

Chengdu F-7: Bangladesh BG and Namibia NM

Designed for 1/32: kit Trumpeter "Chinese F-7 MG" #02220 with cranked wing

HISTORY

The Chengdu F-7 is a significantly modified Chinese version of the old Soviet MiG-21 F13. It got a new cranked "double delta" wing and upgraded systems.

(the J-7 designation is used in China and F-7 for export).

Bangladesh acquired about 12 F-7BG and 4 trainers FT-7BG. The single seaters are the main fighter and were delivered starting in 2006.

From 2012 some 12 modernized F-7BGI (Bangladesh Improved) and 4 trainers became operational with in the cockpit multi functions screens and more powerful fire control radar and probably Italian origin Grifo radar. They fly with no.5 squadron and no.35 squadrons based at Dhaka / Kurmitola. The jets can be armed with the Chinese PL-5, PL-7 and probably the PL-9 short range air-to-air missiles. Also bombs and unguided rocket pods, including Chinese laser-guided bombs.

The exact camouflage paint codes are unknown.

Namibia acquired not 12 but probably 6 F-7NM in 2005 which is a Namibia version of the F-7MG. The radar type is unclear but may be a Grifo. It seems a few are still operational in 2023 with no.23 fighter squadron "Daredevils" at the base near Grootfontein, Namibia.

The exact camouflage paint codes are unknown.

MODEL KITS

The 1/32 kit: Trumpeter "Chinese F-7 MG" #02220 has the appropriate cranked wing shape. The BG is may be different in details.

The Bangladesh BGI is a modernized version. It may be needed to make a few changes to the basic kit. Like ECM knobs/ fairings, different cockpit instrument panel and more. Antennas also may vary, study photos. Check the shape of the canon fairings that are located port and starboard for a F-7BG(I) and NM.

DECALS SYSTEM

The laser printed decal sheet has one continuous print film, so each decal needs to be cut out with fine scissors.

No other prior decal preparation is needed.

Each cut out decal can be applied as usual after soaking it a short while in water. Decals are VERY THIN, so slide off from the wet backing sheet on a horizontally held GLOSSY model surface.

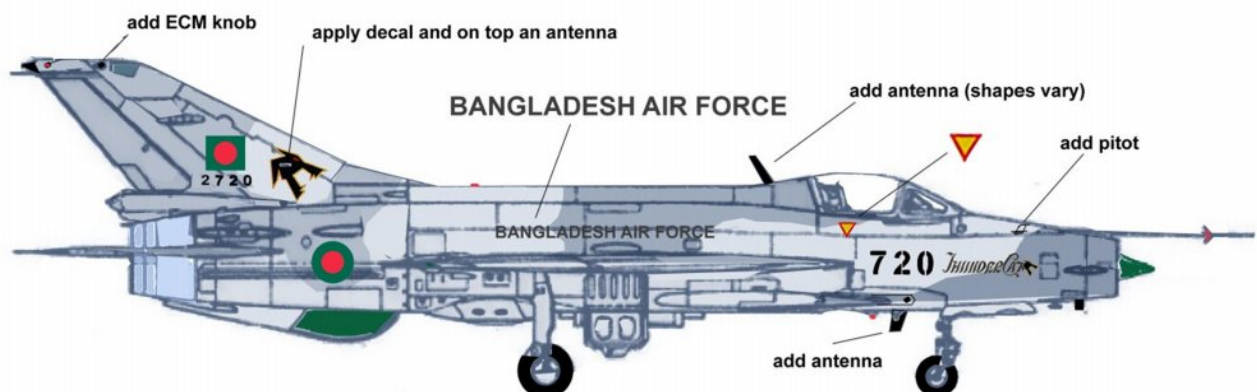
Note that a decal that contains a white section is often split in two parts. To apply the full decal marking, first set the white decal section at correct position and on top of that the coloured section. On the decals sheet you will often see an "arrow" to indicate this way of application (on white surfaces, the white section is optional).

After all decals have been applied, finish the model with your preferred final gloss, matt or semi-matt varnish coats. This will also protect all the decals.

