



# SummitTIMES

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ON TOP OF THE NEWS

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## Good governance has led to peaceful and secure Sikkim: CM

**THOSE WHO CREATED THE IDENTITY OF SIKKIM CAN NEVER BE WEAK, CM TO THE BL COMMUNITY**

**NITESH R PRADHAN**

**GANGTOK, 13 JUN:**

Chief Minister Pawan Chamling today projected on his government's pro-poor and rural empowerment policies while addressing a Jan Sewa-Jan Samman programme at Nandok village, under Syari constituency, East Sikkim.

"People with entitled and

the feudal mindsets will ask our rural population to vote for Congress, BJP, Sangram and SKM parties," said the CM while iterating Sikkim Democratic Front [SDF] as the only party which is for the poor and the Sikkimese.

While touching upon his record term in governance, he said that his government has "not just talked, but delivered" which explains the continuing endorsement of the people.

He further asked people to look into their own conscience and see the amount of develop-

turn to pg02



## High Court dismisses petition challenging appointment of Labour Commissioner

**SUMMIT REPORT**

**GANGTOK, 13 JUNE:**

The High Court of Sikkim has upheld the appointment of the Labour Commissioner for Employees' Compensation, stating that the petition challenging the appointment was devoid of merit.

The State Government had appointed Lakchung Sherpa as Labour Commissioner on 14 Feb earlier this year after the One Man Selection Committee of Justice Kalyanjyoti Sengupta, Chairman, Sikkim Lokayukta, recommended her from among the three shortlisted candidates.

Sushmita Dong, a legal professional, had challenged the selection of on the grounds that before selection, no rules were framed under the Act of 1923. Section 32 of the Act of 1923 empowers the State to make rules to carry out the purposes of the Act.

While writing the judgment, Chief Justice Satish Kumar Agnihotri dismissed the contention of the petitioner and said that under Section 32 of the Act of 1923, there is no delegation with regard to appointment of Labour Commissioner, adding that even otherwise, non-framing of rules does not invalidate the selection for any post.

"The State Government is not competent to frame rules for selection

and appointment of the Labour Commissioner," the Court observed while dealing with the issue pertaining to framing of Rules for selection and appointment of the Labour Commissioner.

Indisputably, the post of Commissioner for employee's compensation, which is termed as Labour Commissioner, is a creation of Parliament enactment, not under the State Government but under the Central Government.

Underlining the requirement of requisite qualification, as pressed by the petitioner citing state government Notification prescribing a uniform upper age limit of 40 years for all communities of the State in the services/posts to be filled up by direct recruitment under the Government of Sikkim and in the State Public Sector Undertakings of Sikkim, the court said that the upper age limit appears to be for services wherein appointment is made directly from young freshers.

Section 20 of the Act of 1923 contemplates experienced persons having put in some qualifying services as judicial officer or as a gazette officer or in legal profession. This requirement is for a senior seasoned man, wherein the upper age limit of 40 years cannot be prescribed, the court said.

## Gangtok welcomes FIFA World Cup 2018

**SAGAR CHHETRI**

**GANGTOK, 13 JUN:**

Gangtokians gave a grand welcome to the world's biggest sports festival of the year, FIFA World Cup 2018 here in front of old Tourism Office at MG Marg on Wednesday evening. International and national footballers from Sikkim, young footballers of different clubs of the State along with kids and people of Gangtok came together to celebrate the FIFA World Cup 2018 with jersey and flag of their favourite teams in this event.

FIFA World Cup 2018 will kick off on Thursday in Russia. On this occasion, Football Clubs Association of Sikkim [FCAS] has organised World Cup Festival to welcome and celebrate the event. The venue has been decorated with flags of the World Cup participating teams while footballers demonstrated their juggling skills. The celebration also witnessed performances by Sikkim Police Band along with aerobics and zumba which was also joined by tourists.

The event had Rajya Sabha MP, Hishey Lachungpa as the chief guest



and was accompanied by Sikkim Football Association president, Menla Ethenpa, Gangtok Municipal Corporation Chairperson, Ashish Rai and social workers, T Lachungpa among other dignitaries. The celebration was also joined by popular ISL and I-League

players, Nirmal Chettri, Mobin Rai and Kunzang Lachungpa from Sikkim.

International footballer, Nirmal Chettri expressed his happiness on being part of the celebration to welcome FIFA World Cup 2018. He stated that Sikkim was a football loving State and

football is played in every corner so it is a good initiative where the people can come together to celebrate the world's biggest sports festival.

"Let's all enjoy this festival and support our favourite team," he said and added that such initiatives need to be continued.

"England is always my favourite team in the World Cup. I started supporting England due to David Beckham during my childhood days and remains my favourite in every World Cup," Nirmal said.

Likewise, SFA president, Mr Ethenpa expressed that football is in the blood of every Sikkimese so it is a great occasion where people have come together to celebrate and welcome the event. He congratulated FCAS for taking such a good initiative by bringing people together.

FCAS general secretary, Sumeet Thirani mentioned that the main objective of the event was to bring the people together to welcome the FIFA World Cup 2018. He also thanked everyone for their active participation.

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## Singtam students irked by frequent power cuts

YOGEN THATAL  
SINGTAM, 13 JUN:

Residents of Singtam Bazaar, East Sikkim have been facing frequent power cuts since last week causing inconvenience to the public especially students of Singtam Senior Secondary School who have been preparing for their term exams which is scheduled to commence from 18 Jun.

"The humid weather here shows no mercy during summer time. Our first term exam is approaching and owing to irregular supply of electricity, I am not sure if I can score good marks," shares Class 12 student of Singtam SSS, Tilak Khati.

The electricity crisis has not only affected the students but online transactions as well for local businessmen in Singtam.

