

Current Affairs

Part - II

Q # 3

Student protestors ended the long rule of autocratic Haseena. Critically evaluate the political earthquake in Bangladesh. Also analyze its possible fallouts.

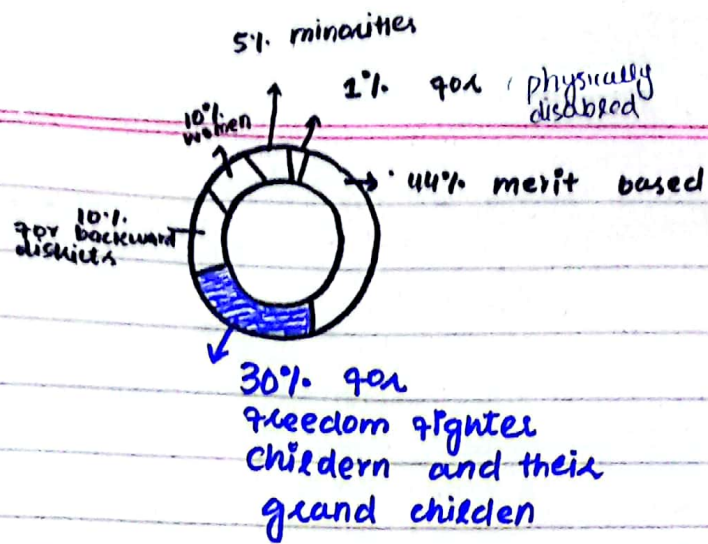
Introduction

The Students protests in Bangladesh demanded an end of job Quota scaled back by supreme court on July 21, 2024. They demanded free and fair job selections. Government did not responded to their requests which lead to protests. Protestors initially demanded reforms to the quota system. But they quickly evolved into a broader movement demanding resignation from Sheikh Haseena's government. Because Haseena aided police crack down on protestors. Due to immense pressure

from burgeoning protests Haseena resigned suddenly and fled to India.

2- Driving factors behind student protests in Bangladesh

The driving factor behind students protests in Bangladesh is their dissatisfaction with the government on controversial quota system for jobs in public sector. On July 21, 2024, the Supreme Court of Bangladesh scaled back this quota system. It was decided by Bangladesh government that about 30% of job quota is for freedom fighters children and grandchildren. But Bangladeshi students found this unjust and raised their voice against quota system. They considered this as an impediment to fair employment opportunities.



Job quota division in Bangladesh

3- Student protests and their impacts

Students stepped up their protests when Hasina refused to meet their demands. She called the protesters "Razakar", a deeply offensive term. By mid of July, the students protests turned violent. The police along with the ruling party attacked protesters in the capital Dhaka. The government soon shut down universities. According to a report by "AL-Jazeera News", almost 300 people were killed and 1000+ got injured in these protests.

4- Fall of Haseena's Government

Due to increase of pressure from burgeoning protests, Prime Minister Sheikh Haseena announced her resignation. The decision marked a significant turning point in the crisis, effectively ending her long-standing tenure. Haseena resigned and fled to India. In the wake of Haseena's departure, army chief of Bangladesh General Waqar - uz - Zaman took control and announced interim government. People of Bangladesh expressed their feeling by saying ~~the~~ the end of rule of Haseena as 2nd independence after her departure.

5- Political situation of Bangladesh during Haseena's rule

Haseena ruled Bangladesh for almost 15 years. Haseena accused of authoritarian tendencies

including media censorship, and suppression of dissent. She was also accused of alleged manipulation of electoral processes. She used state's machinery to maintain power. Similarly, Her government is also accused of targeting civil society organization and activists, particularly those critical of its policies.

6- Possible fallout in Bangladesh due to political Earthquake

There are certain long-term and short-term consequences of political upheaval in Bangladesh.

6.1- Political vacuum in domestic Politics

The sudden resignation of a long-tenured PM could bring political stability in country. The process of forming a new government is complex and uncertain. Haseena's government was effective at some points for the country. It could also

lead to economic turmoil.

6.2- Possibility of Economic Turmoil

The political turmoil may also pose a significant threat to Bangladesh's recent economic achievement. Over the past decades Bangladesh has made a remarkable progress in reducing poverty and achieving robust economic growth. Thus, transforming it into one of the fastest growing economies in the South Asia. However, the ongoing instability could disrupt trade, deter foreign investment and undermine development efforts. Key industries are at a risk of being adversely affected by the political crisis.

6.3- Effect of Relationship between India and Bangladesh

The situation is particularly delicate for India. Because

India has maintained a closed relation with Haseena's government. Her departure could potentially alter the diplomatic relation in the region. Especially, amid rising anti-India sentiments among certain factions in Bangladesh. The new government may renew its ties with India.

Conclusion:

The situation in Bangladesh is a stark reminder of challenges faced by countries around the world. The country stands at a crossroads, with its future direction uncertain but full of potential. Major fallouts due to the existing situation include political and economic turmoil along with possible effects on diplomatic ties with India.

Lastly, these events in Bangladesh will have undoubtedly far reaching impacts not for nation itself but also for the broader region.

Q# 7

Iran-Israel ties has tremendously increased after the killing of Ismael Haniya. Critically evaluate the evolving situation in the Middle East. How the tensions could be reduced?

