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Matia says Abu Hena was BNP's nominee

A senior cabinet minister yesterday disclosed in Parliament that incumbent Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena was a nominee of BNP which is now seeking his resignation, reports UNB.

"We had proposed the name (Justice) Naimuddin Saheb, but you (BNP) opposed it and proposed Abu Hena's name for the post of CEC," Food and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury reminded the BNP lawmakers.

Taking part in the thanks-giving motion on President's address to the House, she said the Chief Election Commissioner is a constitutional post. "But BNP wants us to do the unconstitutional task. We will not be foolish to do it."

About the opposition's boycott of municipal elections, the minister said people have shown a great enthusiasm for the local body polls. They are more interested in this election

than the national election. Opposition should understand that the wind is blowing against them.

Pointing to frequent hartals called by the opposition, the food minister reminded that while in power, Khaleda Zia spoke against it 966 times, but now she is applying it without hesitation.

Matia was critical of BNP for forging unholy alliance with Ershad who always change his political stand. On one hand he is calling for moving anti-hartal bill in Parliament and on the other talk of enforcing hartals.

The minister said the business community opposed the hartal while newspaper editorials commented it would not help BNP. "Only the conspirators who are dreaming of capturing power in troubled waters are the beneficiaries of the hartals," Matia told the House.

Thousands mourn

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disembarked from the helicopter.

Apart from JSD leaders Noore Alam Ziku and Shirin Akhter, present at the helipad were ministers Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim, political adviser to the PM Dr S A Malek and Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu.

A truck carried the coffin of Aref, who was a member of the nucleus formed in 1962 for independence of Bangladesh and second-in-command of Mujib Bahini during the Liberation War, to his Tikatuli residence for the last stay at home at 1:55 pm.

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam was at the house on Avoy Das Lane in old part of the capital at that time. As Aref's octogenarian mother lost her word to give vent to her pent-up mind seeing son's body, the minister assured her that all actions would be taken against the killers.

Kazi Aref's political disciple in Chhatra League in the early 60s and colleague in Mujib Bahini in the Liberation War, Tofail Ahmed, now Commerce and Industries Minister, and Deputy Minister Saber Hossain Chowdhury were also present at the gloomy home.

Crowds spilled over the house premises as leaders and workers of the JSD as well as people from various areas gathered there to see the body of the politician, highly recognised for his honesty both in personal and political career.

JSD leaders Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Sadeq Hossain Khoka and Salahuddin Ahmed visited the house when people started taking the body to JSD office. Being local MP, Khoka wanted a namaj-e-janaza there and local people took part in it.

After keeping the body at JSD office at Bangabandhu Avenue for a while, it was taken to Central Shaheed Minar in a mourning procession where Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina rushed to pay her last respect to the valiant freedom fighter.

The Prime Minister placed floral wreaths on the coffin and along with cabinet members stood in solemn silence and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Before Prime Minister's arrival at the Shaheed Minar, the metal detector set up there for security reasons was damaged under huge pressure of crowd. After she left, people in long queue started paying floral tributes to the assassinated leader.

Leaders of political parties and other organisations, hundreds of individuals, once involved with JSD and many freedom fighters were in the tandem to pay their last respect.

The long list included Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Dr S A Malek, Mofazal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Nurul Islam Nahid, Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Shafi Ahmed.

Among the BNP leaders to pay respect to the politician of

chequered career were Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Dr Khandar Mosharrif Hossain and Shahjahan Siraj, who along with Kazi Aref Ahmed was one of the founders of JSD and now involved with the main opposition party.

Others were Dr Kamal Hasan of Ganj Forum, Mujahidul Islam Selim of CPB, Khalequzzaman of BSD, A F M Mahbubul Haq of BSD, Dilip Barua of Samyabadi Dal, Ajoy Roy of Communist Kendra, Maolana Abdus Samad of Ganj Azadi League, Bahadur Bepary of Chhatra League, Habibunabi Sohel of JCD, Hasan Imam of Jatiya Sammoyon Committee.

Later the body in a silent foot procession was taken from Shaheed Minar to National Eidgah where funeral prayers for him were held. Hundreds of people took part in the namaj-e-janaza.

The body has been kept at BIRDEM Hospital awaiting return of JSD president and Fisheries and Livestock Minister A S M Abdur Rab. He is now on an official tour in Australia and expected to return at 10 pm today.

Slain Kazi Aref Ahmed will be buried at Mirpur Freedom Fighters Graveyard after Juma prayers on Friday. His party JSD demanded of the Prime Minister to give state honour to the valiant freedom fighter during his last journey.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia visited the residence of the late leader last night.

She arrived at the residence of late Aref Ahmed at about 10:30 pm and consoled his bereaved family members.

Taka

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greenback traded in the range of Tk 48.71 and 48.76. The call money market was in a dull state and the rate ranged between seven and 7.5 per cent.

The central bank sells the dollar to local banks at Tk 48.65.

Interestingly, the dollar was cheaper on the kerb market than the interbank rate, trading at around Tk 48.7080.

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Among the BNP leaders to

pay respect to the politician of

Barricade

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not aware of it.

The relatives later took away the body from the spot. The decision regarding filling case or future steps would be taken later, said one relative.

Some local people demand a foot-over at the 'deadly crossing' where several people have been killed in road accident in the past few years.

They also said that a relative of the victim had faced similar fate few years back and high officials had promised them to construct a foot-over there. But the government did not keep their commitment, they alleged.

Even the reports published in the newspapers did not carry any contemptuous elements, he said.

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Firefighters extinguishing the blaze in the BJC godown in Narayanganj yesterday.

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Clinton's legal troubles seem not over

ished.

"Accordingly, I believe that now is the time for the court to address the contempt issue," Wright said in an order issued after a hearing on another aspect of the Jones case.

Federal judge Susan Webber Wright said it was time for the court to consider whether Clinton was in contempt for admitting to an affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky after denying sexual relations with her in a deposition he gave in the Jones case in January 1998.

Clinton agreed to pay Jones \$50,000 dollar to settle her sexual harassment lawsuit, in which she accused him of crudely propositioning her in a Little Rock hotel room when he was Arkansas governor and she was a state employee. Clinton did not admit wrongdoing under the settlement.

Contempt of court citations

can result in hefty fines or even jail term. Wright gave no indication of what the result of the citation against Clinton might be or when a ruling could be ex-

pected.

Wright may not even make the decision, due to a legal twist that could result in another judge handling the matter.

She said her law clerk had testified in the House impeachment proceedings against Clinton and that legal precedent suggested a judge should recuse himself in any matter where court staff had been a witness.

Wright said she will hold a hearing on Friday with both the Clinton and Jones legal teams on whether she should recuse, or withdraw and leave another judge to rule on the contempt question.

Wright's order emerged from a hearing on Tuesday on rival claims by several legal teams who had represented Paula Jones at different times to the \$50,000 settlement she received.

Wright ordered the cheque deposited with the court within eight days for safekeeping pending a decision on how the money should be divided.

Who killed Aref?

From Page 1

committed the murders were their own men who were engaged to ensure their security. This is the mystery confronting the administration.

Police sources say that Ranjit Roy Singha, president of Bheramara unit of JSD, was killed in his bedroom recently as a result of the intra-party conflict. The victim's sister said that the person who killed him used to visit their house frequently.

The following day, the meeting was scheduled at Daulatpur where the dastardly killing took place.

Now the question is: Who were the killers?

They might belong to the dissident faction of their own party or members of Purba-Bangla Communist Party or Biplobi Communist Party. As the conflict had been raging for a long time, as a result of which 93 persons were killed during 1998. Killing of outlawed party members was going on unabated in 1999.

One source said that about 10 months back a top leader of JSD visited Kushtia, after which some members of Purba-Bangla Communist Party and Biplobi Communist Party were killed. This was followed by large-scale murders of JSD members in the southwestern zone, particularly in Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur and Jhenidah districts.

Some say that many such murders of JSD activists were committed by their fellow partymen because of intra-party conflicts.

But police here are learnt to be suspecting Nantu Bahini of Chuadanga for Tuesday's murders of the JSD leaders. However, some say that those who

Home Minister

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Custom authority at Zia International Airport seized gold chains, gold bars and dollar worth about Tk 1,16 crore.

Custom surveillance team recovered 8 gold bars and US dollar 2422 which worth about Tk 15.7 lakh from the luggage of one Shah Alam, who arrived from Singapore Tuesday.

The surveillance team recovered the vendor at Chittagong Road and decamped with a bag containing Tk 4 lakh, police said.

None was arrested so far in this connection.

Gold, dollar seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Custom authority at Zia International Airport seized gold chains, gold bars and dollar worth about Tk 1,16 crore.

Custom surveillance team recovered cash dollar, pound and 5000 grams of bronze worth about Tk 20 lakh from one Sarwar Ahmed yesterday. The arrested person was leaving for Hong Kong by Thai Airways.

In another incident, gold chains weighing 9.577 grams and worth about 80 lakh were recovered from inside the shirt of one Kartick Hawlader at about 5:45 pm yesterday.

Kartick came from Singapore via Calcutta in a Singapore Airlines flight.

Three separate departmental cases were lodged in the connection of the crimes.

Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board

Bakshi Bazar, Dhaka-1211

Dated: 15.09.1998/31.5.1405 BS

Notice

It is notified for information of all concerned that the Dakhil Examination of 1999 of Bangladesh Madrasa Education Board will be held from 11 March 1999, Thursday, as per the undermentioned timetable. The Board authority may change this date & time table, if required.

Time table of Dakhil Examination of 1999

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