## KVK West & ATMA conducts training on oyster mushroom cultivation in Bega

**GANGTOK, 13 JUN:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra, West Sikkim in collaboration with Agricultural Technology Management Agency [ATMA] conducted training cum demonstration programme on Oyster Mushroom cultivation at Bega village in West Sikkim today. The programme was chaired by Joint Director, Directorate of Jute Development, Kolkata, Jintu Das, who is also happens the officer in-charge for reviewing the activities undertaken by the different departments under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan, a press release informs.

Senior Scientist & Head of KVK, West, TN Bhutia, informed the gathering about the various programme initiated by the government for the welfare of the farming community in the Aspirational districts of India under Krishi Kalyan Abhiyan with effect from 01 Jun to 31 Jul, 2018.

Thereafter, detailed

turn to pg03



## Sokpay Bhir landslide sends massive boulders damaging three houses

WANGCHUK BHUTIA  
MANGAN, 13 JUN:

Huge boulders sent tumbling by a landslide from Sokpay Bhir at Lower Rakdong in East Sikkim this morning has damaged three houses.

The boulders damaged ekra-made kitchen of one Chandra Lal Sharma and the windows and some portion of a building belonging to one Devendra Shar-

ma while also damaging wooden-structured kitchen belonging to one Thakur Prasad Sharma.

The house of Hom Nath was luckily saved from damages but the threat of being hit by boulders persists.

The first minor landslide occurred last night following which residents moved to safer locations. However, the next landslide this morning at around 8 a.m.

damaged the aforementioned houses along with a car plying to Gangtok from Mangan. No casualties have been reported till now.

Upon hearing the news, Block Development Officer, Tintek, Indramani Adhikari, today visited the spot to take stock of the damages. Panchayat president, Rakdong-Tintek GPU, Tika Maya Pandey, along with other Panchayats members also vis-

ited the spot and met with the affected people.

Ms Pandey also announced immediate relief for shifting amounting to Rs 20,000 for four affected families from the Gram Panchayat fund.

Dikchu Police today diverted the vehicles plying between Mangan-Gangtok from Ipsing road, Samdong as the boulders continued to fall.



## Awareness on safe water release from Lingdok Dam

SUMMIT REPORT  
MANGAN, 13 JUN:

Sneha Kinetic Power Projects Private Limited organized awareness programme on 'Disaster Management and Safe Release of Water from Lingdok Dam' of 96 MW Dikchu Hydro Electric Power Project at Gram Prasasan Kendra of Rakdong Tintek GPU in East

Sikkim today which had the presence of Panchayat president, Tika Maya Pandey, and other Panchayat members.

Procedure related to operation of gate and safe release of water, operation of siren before releasing of water and related hazards of the river were explained in detail.

All the Panchayat

members have been urged to discuss these issues during meetings at Ward level and among MGNREGA workers.

Similar programme was organised at Lingdok Namphong GPK on 18 May in the presence of Panchayat president, Bishnu Bhakta Sharma, Panchayat members and local villagers.

## Active SKM youths dedicated towards 'parivartan'



**GANGTOK, 13 JUN:**

With the mission to strengthen youth cell of Sikkim Krantikari Morcha party, executives of SKM youth cell are touring all constituencies of the State forming minimum 50-member active youth bodies for each constituency. Following the same mission, SKM youth wing today conducted an interactive session with youth workers of Namthang Constituency at Bikmat Ward, South Sikkim, an SKM

press release informs.

The meeting had the active participation of dynamic and committed youths sharing their ideas and vision to strengthen the party with dedication for the cause of 'parivartan'.

A total of 92-member active youth bodies have been formed for Namthang constituency. Furthermore, seven-member media executive teams were also formed to intensify party's publicity in the constituency.

## Farmers training on pest and disease management held at Tharpu



SUMMIT REPORT  
GANGTOK, 13 JUN:

Mevedir organized two-day farmer's training programme on 'Pest and Disease Management' on 12 and 13 Jun at Tharpu Gram Panchayat Unit in West Sikkim, a press release informs.

The training was organized in collaboration with Agriculture Development Department

Mevedir master trainers, Goma Sharma and Pinky Sherpa, Horticulture Development Officer, M.P Bhujel were the resource persons of the event.

Ms Sharma demon-

strated the method to prepare herbal spray from locally available plants to prevent and control pests. Use of locally available plants and materials to make pesticides, manure and soil enhancers were emphasized by the resource persons.

Ms Sherpa educated farmers on the usage of the input Green SK Frateuria which is helpful in potassium mobilization to the plants. Ms Sherpa explained and demonstrated the usage of the input and informed how it can be used in various crops and vegetables to enhance soil fertility.



## SU organizes workshop on English teaching approaches

**GANGTOK, 13 JUN [PIB]:** Department of English, Sikkim University organized two-daylong workshop on "Teaching of English in Sikkim University: Methods and Approaches" today at the Cauveri Hall of SU.

The chief guest for the programme was Vice-Chancellor, Professor Jyoti Prakash Tamang, and guest of honour was Registrar, TK Kaul. Former Vice-Chancellor of Allahabad University, Prof KG Srivastava, attended the event as special guest.

The workshop was conducted to assess and frame a flexible pedagogy for the teaching of

English Literature at the undergraduate and post graduate levels and to arrive at a considered approach to deal with the prescribed syllabus in a coherent manner.

Faculty members of the Department of English, SU and from the affiliated colleges of SU participated in the workshop. Vice-Chancellor, Professor Tamang stressed on the importance of English language and urged the Department of English to organize more such workshops for the students and faculty members of the University.

## Good governance has led to peaceful and secure...

contd from pg01

ment the State has witnessed since he came to office in 1994.

