

# Chinese missiles smuggled through Iran into Iraq: US

AFP, Baghdad

The US military yesterday said its troops had found Chinese-made missiles which they believe were smuggled into Iraq by groups in Iran in order to arm groups fighting US-led forces.

"We have seen ordnance and weapons that come from other places, but we assess that they have come through Iran," US military spokesman Admiral Mark Fox told reporters.

"There are missiles that are actually manufactured in China that we assess come through Iran as well."

Fox also alleged Iranian agents continue to smuggle Iranian made armour piercing bombs -- explosively-formed penetrators (EFPs) -- to Iraqi extremist groups across the country's long border.

"We do feel that there are networks of EFPs that are coming from Iran," he said, adding the troops had detained two suspects believed to be linked to the Iranian Revolutionary Guards covert Qods Force.

"We have detained two suspects near the Iran-Iraq border just this weekend that we suspect to be part of the IRGC-Qods Force network," he said.

The US military has repeatedly accused Iranian linked groups of training Iraqi extremists in the use of EFPs.

Since May 2004, when the EFPs emerged on the Iraqi battlefield, more than 200 US soldiers have been killed by these bombs which fire a fist-sized chunk of molten metal that can cut through even a heavily armoured vehicle.

Tehran denies being behind any

weapons smuggling, but Fox insisted that weapons seized by Iraqi and US forces are clearly of Iranian manufacture.

"They are distinctive ... in particular mortars, mortar pins, some of the residue that you see from the mortar attacks that are distinctly and uniquely Iranian," he said.

"Also the technologies associated with some of the improvised-explosive devices, some of the triggering mechanisms and also some of the techniques and also the technology associated with manufacture of EFPs are distinctly and uniquely Iranian."

The military maintains that many of the extremist groups trained by alleged Iranian agents are Shiite militants who have broken away from the Mahdi Army, the Iraqi militia loyal to anti-American cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

Fox, nevertheless said that the broader organisation -- which is a powerful political and religious movement as well as a militia -- is not in itself a terrorist outfit.

"As I described earlier there are secret cells, rogue elements of Jaish al-Mahdi that we consider to be extremists, to be terrorists or that are not answerable to any higher authority and are in fact as I said rogue," Fox said.

"We have not necessarily felt that the entire large organisation of JAM is like that," he said, using the common US abbreviation for the Mahdi Army.

"We understand that there are factions or splinters or pieces of JAM that are still decent and hard-working and members of society that are not like that."

## Vast areas flooded

**FROM PAGE 1** and educational institutions have been flooded in the worst affected Shujanagar upazila.

Vast areas of Patuakhali district, Baupla upazila town and at least 40 chars in Galachipa, Kalapara, Dashmina upazilas have been inundated due to intermittent monsoon rains during the last four days, our Patuakhali correspondent reports.

Heavy rain in different areas of Patuakhali since Thursday inundated 40 chars sending them under three to five feet of water, sources said yesterday.

The worst affected areas are Char Ganga, Lata Chaplee, Nizampur and Khajura in Kalapara upazila; Char Halim, Char Agunmukha, Char Karforma, Char Bangla and Panpatty in Galachipa upazila; Rangopadee, Khalishakhali, Alipur, Char Hayder, Char Agustee, Char Borhan and Bashbaria in Dashmina upazila; Muradia in Dumki upazila; and Uttar Badura and West Aulipur in Patuakhali upazila. At least 40,000 people have been affected there.

Rainwater has been stagnant in most areas of Patuakhali town for last few days. Local Met office recorded 125mm rainfall in 24 hours ending at 2:00pm yesterday.

Life in Comilla town has almost halted following intermittent heavy rain since Thursday, a correspondent in Comilla reports.

About two-thirds of the town have gone under knee-deep water. Most of the roads and residential areas are also inundated. Many shops in the town remained closed while vehicular movement was sparse.

The local Met Office recorded 186mm rainfall between 6:00am to noon yesterday. Four days of intermittent rain inundated vast areas in Choudhagram and Muradnagar upazila of the district.

UNO of Muradnagar upazila Mohibuzzaman said the road between Muradnagar and Eliatgonj was closed until further notice as the road went under water.

Officials said a large number of farmers staged demonstrations in different areas demanding removal of illegal embankments, which were allegedly hampering water drainage.

Intermittent heavy rain during the last three days has flooded vast low-lying areas of Chandpur, a correspondent in Chandpur reports. Sources said the flood protection embankment of the district town is under threat.

Around 500 thatched houses in Chuadanga Sadar, Alamdanga, Damurhuda and Jibannagar upazilas in the district were damaged, crops were destroyed and fish of many ponds were washed away by the floodwater.

