

SC gives clean chit to Modi govt in Rafale deal

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 14

The Supreme Court Friday gave a clean chit to the Narendra Modi government on the procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets from France. The apex court said there was no occasion to doubt the decision-making process in the multi-billion dollar Rafale deal.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Ranjan Gogoi said there has been a necessity of fighter aircraft and the country cannot remain without these jets. The CJ, who read out the judgement for the three-judge bench, said no reasons were found to interfere in the procurement process for the fighter jets.

The top court said it is not the job of the court to deal with the comparative details of the pricing. The bench said it does not find substantial matter to interfere with the issue of procurement, pricing and offset partner. The verdict was pronounced on a batch of pleas seeking a court-monitored probe into deal.

Rahul to hold fresh round of discussions with Rajasthan CM hopefuls Gehlot, Pilot

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 14

Congress president Rahul Gandhi is likely to hold a fresh round of discussions Friday with Ashok Gehlot and Sachin Pilot, the two chief ministerial aspirants in Rajasthan, before taking a final call for the top post. The decision of Rajasthan's next chief minister is likely to be taken before noon and will be made public at a meeting of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP) in state capital Jaipur, sources said. After several rounds of discussions that lasted till Thursday midnight, Congress veteran Gehlot has emerged as a front runner for the top post, while Pradesh Congress Committee president Pilot is being placated in attempts to broker peace between the two. Party's central observer for Rajasthan K C Venugopal told PTI, "It is up to the Congress president to take a final call and the decision is

being awaited." Congress leaders feel once the MLAs in the state have authorised Gandhi to take a decision on the chief minister, leaders should not challenge the high command and accept the decision. Pilot, 41, is still reported not on board on Gehlot's name, which is delaying the announcement, the sources said. The PCC chief has put up a stiff resistance and his staking his own claim for the top post. AICC general secretary in-charge of Rajasthan Avinash Pande told PTI, "Congress president heard everyone and after wide consultations he will take the final decision which will be acceptable to all." Gandhi is likely to meet Pilot and Gehlot, 67, again at his residence in attempts to broker peace, like he did in the case of Madhya Pradesh where Kamal Nath was declared as the next chief minister amid hectic parleys held by the Congress chief

with senior party leaders in the national capital Thursday night. The Congress leadership want Gehlot and Pilot to be present together at the CLP meet. Sources said the Congress top brass was upset with the manner in which party workers resorted to arson and violence in the state in a bid to exert pressure on the party to name Pilot. They said this the first time such incidents have been reported in Rajasthan and the party has taken the matter seriously. The incidents of violence were reported in Jaipur, Dosa and other parts Thursday following which the Congress leadership asked both Pilot and Gehlot to issue appeal for peace. The party leaders feel the infighting in Rajasthan should end soon and called an amicable solution in the manner Jyotiraditya Scindia gracefully accepted the Congress's decision in Madhya Pradesh.

Kamal Nath to take oath as Madhya Pradesh CM on Dec 17

Agency
Bhopal, Dec 14

Senior Congress leader Kamal Nath said he will take oath as chief minister of Madhya Pradesh on December 17. The swearing-in ceremony will take place at Lal Parade Ground here around 1.30 pm, Nath told reporters outside Raj Bhavan. Nath, along with senior Congress leaders, including Digvijay Singh, Vivek Tankha and others met Governor Anandiben Patel and informed her about his election as Congress Legislature Party leader, following

which the governor invited him for the oath. The meeting lasted for nearly 50 minutes. The Congress has won 114 seats in the 230-member House, the poll results of which were declared on December 11. It has secured support of a total of 121 MLAs, including SP - 1 and BSP - 2 legislators as also of four independents, to cross the majority mark of 116 seats. The party Thursday night named Nath as Madhya Pradesh's next chief minister after hours of hectic parleys held by party chief Rahul Gandhi with senior party leaders.