He added that politics was a science in which parties and leaders safeguard people's interests in the best way possible and delivers development while maintaining peace.

He pointed out that politics was an ideological battle and there was no place for personal animosity when seeking the people's mandate.

"Or else, why would I name Government college, Tadong, after our former CM, the late Nar Bahadur Bhandari who was a political adversary to me?" said the CM.

Addressing the Bhutia-Lepcha community, he stated that the community enjoys the same rights as in the time of the Chogyal and from Panchayat to the Assembly, all their rights and privileges have been protected.

He asked the members of

the community to avoid falling for the willness of those who instigate and instill fear psychosis among the community by projecting them as vulnerable and weak.

"Those who created the identity of Sikkim can never be weak," said the CM.

Further, the CM stated that social justice has been the government's hallmark of governance with equal distribution of rights to various sections of Sikkimese population.

He focused on women's empowerment and said that his government has empowered women through various schemes and legislation's like Succession Act, 2008 under which the rights of Sikkimese women are fully secured.

The CM held that human development was the biggest development.

Stressing on the State's thrust on agriculture, the CM said that government is fully committed to

farmers and agriculture.

"Ours is the only government which gives pension to farmers," he pointed out.

He also appealed to the rural population to be engaged in organic farming practices and sell their produce directly in markets with the government making sure that no middlemen were involved.

"Many outsiders are now pressurizing our government to give permission to work in agriculture," he said.

The CM further said that it's the villagers who must rule the roost in rural Sikkim and he will not allow any outsider to work in rural areas.

Dispelling all allegations of corruption in his government, the CM held that corruption can't be indulged without the connivance of the bureaucracy.

"You can ask any bureaucrat, past or present if I have asked for party funding or money," he said.

He stressed that he has not misused even a single penny of public money.

"There may have been some flaw or delay, but no scheme or development project has been misused in Sikkim," he added.

He declared that the State was corruption-free.

Targeting the opposition's demand of a CBI enquiry, he stated that the agency can be misused just like RTI has been misused to threaten and extort money from government officials.

"Rule of Law is maintained in our peaceful State with all institutions protected by a civilised democratic party," he held.

Slamming all forms of identity politics in the State, the CM stated that his government is a humanist one.

"Domination of one caste, snatching away of constitutional rights, elimination of languages, culture or demo-

cratic rights of a community is being castiest," he said while maintaining that his government has given equal rights and opportunities to various sections of Sikkimese population.

He also slammed all the opposition parties and said that he doesn't require asking outsiders to take a decision for Sikkim.

"We only take the opinion of the Sikkimese public," he said.

Adding a strong Sikkimese stance, he stated Sikkim should always be protected and Sikkimese should always rule over Sikkim.

The CM said that due to the innovative ideas of the government a "clean and green" Sikkim is now leading the future of the people with the Sikkimese reaping rich dividend.

"It is due to good governance that there is peace and security in Sikkim," he said.

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**Gangtok on Thursday, 14 June**

**Temp:** 26°C/16°C  
**Forecast:** Mostly cloudy; a morning thundershower in parts of the area, then thundershowers.  
**Sunrise:** 04:40 AM  
**Sunset:** 6:31 PM

## Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail machines arrive in Sikkim

**GANGTOK, 13 JUN [IPR]:** Election Commission of India has mandated that 100% Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail [VVPAT] shall be used along with Electronic Voting Machines [EVMs] at Polling Stations in all the future elections to Parliamentary and Assembly Constituencies.

In order to meet the requirement of 100% VVPAT coverage in the next General Election to Lok Sabha 2019 and simultaneous elections to Sikkim Legislative Assembly, sufficient number of VVPATs have been requisitioned by ECI. Machines manufactured by Bharat Electronic Ltd. [BEL] were dispatched from Bangalore on 07 Jun via road to Sikkim.

Nodal Officer for EVM & VVPAT, Tashi Tshering Bhutia, who is also the Joint Director at the office of Chief Executive Officer [Sikkim], received the VVPATs which were escorted by IRBn Police personnel from Bangalore to Sikkim. The machines were received in the District headquarters on 13 Jun. The political parties were also informed for supervising the process of storing the machines in the warehouses.

## KVK West & ATMA conducts training...

*contd from pg02*

information about Oyster mushroom cultivation was delivered by Subject Matter Specialist [Horticulture], Sangay Palmoo Bhutia.

Later, scientific techniques of Substrate [Hey] preparation, filling of Polythene bag with substrate, and spawning methods were demonstrated to the farmers present.

Subject Matter Specialist [Plant Protection], Rohini Silwal, briefed the farmers about the organic management practices to be followed at the advent of pests and diseases in mushroom.

Mushroom spawns and polythene bags were distributed to 55 participating farmers to encourage them to take up mushroom cultivation as an enterprise.

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# High Court transfers two senior judges

## SUMMIT REPORT

**GANGTOK, 13 JUN:**

High Court of Sikkim has transferred its two senior judges of State Superior Judicial Services with directions to join new posting on or before 15 Jun.

District & Sessions Judge [East], Gangtok, K C Barphungpa, has been transferred and posted as Legal Re-

membrancer-Cum-Secretary, Law Department, Government of Sikkim. JB Rai, who was the Legal Remembrancer-Cum-Secretary, Law Department, has been transferred and posted as District & Sessions Judge [East], Gangtok.

In the posting order, the High Court has said that the District &

Sessions Judge [East] will dispose of all matters heard and reserved for judgment before joining new place of posting adding that in case the District & Sessions Judge [East], Gangtok is unable to dispose of the case, reasons for the same should be reported to the High Court.

In addition to the posting of two judges of the District & Sessions

courts, the Chief Judicial Magistrate-Cum-Civil Judge, Namchi, Sonam Denka Wangdi, has been entrusted additional charge of newly inaugurated Civil court at Yangang Sub-Division, South Sikkim with effect from 12 Jun.

Similarly, Judicial Magistrate-Cum-Civil Judge, Gangtok, Ran-

jeeta Pradhan, has been endorsed additional charge of Rongli Judicial Magistrate-Cum-Civil Judge Court.

Both the new courts will function with immediate effect and both the Civil judges will hold court on second Monday of every month and avail service of the ministerial staff of the Court of Namchi and Gangtok until further order.

# MVD inspection drives aims at awareness generation

## ARPAN PRADHAN

**GANGTOK, 13 JUN:**

A team of Motor Vehicle Division officials, led by RTO [Enforcement], Rakam Rai, has been conducting a series of inspections in the capital to check against unauthorized fare hikes and the validity of documents of taxi drivers. The move is also to bring wider awareness about the various traffic rules and regulations.

The team yesterday conducted mobile inspection from Ranipool, covering Mayfair area, 06th Mile, Tadong, Deorali all the way up to the main bazaar.

The inspection is set to continue for the next few days, Mr Rai informed.

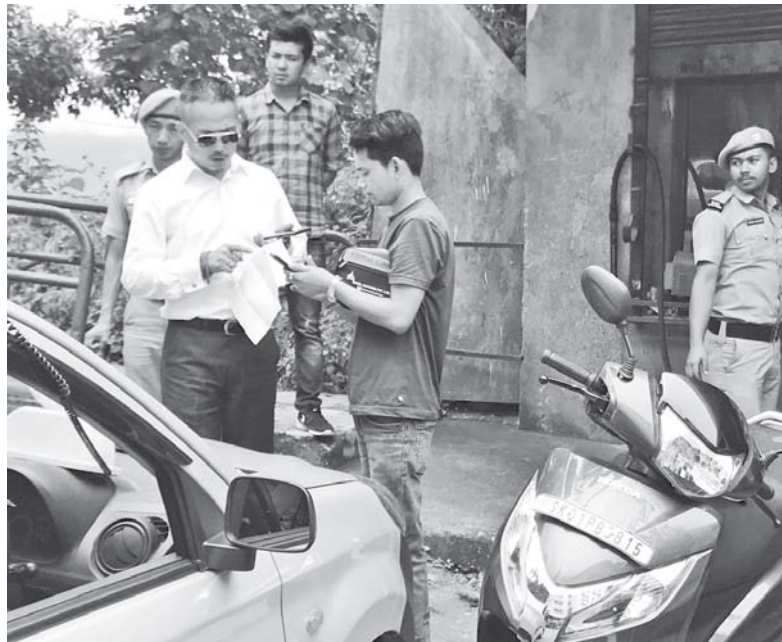
Speaking to SummitTimes, Mr Rai informed that the MV Division conducts such inspections routinely through the year.

"The Motor Vehicle Division, Enforcement Cell is responsible for this kind of inspection and checking of documents of various vehicles," he further informed.

The team is inspecting driving licenses, vehicle insurance, road permits, pollution certificates, vehicle registration, number plate issues and other necessary documents, he informed.

"We have found many vehicles without insurance and drivers with invalid driving licenses," he informs.

"Failed registration books, vehicle plying without number plate, plying taxi with TR number and many other issues are ruled out during the inspection," said Mr. Rai.



He said that the inspection drive is an awareness drive and the department is not charging any fine or issuing challans as the department is focusing only on creating awareness amongst drivers, vehicle owners, and passengers, he said.

Mr Rai appealed passengers to be informed of the vehicle they are traveling, drivers to carry all valid documents and renew them on time to avoid penalties.

"We are not against anyone nor are we targeting drivers. We just want to make them aware

of various duties and help them follow all rules and regulations that implies," Mr Rai said.

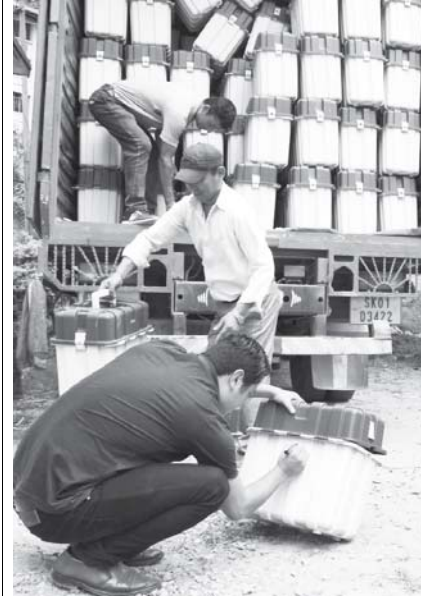
Mr Rai has also appealed to stakeholders to help the department bring awareness among all and avoid any untoward incidents and urged everyone to be more responsible as without mass awareness and people's participation nothing is possible, he stresses.

There have been several reports of overcharging by taxi drivers. The team is also looking in to the matter seriously and enquiring about the same, he

informed.

"Passengers are the responsibility of the drivers whether tourists or local commuters; they should be responsible towards them," he added.

Additionally, the team also inspected the Auto Emission Testing Centre located at Deorali and enquired about the status and functionality of various equipments used for the testing of air pollution from vehicles. The team has directed the testing centre to keep all machinery up to date in order to get accurate result.



## VVPAT consignment reaches Namchi

**NAMCHI, 13 JUN [IPR]:** Voter-Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPATs) consignment for South District reached the premises of District Administration, Namchi, today escorted by Nodal Officers and armed guards.