Meanwhile, 80 percent land of Phulgazi and Porshuram upazilas of Feni have been flooded following intermittent rain during the last few days. A child was reported to have been drowned in the floodwater in the district yesterday.

There were also reports of flooding in Nijhum Dwip, Char Iswar and Jahajmara of Noakhali.

The Garai river in Magura is flowing over the danger level and 48 families were evacuated.

A correspondent in Bandarban reports the flood situation, following torrential rain, has improved to some extent in the district as the downpour stopped Friday. However, several low-lying areas of the district still remain under water.

The flood situation has improved in Khagrachhari district with the exception of few low-lying areas, our Khagrachhari correspondent reports. Water levels of Chenghi

## Downpour deluges

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The worst affected were Mirpur, Kalyanpur, Bashabo, Goran, Azimpur, Dhanmondi, Minto Road, Press Club, Motijheel, Fakirapool, Secretariat area, Maghbazar, Shantinagar, Kakrail, Mowchak, Bangladesh Rifles headquarters at Pikhana, DND area, and the old parts of the city.

Vehicles moved at a snail's pace and sometimes they stood still on the major thoroughfares like Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Mirpur Road and Tongi Diversion Road.

An office goer told The Daily Star that it took him more than three hours to travel from Mirpur to Motijheel, a commute that usually takes 45-50 minutes.

Sarwar Hossain, a resident of Mohammadpur area, said, "It happens every time after a heavy downpour. It's all because of a very poor drainage system."

Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) sources said the drainage system can deal with only 10 millimetres (mm) of rain an hour, and waterlogging is inevitable in case of higher rainfall. The storm water drainage system in the city can cover 150 square kilometres (sq km), whereas it needs to cover at least 260 sq km, added the sources.

Nearly 10 lakh people inside Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra (DND) embankment find themselves faced with floods during the monsoon every year. This year, they became marooned in water even before the rains set in.

The sufferings of the city dwellers were compounded by another round of price hike brought on by the rain. Visiting a number of kitchen markets yesterday this correspondent found that a number of vegetables and other essentials were selling at higher prices. At Karwan Bazar, the price of green chilli that was Tk 40-50 a kg in the morning shot up to Tk 70-80 per kg in the evening.

"Incessant rain in last three days affected the vegetable prices as supply in markets remained poor," said Abdul Latif Mia, president of wholesalers association at Karwan Bazar. If the rain continues the prices of vegetables and other essentials will rise further.

## Naser

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Earlier on 12 July, the court deferred the schedule for yesterday.

The judge, Abdul Gafur, also cancelled the interim bail of another accused in the case, Moulibazar Pourasava Chairman and district BNP General Secretary Foyzul Karim Moyun.

The judge shifted the date as most of the accused could not be produced before the court yesterday. Naser Rahman, also the son of former finance minister Safur Rahman and Moulibazar district BNP chief, could not be brought to Sylhet as he had been remanded in another case in the capital.

On 17 February this year, contractor Nuruzzaman filed the extortion case against Naser Rahman, Ariful Haque Chowdhury, Foyzul Karim Moyun and a few officials of Roads and Highways Department.

Detective Branch filed charge sheet against the accused. Ariful and Moyun, who are close to the former finance minister, are in jail while four other accused have been absconding.

Naser Rahman and Ariful Haque Chowdhury are on the ACC's first list of 50 corruption suspects.

Nuruzzaman has also been in jail in connection with a murder case filed with Gowainghat Police Station.

On February 22, the Joint forces arrested him on different charges including grabbing government lands and tender manipulation.

## 2nd ODI today

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this ground and have bitter memories of losing all matches badly including a ten-wicket defeat to the Lankans in the 2004 Asia Cup.

During their last tour to the island two years back, Bangladesh had varied performances, scoring their highest (220) and lowest (108) totals at this ground.

After a disastrous Test series, mainly because of poor batting, the Bangladesh bowlers created opportunities in Friday's first ODI to flex some muscles in an otherwise frustrating tour but once again, the top batters left the side down after crashing to a 70-run defeat.

It was not even to a full-strength Sri Lanka, who were without key bowlers Muttiah Muralidaran and Chaminda Vaas, but still, the visitors were found wanting.

The team management made no change to the side from the first match but Sri Lanka, like the previous occasion, decided to announce their final eleven this morning after inspecting the pitch, which was covered yesterday due to early morning rain.

**TEAMS**

**BANGLADESH:** Shahriar Nafees, Tamim Iqbal, Tushar Imran, Mohammad Ashraful (captain), Shakib Al Hasan, Aftab Ahmed, Mushfiqur Rahim, Forhad Reza, Mashrafe Bin Mortaza, Syed Rassel and Abdur Razzak.

