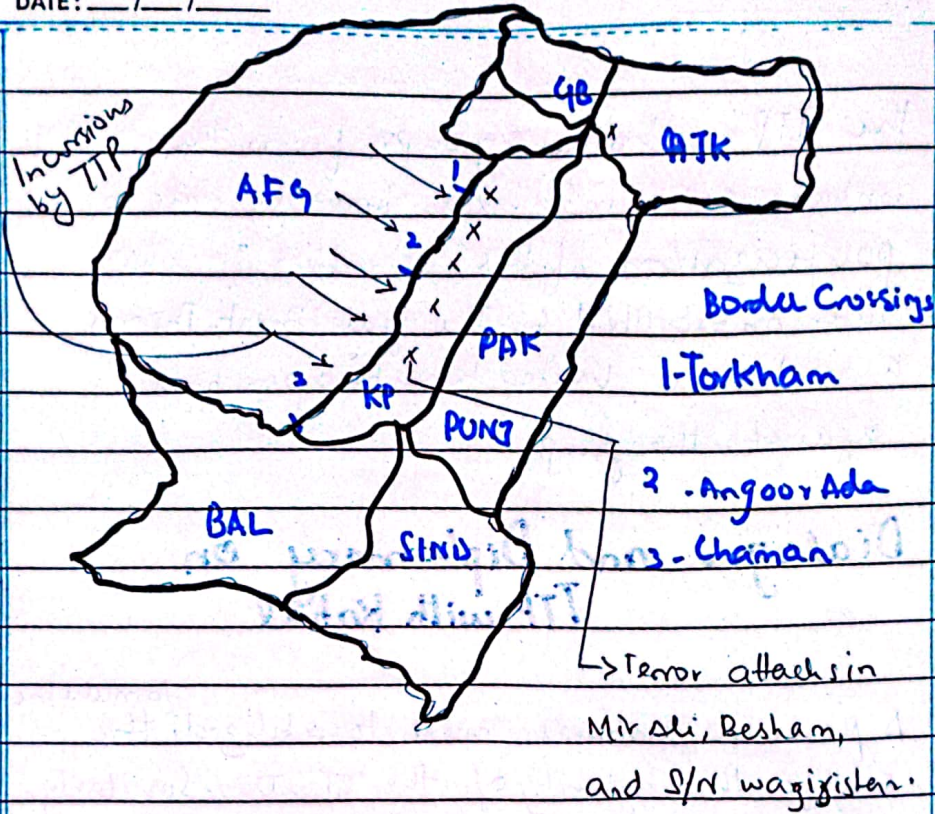
The doctrine that Pakistan Army followed during the 2014 and 2016 operations was capture, hold, and rebuild. Economic opportunities need to be provided to the people so that they may not be influenced by malicious entities and join the TTP and other such groups.

## Carrot/Stick Approach with Kabul

Pakistan can always present Kabul with options such as if they take action against the TTP, the country would increase trade volumes and reduce bureaucratic restrictions on Afghan drivers at the border. If they don't, the country can increase the bureaucratic requirements and close the border.



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## Documentation of Afghan Residents

Illegal Afghan residents that are involved in various activities must be documented and sent back. This is a necessary step so as to measure the count of Afghan residents and to prevent anyone else from illegally residing in the country.

## Launching IBO's in Waziristan and rest of the Country

'Arm-e-Istakham' was an intelligence based operation (IBO) throughout the country which aimed at rooting supporters of

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the TTP and other groups from the urban and rural areas. However, due to politicization of the operation it was later on scuttled by the government. There is a need to a United Kheerki operations against the group.

## Dialogue and Diplomacy on TTP with Kabul

Diplomatic channels need to be utilized <sup>to make the Afghan</sup> to realize the severity of the situation. Similarly, friendly countries can also be used to exert pressure on the Afghan government to take action against the TTP. It is necessary for the state to utilize all available mediums at its disposal.

## Accelerating Fencing Efforts

The fencing effort has led to a great number in reduction of illegal border crossings. Efforts are needed to accelerate the process and establish new mechanisms that prevent illegal crossings of the border. Moreover increasing the number of posts can be considered.

Current Ratio of

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Pak to Afghan Posts on the border is 7:1. with Pakistan having close to 2400 posts and Kabul having 700.

(ISPR)

## National Consensus Building on TTP issue

There is a growing need for the state to develop a consensus within itself and decide what to do with the TTP once and for all. The recent negotiations calls and the calls for stricter measures cannot be termed as sensible decision making. In this regard, consensus building of all stakeholders is a necessary step to avoid any future politicization of any step that the state wants to take when it comes to the TTP.

## CONCLUSION

The situation between Kabul and Islamabad is very tense due to the former's commitments with the TTP. Despite repeated assurances, the TTP has used Afghan <sup>soil and</sup> ~~territory~~ as a launching

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for attacks against Pakistan. The best way to ensure our security is by leveraging every possible option to make sure Kabul disassociates itself from the TTP.