The exercise of stocking the VVPATs in the alternate VVPAT warehouse was held with Additional District Collector (South), Satyan Pradhan, Sub Divisional Magistrate (Jorethang), BC Rai, Block Development Officer (Sumbuk), Dinesh Pradhan, Under Secretary (Election), Tripti H. Subba, representatives of

various political parties and staff from election and various other departments.

Numbers designated to the machines were physically checked on the spot by BDO (Sumbuk) and US (Election). Further, entry was also made in the VVPAT Register before stocking the machines.

Thereafter, the warehouse was locked in the presence of officers and representatives of political parties. It may be also mentioned here that a total number of 412 VVPATs were received.



## DZONGRI FC DOWNS SIKKIM BOYS FC 3-2

**GANGTOK, 13 JUN:** Dzongri Football Club edged past Sikkim Boys Football Club 3-2 in the last league match of the ongoing Sikkim Football Association C-Division Football Tournament 2018 here at Paljor Stadium on Wednesday. The first semi-final match of C-Division league will be played between Young Orchid and Chujachen Football Club tomorrow afternoon.



## GOVERNMENT OF SIKKIM SOCIAL JUSTICE, EMPOWERMENT AND WELFARE DEPARTMENT SAMA J KALYAN BHAWAN, GANGTOK

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The Social Justice, Empowerment and Welfare Department invites e-tender from Class – II B Enlisted Contractors (SPWD) for participating in the tender for "Construction of Old Age Home (Jyestha Nagrik Sewa Samman Kendra) at Mangan, North Sikkim". For further details, kindly visit the website [www.sikkim-tenders.gov.in](http://www.sikkim-tenders.gov.in). Date of uploading of bidding documents in e-procurement portal will be on 18.06.2018.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**Ref No: SKPPL/GTK/2018-19/06/12**

**Date: 08/06/2018**

This is to inform the general public residing on the bank of River Dikchu between Lingdok/ Lower Phodong to Dikchu that with the onset of monsoon the river level in the downstream of Dam at Lingdok/ Lower Phodong, Rokshay, Lower Rakdong, Lower Tanek shall increase due to release of excess water from the Lingdok Dam built by M/S Sneha Kinetic Power Projects Pvt. Ltd. and this is regular operational requirement and also in case of emergency regulation of incoming flood. The river water level downstream of Power house at Dikchu shall also increase suddenly due to release of water from the Power house.

"Sirens Hooters" have installed at various locations to warn the public on each increase in the water level and hence, it is requested that all the people should take note of the "Siren Hooter" alarm as and when it is released sounded.

As such it is advised and appealed at all the people that at this situation they should not enter the river and also not allow their livestock etc to graze approach near the reservoir periphery or in the downstream areas from Lingdok/Lower Phodong, Rokshay, Lower Rakdong, Lower Tanek to Dikchu. It is also not advisable to carry out activities like picnic, fishing, boating, swimming, collection of river materials, collection of fire wood, washing etc. close to the river banks during this condition.

**It may be noted that Sneha Kinetic Power Projects Pvt. Limited-shall not be responsible for any mishap due to ignorance of the advice as above.** Further clarification if any in this regard may be obtained from SKPPPL office at Dikchu or at these numbers **7407004662 (Dam Control Room) 9733314957/ 9593385439 (Power House Control Room)** or E-mail: [dikchuph@greenkoenergyprojects.com](mailto:dikchuph@greenkoenergyprojects.com)

The above information is issued in the interest of the public residing along the banks of River Dikchu from Lingdok/Lower Phodong to Dikchu.

**For. M/s. Sneha Kinetic Power Projects Pvt. Ltd.**



# SummitTIMES

## Reputation is Everything

### Handle the budget tourists with more care

The past few tourist seasons have been “bumper” for Sikkim, and the latest one is in search of an even higher superlative. Everyone associated with the sector has kept long hours and raked in handsome earnings. But it has not all been good. Reports abound about tourists not only being charged usurious amounts for their holidays, but also being stood up by cabbies who landed still higher rates or hotels which overbooked and extended only miserly hospitality. In the rare case, the reasons were genuine, stemming from infrastructural limitations and impossible to resolve logistics. Unfortunately, in most of the cases, it was sheer greed. Travellers realise that arriving in a new place and jacked up on endorphins from the experience leaves them vulnerable to the occasional cheating. In fact, these even form part of the whole touristy experience, but when this becomes the dominant memory, the negativity becomes palpable and the word of mouth can prove damaging. No one will blame the destination or its people for flights missed due to landslides or traffic jams, but if a holiday is spoiled by stakeholders driven purely by profit margins, the word will spread.

Harrowing tales of tourists ill-treated and unattended are not rare aberrations any more. Tourists, especially those travelling on a tight budget, are snared in cons with embarrassing regularity and this is not something that the State should take lightly. For all its hopes of roping in the dollar tourists, fact remains that tourism in Sikkim is sustained by those who love Sikkim so much that they scrimp and save to get here. They may be loud, they may drive a hard bargain, but they are the ones who come to Sikkim in the largest numbers and who pay higher fares and sit through a bumpy five-hour ride [one way] to get their half an hour with Tsomgo. They are the backbone of the tourism industry here. They are the bird in the hand for Sikkim Tourism while other prospects are still in the bush.

They need to be handled with greater care. It is all too easy to dismiss reports of their harassment as one meted out by agents in their own backyards and hotels being operated on lease by their ‘own’ people. Fact remains that it is Sikkim’s image that takes a beating. Reputation is everything in this business. The best example can be seen in neighbouring Darjeeling. In the wake of its two Aandolans, tourism had reduced to a trickle. It had just about resuscitated, that Aandolan 3.0 had arrived at this time last year and derailed some future seasons too. Even until then, although Darjeeling still attracted more tourists than Gangtok, the numbers had fallen and peak season days reduced. Even through the lull, tourists avoided the neighbouring hills if they could because of the reputation it has earned. Sikkim, which is just about finding its feet as far as tourism is considered, cannot afford such blacklisting.