**Sri Lanka** (from): Sanath Jayasuriya, Upul Tharanga, Kumar Sangakkara, Mahela Jayawardene (captain), Chamara Silva, Tillekeratne Dilshan, Chamara Kapugedera, Jehan Mubarak, Farveez Maharoof, Dilhara Fernando, Lasith Malinga, Malinga Bandara, Nuwan Kulasekera and Upul Chandana.

## Ivory Coast

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infestation of poisonous snakes. In such a hostile environment, the Bangladesh troops are carrying out UN duties for the last two and a half years.

Currently, 40 army personnel are posted in this camp. Despite high risks, the troops were not given prefab residential facilities. They sleep in tents, and bring drinking water from a town called Doukro, which is 120km away, once a week.

Water supply is perpetually inadequate here. For use in other work, they have the option to bring water from an area called Priko, 27km away.

To contact relatives in Bangladesh the troops have to go to Doukro camp, located 120km away. They make this visit in turns. Therefore one cannot avail the opportunity to call their dear ones more than once a month.

There are a few more camps of Bangladeshi troops in such remote locations.

In addition to such hostile settings, the troops are facing the challenge to restore peace in this country. This village came under rebel attack a few years back during a civil war.

Located near a region that is controlled by the rebels, Konssaddougou and its adjacent villages are considered highly risky. Consequently, working for peace in this area is a big challenge.

Amid such a challenge the Banbat-4 is trying to spread the light of education in this isolated and backward village by setting up a primary school early last year. This has created the access to education for several thousand people in this village and its adjacent ones.

In the past, only a handful of the villagers used to send their children to schools in far off places where they had relatives.

"Before setting up the school, the families had to send their children in other villages where primary education was available. But it was very difficult for us," said San Kamenao, spokesman for Konssaddougou village chief Kouame Komenan.

"Setting up the school here has not only benefited this village but also the nation as a whole," he added.

A Bangladeshi army delegation along with some journalists led by Brigadier General Rafiqul Islam made a visit to this school on July 13.

The delegates were accorded a warm reception by both the villagers and the students. Standing in rows

at the entry, the students chanted Ivory Coast's national anthem and then assembled in front of the school to chant the national anthem of Bangladesh.

The flags of the UN, Ivory Coast and Bangladesh were hoisted in front of the school.

Presently 95 children of the Konssaddougou village study at this school. The locals and the Bangladeshi troops are trying to get children enrolled from other villages around.

These children previously used to work at different farms without access to education. But they are now being motivated to enrol.

The school has two teachers. One of them -- Kouassi Yao Nouho -- said, "It was very necessary to create this school because children of this village did not have any scope of education before setting up of this school over a year ago." He added that before this, there was no initiative to set up a school there.

The teachers said the children are taught as per a standard primary education curriculum for class I-VI. After class VI, they will attend a school test to enrol at a secondary school. If they pass the test, they will have to go to some schools far away.

The Bangladesh army have provided furniture, books and writing books and other materials for the school from Bangladesh and Ivory Coast.

No financial help of the Ivory Coast government has so far reached this school.

"It's not possible for villagers to continue this school after the departure of the Bangladeshi contingent. So we've requested them to inform the government and ask aid for this school after their departure," said San Kamenao.

Banbat-4 Contingent Commander Lt Col Md Jahangir Talukder also noted that he was aware of such a request from the locality.

"We've already discussed the matter with the local public representative. They have said they will try their best to retain the school," he said, expressing hopes that the institution will exist with the help of the government in the future.

## Indian minister

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after meeting separately with President Iajuddin Ahmed, Foreign Adviser Ittefkar A Ahmed and local businessmen.

He also said New Delhi is committed to intensify bilateral economic ties with Dhaka and will not interfere in Bangladesh's internal politics.

"India of course is committed to see Bangladesh as a secular democratic and peaceful country. We believe people of this country will decide their political system through a transparent election," Ramesh hoped.

India also believes that Bangladesh will not allow its land for terrorism activities against India, the Indian state minister said.

Expressing his dissatisfaction over Bangladesh's export to India, Ramesh said the amount of trade between the two countries could reach \$20 billion by next five years if it allows to implement two pending investment proposals by Indian giants Tata and Mittal groups.

Ramesh also laid stress on the Indian policy to increase trade between the countries and said, "As a larger economy of the region, India must be big hearted to Bangladesh."

The Indian state minister informed that the two countries sign a memorandum of understanding today to import 8 million pieces of readymade garment from Bangladesh.

