

Nepali Maoists have revived communism: Prachanda

AFP, Kathmandu

The leader of Nepal's Maoists, Prachanda, says the victory of his left-wing former rebels in last month's landmark elections is a sign of the global resurgence of communism.

The former schoolteacher, once branded a "terrorist" and wanted by Interpol, is now vying to be the first president of a republican Nepal, and he says his party's success at the ballot box is rooted in its communist ideals.

"The revolutionary process is now happening in third world countries, and when it is completed in developing countries, a new wave of socialist revolution will be there in developed countries," Prachanda said.

"Here in Nepal we are trying our best to develop our ideology according to the changed situa-



tion," the 54-year-old told reporters from AFP and an Italian news magazine.

"Communists all over the world need to understand the new challenges, the new developments of the 21st century."

The Maoists won 220 seats -- more than twice as many as its closest rival, the Nepali Congress --

in the April 10 elections for a 601-member body that will rewrite Nepal's constitution and abolish the monarchy.

"Our victory in the constituent assembly elections will be a big reference point for Maoists all over the world," said the moustachioed Maoist, whose nom-de-guerre means "the fierce one."

After living underground for 25 years, Prachanda emerged from the shadows to sign a peace deal in 2006 and end a decade-long revolt that left at least 13,000 people dead and destroyed Nepal's already fragile economy.

The Maoists are now promising radical change in Nepal, a traditionally conservative country with strict caste, ethnic and gender divisions where around 31 percent of people live on less than a dollar a day.

"We have come to a new understanding that multi-party competi-

tion is a must, even in socialism," said the Maoist leader, whose party displayed portraits of Marx, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Zedong at campaign rallies.

"Without having multi-party competition with or without the help of the mainstream political parties with which they signed the 2006 deal -- and which they resoundingly defeated in the April elections.

The Maoists warned last week that they would form a new government with or without the help of the mainstream political parties with which they signed the 2006 deal -- and which they resoundingly defeated in the April elections.

Senior leaders from the Nepali Congress, firm favourites before the shock results, have suggested the current interim administration led by Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala should remain.

But Prachanda has said he has the right to lead the next government.



This photo taken on Saturday shows people next to a tree which fell onto the top of a car in a street in Yangon on May 3. More than 350 people were killed when cyclone Nargis tore through military-run Myanmar this weekend, an information ministry official said yesterday.

Naxals 'very active' in rural India, says US

PTI, New Delhi

Leftist extremist groups are "very active" in wide areas of impoverished rural eastern and Central India, the US State Department has said.

The Maoists also operate in parts of southern India, the State Department said in its latest annual report on terrorism.

It said hundreds of people were killed in conflicts between the government and various leftist extremist groups, such as Naxalites and the Communist Party of India (Maoists), and also in inter-caste wars.

"The Government of India is very concerned over the threat from leftist extremist groups to internal stability and democratic culture," it said.

8 S Koreans killed by large wave

AP, Seoul

A sudden high wave crashed into a bulwark near a western coastal beach, leaving at least eight people dead and 12 others injured yesterday, the South Korean Coast Guard said.

The large wave believed to be as high as 16 feet abruptly jumped the bulwark near a western coastal beach about 120 miles south of Seoul, said Lee Won-il, a local Coast Guard officer.

Among the dead were two children -- a 9-year-old and a 5-year-old, he said.

Lee said about 15 other people were believed missing and the Coast Guard deployed seven boats and a helicopter to rescue them. He said most of the victims were tourists or people fishing there.

Myanmar voters in dilemma

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's voters will Saturday cast ballots for the first time since 1990, but some fear that the junta -- determined to secure approval for its draft constitution -- will be watching their every move.

The ruling generals have put their propaganda machine into overdrive to push for a "Yes" vote in the referendum, while the main pro-democracy party says its activists have been beaten and arrested for opposing the charter.

"You can see calls on the front page of every newspaper for a 'Yes'

vote. It shows what kind of result the government wants to get from this referendum," a 62-year-old retired police officer who did not want to be named told AFP.

He said he had read the draft constitution, which only went on sale April 9. Bookstores in the main city Yangon reported strong sales, but circulation of the document in the rest of the country appears limited.

"I was in service when the previous 1974 constitution was approved. Of course I also had to cast a 'Yes' vote at that time as I was a civil servant. I think this time will be also the same for all civil servants," he said.

Gilani to work for independence of Pak judiciary

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistan government will take along all political forces as it works to ensure independence of the judiciary and to strengthen national institutions like the parliament, Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said today.

Addressing a function organised by an NGO in his hometown Multan, Gilani pledged to work for the independence of the judiciary but made no mention of reinstating dozens of judges sacked by President Pervez Musharraf last year.