Answer

1- Introduction

Ismail Haniyeh was assassinated in Tehran by a blast in his guest room. The assassination of Haniyeh by Israel in Iran has escalated tensions between Iran and Israel. This situation could have far-reaching consequences in the Middle East. The retaliation from Iran and then Israel's response can disrupt the region's peace. It could also affect the diplomatic ties between Middle East countries and Israel. Iran has threatened to block the Strait of Hormuz which could disrupt global oil supplies. Similarly,

ceasefire negotiations for Gaza could have impact.

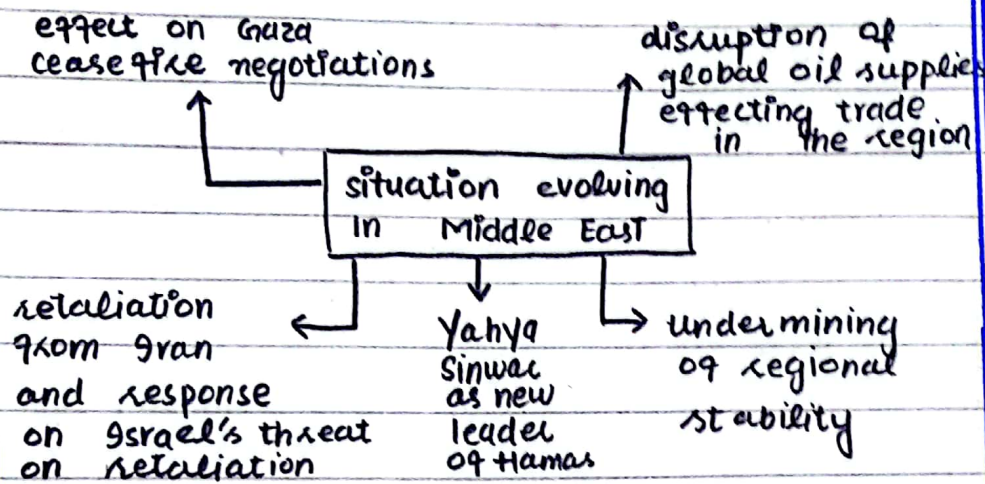
2- Assassination of Ismail Haniyeh

Ismail Haniyeh, was the chief leader of Hamas. He was invited by Iranian government in Tehran to celebrate the inaugurating ceremony of new Iranian president, Masoud Pezeshkian. Haniyeh along with his guard died in his guest room by a blast. The assassination of Haniyeh took place hours after Israel Defense Forces (IDF) took responsibility of assassination of Hezbollah leader in Beirut. Iran, like Hamas blamed Israel for this attack. But Israel has not officially given statement about the acceptance of incident. Masoud Pezeshkian wrote,

"Yesterday I have raised his victorious hands and today I have to bury him on my shoulders."

3- Situation evolving in Middle East after Haniyeh's assassination

Iran-Israel tensions has increased alongwith effect on other countries in Middle East. The situation in Middle East after Haniyeh's assassination is as follows



3.1- Retaliation from Iran and its impacts

The assassination of Hamas leader is also a th question on Iran's defense system. To avoid all this situation, Iran could retaliate by launching a missile attack on Israel. Israel has threatened

It will give strict response of retaliation.

Moreover, Iran's supreme leader

Ayatollah Khamenei, has said "we

consider this revenge as our duty." Further, Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu is eager to

use any Iranian retaliation

as justification for major attacks

against Iran, Lebanon and Hezbollah.

This time, Iran could use Hezbollah

as a proxy against Israel.

A guardian magazine diplomatic writer

Patrick says:

"I think Iran is going to try

and attempt some kind of

assassination, but it is difficult

to pull off, so we'll have to

see."

3.2- Gaza War going to Spread into a regional War

Talks to end Gaza war and release of Israeli hostages have hit many roadblocks over the years last few months. Haniyeh

was a main negotiator in these talks, so his assassination risks further delay in the peace process.

A "Guardian Magazine" diplomatic writer "Bethan" says:

"Even allies of Israel are beginning to find it difficult to make argue that Israel is serious about diplomacy and negotiating a ceasefire deal in good faith when they just took out the main negotiator."

Gaza war could convert into a regional war due to delay in peace talks.

3.3- Yahya Sinwar's Leadership

Hamas has named Yahya Sinwar as a new chief of Hamas. Sinwar has a strong reputation for being a strong advocate for armed resistance against Israel. Sinwar directed Hamas to call for unity among Palestinian factions to confront Israel and said;

"The enemy will pay price for Haninyeh's assassination."

4. Ways to reduce tension between Iran and Israel

4.1- Establishment of diplomatic channels between Iran and Israel.

By establishing direct diplomatic channels between Iran and Israel could be a crucial step for reducing tensions. By engaging in regular dialogue, both countries can address grievances, concerns and problems that has fueled tensions.

The utilization of Swiss Embassy, which has presented Israeli interests in Iran since 1953 could be an effective effort to reduce tensions. Moreover, Engagement of UN or EU as a neutral facilitator for initial talks could be effective.

4.2 - Implement de-escalation Measures to reduce tensions

Implementation of de-escalation measures could prevent accidental clashes between Iran and Israel.

This can be achieved by reducing military troops presence in sensitive areas and by withdrawing troops. Similarly, disengaging from proxy forces, ceasing support and encouraging disarmament could prevent risks of tensions between both countries.

Conclusion

The assassination of Ismail Haniyeh has significantly escalated tensions between Iran and Israel. It has posed significant threats to the regional stability in the Middle East. The situation is critical on both sides. Diplomatic efforts, de-escalation and inflammatory rhetoric can prevent further tensions between both countries.
