

Niko graft case: Indictment hearing on Jan 30

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The Daily Morning Voice Online Desk: A court on Tuesday fixed January 30 to hold hearing on charge framing in Niko graft case against BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia. Judge Sheikh Hafizur Rahman passed the order at a temporary courtroom of the Dhaka Special Judge's Court-9 at Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj, reports BSS. Appearing on behalf of Khaleda Zia, lawyer AJ Mohammad Ali sought exemption from filing charges against her. As the hearing did not end today, the court fixed the date for the next hearing.

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) filed the case against five including Begum Khaleda Zia with Tejgaon police station on December 9, 2007 for abusing power in signing a deal with Canadian company Niko for exploring and extracting gas. The ACC on May 5 in 2008 submitted the charge-sheet against 11 people including Khaleda Zia. The ACC accused them of incurring a loss of more than Taka 13 thousand crore of state exchequer by that deal.