

SC dismisses govt's objections on leaked Rafale docs

Agency
New Delhi April 10,

Supreme Court has dismissed preliminary objections raised by the Centre that documents on which it claimed 'privilege' cannot be relied upon to re-examine the verdict in the Rafale fighter jet deal. The Centre had submitted that the privilege documents were procured by petitioners in an illegal way and used to support their review petitions against the December 14, 2018 judgement of the apex court dismissing all pleas challenging procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets from France.

A bench, comprising Chief Justice of India Ranjan Gogoi and Justices S K Kaul and K M Joseph said that they are dismissing the preliminary objection raised by Union of India questioning the maintainability of the review petition.

The apex court said review petitions against its December 14 verdict dismissing all petitions against procurement of Rafale jets will be decided on merits. The court said it will fix a date for hearing review petitions. Reacting to Rafale judgement, CPI(M) General

Secretary Sitaram Yechuri has said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his govt have compromised national security for corruption and cronyism in an important defence deal.

Mr Yechuri said, they tried to evade accountability, denied a Joint Parliamentary Committee, hide price from CAG, tried to first mislead, then stall any hearing in Supreme Court.

He said, Mr Modi and his minions have falsely claimed that they have a clean chit in the Rafale scam but the proofs have come tumbling out one after another.

Platform for journalists collapses during political rally at Hailakandi, 4 Injured

Agency
Guwahati April 10,

Four journalists were injured when the platform constructed for media persons collapsed during Congress president Rahul Gandhi's rally in Assam's Hailakandi today, the police said.

Bad weather had made the Intak field muddy and the overcrowded platform caved in after Rahul Gandhi started addressing the rally.

Four journalists were injured and one of them was admitted to the Hailakandi Civil Hospital. Others were released after being administered first aid, police said.

Zakir Hussain is a correspondent of Bengali daily "Samayik Prasanga" is one of those hospitalized. Following the accident, media persons moved to another point and the rally continued.

Crisis looms in the functioning of MSAD as women executives and some advisors tender resignations

IT News
Imphal, April 10,

A serious crisis looms in the functioning of the one and only students' body of Manipur based at New Delhi Manipur Students' Association Delhi (MASAD) as women executives' tender resignation over differences between women executives and some top office bearers of the association. The situation gone deeper after another newly appointed advisor Chetnn Khuman tender resignation over the inefficiency of the leadership in resolving the matter.

"There have been serious issues raised by the women's executives, advisors and other concerned volunteers about the functioning of the organization since International Women's day was organized on March 8,

2019. The fight of the organization in the realization of the ideals which we strive for will be for nothing if we failed to address the issues" Chetnn Khuman wrote in his resignation letter to the President of MSAD. The letter also mentions the sudden dismissal of former advisors as undemocratic as no prior notice was served to them.

"There have been charges that the dismissal was carried out by a few executives without consultation of other members of the executive body. Also, similar charge was given against the nomination of the new advisors, which includes myself, and therefore the nomination unconstitutional", Khuman stated.

He further said, "Despite suggestions for calling a joint

body meeting to first resolve the issues arising out of the way International Women's day was organized and the issue of the position of the former and the newly nominated advisors before further carrying on the activities, the organization has not responded positively with concern to resolve the matter".

"In such an undesirable situation, I can't help but dismiss myself from the position of the 'so-nominated' advisor until a joint body meeting is called and the issues above mentioned is resolved democratically and the position of the so-nominated new advisors reaffirmed to create a wholesome environment for the proper functioning of the organization", Chetnn Khuman wrote.

Did you know this Assembly Constituency from Northeast India doesn't exist on map

Agency
Sikkim April 10,

There is an assembly constituency in Sikkim with no geographical boundaries to define its exact location. When you closely look at a map of the constituencies of Sikkim, you won't find Sangha. It is the only assembly seat in the country that has no geographical location! Sangha is the constituency of the Buddhist monks and nuns belonging to Sikkim, no

matter where they reside in the state. They are all registered as voters of Sangha and not the area they live in.

With a little over 2,800 voters, the 32-Sangha assembly seat is spread across Sikkim.

Every person of the monastic Sangha community living across the Himalayan state can vote in this 'virtual' assembly seat.

Election officials say that the assembly constituency is reserved for monks of the Sangha community, and only

those whose names figure in the records of 111 recognized monasteries in Sikkim can either fight the elections or vote so to preserve the distinct identity of Sangha.

The Sikkim chief electoral officer said that the Buddhist clergy in Sikkim takes an annual break from the routine ritualistic chanting of prayers and turning of prayer wheels to elect their own representative to 32 Sangha assembly constituency.

PCI urges media to do objective reporting on polls

Agency
New Delhi, April 10,

The Press Council of India (PCI) on Tuesday asked the media to give objective reports about the election and cautioned it against the phenomenon of paid news.

Issuing guidelines for the media, PCI said, newspapers are not expected to indulge in unhealthy election

campaigns, exaggerated reports about any candidate or party during the elections.