13 labourers feared dead after flooding in illegal Coal Mine in Meghalaya

Agency
Shillong, Dec. 14

At least 13 miners are feared dead after they got trapped by flooding in an illegal coal mine in East Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya. Sylvester Nongtngr, Superintendent of Police of East Jaintia Hills district told NDTV that the coal mine was located close to Lytein river and it was being operated illegally. "The mine filled with water from inside while they were digging it and it collapsed," the police officer said. "We are doing our best to reach out to them. Our information is 13 people were inside at the time of flooding," Mr Sangma

was quoted later by news agency AFP. Unsafe rat-hole coal mining have been running illegally despite a National Green Tribunal ban in place in Meghalaya since 2014. Earlier this month, anti mining activist Agnes Kharshing was attacked by alleged coal miners in the same district. This is not the first time that labourers engaged in illegal mining of coal have been trapped in a mine, a police officer said. At least 15 miners were trapped in an illegal rat-hole coal mine near the Nangalibira area in South Garo Hills in 2012. The bodies were never recovered, officials said.

Assam Rifles Launches Mission Aarogya in Chandel and Tengnoupal District

IT News
Imphal, Dec. 14

Taking its initiative of 'Mission Aarogya' ahead, 26 Sector Assam Rifles has planned a series of free Medical Camps in the remote villages of Chandel and Tengnoupal district. The Medical camps are being organized in a phased manner in the month of December to bring smile and wellness to the locals and to add happiness to their Christmas Celebrations. In the first phase of 'Mission Aarogya', Thoubal Battalion conducted free medical Camps from 25 November to 28th November 2018, in the far flung and remote villages of Khengjoi Sub Division and reached out to the locals of Motluk, Songyang, Khangbarol and Parlon villages. In the second phase, Chandel Battalion of 26 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted series of Medical Camps from 12 Dec to 13 Dec and addressed the medical needs of the 18 remote villages of Machi Sub Division including Khoibu Centre, Machi and



Nungtak village, wherein a total of 396 villagers including 98 males, 151 females and 147 children were given free medical consultation, medicines and diagnosis. Chandel battalion under Mission Aarogya took responsibility to reach out to the remotest and inaccessible villages of Machi Sub Division, where the Medical facilities are far away from the reach of the villagers. Further due to poor road connectivity and financial constraints, the villagers avoid going to hospital and Primary Health Centre for treatment. Hence, understanding the difficulties of locals, the team of Chandel battalion lead by the Regimental

Medical officer (RMO) conducted free Medical Camps from 12 December to 13 December 2018. The villagers of all the 18 villages conveyed their heartfelt gratitude to Chandel battalion and Assam Rifles for providing medical cover and bringing lifesaving medicines to such isolated and remote villages. In the third phase of the mission, Thoubal Battalion has planned to reach out to the remote villages of Tengnoupal district and to address their medical needs. The aim of 'Mission Aarogya' is to assist villagers of the remote areas to lead a healthy and ailment free life and to bring smile to the last man of the society.

Assam Rifles Reviews Security Situation in Thoubal

IT News
Imphal, Dec. 14

Thoubal Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles under the aegis of HQ IGAR (South) conducted monthly security meets at Chandrakhong and Yaripek Company Operating Bases (COB). The security forums were attended by village Pradhans, ward councilors, members of village youth club, representatives of police and locals of the areas of

responsibility of the respective COBs. During the meets various aspects concerning security in the area were discussed. There was also an interaction carried out on necessary measures required to be undertaken by locals in synergy with Assam Rifles for maintaining a strict vigil in the area. In addition to the security issues, pre recruitment training for Assam Rifles recruitment rally, career counseling for youth and future action

plans of civic projects were also discussed. The locals accentuated the need of conduct of such security meetings on a regular basis as it offers them an opportunity for mutual interaction with the Assam Rifles and achieve a sense of belongingness so as to collectively accomplish all goals to bring peace and harmony in the area. The security meet concluded with tea and refreshments for all the attendees.