He said under the deal Bangladesh exporters could export 8 million pieces of readymade garments to India a year without any port or yarn restriction.

Earlier, India compelled Bangladesh exporters to use Indian yarn to make a significant portion of exportable RMG goods to India and asked to export through a particular port.

The Indian state minister said he placed a five-point request to the high-ups of the caretaker government.

India is setting up a 1,110MW power plant near Agartala, which could also supply power to some regions in Bangladesh that are facing electricity crisis.

When asked if India worries about Bangladesh's growing trade with China, Ramesh replied that India does not think China as a competitor.

India always welcomes Bangladesh's trade success with any country. "But Bangladesh has to keep both the giant elephants--India and China--happy and it could be a chance for Bangladesh to become an economic hub of the region," Ramesh said.

However, he said India wants

## Wadud Bhuiyan

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Following a charge sheet submitted by police on June 6, the court framed the charge against him on June 18. The court examined 62 out of 84 prosecution witnesses during the trial.

## 27th BCS exam

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Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury passed the orders.

The rule is returnable in three weeks, says the court order.

The court in its orders, however, did not interfere in holding fresh viva voce examination that begins on July 29. But the court restrained the PSC from publication of the results until the case is disposed of.

On May 30, the present caretaker government cancelled the viva voce of the 27th Bangladesh Civil Service examinations in response to widespread allegations of nepotism and corruption in the recruitment process.

Barrister Rafiqul Huq, Dr M Zahir and Abdur Razzak appeared for the petitioners.

## RMG wage

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implementation of minimum wages for RMG industry.

He threatened legal measures if the factories failed to implement the minimum wages for their workers by the new deadline. The earlier deadline expired on June 30.

He said some 490 factories have failed to meet the June 30 deadline. BGMEA, however, put the figure at 308.

The adviser chaired the meeting with apparel industry leaders, who were led by BGMEA President Anwarul Alam Chowdhury, at the local government ministry conference room.

Earlier, the government had set minimum wages at Tk 1662.50 and the deadline for implementation of the wages through a tripartite negotiation among the government, workers' leaders and employers.

## BB official

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As Hedayetullah collapsed on the floor, the robbers fled away quickly without looting anything, the OC said.

Police rushed to the house at Bijoynagar of the municipal area and sent the body to the morgue of Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Aminur Rashid, Hedayetullah's elder brother, filed a case accusing unidentified five to six persons of the murder and the robbery.

Police could not arrest anyone until 6:30pm yesterday.

## BSF kills 1

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and the BSF troops took away his body to India.

Patrolling BDR jawans rushed to the spot and lodged a strong protest against the killing with their BSF counterpart and asked them for returning the body.

The BSF side agreed to return the body through a company commander level flag meeting after conducting autopsy of the body at an Indian hospital, the sources said.

## Hannan Shah

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from their Old DOHS residence at Mohakhali in the capital in an extortion case filed by Kapasia Awami League General Secretary Ruhul Amin with the Kapasia Police Station.

Hannan Shah's wife, Nahid Hannan, son Shah Riazul Hannan and many party leaders and workers were present at the jail gate to receive them.

When he was detained, the way the investigators treated him went against the court directives, Hannan Shah said after his release from detention.

"Charge was framed against me on May 15 although I was arrested on May 14. And more surprising is that the police station filed FIR (first information report) on May 13," Hannan Shah told the journalists at his residence.

Hannan Shah and Rezaul, who were accused in three and four more cases later, also secured bails in those cases from the High Court.

Earlier on July 16 a vacation bench of the High Court, upon a petition, granted the ad interim bail to Hannan Shah and his son. But their release was delayed for scrutinising the bail bonds and its delayed arrival to the authorities concerned.

Coming out of jail, Hannan Shah, who had been vocal in defence of his beleaguered party chief and former premier Khaleda Zia, told the newsmen that he along with his son was detained in a conspiratorial case.

He was released through the legal process, not by compromising with anyone, he said when asked about his political stand.

The question of changing the political stand does not arise, he said.

Referring to Sheikh Hasina's arrest, he said, "My leader [Khaleda Zia] has demanded Hasina's release and I think she has done the right thing."

"We, the politicians, should be sympathetic to one another and forget the confrontational policy of the past days," he said.

He will decide his next work after talking to Khaleda, he added.

## Hasina asks

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situation. Do not allow any injustice, resist it," Shahara quoted Hasina as calling on the people.

A 101-member legal aide committee and an 11-member steering committee will be formed soon to start the legal battle on the extortion case filed against Hasina, according to AL leaders and lawyers.

