

FORMER AIRBASE IN BELARUS Russia likely placing new hypersonic missiles: researchers

REUTERS, Washington

Moscow is likely stationing new nuclear-capable hypersonic ballistic missiles at a former airbase in eastern Belarus, a development that could bolster Russia's ability to deliver missiles across Europe, two US researchers have found by studying satellite imagery.

The researchers' assessment broadly aligns with US intelligence findings, said a person familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity to share information not authorized for public release.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has made clear his intention to place intermediate-range Oreshnik missiles, with an estimated range of up to 3,400 miles (5,500 km), in Belarus, but the exact location has not been previously reported.

Deployment of the Oreshnik would underscore the Kremlin's growing reliance on the threat of nuclear weapons as it seeks to deter Nato members from supplying Kyiv with weapons that can strike deep inside Russia, some experts said.

The Russian Embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Belarus Embassy declined to comment. The state-run Belta news agency quoted Defense Minister Viktor Khrerin on Wednesday as saying that the Oreshnik's deployment would not alter the balance of power in Europe and was "our response" to the West's "aggressive actions."

The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment and the CIA declined to comment.

The Belarus Embassy declined to comment.

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The White House did not immediately respond to a request for comment and the CIA declined to comment.



A worker attends to a US Air Force MQ-9 Reaper aircraft on the tarmac at Rafael Hernández Airport in Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, on Saturday, amid tensions between President Donald Trump's administration and Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro's government.

PHOTO: AFP

Russia to pursue Ukraine goals by force

Putin warns if Kyiv rejects peace

AGENCIES

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Ukraine was in no hurry for peace and if it did not want to resolve their conflict peacefully, Moscow would accomplish all its goals by force.

Putin's remarks on Saturday evening, carried by state news agency TASS, followed a vast Russian drone and missile attack that prompted Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy to say Russia was demonstrating its wish to

continue the war while Kyiv wanted peace.

Zelenskiy was set to meet US President Donald Trump in Florida yesterday afternoon to seek a resolution to the war. Putin launched nearly four years ago with a full-scale invasion of Russia's smaller neighbour.

The White House did not respond to a request for comment on Putin's remarks, reports Reuters. Zelenskiy said he would hold talks with European leaders after meeting.

Charge sheet within 10 days

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are working in close coordination to uncover the facts.

Requesting public patience, he explained that certain details are being withheld to protect the integrity of the probe and to identify the actual perpetrators and those who provided them with backing.

As of now, 11 persons have been arrested in connection with the murder.

The arrestees include the alleged mastermind Faisal Karim Masud's father, Humayun Kabir; his mother Hasi Begum; wife Shaheda Parvin Samia; brother-in-law Wahid Ahmed Shipu; and alleged girlfriend Maria Akter Lima. Other suspects in custody are Md Kabir, Nuruzzaman Noman alias Ujjal, Sibion Dio, Sanjoy Chisim, Aminul Islam Raju, and Abdul Hannan.

According to the Hindustan Times, a senior Meghalaya police official said neither Purti nor Sami have been detained by Indian authorities.

He said the Bangladesh government is actively working through formal and informal channels to ensure the arrest and extradition of the fugitives.

At the briefing, Shafiqul Islam, additional commissioner of Detective Branch of police, said many of the masterminds behind the killing have been identified.

Declining to name all suspects for the sake of probe, he opined that evidence gathered so far strongly suggests the killing was a "political murder".

On December 12, Inqilab Moncho spokesperson

including two foreign-made pistols, 52 bullets, magazines, a knife, and the motorcycle used in the killing, which was fitted with a fake number plate. They also recovered shell casings, video, and CCTV footage, and signed cheques worth Tk 218 crore linked to approximately 53 bank accounts.

The home adviser also

announced that a decision has been made to transfer the case to a speedy trial tribunal. "I want to assure you that the trial in the Hadi murder case will be completed within the tenure of the current interim government."

At a separate press briefing at the DMP Media Centre yesterday, SN Nazrul Islam, additional commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the charge sheet would be submitted within seven to 10 days.

He added that the key suspects, Faisal Karim Masud and Alamgir Sheikh, fled to the Indian state of Meghalaya with help from local associates.

According to police, the murder was premeditated.

Detailing their escape route, the official said the duo travelled by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw

Hadi, an aspirant for Dhaka-8, was shot while campaigning in the capital's Paltan area. He died at a hospital in Singapore on December 18.

However, India's Meghalaya Police and the Border Security Force (BSF) have rejected the Dhaka Metropolitan Police's (DMP) claims, describing them as "untruthful" and "completely false."

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suspects for the sake of probe, he opined that evidence gathered so far strongly suggests the killing was a "political murder".

Calling the claims baseless and misleading, he said no such incident was detected or reported by the BSF, which operates strictly on verified intelligence and established protocols.

In response to the denial, the Dhaka Metropolitan Police issued a fresh press release last night clarifying its position.

The DMP said its information about the suspects fleeing to India was based on the confessional statements of individuals already arrested in Bangladesh.

"We have arrested several individuals who assisted Faisal Karim and Alamgir Sheikh in crossing the border. Based on their confessional statements, we confirmed that the perpetrators crossed the border," the release said.

Police also clarified that their remarks regarding the detention of two individuals in India were based on information from multiple sources in border areas.

"Multiple sources informed us that Meghalaya authorities detained two individuals who helped the criminals enter India and find shelter there. Based on this information, we shared the news," the release added.

The DMP expressed confidence that the Indian government would fully cooperate in arresting and extraditing the suspects to Bangladesh.

For instance, textbooks reached some districts as late as April in the current academic year. The authorities advised teachers and students to download the books in Portable Document Format (PDF) versions from the NCTB website to continue classes, drawing criticism from stakeholders.

"A retender was opened in September, and the signing of contracts between NCTB and all the printing presses was completed in the first week of this month."

Apart from this, the other contributing factors include a lack of adequate manpower at the NCTB, the absence of a full-time chairman for several months, and a lack of coordination between NCTB and printing presses, said the official.

REASONS BEHIND THE DELAY

NCTB officials said that based on last year's experience, they had set a target to complete the printing of textbooks by November.

But the cancellation of tenders in August, along with administrative and logistical problems, hampered the printing process for secondary-level textbooks, said owners of several presses tasked with printing books.

NCTB records show that such delays are not new. For several consecutive years, the government has failed to distribute textbooks among students on time.

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He said that students of Class 7 and 8 will receive around 50 percent of their textbooks on January 1, but they may have to wait until mid-January to get the remaining books.

"All primary-level students will receive their full set of textbooks on the first day of the academic year," the chairman said.

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