Contd. from yesterday issue

NIPCO ON THE NATIONAL IDENTITY OF MANIPUR

Bijo Francis, Executive Director.
Courtesy - Beyond the Horizon

Many correctly or incorrectly held the Indian State as responsible for playing communal divide and rule. What is response of NIPCO to such allegation. **NIPCO:** Yes, the allegation holds ground. As we can see, the foundation of India making remains fluid. More than 500 princely states were forcibly annexed into India. Manipur was never a part of British India. The people of Manipur are racially, socially and culturally different from those British Indian leaders who built Indian empire. In imposing aspiration and policies there is national contradiction between India and Manipur. People revolted when Manipur was arbitrarily annexed to India in 1949. Revolutionary movement

for national liberation of Manipur is a response to this contradiction. The Indian State had its own vested response. To suppress national liberation movement, the Indian State adopts several strategies, which include among others, communal divide and rule policy. This strategy pits community against community, disunites them and makes them perpetually weak. It enables the Indian State to keep them under control and rule upon. **Editor:** Any contemporary society or nation or State or empire is either built or thrives on the material foundation of economic organisation. Political system and economic organisation appear to be interconnected. Communal or sectarian politics cannot be fully comprehended without understanding the larger context of political economy within which it could survive and had

practical implications. To what extent the prevalent political economy provides the material basis of communal and sectarian politics in Manipur? **NIPCO:** The existing political economy in Manipur is primarily based on a peculiar model of capitalist relation of production designed by the Indian rulers. At the national level, colonial relation of production had destroyed the pre-colonial self-reliant economy. Manipur is being reduced to a captive market of Indian commodity and its market forces. When the productive sector has been destroyed, it had relative impact on destroying the mode of production that would serve as the material basis of uniting people. Manipur became dependent on Indian commodity and colonial capital investment. Therefore, within Manipur, short sighted individuals, groups and organisations indulge in

adopting various vested courses, to accumulate private wealth, in the most reactionary and opportunistic manners. They deliberately override inter-ethnic unity and invest in unhealthy sectarian claims such as Sixth Schedule, autonomy, Schedule Tribe, Schedule Caste, Other Backward Classes, reservation policy, job quota and *etcetera*. **Editor:** A family or society or State or nation or empire infested with internal crisis is relatively weak and had self-destructive ramifications. To what extent ethnic-conflict amongst co-existing ethnicities had destructive manifestations in Manipur? **NIPCO:** The internal conflict or contradiction amongst co-existing ethnicities of Manipur is of secondary type and basically non-antagonistic. This contradiction arises out of petty squabbles due to unequal sharing of

land rights and common minimum needs. This contradiction can be resolved amicably through consensus and good policy. The contradictions can become antagonistic if the influence of destructive forces (external forces and vested sectarian forces) is not timely checked and defeated. We keep a vigil on destructive forces as they will lead the people nowhere to a brighter future but to the permanent subjugation by Indian racial oppression. We believe that internal contradiction in Manipur is sharpened deliberately by some covert forces. This was revealed during communal aberrations such as Naga-Kuki clash, Kuki-Paite clash and Meitei-pangal clash. We believe that any democratic issue raised in the name of community such as Naga, Kuki, Paite, Meitei, and Pangal can be internally resolved. (To be contd.....)

AR restored of football ground and conduct Football Tournament at Beheng



IT News
Imphal, Dec 14,

In the year 1996 then GOC 57 Mountain Division Maj Gen NS Gill inaugurated Beheng on football ground which was done under Army Development Group and was gifted to the chief of Beheng Mr Tongzapao Manlung. The football ground was marked as a remembrance and faith of good will gesture for The Villagers of Beheng. Behiang Youth Club with the help provided by Assam Rifles has renovated the football

ground & Beheng Football Tournery is being played in the same ground. The ground renovation started in the month of July during monsoons with assistance provided by Assam Rifles, BYC successfully renovated the ground by Dec 2018 with aid from Assam Rifles. It is for the first time in the history of Beheng 15 Zomi teams from India and Myanmar are participating in the Football tournament from 13-17 Dec 2018. In addition to the

support provide by the Assam Rifles, Assam Rifles will also be conducting a medical camp on the day of the final of football tournament. The villagers and chief of Beheng are grateful with the initiative shown by Assam Rifles in renovating the football ground which was inaugurated in the year 1996 by Gen NS Gill. The Village Spirit and morale has been uplifted by the small act of kindness done by Assam Rifles which will also be Remembered in the history of Beheng Village.