The industry has to remember that for every tourist complaint filed, there are many more that go unreported to the authorities. It is another matter that many vent on social media which, let’s accept it, can do as much for promotion as it can do for ruining carefully cultivated images. Every complaint should thus be taken seriously and some examples set to convince tourists and those in the tourism business that Sikkim is serious about proving itself to be a tourist-friendly destination. Tourism is a thrust sector of the Sikkimese economy and yet it is allowed to blunder about unregulated. There appears to be yawning gap between the industry, its players and its policy makers. Policies are framed with a particular audience in mind while the ground realities on tourist arrivals are different. Associations are granted many privileges and yet internal monitoring of services remains muddled. For a State so particular about local protection, it is ironic how a significant portion of the hospitality industry [especially those catering to the budget tourists] operates on lease. This ambiguity has to be done away with so that regulation of the industry becomes more meaningful. Every time a tourist is duped in Sikkim, it is not the establishment that suffers, it is Sikkim’s reputation that takes a beating. And, as mentioned earlier, reputation is everything in this business.

**WRITE US:** Readers are invited to comment on, criticise, run down, even appreciate if they like something in this paper. Letters carrying abusive/ indecorous language and personal attacks, except when against people responsible in this newspaper (who are fair game), will have to be ignored. Letters which carry forward a conversation or initiate a dialogue will command immediate attention and receive prominence. Mail us at: [letters@summittimes.com](mailto:letters@summittimes.com)

# US-North Korea summit agreement is most revealing for what it leaves out

**BENJAMIN HABIB**  
*theconversation.com*

In my preview of the historic US-DPRK summit in Singapore, I asked where Trump and Kim might find lowest common denominator points of agreement to potentially unlock a confidence-building pathway.

That this summit has even taken place at all could be seen as an achievement, given where US-DPRK relations were in 2017. We should therefore be unsurprised that despite Trump’s hype in the lead-up to the event, the common denominators of agreement amounted to promises of a new relationship and little else of substance.

However, it is not so much what is in the joint statement as much as what has been left out that is the big story.

To tease this out, let’s consider the four specific points of agreement articulated in the joint statement released by US President Donald Trump and North Korean Chairman Kim Jong-un at the conclusion of today’s summit.

#### A NEW RELATIONSHIP?

In the first article of the agreement, the two parties committed to establishing a “new US-DPRK relations.” What might a new relationship between the two countries look like?

The leader-to-leader summit between the two countries was unprecedented and potentially could represent a tentative first step on the road to rapprochement. Symbolism is the obvious place to begin, given the low base the relationship between these two countries is starting from.

If we jump to article four, both parties have committed to the process of recovering the remains of UN forces prisoners of war and soldiers missing-in-action from the Korean War, along with the immediate repatriation of the remains of those already identified.

In a similar way to the family reunion program articulated in the inter-Korean Panmunjom Agreement, the repatriation of POW/MIA remains is a relatively easy confidence-building measure on which to base a longer-term pathway of more substantive measures. It is also of great importance as a mark of respect to the families of those military personnel who can find closure with the return of their deceased loved ones.

The second article refers to joint efforts “to build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.” As I’ve argued previously, a settlement to formally conclude the Kore-



an War could be potential common interest around which to develop an engagement pathway.

Prior to the summit, Trump hinted that the “signing of a document” to close hostilities was a possibility. The closest the joint statement comes to this is a passage in the second paragraph, which reads:

“President Trump committed to provide security guarantees to the DPRK.”

It is not immediately clear from the text what these security guarantees might be, but it certainly falls short of any kind of non-aggression pact or peace treaty. Such an outcome was always unlikely at this summit and would be the product of a longer negotiating process should it come to pass.

#### THE END OF ‘COMPLETE, VERIFIABLE, IRREVERSIBLE DENUCLEARISATION’?

The joint statement gets interesting in article three, in which “the DPRK commits to work toward the complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.”

The wording around “complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula” reflects the North Korean interpretation of the concept, which has been well-documented in the lead-up to the summit.

Tellingly, there is no mention of “complete, verifiable, irreversible denuclearisation” (CVID) in the statement text, which is a clear departure from long-standing US policy.

There are a couple of ways this could be interpreted. On the one hand, it is possible that Trump lived up to the pre-summit fears of some domestic critics and gave away too much for too little in the negotiation. From this perspective, the master negotiator Trump was played by Kim into sign-

ing off on the North Korean position, through which Kim gets international legitimacy and domestic prestige from attending the summit without having to make any concessions.

On the other hand, Trump’s omission of CVID could be a calibrated strategy accompanied by a clearly articulated and wide-ranging engagement strategy, scaffolded around a formal peace treaty. If so, it could prove to be the circuit-breaker that opens the pathway toward the aforementioned “new US-DPRK relations” and the collective management of North Korea as a nuclear power.

Either way, this will become clearer if and when follow-up negotiations take place. Either way, there are factions of the international political spectrum who will be unhappy with the outcome.

It is significant that article three pays homage to the Panmunjom Agreement, which may be the key to understanding how the US-South Korea-DPRK engagement triangle may unfold.

The Panmunjom Agreement, for all its ambiguity, does have an articulation of economic and security confidence-building measures, based on a shared vision for a permanent Korean Peninsula peace regime.

If we assume a calibrated strategy in deferring to the Panmunjom Agreement, the US-DPRK joint statement may indicate the bulk of the heavy lifting with regard to confidence-building measures will be handled as an inter-Korean affair, with Trump’s apparent non-aggression promise providing space for engagement initiatives to evolve.

