

Civil-military ties a must for flight safety

BAF, CAAB seminar told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The civil aviation and the air force need to cooperate with each other more to ensure flight safety because they share the airspace, a seminar was told yesterday.

The speakers also said the local aviation industry should catch up with modern technology to overcome the emerging challenges of flight safety. People involved in flight operation have to learn new skills as the technologies are changing fast, they said.

The remarks came at the seminar on International Flight Safety 2017. Themed "Safety is not only risk management, it is a mindset", the seminar was held on November 6-8 at Bangladesh Air Force's (BAF) Convention Hall in Dhaka. BAF and Civil Aviation Authority, Bangladesh (CAAB) jointly organised the programme where experts and stakeholders discussed issues like use of modern technology, prevention of human errors, ensuring user-friendly aviation environment, managing operation safety in IIN missions, and overcoming safety difficulties of mountain flying.

Speaking at the closing ceremony as the chief guest, Prime Minister's Security Adviser Maj Gen (ret) Tarique Ahmed Siddique said flight safety was of utmost importance due to a tremendous increase in the number of flight operations and fast technological advancement.

The local aviation industry has to innovate to address the challenges, he said.

CAAB Chairman Air Vice-Marshal M Naim Hassan said the insights derived from opinion sharing, case studies, and analyses during the seminar would be helpful for safety management.

The seminar brings "noteworthy reflection of civil-military cooperation", said Air Commodore M Murtaza Kamal, director of Flight Safety of BAF, in his welcome address.

Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Abu Esrar and Assistant Chief of Air Staff (operations and training) Air Vice-Marshal Mashuazzaman Semiat were also present at the ceremony.

The seminar brought together officials from China, India, France, Sri Lanka, Jordan, Oman, Bahrain, Kenya, the Maldives, Nepal and Russia.

A dozen AL aspirants seeking nomination

Jay local leaders; BNP yet to decide on joining polls; SP already declared main candidate

KONGKON KARMAKER, Rangpur

More than a dozen aspirants of ruling Awami League are lobbying with top leaders to get nomination as mayoral candidate in the upcoming Rangpur City Corporation election, according to local leaders.

On the other hand, while the Jatya Party already announced its candidate, BNP is yet to decide whether to take part in the election or boycott it.

Last week, JP President HM Ershad nominated Mostafizar Rahman Mostafa, president of the party's Rangpur city unit, as mayoral candidate.

Mostafa was a former chairman of Rangpur sadar upazila.

He is a dedicated leader, and he would get full support of the party, said SM Yasin, general secretary of Rangpur city JP.

According to party insiders of AL, over a dozen leaders including incumbent mayor Sharifuddin Ahmed Jhantu are trying to get party ticket.

Jhantu is an advisory member of Rangpur district AL.

Also seeking party blessings are central AL adviser Chowdhury Khalequzzaman, freedom fighter and AL member Mosaddiq Hossain Babu, president of Rangpur city AL.

Safar Rahman Safi, its general secretary Tushar Kanti Mondal, assistant secretary of



RANGPUR CITY CORPORATION POLLS

IN NUMBERS

Dec 21: election day

Nov 22: last date for nomination papers

3,88,421: total voters

33: total wards in city

Dec 20, 2012: first mayoral polls held

July 1, 2012: Rangpur becomes city corporation

sub-committee of central AL Rashid Rahman, treasurer of district AL Abdul Kashem, law affairs secretary of district AL Babu Chandra Bhownik Babu Monar, publicity and publication affairs secretary of city AL Rezaul Islam Milon, AL member Prof Dr Joydul Abedin Sarkar, president of city Sveschhasehak League Ataur Zaman Babu, and former mayor of now defunct Rangpur Municipality Abdur Rauf Manik.

Insiders of both JP and AL said there might be several rebel candidates.

Meanwhile, local BNP leaders said the decision on joining the election was not finalised yet, but the party might boycott it.

BNP organising secretary for Rangpur region Asatul Habib Dula, however, said local leaders were taking preparations for the polls.