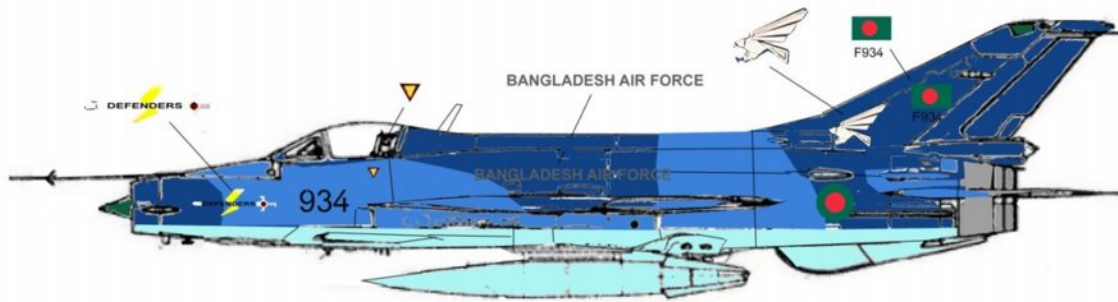
LINKS

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Chengdu_J-7_variants

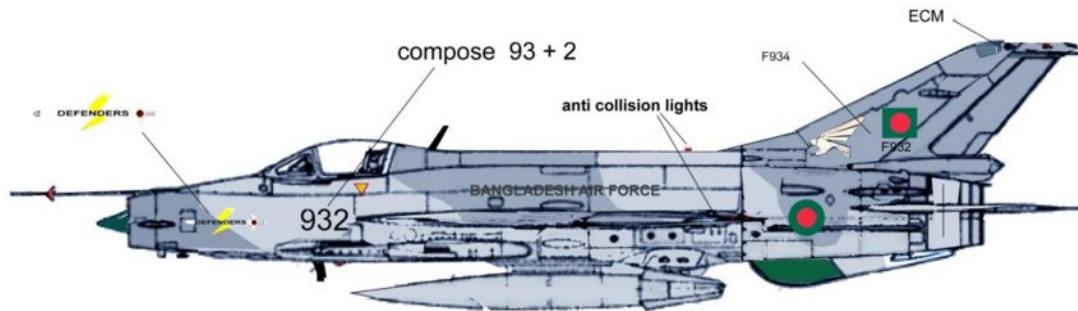
----- BANGLADESH



[1] F-7BGI (improved), Bangladesh Air Force, no.35 squadron "the Thundercats". Coded 2720. Grey camouflage scheme with blue-grey patterns. Unknown if the lower surface colour is different. Is a BGI with ECM knob on vertical tail and possibly wing tips and improved cockpit and systems. For port and upper paint scheme, see next schemes. Note green tail fin sections and larger square tail flash.



[2] F-7BG, Bangladesh Air Force, no.5 squadron "the Defenders". Code F934. Has a blue-ish camouflage scheme with light blue lower surfaces. Note smaller flags on tail.



[3] F-7BGI (improved), Bangladesh Air Force, no.5 squadron "the Defenders". Code F932.

Grey camouflage scheme with blue-grey patterns. Unknown what the lower surface colour is.

It has similar markings as above but now with larger square tail flash. Compose the code with 93 + 2. Is a BGI with ECM knob on vertical tail and possibly wing tips and improved cockpit and systems. Note green tail fin sections.

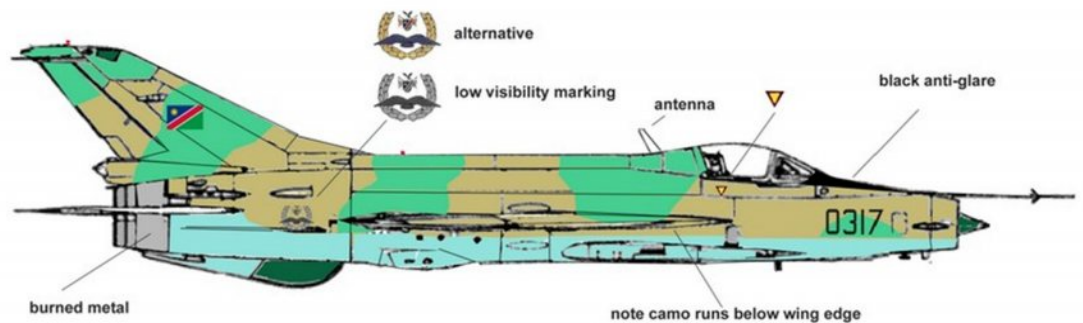
Upper patterns with roundels. Rear fuselage at jet exhaust is bare metal.



----- **NAMIBIA**

[4] F-7NM , Namibia (which is a Chinese F-7MG derivative for Namibia).

Coded 0317 but by combining codes on the sheet also 0310 or 0313 is possible. Low visibility or full colour national insignia were seen. The camouflage colours are unknown but look to be approximately: lower surfaces Russian light blue, and camouflage patterns of light brown FS 33564 and green FS 34227. The port and starboard patterns look almost symmetrical. Note that below the wing on the fuselage the camouflage runs through. There are a black anti-glare panel and also green antenna fairings.



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