

## **INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SAFETY SEMINAR-2011**

**CLOSING SPEECH BY MR ABUL MAAL ABDUL MUHITH, MP  
HON'BLE MINISTER, MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DATE: 19 OCT 11, FALCON HALL, DHAKA**

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim,

Chief of Air Staff, Members of Bangladesh Armed Forces, Distinguished participants from home and aboard, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Assalmu Alikum and Good Afternoon.

I would first like to thank the Chief of Air Staff for inviting me on this auspicious closing occasion of 'International Flight Safety Seminar-2011'. It is heartening to see that our Air Force that was born in the height of our Liberation War in 1971 with only 3 old aircraft, has transformed into a highly professional and modern fighting force operating 4th Generation Fighters and state of the art equipments. It is a matter of great pride for me as a Bangladeshi citizen to see how BAF is operating in different UN mission successfully for last 20 years without any major accident and incident. The low accident rates even with such exponentially increased operational flying activities in BAF is indeed a testimony of its dynamic leadership, professionalism and commitment to flight safety by all concerned. I am sure that this gathering of aviators from home and abroad along with the local commercial aviation agencies brainstorming on safety matters has added to our knowledge and efforts in promoting flight safety.

Distinguished Audience,

As the Finance Minister, my indulgence in economic indicators and outlooks is inherent. As I gather, despite financial turmoil in the developed economies, the global outlook of Aviation Industry is quite inspiring and profitable. According to the International Air Transport Association, the 560 billion dollar global commercial airline industry is likely to make a profit of 8.9 billion USD this year. What might interest you more is the fact that the airlines of the Asia-Pacific region will be the biggest beneficiaries leading this growth with a 5.2 billion USD profit. Not surprisingly, it is estimated that half of the world's new traffic added during the next 20 years will be to, from, or within the Asia Pacific region. More so, in next 20 years, the number of civil airplanes in the Asia Pacific airlines fleet will nearly triple, from 4,110 airplanes in 2009 to 12,200 airplanes in 2029. Recognizing such vibrant and prosperous outlook, our honourable Prime Minister has rightly emphasized on aviation sector stressing connectivity to make Bangladesh a globally integrated regional economic and commercial hub.

As our aviation sector expands with our economic growth, one can expect that the air travel will also increase in Bangladesh creating demand for new airlines, increasing capacity and efficiency. A sound economic growth also means that we will be able to afford more number of combat aircraft for our Air Force. Again, increasing aviation business means increasing operational, management, administration & maintenance challenges. It demands high level of professionalism & cooperation from all corners. I am happy to see that being a defence organisation, Bangladesh Air force took the excellent initiative to invite many private, government and friendly foreign Air Forces to share experience. It is indeed a very noble effort by Bangladesh Air Force. I have been told that in last two days, there were exhaustive sessions where you all shared your insights on different areas like Safety Culture, Human Behaviours, Safety Error Management, Crew Resources Management, etc related to Flight Safety. During the seminar several questions might have arose in your mind. Questions like - is it good enough? Can we do better? I think you got the answer that there is always scope to improve with the change in technology and environment.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy to see many local organizations in aviation business of Bangladesh participating in this seminar. Some of our local aviation companies have now matured sufficiently to move beyond domestic routes and taking the challenges of flying in international air space. Your keen interest on ensuring flight safety is well reflected through this participation and I am confident such commitment will only take you high in aviation business.

I hope the participants from friendly foreign Air Forces have also been benefited through the Seminar. We are indeed inspired by your presence and participation. I am sure, collective thoughts with our friendly air forces will provide mutual benefits on safety matters and strengthen our personal and professional bondage.

As I look ahead, I feel encouraged about the prospects for further cooperation on flight safety from many more countries. My grounds of optimism are founded on two main observations; Firstly, the global flight safety outlook impels us to do so. Secondly, technological advancement provides another reason to be optimistic about regional cooperation on safety.

I will urge upon all of you to practice safety as a part of culture and I am hopeful the flight safety record will mirror the development of our aviation industry. We have resource constraints but such constraints should propel us to look outwards instead of becoming frustrated. The first priority therefore, in my opinion is to raise quality manpower in whole aviation industry both military and civil.

Finally, I would like to avail this occasion to thank Bangladesh Air Force for being the host of this knowledge enriching event. I also express my profound appreciation to Director of Flight Safety and his team for planning and organizing the seminar of its kind and making this a success. I wish you all the very best.

Now, I have the pleasure to declare the International Flight Safety Seminar-2011 'CLOSED.' Thank you all, ladies and gentlemen.

Allah Hafez.