

Nepali Maoists ready to sit in the opposition

NEPALNEWS ONLINE

Unified CPN (Maoist) Vice Chairman Mohan Baidya yesterday said his party is ready to again sit in the opposition in a new government as chances are slim for a formation of a Maoist-led government.

The senior Maoist leader said his party has almost made up its mind for this as the current situation is also suggesting that the Maoists will have to sit in the opposition.

Baidya, who was speaking at a programme organised by Janasanchar Abhiyan in the capital today afternoon, claimed that the possibility of a formation of a Maoist-led government is becoming slim owing to increased intervention in the country's internal affairs by "foreign forces".

He said the Maoists will not have any objection even if Nepali Congress and CPN-UML go ahead to form a new government.

Baidya, however, said that his party won't let this government bring in a full-fledged budget under any circumstances.

Commenting on Maoist Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal's visit to China, Baidya clarified that the visit was not aimed at making any kind of bargain with India, but to enhance the relationship between UCPN (Maoist) and the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Baidya further said that his party is also in favour of improving his party's relationship with India which dropped to an all time low when few Maoist activists hurled a shoe at the Indian Ambassador Rakesh Sood at a programme he was attending in remote Solukhumbu district recently.



Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh (R) arrives at Tokyo International Airport yesterday on a three-day visit to Tokyo to exchange views with Japanese leaders. India is ready to seal a civilian nuclear deal and boost trade ties with Japan, he said before leaving for Japan.

2ND PHASE POLLS IN BIHAR 3 polling officers missing, Naxals burn polls docs

IBNLIVE ONLINE

The second phase of polling is on in Bihar under the shadow of Naxal terror.

Earlier in the day, Naxals yesterday raided a polling centre in Sitamarhi district and set fire to poll materials, while a Minister escaped unhurt in an attack in neighbouring Muzaffarpur district in the second phase of election being held in 45 constituencies.

Heavily-armed Naxals raided the polling centre (116) at Subaigarh in Runisaidpur constituency and burnt down the electronic voting machines besides other materials early this morning before voting began, said Superintendent of Police Rakesh Rathi.

Three polling personnel, presiding officer Baldeo Prasad Yadav, KN Singh and Satyendra Patel were missing after the incident, Returning Officer for the seat Shivdani Singh said.

Substitute polling materials, including EVMs, and poll personnel were rushed to the booth and voting began as per schedule, Singh said.

The Maoists have given a call for election boycott in Bihar.

In another incident, the vehicle of state JD-U Minister Dinesh Prasad Kushwaha was attacked allegedly by supporters of an Independent candidate Madhavi Chandra at a place under Minapur Assembly constituency in Muzaffarpur district, official sources said.

While Kushwaha escaped unhurt, his bodyguard was injured in the incident, they said adding the vehicle of ruling BJP nominee Veena Devi too was attacked in Gayhat Assembly constituency in the district, but none was injured.

Security has been tightened in six districts including Sheohar, Samastipur, Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Muzaffarpur and parts of East Champaran in the second phase. Voters turnout was about nine per cent as of 9 AM.

28 Ladakh flood victim kids 'abducted' by NGO

IBNLIVE ONLINE

After the trauma of floods in Ladakh, it was a nightmare of a different kind for over 28 Ladakh children, who were brought allegedly from the camps to Jammu by an NGO called Youth Movement for Peace. The NGO has been charged with illegal confinement and fraud.

The district Administration has now handed the children back to Ladakh Buddhist Association, further to be restored to their families.

"They have not taken any consent of parents, from the Deputy Commissioner, and have no legal papers," said General secretary Ladakh Buddhist Association PT Kunzang.

Karzai seeks list of aid projects needing private guards

AP, Kabul

The Afghan president asked yesterday for a list of national aid projects that need protection by private security guards, potentially signalling his wish to reach a compromise over the status of security companies in Afghanistan and safeguard foreign aid projects worth billions of dollars.

President Hamid Karzai spent the day meeting with his ministers and top-level foreign diplomats as they tried to hammer out a compromise between his aim of disbanding private security companies by the end of the year and protecting foreign-funded aid projects threatened by insurgent attacks.

"The list of the big projects and their security needs should be given to the Afghan government and the Afghan government will assess and make a decision," Karzai said in a statement. "These talks will continue."

It's unclear whether the proposal will be accepted by those in the international community who have called for an across-the-board exemption for companies working on interna-

tionally funded development projects until Afghan security forces are more capable of taking over security.

The idea of an infamously corrupt government sorting through a list of get-money aid projects and deciding which gets to stay and which gets to go may not sit well with the international community.

Many contractors and aid groups have said they will have to shut down or suspend projects if they are not exempted as they won't be able to insure their workers if they're guarded by the notoriously corrupt and poorly trained Afghan police. The ban has also alarmed diplomats, who say winning hearts and minds follows that reconstruction and aid projects follow military successes against the Taliban.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton called Karzai on Saturday and suggested an extension to the looming Dec. 17 deadline. That would allow the government to steadily phase out private security companies without disrupting the work of contractors who employ private guards to protect their workers, projects and facilities.

US could have avoided Afghan war: Musharraf

PTI, Houston

Pakistan's former military ruler Pervez Musharraf has said that the US could have avoided the nine-year long war in Afghanistan, had it recognised the then Taliban regime there.