#### WHERE TO NOW?

My take-home message from the omission of CVID from the joint state-

ment is confirmation that North Korea under Kim Jong-un is never going to willingly denuclearise.

In “working toward complete denuclearisation,” North Korea may agree to a nuclear weapons and ballistic missile testing moratorium, decommission obsolete nuclear facilities, or even promise to freeze production of new nuclear weapons, without ever having to compromise its nuclear weapons capability.

We should not be surprised if one or both parties back-pedal from the joint statement at some stage. Seasoned North Korea watchers will be expecting North Korea to backtrack from the joint statement to extract concessions, or add new conditions to their continued commitment to the “new US-DPRK relations,” as we have seen several times previously.

We are also likely to see Trump sustain considerable political heat domestically for his perceived capitulation on CVID and for omitting human rights from the discussion, as well as from the Japanese government for selling out their security interests.

This pressure may be sufficient to prompt a recalibration of the US interpretation of the joint statement. Backpedalling from either side will change the position of the other and blow the whole engagement process out of the water.

The final paragraph of the joint statement commits US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to meet with an as yet unidentified high level North Korean official. It will be at these meetings and beyond where the “new US-DPRK relations” will start to take shape.

*[the writer is Lecturer in International Relations, Department of Politics and Philosophy, La Trobe University]*

# Male dolphins use their individual ‘names’ to build a complex social network

**STEPHANIE KING**  
*theconversation.com*

In life it often pays to keep a close eye on competitors and rivals. Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin’s book, *Team of Rivals*, tells how US president Abraham Lincoln persuaded each of his political rivals to join his cabinet, thereby turning them into his allies.

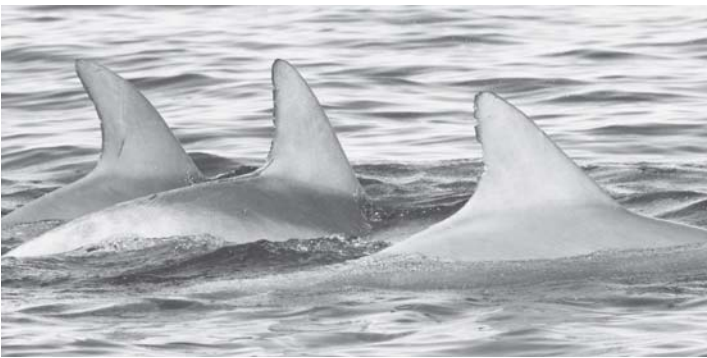
But the formation of alliances with potential competitors is not unique to humans. In a study published in *Current Biology*, my colleagues and I describe how such behaviour is also found among bottlenose dolphins.

We found that individual male dolphins retain their unique signature whistle, allowing them to recognise many different friends and rivals in their social network, something not currently known from any other non-human animal.

#### THE SHARK BAY NETWORK

In Shark Bay, Western Australia, pairs and trios of unrelated male dolphins work together in alliances to herd single females for mating opportunities. On a second level, teams of alliances work together to steal females from opposing alliances and to defend against such theft attempts.

The males are therefore cooperating with individuals with whom they are in direct reproductive competition, since paternity success cannot be shared. But the bonds between these teams of rivals are as strong as those between mothers and



calves, and these friendships and alliances can last entire lifetimes.

So how do these males keep track of all these different relationships, and how do they maintain such strong social bonds? The answer may lie closer to home than you think.

#### VOCAL LABELS FOR DOLPHINS

Previous research has shown that bottlenose dolphins develop an individual vocal label known as their signature whistle, which they use to broadcast their identity.

These dolphins aren’t born with their own signature whistle. Rather, each dolphin develops a signature whistle within the first few months of life that is structurally unique from those of its companions.

It has been shown that these signature whistles are somewhat comparable to human names. Dolphins use them to introduce themselves or even

copy others as a means of addressing specific individuals.

For decades it was thought that male dolphins would converge onto a shared signature whistle when they formed alliances with one another.

It was proposed that such an alliance signature would allow males to advertise alliance membership to competing males or to sexually receptive females. A type of vocal badge or group label.

Intriguingly, we found that male dolphins in Shark Bay retain individual vocal labels distinct from their allies.

#### INDIVIDUALLY ‘NAMED’ DOLPHINS

This is an unexpected finding as it is well known that animals that form strong social bonds will vocally accommodate one another, making their calls more similar. By doing so, animals are not only advertising the strength of their relationships but also their group membership.

Such vocal convergence is found in many animals including parrots, songbirds, bats, elephants and primates.

Yet, it appears that in the complex network of dolphin alliances in Shark Bay, retaining individual “names” is more important than sharing calls. It allows male dolphins to recognise many different friends and rivals in their social network.

Even within these dolphin alliances males can show preferences and avoidances for with whom

turn to 05



MSSRF holds interaction with State librarians on global trends and services

GANGTOK, 13 JUN [IPR]: Representatives from MS Swaminathan Research Foundation [MS-SRF], Chennai, Priyanka Mohan and Roja Rani, conducted a two-day presentation cum interactive session with the librarians of State Central Library, Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department on 07-08 Jun at Manan Bhawan in Gangtok.

The programme was organised on the subject "Global Trends and Innovative Services" in the public library sector across the nation especially on how public libraries can drive progress in line with the mandate of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and its 2030 agenda.

The prime focus was on Information, Education and Communication programme of MSSRF in partnership with the State Government stakeholders for building equitable knowledge empowerment among the communities through multiple Information Communication Technologies [ICTs] with several UN SDGs relevant to the local priorities.