## QUESTION No. 5

### INTRODUCTION

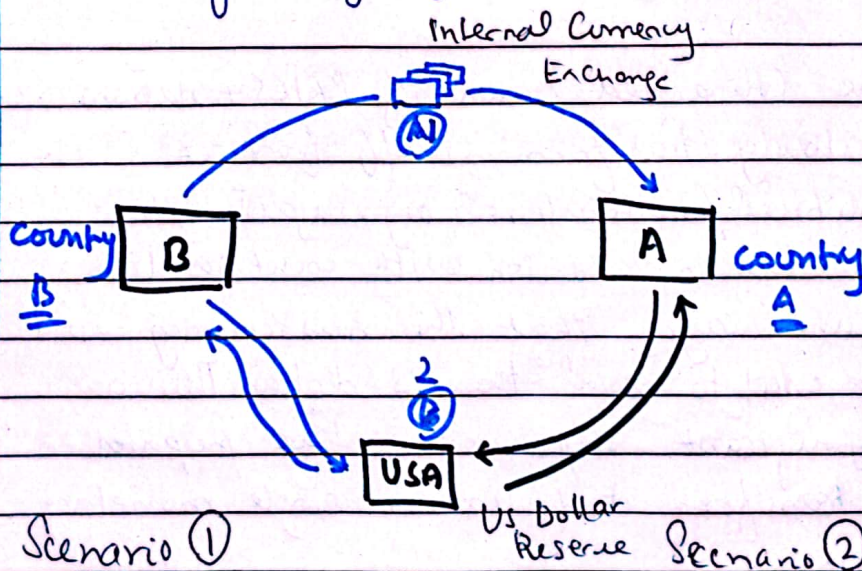
The globalized world is slowly undoing what it prided itself on upon. The era of globalization is slowly being replaced with a multipolar, regional world. The trade war between the Chinese and the Americans revealed how the sides were willing to work for globalization. Today, the former is leading a camp that campaigns for de-dollarization of the world trade. While the latter is desperate to maintain its hegemony has accelerated its containment policy. The former has used the BRICS forum, to launch its new payment platform, in Brigo, which has sent shock waves across the financial world.



# CURRENT WORLD TRADE ORDER

The current world financial order created in the Bretton Woods Agreement of 1945 laid out the path for the dollar hegemony.

The current trade system is rigged in favour of the US. Financial transaction tools like the SWIFT and other tools allow the US to maintain the dollar and its hegemony. Countries can trade in the following ways:



Scenario ①

Both countries maintain internal, external reserves of each other currencies.

Scenario ②

The countries use the US Dollar purchased by from the Federal Reserve

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and use that  
to trade.

This system disadvantages those countries who are competing against the US.

## CHINA'S PUSH FOR DEDOLLARIZATION

### BRICS Alignment as an Economic Union

The China led union of BRICS+ nations is slowly transforming itself from a political/multilateral organization to an economic union. With countries like Russia saying that the new currency would be used to rival the US dollar. This a significant step as this bloc prepares to transform itself into a single monetary union.

### m Brigade - China's New Payment Mechanism

Defying all of the odds, the Chinese have

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managed to onboard various financial institutions on their new mBridge payment platform. Key countries <sup>who include</sup> include Thailand, the UAE, Hong Kong and so on. These countries' financial institutions contributed to the Chinese's project.

## Saudi - US Oil Payment Deal Ended

The 50 years deal signed by the Saudis to only sell their oil in US Dollars has ended. Moreover, China seizing on this opportunity has onboarded the Saudi Central Bank on its new payment platform. This cross-border payment platform will allow both to bypass US system.

## Coming Containment Policy a Signal for China

The Chinese are aggressively pursuing the de-dollarization campaign as they can see the potential containment of the country by the US. Already, it is fighting a trade war against the US on solar panels, chips and EVs (Electric vehicles).

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## Chinese Strategic Initiatives align with DeDollarization

The Chinese and the Americans are in a Thucydides trap. The Chinese are trying to be number 1 and the US want to remain there. Their strategic initiatives align with de-dollarization as being dependent on the US dollar poses significant risks to their economic security.

## ANALYSIS OF THE SITUATION

The current tussle between the US and China is a result of great power politics. The US wishes to maintain its hegemony in the global financial system and the international monetary systems. However, if the Chinese wish to expand their de-dollarizing the dollar is the way to go.

By doing so, a potential financial/fiscal conflict may be started but the strategic initiatives of the Chinese will be achieved. All in all, the strategic posturing of the US to contain the Chinese is what is accelerating this

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process.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the Chinese adopting a stance of de-dollarization makes sense as it feels it is disadvantaged in the current fiscal environment. The Chinese have fast-tracked development of on the mbridge initiative and BRICS+ single monetary union to fulfill their goals.