

# INTERNATIONAL THE NEWS

## PPP leader in US figures in NICL scam

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ISLAMABAD: In yet another development in the National Insurance Company Limited's Rs5 billion scam, it has surfaced that one of the front men of Ayaz Niazi is vice President of Pakistan People's Party in USA while another died in the Air Blue crash in the Margalla Hills last year.

Director Federal Investigation Agency Karachi Moazzam Jah had told the Supreme Court that he had detected that a sum of Rs900 million regarding Korangi land has landed into a joint account of Khalid Anwar Khan and Khawaja Akbar Butt. He told the court that one Zafar Salim is the real owner of this amount, whereas Khawaja Akbar Butt is the front man of Ayaz Niazi, NICL's former chairman.

Of these Khalid Anwar Khan is vice President of PPP in USA and is a close friend of Ayaz Niazi. The official website of PPP also carries his name under the link [http://www.ppp.org.pk/party/o\\_org.html](http://www.ppp.org.pk/party/o_org.html). While the PPP's USA website also mentions him as vice President under the link [http://www.pppusa.org/overseas\\_organization.htm](http://www.pppusa.org/overseas_organization.htm). Khalid, who lives in Houston, USA is also the President of Pakistani-American Association of Greater Houston. Khalid A Khan while talking to The News from Houston, USA said that he was unaware of inclusion of his name in NICL scam and issuance of his Interpol red warrants.

On the question that whether he has some link or relation with Ayaz Khan Niazi and Zafar Salim, he said that he was busy and will call back later to discuss the issue. While Zafar Salim who according to FIA is the person who grabbed the NICL's Korangi land money was among the 152 deceased passengers of Air Blue tragedy in Islamabad last year. Zafar Salim, a former national athlete and Director General Sindh Workers Board was onboard in the plane that crashed in the capital on July 28, 2010. Well-placed sources in FIA told The News that Zafar Salim was also arrested by FIA in 1993 on account of human smuggling.

Sources said that Khalid Anwer Khan, Vice President PPP USA introduced Zafar Salim to Ayaz Niazi when Niazi used to attend 'lavish' parties in Karachi, a habit that he developed from his Dubai's night club. Sources said that after the surfacing of NICL scandal Khalid A Khan did not return to Pakistan while Zafar Salim had already expired.

Sources said that though FIA has got the red warrants of Khalid A Khan and Khawaja Akbar from Interpol but yet they have not been arrested. Director FIA had told the apex court that Rs900 million had been transferred into the account of Khawaja Akbar Butt from Khalid Anwar Khan of which FIA had recovered Rs73 million.

It is worth mentioning here that there are five cases of corruption in NICL which include Rs1.68 billion land scam of purchasing 803 kanals of Warriach family land at escalated price of Rs1.70 billion spent on purchasing 27000 sq ft office area in Liberty Tower, Dubai at high prices; Rs1.06 billion Lahore Air Port land scam; Rs900 million Karachi Korangi land scam and Rs36 million office furniture and renovation scam. Of these scams, FIA has recovered the entire amount from the Warriach family while has cleared Niazi and company in Liberty Tower, Dubai and Office Furniture scam. The Lahore Airport land purchased by NICL is considered to be a fair deal but no one has been cleared in it.

Sources said that the PPP Vice President Khalid A. Khan, Khawaja Akbar Butt and Zafar Salim were involved in Korangi land scam in which FIA has to recover the entire amount yet. Sources said that Zafar Salim had obtained signed cheques from Khalid A Khan and Khawaja Akbar Butt before getting the money transferred in their joint account.