



Myanmar's opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) party spokesman Nyan Win (C) and vice-chairman Tin Oo (R) talk to reporters at the NLD headquarters in Yangon yesterday. Myanmar's opposition party led by Aung San Suu Kyi said it would boycott polls expected later this year, after the country's military rulers introduced a controversial new election law.

PHOTO: AFP

Suu Kyi's party to boycott Myanmar election

AP, Yangon

The party of detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi decided yesterday not to contest the first election in military-ruled Myanmar in two decades, after the Nobel laureate blasted new electoral rules as unfair.

The move by the National League for Democracy, the country's key opposition party, would seriously undermine the credibility of any polling in the eyes of foreign governments, which have urged the junta to ensure all groups take part in the elections.

New election laws required political parties to register before the first week in

May. Parties that do not register will not be able to participate in this year's election and will cease to exist, under rules enacted this month by the military government that also bar Suu Kyi from participating in the polls.

Even before the official decision, party spokesman Nyan Win indicated the party would decide not to register. Asked if that would marginalise the party, he said, "We will continue to exist politically by not registering. If we register, we will only have a name void of all political essence."

"We will survive as long as we have public support," Nyan Win said.

Security was heightened, with plain-

clothes police and pro-government security guards stationed around the party's compound as the delegates met Monday in Yangon.

"This meeting is a life-or-death issue. If we don't register, we will not have a party and we will be without legs and limbs," said Win Tin, a veteran party member and one of Myanmar's longest-serving political prisoners, having spent 19 years behind bars before his release in 2008.

He said the journey ahead would be difficult if the party chooses to opt out of elections but that its members could still maintain their democratic principles and spirit.

Varun Gandhi calls for slapping ban on cow slaughter

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Saharanpur

Bharatiya Janata Party MP Varun Gandhi delivered a fiery speech here yesterday, calling for a ban on cow slaughter.

He also targeted Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mayawati and his cousin Rahul Gandhi whom he called a 'handsome face'.

Hundreds of men, women and even children swarmed it out to listen to the 30-year-old Gandhi's 20-minute high voltage speech at Gandhi Park - his first public rally after being appointed the BJP secretary this month.

The MP from Pilibhit called for a 'more intense war' against cow slaughter. 'It is a social crime. It is a legal crime. Why don't you wake up and fight this more intense war against cow slaughter? It is not for Hindus only, but for the nation's pride,' he said.

'Jai shri ram' was his slogan. And the crowd of men, women and children, some of whom had been waiting since 8 a.m., repeatedly responded likewise.

"I know people in western Uttar Pradesh don't compromise with self-esteem. I am asking you, don't stay calm, don't tolerate. Wake up and fight. I want warriors in my troupe, who can fight for your self-esteem."

Gandhi, who stirred a political storm with a communal speech during the Lok Sabha election campaign last year, this time chose to weigh his words carefully.

US, India strike accord on reprocessing nuclear material

AFP, Washington

The United States and India have reached an agreement on reprocessing nuclear material, clearing a major hurdle in putting into practice a landmark atomic energy pact, officials said yesterday.

The agreement, reached after months of painstaking negotiations, would allow India to reprocess spent nuclear fuel from the United States for civilian energy purposes.

"Completion of these arrangements will facilitate participation by US firms in India's rapidly expanding civil nuclear energy sector," the State Department said in a statement.

The United States and India signed their nuclear agreement in 2008, a signature part of the deepening relationship between the world's two largest democracies.

India had been in the nuclear wilderness for decades due to its nuclear weapons program and refusal to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

But US companies have yet to benefit from the 2008 agreement because of lingering technicalities needed to operationalise the deal.

Hyderabad still tense after communal clashes

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Hyderabad

Tension in Hyderabad continued Monday following overnight clashes in the communally sensitive old part of the city and attacks on places of worship in several areas.

Additional forces, including paramilitary forces, were rushed to the city to bring the situation under control following incidents of violence since Saturday night that have left 60 people injured.

Incidents of stabbing, arson, stone pelting, attacks on places of worship, shops and vehicles were reported from over a dozen areas well past midnight Sunday. Police opened fire in the air, used teargas shells and batons to bring the situation under control.

Home Minister P Sabita Indra Reddy, however, who visited the old city Monday morning, told the state assembly that the situation was now under control.

Director General of Police Girish Kumar, who visited the troubled areas late Sunday, said adequate forces were being deployed to bring the situation under control.

Police have imposed prohibitory orders under section 144 of the criminal procedure code banning assembly of five or more people in the old city and some communally sensitive areas of the new city.



PHOTO: AFP

Members of different Indian communities pelted each other with stones in the Sha Ali Banda area of the old city of Hyderabad yesterday. Simmering tension over Hindus and Muslims putting up flags at religious sites overspilled in clashes over the past two days with scores wounded as police used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse the crowds.



PHOTO: AFP

India's Congress party president Sonia Gandhi (C) salutes along with Manohar Joshi (L) and Mukul Vasnik (R) during the national convention of Congress's Seva Dal in New Delhi yesterday. The Seva Dal is the grassroots front organisation of the Congress party.

'Pak Taliban planning to kidnap US diplomats'

ANI, Lahore

Pakistani intelligence agencies have warned that the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) is planning to abduct US and Afghan diplomats in order to get arrested terrorists released.

The intelligence reports further said that a group of terrorists headed by Qari (code name) is planning to carry out terrorist attacks in Islamabad, Rawalpindi and

Lahore in the next few days, the Daily Times reports.

The law enforcement agencies have been asked to beef up security in Islamabad and other cities in the wake of the latest intelligence inputs.

It is not the first time that Pakistani intelligence agencies have warned about the possibility of militants kidnaping high profile diplomats.

In October last year, Pakistani security agencies were alerted that the militants were planning to kidnap senior diplomats, while security agencies were busy in forestalling possible suicide attacks against the political leadership or against the places frequented by foreigners.

According to intelligence sources, the previous pattern of attacks against foreigners showed militants had been clever in choosing targets, and they usually caught the security agencies off guard.

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PRICE SENSITIVE INFORMATION

This is for information of all of our valued Shareholders and other concerned agencies that the Board of Directors of Aramit Limited in its meeting held on 28th March, 2010 at 4 pm., has decided the following issues:-

1. To invest initially Tk. 20.79 million, as one of the sponsors, being 45% of the paid-up capital in a newly floated company - "AACPL".
2. To purchase a piece of Land measuring 6 (SIX) Khatas situated at Maidhya Badda, Dhaka (S. A. Dag No. 117, R. S. Dag No. 1059) and enter into a Registered Biana Nama with the owner.

By order of the Board

Sd/-
(Md. Ibrahim Khalil, FCMA, FCS)
 Executive Director &
 Company Secretary

28 th March, 2010

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TENDER NOTICE FOR SECURITY SERVICES

North South University (NSU) is inviting Sealed Tender from the reputed Security Service Providers/Companies for providing round the clock Security Services at its own Campus at Bashundhara.

Interested Security Service Providers/Companies are requested to collect the Tender Schedule from the Front Desk of the NSU **between 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM from Sunday to Thursday on all working days till April 13, 2010** on payment of Tk. 500.00 (five hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) for each schedule.

The Security Service Providers/Companies are requested to submit Tk. 25000.00 (twenty five thousand) only as **Earnest Money** in the form of Pay Order from any scheduled Bank drawn in favor of the North South University alongwith their offer. The sealed offer must be submitted **on or before April 15, 2010 at 12:00 Noon** at the address mentioned below.

The North South University reserves the right to accept or reject any/ all the Tenders without assigning any reason.

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