A few hundred pro-AL lawyers yesterday held an informal meeting at the North Hall of the Supreme Court Bar to analyse different aspects of the case.

Hasina's son Sajeeb Wajed Joy is also planning to sign a contract with a US-based law firm to fight for his mother's release.

The AL also intends to collect hundreds of thousands of signatures of people from across the country for a memorandum demanding Hasina's release after observing the situation for a few days. The memorandum will be submitted to the chief adviser.

It will simultaneously work to build international pressure on the caretaker government for Hasina's release, AL sources told The Daily Star.

The party, however, has no plan for any movement at present as it fears that forging a movement will violate the state of emergency rules and will not be able to bring out enough people to the streets.

Talking to The Daily Star, a mid-level AL leader said, "We are going through a very hard time and we will have to wait, be calm and patient to get justice."

AL Acting President Zillur Rahman said, "First, we want to move legally to release Sheikh Hasina and see its outcome, then we will think about alternatives like movements." He, however, said he supports any kind of movement to release Hasina.

**LAWYERS MEET HASINA**

During their meeting with Hasina, AL Law Secretary Shahara informed the AL chief of the latest developments of different charges brought against her.

Shahara termed the charges against Hasina "completely false and fabricated". The charges will not stand if the trial is conducted in a transparent process.

Barrister Fazle Noor said Hasina is physically well and mentally strong. She urged people to pray for her, Fazle Noor said.

He demanded Hasina's case be conducted in an open court in a transparent way.

**LAWYERS MEET**

At yesterday's meeting over 200 pro-AL lawyers strongly criticised Law and Information Adviser Mainul Hossain for his remark on Hasina's

arrest.

Demanding immediate resignation of the law adviser, they warned the government against interfering in the independence of the judiciary using the emergency ordinance or any other means.

They said the government or the army is not their opponent. If the government intervenes in the work of the highest judiciary, it might backfire, they observed.

Following Hasina's arrest, Adviser Mainul had said the extortion case against her was brought under the Emergency Power Rules 2007 and she was arrested with a view to framing the charge sheet as soon as possible.

Hasina's lawyer Abdul Matin Khasru, however, told The Daily Star after the meeting that the case by no means comes under the emergency ordinance. "We urge the government so that rule of law and the judiciary are not misused," he said.

"We hope good sense will prevail upon the government and it will release Sheikh Hasina without delay," he added.

Khasru said they will sit after two or three days to discuss the legal aspects of the case against the AL chief.

**ZILLUR'S BRIEFING**

While talking to journalists at his Gulshan residence, Zillur Rahman termed the cases against Hasina "politically motivated" and demanded her immediate release.

Rejecting the possibility of forging any movement jointly with the BNP, he said, "At present, we are not thinking of any movement. I think we can free our leader through legal process."

Referring to the arrest and harassment of a number of party leaders and workers across the country in the last couple of days, Zillur urged the government to stop such arrests and harassment.

On the launching of a new political party by Ferdous Ahmed Qureshi, he said it is surprising how a new party can be floated at a time when there is a ban on indoor politics.

Zillur requested the government to allow Hasina's relatives to meet her at the sub-jail as per jail code.

He congratulated India's newly elected first female president Pratibha Patil and hoped that the bilateral relationship between the two neighbouring countries will flourish.

## Nobody to tycoon

**FROM PAGE 1**

beating up at least eight journalists. A few thousand leaders and activists of Awami League (AL) left the district to avoid atrocities by his goons. Even his opponents within the BNP left the district for the same reason.

Currently, eleven cases have been filed against him including murder cases and those filed under the Explosives Act.

In the last five years, while he was an elected legislator, at least five deputy commissioners (DCs), five police superintendents, and a Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) regional commander in Khagrachhari had to be replaced. It is alleged that Wadud was behind those transfer orders.

To silence local journalists, Wadud's goons beat up Indrajit Banik, Khagrachhari correspondent of the daily Shamokal, so severely that his limbs were crushed.

Wadud filed 37 cases against journalists and newspapers, including Prothom Alo, accusing them of publishing "baseless and defamatory" news.

Wadud is also accused in the Jubo League leader Yasin murder case. Soon after Yasin left BNP for the Awami League (AL) in 1999, assailants hurled bombs at his car and then hacked and shot him to death.

In 2002, Sirajul Islam, reportedly one of Wadud's bodyguards, hacked Yasin Member to death in front his family. No one came forward to testify against Siraj fearng grave retaliation.

Former lawmaker Wadud is reported to have been involved in the murder of Principal Madan Gopal Goswami in Manikchahar on April 25, 2002.

Locals allege that during the 2001-2006 BNP-led regime, 50 women were raped and at least a