Restoring the deposed judges is a key demand of former premier

Nawaz Sharif's PML-N party, which backs the coalition government led by Gilani's Pakistan People's Party.

"I promise that the judiciary will be made independent so that the people can get cheap justice," Gilani told the gathering after disbursing financial aid to educated youths.

Gilani is on his first visit to Multan since he assumed the post of Prime Minister in March.

Noting that the February 18 general election had produced a split mandate that would not have allowed any single party to form government, he said the PPP had realised that Pakistan was at the crossroads and "thought of forming a broad-based government".

Chinese president hopeful about Tibet talks

AP, Shenzhen

President Hu Jintao said he has hopes for a positive outcome between representatives of the Dalai Lama and Chinese officials at talks that began Sunday the first since violent anti-government protests erupted in Tibet in March.

"I hope that the contacts with the Dalai Lama's side from today will yield a positive outcome," Hu told Japanese reporters in Beijing, the Kyodo News agency reported.

Samdhong Rinpoche, prime minister of the Tibetan government-in-exile based in Dharamsala, India, said the envoys have arrived in the southern city of Shenzhen and talks began Sunday morning. He said he didn't know any other details.

The talks were scheduled to last for a day or two, he said.

"We are positive that something good will come out of it," Samdhong Rinpoche told The Associated Press.

A report by China's official Xinhua News Agency confirmed the Dalai

Lama's envoys, Lodi Gyari and Kelsang Gyaltzen, would meet with two vice ministers of the United Front Work Department, Zhu Weiqun and Sita, who are designated to deal with influential people in groups outside China's Communist Party.

The meeting location was not announced but a large group of reporters from Japan and Hong Kong were staking out a gated development of villas where high-ranking leaders are known to stay in a leafy suburb of Shenzhen.

INDO-PAK TALKS

More cross-LoC bus services on agenda

PTI, New Delhi

Keen to take the peace process with Pakistan forward, India is expected to press for launch of more cross-LoC bus services and propose some other confidence building measures during the upcoming visit of External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee to Islamabad.

In the first high-level contact with the new Pakistan government, Mukherjee will hold talks with his counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi on May 21 during which the Indian side is also expected to propose increasing the frequency of fortnightly Srinagar-Muzaffarabad and Poonch-Rawalakot bus services to make these weekly.

During the much-delayed talks, the two sides will review the fourth round of Composite Dialogue and assess progress made on eight issues, including Jammu and Kashmir, Siachen, Sir Creek and terrorism.

The talks between Mukherjee and Qureshi, which will also set the tone for the fifth round of composite dialogue, will be preceded by the Foreign Secretary-level discussions on May 20.

At the talks, the Indian side is expected to press for launch of Kargil-Skardu and Jammu-Sialkot bus services.

The two sides will also discuss operationalisation of the truck service on Srinagar-Muzaffarabad route, sources said here.

Obama wins Guam, looks to Indiana, N Carolina

AFP, Hagatna

Democratic White House hopeful Barack Obama on Saturday defeated rival Hillary Clinton in caucuses on the tiny US Pacific island of Guam, a small but welcome victory after several rough weeks on the campaign trail.

Obama won the island's caucuses by seven votes, winning 14 of the island's 21 districts and finishing with 2,264 votes against 2,257 for Hillary Clinton, local party officials said.

It was not immediately clear whether the four pledged delegates from Guam's caucuses would be split evenly between Obama and Clinton -- Guam, like most Democratic Party nominating contests, uses a complicated formula of proportionally doling out the spoils based on a variety of factors.

Hillary Clinton issued a statement congratulating Obama for "running a vigorous campaign" and said she looks "forward to our next contests in Indiana and North Carolina."

Voter turnout on the island more than 12,900km from Washington was 25 percent higher than the 4,000 party officials expected on Saturday. The island's residents, while US citizens, cannot vote in November's presidential election.

Invitation To Bid (ITB)

SAMSUNG Printer Accessories for Preparation of Electoral Roll with Photographs assisted by the United Nations Development Programme



Sealed Bids are invited for "SAMSUNG Color Printer's (Model: CLP 610) Transfer Roller-79 units, Fuser Unit- 79 units, Transfer Belt- 786 units and for SAMSUNG Color Printer (Model- CLP 510) Imaging Unit- 105 units" from authorized/ certified vendors with the detailed specification and price.

Submission of Bid: The envelope should state "SAMSUNG Printer's Accessories for Preparation of Electoral Roll assisted by the United Nations Development Programme" and should be marked as 'Confidential' and addressed to the UNDP Business Center, IDB Bhaban (14th Floor), Begum Rokeya Sharani, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. The selection of Bids will be done based on the UNDP procurement rules and regulations and only the successful bidder(s) will be contacted. However, UNDP, Dhaka reserves the right to accept or reject any bid(s) without assigning any reasons whatsoever.