"I always proposed that we need to have a different strategy. We need to recognise the Taliban and try to change them from within," he said adding that had there been US and other foreign missions in Afghanistan "maybe we could have resolved this Osama bin Laden tangle. (It) may not have erupted even."

Pakistan's former military ruler said the acceptance of Taliban by the global community could not only have prevented the war in Afghanistan but would also help in saving the Bamiyan Buddhas.

"Had we had 18 missions there, including the US mission, with the Taliban I think we could have saved the Buddha statues," he said at the Asia Society's Texas Centre.

Defying global pressure, the two colossal 1,500-year-old statues of Buddha, carved into

the sandstone cliffs of Bamiyan, were demolished by the Taliban on March 2001 as part of a campaign to rid the land of all un-Islamic graven images.

Musharraf pointed that the US-backed talk-process with Taliban is "from a position of weakness" and an attempt to end the war in Afghanistan, but said that he supports the dialogue with "moderate Taliban".

On his plans to return to Pakistan politics by fighting elections in 2013 and launch of a party called All Pakistan Muslim League in London, Musharraf said "I personally feel the environment in Pakistan at this moment is absolutely right for initiating a new party."

He is counting on Houston's 75,000 Pakistan origin people to help him lead to the victory by giving financial support and political support.

A long-time political observer Kamran Riaz said "One of the reasons Musharraf is here is to gain some financial support."

"He thinks the US thinks of him as an ally, so in addition to getting financial support he can also get some political support."

Army officials

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land on the proposed site for their private housing project, said land officials and villagers in Rugganj and Kayetpara unions.

"It's true that they [army officials] used to come here daily to watch land registration and collect a list," said Sub-registrar Manirul Haque Prodhon.

"We had informed our higher authorities about it," he added. Titled "Army Housing Scheme (AHS)", the project is spread over 20 moujas, said registry office sources.

According to the Bangladesh Army website (www.army.mil.bd/search/node/AHS), it is self-financed and will have around 7,000 plots. The approval for it is "under process".

Locals said the AHS authorities fixed the land price in Rugganj and Kayetpara at Tk 16 lakh a bigha, much lower than the current market price.

They also alleged that many villagers were not allowed to sell land to anyone other than army officials.

"I wanted to sell seven decimals of land to my cousin. But the army did not allow me to do that even after I had taken some money in advance and completed mutation of the land," Alauddin Mia of Kamsair village told this correspondent.

"I went to the land office thrice, but in vain," he added. Iman Ali from the same village said the army men do not let them register an Eidgah (open-air mosque to perform Eid prayers) as Wakf (bestowed) property.

Safiluddin Mia of Khamarpara village said he got Tk 9 lakh for 15 decimals of land he sold to the AHS through a broker named Zahed Ali.

However, documents at the registry office show the land (registration number TO 728/10) was bought for Tk 4.70 lakh.

Asked why a lower price was recorded, a land official said, "People hide the actual price because the lower the price the less they pay in taxes."

India to sign key nuclear treaty

NDTV, New Delhi

Ahead of the US President Barack Obama's visit, sources say, that India is expected to sign a crucial International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) treaty called the Convention on Supplementary Compensation (CSC) for Nuclear Damage.

This will give India access to international funds in case of a nuclear accident, though it also lays out liability norms.

The signing is important, since the US currently has objections to India's domestic Nuclear Liability Law which it feels is too tough on suppliers.

The CSC, which is not as stringent on suppliers, requires countries to frame their domestic laws in accordance with the treaty.

India says its liability law does conform to the CSC but US doesn't think so.

While lawyers are currently working out those issues, India feels it will ease some of the diplomatic tension by signing now.

INTERLOCUTORS BEGIN MISSION KASHMIR

Meet youth in Srinagar jail

NDTV, Srinagar

The three-member panel of interlocutors on Kashmir, which is on a four-day tour to the Valley, yesterday went to the central jail in Srinagar. They met the youth in jail - some of them arrested for stone-pelting.

Journalist Dilip Padgaonkar, academician Professor Radha Kumar and Information Commissioner MM Ansari on Sunday journalists Shujaat Bukhari and Fayaz Ahmad Kalsoo on Sunday morning. They also met a delegation of Akhil Bharatiya Gujjar Mahasabha. They are expected to meet the Governor later in the evening, and are also meeting youngsters at a coffee shop today.

Meanwhile the leader of the moderate faction of the Hurriyat Conference Mirwaiz Umar Farooq has said that the appointment of interlocutors will not serve any purpose and he will not meet them.

"Appointment of interlocutor will linger the Kashmir issue... there is no need to form a group... appointment of interlocutors is not going to serve any purpose and we are not going to meet them," said the leader.

Advertisement for 'এসেনসিয়াল ড্রাগস কোম্পানী লিমিটেড' (Essential Drugs Company Limited) featuring a table of products and prices, and contact information.

Advertisement for 'LEGAL CAUTIONARY NOTICE' regarding a company's financial situation and legal proceedings, including details about EFE Textile Ltd.

Advertisement for 'জাতীয় কবি কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়' (National Kazi Nazimuddin University) featuring a recruitment notice for various positions.

Advertisement for 'Career Opportunity' at 'Fareast Finance & Investment Limited', listing various job roles and their requirements.