

SPEECH BY THE CHIEF OF AIR STAFF
37TH COMMAND SAFETY CONFERENCE

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim,

Principal Staff Officers, Director of Flight Safety, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen, Assalamu Alaikum.

1. **At the outset**, let me extend my warm felicitations to all participants for joining 'Command Safety Conference-2014'.

2. **As a professional Air Force**, 'Command Safety Conference' is a manifestation of our attachments and commitment towards Flight Safety. I am delighted to preside over this professionally rewarding event. My appreciation goes to speakers and participants for enlightening and enriching our knowledge through their presentation and interactions. I am confident that this assembly of professionals will further strengthen the attachment and assist positive growth of the aviation industry in Bangladesh.

Distinguished Audience,

3. **37th Command Safety conference** reviews an interesting and significant year of our professional achievements. This is the consecutive seventh year that we have generated more than 20,000 flying hours in BAF reflecting a trend of increasing operational effort. More so, more than 3,300 hrs were generated by our flying contingents comprising C-130 ac, MI-17 and Bell-212 helicopters in UN missions under critical operating conditions with limited logistic support. At the same time we are observing notable growth in the aviation industry of Bangladesh. We as professionals need to strengthen collective effort on flight safety at all levels.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Since flying is a collective business of professionals, safe flying depends not only on pilots but also on technicians, controllers and environment in which we operate. Today, BAF operation is not only limited within our own Flight Information Region (FIR) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) but expanded in challenging environment of UN mission areas. Hence, our efforts should be to train and empower our people at all levels to achieve uncompromising standards which would ultimately result better flight safety.

5. **Apart from our global engagements** in UN Peace Keeping Operations, increased involvement in different VIP & VVIP flights, routine exercises and necessary support during emergency- all these have made flight safety more challenging. It is now more than imperative to inculcate vigilance, close supervision and strict adherence to safety regulations. Only then we could further reduce avoidable incidents and uphold flight safety trend.

6. **I am confident that** the knowledge and training of our personnel is of high standard. As Flight Safety is everybody's business, we have various courses to meet our requirement. I am sure such training would enhance safety consciousness and manage risk better and improve overall flight safety environment.

Distinguished Audience,

7. **Let me announce with pride,** BAF has successfully conducted three International Flight Safety Seminar (IFSS) in 2009, 2011 and 2013. In those seminars, participation of avid airmen from different organizations of the country and overseas Air Forces is a bookmark. I am pleased to recall the recently concluded International Flight Safety Seminar-2013, which was first time jointly organized by BAF and CAAB, held on 25-26 November 2013. In addition to BAF and CAAB personnel, this time the seminar received an enthusiastic response of 34 (thirty four) participants from 13 (thirteen) friendly countries providing a global flavour to this occasion. In 2015, we intend to conduct the same in grandiose scale through your cooperation.

Dear Participants,

8. **I am hopeful that** this meeting of professional minds will bring forth fresh ideas and help developing a synergy in the aviation fraternity that will mutually benefit all participants. I thank Director of Flight Safety for presenting the flight safety trends through facts figures and also present global flight safety thoughts and practices.

9. **At the end,** my heartiest congratulation to **BAF Base Bir Shresto Matiur Rahman** for winning the Inter Base Flight Safety Trophy for the year 2013. I also congratulate **11 Squadron** for winning the Inter Squadron "Khademul Bashar" Flight Safety Trophy.

10. **Finally, I would like to thank** representative of Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Army, Bangladesh Navy, Bangladesh Biman, Flying Academy and all other private airlines for their participation to make this conference a success. Once again I thank Director of Flight Safety and his team for successfully conducting this conference. May Allah with His infinite mercy bestow us an incident free, safe flying for all in the days to come.

Allah Hafez.