The print media watchdog also cautioned the press to eschew reports which tend to promote feelings of enmity or hatred between people on the grounds of region, religion, race, caste, community or language.

The press should refrain from publishing false or critical

statements in regard to the personal character and conduct of any candidate or in relation to the candidature or withdrawal of any candidate or candidature, to prejudice the prospects of that candidate in the elections, PCI in a statement read.

The PCI also cautioned against publishing unverified allegations against any candidate or party.

Unknown disease claims lives of several cattle in Medziphema

Agency
Kohima, April 10,

A deadly unknown disease has claimed the lives of several buffaloes in Sochinoma of Medziphema circle in Dimapur district since the previous week. This was confirmed by Dr. Michael Imchen, VAS Veterinary Hospital, Dimapur. According to a report on Eastern Mirror, Imchen informed that the official report was received on Sunday, April 7; and a team, including himself, visited the

affected area on Monday.

"A quick response team from the department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry rushed up (from Dimapur town) on Monday and found one dead buffalo upon reaching the site," Imchen informed and reported that at least 10-15 buffaloes have died so far. Imchen further said that the department headquarters was informed immediately and soon after another team was dispatched from the state's Elisa laboratory to collect samples and start the

diagnosis on Tuesday. According to a press release from the deputy chief veterinary, Dr. K Thungchamo, a team of ORT doctors lead by deputy CVO, VAS and VFAS from Chief Veterinary Office in Dimapur went to Sheiri Angami village and Sochinoma village on April 8 following reports of cattle death.

It stated that as per the report of the villagers, at least three to five buffaloes die every day and till date, more than 20 have died.

"According to their report, affected buffalo show sign of frothy mouth, difficulty in breathing, high temperature, complete off feed, collapse and die within 2 days," it stated.

According to Imchen, it is a very contagious disease and if contracted, will result in death within 12 to 48 hours." Vaccination of live cattle has already started, he added. Imchen informed that 'ring vaccination' would be carried out at four to five nearby villages to avoid further spread of the disease.

SBI cuts interest rates on home loans

Agency
New Delhi April 10,

The State Bank of India has re-priced home loans up to Rs 30 lakh by 10 basis points.

Accordingly, the interest rate on housing loans of such size will now be in the range of 8.6 to 8.9 per cent. The bank has also lowered its lending rates by a nominal five basis points across all tenors.

In a statement, the SBI said the new one-year marginal cost of funds-based lending rate is down to 8.50 per cent now from 8.55 per cent. This is the first reduction by SBI in over 17 months.

The reduction in lending rate by the bank follows a 50 basis point cut in repo rate by the RBI in the course of two monetary policy reviews held in February and April this year.

Northeast India to observe reduced rains, fresh spell of rain likely around April 14

Agency
New Delhi April 10,

Since the last many days, the northeastern states of the country have been receiving violent thunderstorm and intense Pre-Monsoon rains. The intensity of these weather activities was more over Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura as compared to Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

These rains have been attributed to the cyclonic circulation which was persisting over Assam, Meghalaya and Manipur region from time to time. Moreover, the anti-cyclone over Bay of Bengal has been feeding moisture continuously over most parts of Northeast India.

Now today as well, we expect good spell of rain and

thundershower activities to occur in many parts of Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura. However, Nagaland, Assam, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh will witness weather activities with reduced intensity.

Another spell of good rains will commence over the northeastern states from April 14. This spell of weather activities will continue for the next two to three days and will be accompanied with strong surface winds and hailstorm activity.

During this time, the anti-cyclone will once again move northwards close to the region and another fresh cyclonic circulation will develop over Assam and adjoining area. In fact, the remnants of Western Disturbance will also reach Northeast India along the foothills of Himalayas.

RGU VC attends International Convention of Vice Chancellors in Bangladesh



From a Correspondent
Itanagar, April 10,

Rajiv Gandhi University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Saket Kushwaha was in Sylhet, Bangladesh recently to attend the 1st International Convention of Vice Chancellors, which was graced by Education Minister of Bangladesh Dr Dipu Moni and Chairman of the Bangladesh UGC Prof A Mannan. 28 Vice Chancellors from the 2 nations, including 15 from India attended the convention. Various issues of bilateral interest of the institutions of higher education in the two nations were discussed at the Convention, which included

internships, faculty and students exchange programs, enrolment of foreign students, ease of visa issue for higher education and collaborations in research. For the RGU in particular, collaboration with its Centre for Biodiversity and the Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies with Universities in Bangladesh was concurred upon, for which the RGU would sign relevant MoUs with the partner institutions. Expanding on the significance of the event, Prof. Kushwaha said that the convention would have far reaching implications for higher education both in the NE region and Bangladesh.

"What is needed is for us to take forward the deliberations at the convention primarily with a focus on the 5Cs- in communication, consensus, collaboration, connectivity and a respect for common goals", he said.

The main purpose of the convention was to share the scope of collaboration in teaching, research and innovation between the two countries. It was organised by the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, Sylhet, Bangladesh under the patronage of the University Grant Commission of Bangladesh in association with the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya.