

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SAFETY SEMINAR-2011

**INAUGURAL SPEECH BY
MAJOR GENERAL TARIQUE AHMED SIDDIQUE, RCDS,PSC (RETD)
ADVISER TO THE HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER
INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SAFETY SEMINAR 2011, DHAKA
DATE: 18 OCT 11, TIME: 0900 HRS**

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim,

1. Chief of Air Staff, Distinguished Members of Bangladesh Armed Forces, Delegates from friendly Air Forces, Aviation Sector Professional, Government officials, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen. Asslamu Alaikumand GoodMorning.

2. I am deeply honoured and delighted to be amongst you at this opening ceremony of International Flight Safety Seminar-2011. My heartiest appreciations to Bangladesh Air Force for their continued efforts in promoting professional excellence through organizing such an international seminar for the second time at Dhaka. I applaud the noble objective of the seminar to share experiences of friendly air forces, private airliners, Bangladesh Air Force and other local organizations to enhance our knowledge on flight safety. I am happy to see that the participants from friendly Air Forces and aviation enthusiast of the country gathered here to share their views and experience in promoting flight safety as a whole.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. This International Flight Safety Seminar is organized at a time when the aviation sector as a whole in this region is poised for a monumental growth despite global economic down turn. According to one estimate the annual air traffic growth rate in Asia Pacific region, (excluding within China) between 2010 - 19 will be 6.6%. Currently the yearly arrival and departure in Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport at Dhaka alone is approximately over 30,000 aircraft. Bangladesh Air Force also generates around 23,000 flying hrs each year which is quite significant compared to its small size and inventory. Such buoyant outlook of civil aviation sector coupled with intense air operations of BAF is well recognized by our Government. Recognizing such potentials, our honorable Prime Minister in her Vision 2021 has declared to make Bangladesh a globally integrated regional economic and commercial hub. Her forward looking vision emphasizing connectivity, along with the plans and project of building new airport, expanding existing airfields into international standard, acquiring new platform for both civil and military aviation has already created the condition for a vibrant aviation sector in Bangladesh. Such expansions and growth surely demands that we reinforce and practice high standard of safety to ensure safe flying and this seminar will certainly add to that efforts.

4. The safety challenges for military aviation are also ever growing and global. Military aircraft are often the first to be tasked by the governments to respond to any crisis situation ranging from natural disaster to emergency evacuation, both within and across the national boundaries. Responding to such needs in short notice, demands very high standard of professionalism, safety awareness and commitment. I believe sharing each other's experiences and knowledge of such unique crisis response operations will be a treasure trove for not only the military aviators but also other professionals. In the informal and neutral environment of the seminars, the best minds in aviation can exchange information and enrich each other's knowledge. I applaud Bangladesh Air Force's unique efforts to provide a platform for such loud thinking and interaction contributing towards achieving better flight safety standards.

Distinguished Audience,

5. Participation of the delegates from foreign Air Forces, civil aviation, private airlines, sister services and government officials in this seminar reflects the deep-rooted professional bond that exists amongst the aviation fraternity. I am certain that this seminar will enable all of you to assume an effective role to the benefit of thousands of flights in your own domain to the safety of hundreds of aviators, millions of passengers and their management every day. It will also provide you a common platform, a common language, a common purpose to share on any flight safety matters in future. It will provide the distilled insights and wisdom gained from the collective experiences in handling flight safety.

6. At the end, I, once again express my deepest appreciation to Bangladesh Air Force for organizing such an important professional event. I wish the seminar a grand success exploring the unknowns of each other through a vibrant participation and experience sharing.

7. With that I declare the International Flight Safety Seminar-2011 at Dhaka, organized by Bangladesh Air Force 'OPEN'. Thank you all.