

# Family of slain FF seeks security

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three months have elapsed after the killing of freedom fighter Hamidul Haq, better known as Firoz Master, but police failed to make any headway in the murder case.

Still worse, his family members could not stay at their home at Kamarkhand upazila in Sirajganj as the killers threatened them with death.

Firoz Master, a former chairman of Kamarkhand upazila, was killed in the evening of September 16 when he was taking rest at his residence.

The family members of slain freedom fighter made an appeal to the government yesterday to protect them from the threats and punish the killers.

"Three months have passed, but we are still awaiting justice for the killing of my father. Even we could not stay at our home for fear of the killers," said Arif Mahmud, eldest son of slain freedom fighter, at a press conference at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Firoz Master was a popular person in his area. His rival killed him when there were rumours about plans for upazila election fearing defeat, Arif said.

He also cited other reasons behind the killing.

Firoz Master was the founder-president of Roy Daulatpur High School which was nominated as the best school of the district three times. Firoz Master was also nominated as the best president.

Arif said a row over the post of president might have led to the killing as his rival, also a member of the governing body of the school, had long been trying to become the president of the institution.

He said the army arrested four of the 12 accused in Firoz Master murder case from the Bashundhara residential area and Sirajganj police arrested another accused, but police failed to make any headway in the murder case.

The arrested are Abdur Rauf, Shaheen, Selim, Khorshed Alam and Palash.

Arif said the other accused are roaming freely in Kamarkhand upazila and threatening their family members.

He said all the accused are aligned with a local BNP leader.

Firoz Master's wife Afroza Firoz and daughters Fahmida Tanzil, Shanjida Tahmin and Farjana Sharmin were also present at the press conference.

## Lawyers demand release of Momtaz Mehedi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Awami Ainjibi Parishad, a forum of lawyers, formed a human chain on the High Court premises in the city yesterday demanding immediate release of advocate Momtaz Uddin Ahmed Mehedi, former general secretary of the Dhaka Bar Association.

Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan, Barrister M Amir-ul-Islam, former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru, and advocates Abdul Khaleq Majumdar, Ozaer Faruk, Sahara Khatun and Rahamat Ali MP joined the demonstration at around 1:00pm.

Later, the lawyers held a rally where Barrister Amir-ul-Islam warned that the lawyers across the country would launch a tough movement against the government if it does not stop repressive activities immediately.

"Lawyers are working to protect human rights and establish the rule of law," he said, demanding release of lawyers, journalists, intellectuals and political leaders arrested without any specific charge and only for political reasons.

Advocate Ozaer Faruk said Mehedi was arrested without any specific charge. "Such arrest of a lawyer is indicative of autocratic character of the government trying to stifle opposition voices."

He also said the government is trying to silence opposition voices in the name army crackdown.



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# Visit to Bangladesh a turning point in our relations

## Gen Than Shwe tells Morshed Khan

BSS, Dhaka

The visiting Myanmar Prime Minister and Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council (SPDC), Senior General Than Shwe, yesterday described his talks with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and others as "sound and fruitful in all respects."

"I will try to be closer with Bangladesh as this visit is a turning point in our relations," he said when Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan called on the Myanmar leader at the latter's suit at Hotel Sonargaon in the morning.

Myanmar's Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Khin Nyunt, Foreign Minister U Win Aung and Deputy Foreign Minister Khin Maung Win, among others, were present during the meeting.

Expressing his firm confidence in the existing good bilateral relations, General Than Shwe said frequent exchange of visits in future would bring the two nations further closer to each other in the greater benefit of the two countries. "We do not want to see any misunderstanding existing in our relations," he said.

Referring to the common border, the Myanmar leader said both the governments could work together in a smooth as well as fraternal manner since the two nations were familiar with each other for long. "We have many grounds in common and that is why we need to cooperate each other," he added.

Earlier, Morshed Khan ex-

plained the role of Bangladesh in the region as well as the global arena saying Dhaka had been pursuing a foreign policy with emphasis upon human rights and dignity above all.

Referring to the government's strong adherence to democracy with free press, Morshed Khan said the two countries could work together in a friendly as well as brotherly manner by upholding that spirit in the greater interest of the two close neighbours. "We should be closer to each other with no misconception any more," he added.

Later, during a meeting with Myanmar's Secretary-1 of the SPDC General Khin Nyunt, the Foreign Minister referred to poverty as one of the major global problems, where both the countries could work together to alleviate it. "We can also have more talks on matters about our common border issues in the greater interest of our close relations," he said.

General Khin Nyunt stressed for further consolidation of bilateral relations saying it was very important as there was no high-level visit over the last 16 years between the two countries. "This has failed to take our understanding closer to each other's mind," he said.

## UAE envoy meets Mir Nasir

BSS, Dhaka

Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to Bangladesh Sayyed Mohammad Sultan Al-Za'abi called on State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin at his office in the city yesterday.

The envoy stayed with Nasiruddin for some time and discussed matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations.



## Dry weather likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during early morning and night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Country's highest temperature 29.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Mongla and lowest 13.0 degree at Dinajpur and Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:15pm today and rises at 6:36am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	26.3	16.2	79	74
Chittagong	28.0	15.5	88	79
Rajshahi	26.6	13.7	87	86
Khulna	27.3	16.0	95	81
Barisal	27.6	15.0	90	83
Sylhet	26.4	16.6	100	86
Cox's Bazar	27.8	16.8	81	78

## New telephone connections soon

UNB, Dhaka

Subscribers who have deposited demand note of Tk 18,400 will soon get their telephone connections.

Although the subscribers paid the fee duly the telephone connections could not be given in some areas of Dhaka and Chittagong City in time due to shortage of cable network.

The work on establishing the cable network has already been started and it is likely to be completed in most of the areas (especially Dhaka Telecommunication Zone, Northern Area) by five to six weeks.

A press release of the T & T Board said telephone connection will be given first to those who paid Tk 18,400 before December 1 and those who paid Tk 10,000 from December 1 will be given later.

If necessary the subscribers are requested to contact with the Divisional Engineer concerned to avoid confusion about the matter.

# Int'l Migrants Day observed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Migrants Day was observed in the country yesterday as elsewhere in the world.

On this occasion, the Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshi Employees (WARBE) and the Bangladesh Women Association (BWA) in cooperation with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) held a discussion in the city.

Md Dalil Uddin Mondol, secretary, Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment was the chief guest at the discussion.

Presided over by Anisur Rahman Khan, secretary general of

WARBE, the discussion was conducted by Syed Mahub Elahi.

Dr Selina Ferdous, Prof Abu Ahmed and Dr Tasneem Siddiqui were the guest speakers at the discussion.

Mahbubur Rahman, Max Gregory Schulze, field representative, American Centre for International Labour Solidarity and Md Shadul Haque, regional representative, IOM, spoke as special guests.

The secretary said the migrants are playing an important role for the development of our country.

"Necessary steps are being taken to reduce the travel cost and stop harassment of migrant workers", he added.

Speakers at the meeting said the migrants must get adequate information about the countries where they are destined to go so that they do not face any problems.

They said the migrants must be briefed about HIV/AIDS and other STDs.

The speakers also suggested special measures for women migrants so that they are not harassed.

Bakia Sultana and Syed Saifu Haque Asif of WARBE, Sheikh Rumana and Lily Jahan of BWA and Abul Hossain, president United Labour Forum were also present on the occasion.



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