The detailed bid documents are available on the website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/bc.php?d=34>. Hardcopy of specifications are also available at the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, Dhaka. Attn: Parvin Akther (parvin.akther@undp.org). Bids must be submitted before 16:00 hrs on 21 May 2008.

Request for Proposal (RFP)

Public Attitude Follow-up Survey For the Police Reform Programme (PRP)



Police Reform Programme (PRP) is being implemented by the Ministry of Home Affairs with technical assistance from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Department For International Development (DFID) and European Commission (EC), seeks research proposals for Public Attitude Follow-up Survey of the 13 Thana areas in different geographic locations of Bangladesh, from national consulting /research organizations with research expertise in the fields of Police reform, access to justice and human security. The specific purpose of this Follow-up Survey is to develop a longitudinal database of the Project sites using the specified indicators and parameters, so that comparative analysis can be conducted to measure the degree of change, assess intended benefits being generated and ensure that the Project meets its goals and objectives. Previous experience in conducting follow-up surveys is essential and similar experience working with Bangladesh Police would be an added advantage.

Interested firms are requested to submit their proposals in two envelopes (technical and financial separately), to the Business Center Manager, UNDP and submit it in the Bid Box marked "Request for Proposal on Public Attitude Follow-up Survey for PRP" at IDB Bhaban (14th Floor), E/8-A, Begum Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

The detailed Scope of Work (SoW) for the Follow-up Survey is available can be collected from Business Center, UNDP, IDB Bhaban (14th Floor), E/8-A, Begum Rokeya Sharani, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

The detailed bid documents are available on the website: <http://www.undp.org.bd/bc.php?d=34>. Hardcopy of specifications are also available at the Procurement Cluster of UNDP, Dhaka. Attn: Arifa Ahmed (arifa.ahmed@undp.org). Bids must be submitted before 16:00 hrs on 19 May 2008.



Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd.

T K Bhaban (13th Floor) 13, Kawran Bazar Dhaka-1215

INVITATION FOR BIDS (RE-TENDER)

SEALED TENDERS are hereby invited by the undersigned for supply, installation, testing and commissioning of 2x1000 KVA electrical substation including riser busbar trunking for Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd, at 35, Topkhana Road, Dhaka from Contractors who have the following qualification.

- Contractors Qualifications: Firms (single/joint ventures), who have proven experience in successful supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance of similar work within the past 5 (five) years in a single tender in any Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous/ Private Organization of Tk 7.5 (Seven and half) Million. The intending bidders shall have to apply in their letter head pad along with the following documents duly attested by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer in support of their eligibility and obtain permission for the issuance of the Tender Document.
 - Photocopies of valid Trade License, Tax Identification number with up to date tax clearance certificate and VAT registration certificate.
 - Photocopies of satisfactory completion certificate from employer(s) for supply, installation, testing, commissioning and maintenance, within the last 5 (five) years in a single tender in any Govt./Semi Govt./Autonomous/Private Organization, of similar supply. The experience certificate shall be accompanied by the respective "Work Order".
 - Photocopy of valid ABC class Electro-mechanical Contractor and Supervisory license issued by the Bangladesh Electricity Licensing Board.
- The intending Contractor shall have to apply in their letterheads along with a copy of above mentioned documents to the undersigned for issuance of Tender Documents.
- Tender Documents will be issued only to the contractors or their authorized representatives who will apply for issue to Tender Document as under para-1 above on cash payment of Tk. 2,000/- (Taka two thousand) only from Accounts Department of FILIC at T K Bhaban (13th Floor), 13 Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, from 05.05.2008 to during office hours.
- No Tender Documents will be issued after 25.05.2008.
- Earnest Money at the rate minimum 2.5% (two point five percent) of the total bid amount in favour of Fareast Islamic Life Insurance Company Ltd. in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any Schedule Bank of Bangladesh must be submitted along with the tender without which the tender shall be rejected outright.
- Tender will be received in the office of the undersigned upto 12:30 hours on 26.05.2008 and will be opened on the same day at 14:30 hours in presence of Bidders who may like to be present. No Tender shall be received after the above designated date and time.
- The Tenderers must quote rates for item of works both in figures and in words clearly and legibly.
- Tenderers must visit the site and get acquainted with conditions of the site, the scope of works and available space before tendering.
- For any clarification regarding preparation and submission of Tender the tenderers may contact the undersigned or the consultant of the project, BCL-DECON, House No. 95A, Road No. 4, Block-F, Banani, Dhaka-1213. Telephone: 986 2713-6.
- The work must be completed in all respect within 8 (Eight) Calendar months.
- Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Ltd (FILIC) reserves the right to accept any tender and reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/-
Managing Director