According to BNP insiders, prospective aspirants include president of Rangpur city BNP Mozafar Hossain, its general secretary Shahidul Islam Mizu, its vice president Kawsar Zaman Babla, its former general secretary Samuzzaman Samu, president of district Juba Dal Nazmul Alam Nazu, and its general secretary Rois Ahmed.

Talking to The Daily Star, Rangpur city

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'TERROR ATTACK PLOT' Suspended co-pilot admits link

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Suspended Biman Bangladesh Airlines Co-pilot Sabbir Enam Sabbir who was arrested over "planning to hit the residence of the prime minister with an aircraft", yesterday confessed to his involvement before a magistrate.

Rapid Action Battalion also brought allegation against Sabbir for taking a plane along with passengers to the IS base in Syria.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Sarafuzzaman Ansari recorded Sabbir's confessional statement at his chamber for over three hours after Investigation Officer Sub-inspector Aminul Islam of Rab-4 brought him on expiry of his seven-day remand.

However, details of the confessional statement could not be known.

After the recording, the magistrate sent Sabbir to Keraniganj Central Jail.

The other arrested Sabbir, his brother Sultana Parvin, and a woman, were also taken to the jail.

Rahman Asif, and local tea-stall owner Alam after raiding several places of

Mirpur on October 31.

Suspended Biman co-pilot Sabbir hours after Rab arrested him on October 31.

ASI, 3 others held over abduction

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

An assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of industrial police was arrested along with his three associates yesterday allegedly for holding a pedestrian hostage for ransom in Savar.

Mokbul Hossen, ASI of Dhaka Industrial Police-1, was closed primarily. Other arrests are Biplob Hossen, Shapon Hossen, and Hasmat Al Shamim.

On Tuesday around 11:00am, Shamim Hossen was waiting at Baital Bus Station. Suddenly, Mokbul along with the three arrived in a car, he told The Daily Star.

"Introducing themselves as officials of the Detective Branch of police (DB), they forced me into the car and demanded Tk 20,000 as ransom. They also threatened to create me in a drug case if the money was not paid," Mokbul Shamim added.

Shamim called his family members and they sent Tk 10,000. Within an hour, the four again forced Shamim to call his family for Tk 10,000 more. But this time, the family

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As part of the commissioning ceremony, President Abdul Hamid inspects warship "Durgam" yesterday. Four warships -- Nishan, Durgam, Helda and Pashur -- were formally handed over to Bangladesh Navy at Titumir Naval Base, Jety of Khalishpur in Khulna.

Top maritime resources

President Abdul Hamid asks Navy

UNIS, Khulna

There is no alternative to unlocking the huge potential of the country's vast sea area and using the maritime resources for the nation's further development, said President Abdul Hamid yesterday.

He also asked the members of the naval force to ensure the security of maritime boundary and resources.

Hamid came up with the remarks while speaking at a commissioning function of four warships that were formally handed over to Bangladesh Navy at Titumir Naval Base Jety of Khalishpur in Khulna.

"A vast sea area of Bangladesh is full of fish, mineral oil, natural gas and other undiscovered resources. It also has huge economic potential..." he said.

"The country has a 710-kilometre coastal area, and about three crore people of this area are directly and indirectly dependent on the sea. As over 90 per cent trade and business with the foreign countries are being conducted on sea routes, ensuring strict security measures in marine areas is a must for economic development."

Hamid asked the Navy members to

ensure the sovereignty of maritime boundary and security of ship movement. He also asked them to continue their all-out efforts to uphold the country's image.

Hamid, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces, said a significant number of warships, maritime helicopters and maritime patrol aircraft have been included in the fleet of Bangladesh Navy during the period of the current government. He also hoped that

different domestic shipyards, including Khulna Shipyard, would play a significant role in socioeconomic development by exporting water vessels in the days to come.

He also handed over the four warships -- Nishan, Durgam, Helda and Pashur -- to Bangladesh Navy after the commissioning ceremony.

Prime Minister's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowhar Rizvi, State Secretary Fisheries and Livestock Narayan Chandra Chanda, Attorney General Mahubub Alam, Army Chief General Abu Belal Muhammad Hafiz Haq, Chief of Naval Staff, Admirals concerned to the president and senior military and civil officials were also present.

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