The last round of the session was held in the Chamber of the Secretary, Cultural Affairs & Heritage Department, Ambika

Pradhan, at Manan Bhawan in the presence of senior officers of the department. Ms Pradhan congratulated the MSSRF team and the librarians on adapting themselves to meet the changing trends in the public library sector of the State and assured to help in every possible way.



Mizoram govt disbursed money to HPC(D) cadres

AIZAWL, JUN 13 (PTI): The Mizoram government today disbursed Rs 2.80 lakh each to 114 members of the erstwhile underground Hmar People's Convention (Democratic) making the total rehabilitation package to Rs three lakh. State Home Minister R Lalzirlana, who handed over the money to the HPC (D) cadres, said that the state government would fulfil all the provisions of the memorandum of settlement signed

between the Mizoram government and the Hmar outfit on April two. Lalzirlana appealed to the HPC (D) leadership and the cadres to cooperate with the state government in maintaining peace and tranquillity in the state. The HPC(D) cadres laid down arms in a ceremony held on April 13 at the Central Training Institute at Sesawng near Aizawl when Rs 20,000 were disbursed to each cadre.

Male dolphins use their individual...

contd from pg04

Bottlenose dolphins have been shown to remember the signature whistles of other individuals even after 20 years of separation. This long-term social memory combined with the use of individual vocal labels, allows dolphins to keep track of many different relationships, as well as the history of those relationships.

Our research suggests that vocal labels play a central role in the recognition of cooperative partners and competitors in biological markets.

**MALE BONDING, DOLPHIN STYLE** If allied male dolphins do not converge onto similar calls, then how do they reinforce their strong bonds?

Well, males in Shark Bay invest a lot of time in gentle contact behaviours, such as petting.

This may be similar to grooming behaviour in primates, which has been linked to oxytocin release. Oxytocin is a hormone that is known to facilitate social bonding between both humans and

non-human animals, as well as promoting both trust and cooperation.

Dolphin alliances in Shark Bay are also characterised by high levels of synchronous behaviour. Males in alliances can perform the same behaviours at exactly the same time, surfacing in precise synchrony or performing coordinated displays.

It appears that synchrony, rather than shared calls, is what represents alliance unity.

In human societies, synchronous behaviour, such as choreographed dancing, military marching or parades, is believed to have evolved to signal the quality of relationships.

It appears, then, that the multi-level dolphin alliances in Shark Bay share some traits with humans societies, where individual vocal labels help with the recognition of cooperative partners, and synchrony is a signal indicating the strength of those partnerships.

[the writer is Branco Weiss Research Fellow, University of Western Australia]

Denjong Lhade to organize 'Thank You' prog for Karmapa to Sikkim supporters

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 13 JUN: Sikkimese Buddhist Council, Denjong Lhade, has announced plans to hold a 'Thank You' at Bhutia-Lepcha House in Gangtok on 16 June, a press release informs.

The programme is being held to thank all the monasteries, monks, individuals and organisations who extended support to the council

to seek the Central Government's permission to allow the 17th Karmapa Ogyen Trinley Dorje to visit Sikkim.

"Now that the Central Government has already granted its permission, we express our most sincere gratitude to all of you and invite you all to the BL House at Gangtok on 16 Jun and accept our thanks," the release reads.

to book advertisements in SummitTimes call: 03592-208698, 9734152541, 9647102692

Prime accused in Assam lynching case arrested: Police

DIPHU/GUWAHATI, JUN 13 (PTI): The prime accused in the lynching case of two men in Assam was arrested from Karbi Anglong district in the early hours today, a senior police officer said.

With this, the total number of people arrested in connection with the lynching of the two men and spreading hate messages and rumours following the incident in Karbi Anglong district on Friday has risen to 64, the officer said.

Karbi Anglong Police arrested the prime accused, Joz Timung alias 'Alpha', from Belurghat area under the jurisdiction of the same Dokmoka Police Station where the incident had taken place, Superintendent of Police S P Ganjala said.

Timung was allegedly responsible for asking

villagers over phone to stop the vehicle carrying the two men and spreading rumours of them being child lifters, the SP said.

The police had launched a massive search operation to nab him but he was constantly on the move and was finally apprehended early this morning, he said.

Timung is a resident of Kangthilangso village where the two men had gone on Friday last.

Two friends - Nilotpal Das (29) and Abhijeet Nath (30) - were on Friday pulled out of their vehicle at Panjuri in Karbi Anglong district and beaten to death by a group of irate villagers, who suspected them to be child-lifters.

The Karbi Anglong Autonomous Council (KAAC) has decided to give Rs five lakh each to

the parents of the two deceased men and also install their statues at the place where they were lynched, KAAC Chief Executive Member (CEM) Tuliram Ronghang said.

The Council, which held a meeting with media, government officials and prominent citizens at Diphu last evening, condemned the incident.

Ronghang said Karbis are a part and parcel of Assam and many tribal and non-tribals live in Karbi Anglong autonomous area, forming a greater Assamese society.

The Karbi Students' Association (KSA) and Karbi Sahitya Sabha, which met here under the aegis of the Asam Sahitya Sabha in Guwahati yesterday, have condemned the lynching.

Official notice from the Government of Sikkim, Office of the District Collector - Cum Magistrate, North District, Mangan. The notice is in English and Nepali, regarding the NHPC Limited project. It includes a table with dates, times, and venues for public hearings.

Sl.no.	Date	Time	Venue	Affected area revenue Block wise
1	30-06-2018	10.00 AM	Zilla Bhawan Hall Mangan	All Affected families of Left Bank
2	02/07/18	2.00PM	Hee Gyathang GPK	All Affected families of Passingdong, Lingdong, Borfok, HeeGyathang
3	03/07/18	10.00 AM	Lum Gor Sangtok GPK	All affected families of Gor Tarayang, