



A US Congressional staff delegation from the House Committee on Foreign Affairs (HCFA) led by Peter Yeo calls on Chief of Army Staff General Moeen U Ahmed at Army Headquarters in the city yesterday. They spent some time with the army chief and discussed matters of bilateral issues. US Ambassador to Bangladesh James F Moriarty was present at the meeting.

## KILLING OF EXPAT IN MALAYSIAN JUNGLE

## Appeal to bring Milon's body home

Family members demand punishment to recruiting agency owner, brokers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Family members of Milon, an expatriate worker who was killed in Malaysia on August 7, at a press conference yesterday demanded that his body be brought back and the owner and brokers of the recruiting agency that sent him abroad illegally are punished.

"After leading the life of a fugitive in different Malaysian jungles for over eleven months, he was strangled at a room of an abandoned building in a jungle by the hired murderers of the recruiting

agency," the victim's elder brother Siraj Uddin said at the press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity.

"Who will look after Milon's family?" he posed a question, adding that being a poor tea vendor, he is unable to maintain his brother's family alongside his own one in the wake of such price spiral of essentials.

Milon was survived by his wife Ruma, two daughters and a son.

Family members of Milon, who hailed from Mirzapur village under Pakundia upazila in Kishoreganj, said brokers Kabir Mia and his elder brother Siddique Mia of Trade Air International took Tk 1.80 lakh from them and sent Milon as a factory worker to Malaysia on September 9, 2007.

His passport and other necessary documents were snatched by Kabir on his arrival in Malaysia and he was confined to different abandoned rooms in Malaysian jungles. He was also ordered not to

disclose his condition to his family members in Bangladesh, they added.

Broker Kabir, who very often came to Bangladesh, gave death threat to Milon saying that the latter destroyed his network of sending people to Malaysia by informing his family members about his condition in Malaysia, they added.

Siraj Uddin said another victim Nayan, who was confined to another room adjacent to Milon's one, informed the latter's family over cellphone that at least five miscreants came to Milon's room on the night of August 7 and next morning he found Milon dead with his head and neck covered with clothes.

Siraj added that Trade Air International denied distributing any paper required for bringing the body of Milon back home saying that they would hand over the papers only to Kabir.



Commerce Adviser Hossain Zillur Rahman talks to a girl at a relief camp at Lalkhan Bazar in Chittagong yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

QUASHMENT OF 2 GRAFT CASES AGAINST HASINA  
HC hearing tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday set August 21 for hearing explanation from government side as to why the Niko and the Barge-mounted power plant graft cases against former premier and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, now abroad on parole for treatment, should not be quashed.

A Division Bench comprising Justice Sheikh Rezaul Karim and Justice Rais Uddin passed the order as government and Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) lawyers mentioned the matter for speedy disposal of the cases, filed in the wake of current anti-corruption drive.

On July 7, the HC upon separate quashment petitions filed by Hasina had stayed for two months the proceedings of the cases and issued separate rules upon the anti-graft watchdog to explain why the cases "should not be quashed".

The government side moved to the Supreme Court against the HC rulings. On August 13, the Appellate Division advised the contesting parties to get the rules resolved back in the HC while disposing of ACC application for leave to appeal against the HC orders.

Both the stalled cases are now pending with the special courts set up at the parliament complex that

deals with high-profile corruption cases following the 1/11 change of guard in state power.

The Niko scam case awaits charge sheet and the Barge-mounted power plant case is in the phase of cross-examination of the prosecution witnesses by the defence counsel.

On September 2 last year, the ACC filed the barge-mounted power plant case with Tejgaon police station against Hasina and several others amid a crackdown on the political arena in the interim period.

The ACC complained that the former PM and the other accused "through mutual understanding and use of influence" had helped a foreign company and its local partners win a deal for setting up a barge-mounted 100MW power plant in Khulna, depriving the lowest bidder.

On December 9 last year, the ACC filed the Niko scam case with Tejgaon Police Station. According to the charge sheet, the accused in collusion with one another awarded gas-extraction work in Chhatak, Kamta and Feni gas fields to Niko Resources Ltd., a Canadian company, "to gain personal financial benefit that caused a loss of Tk 13,630.50 crore to the state exchequer".



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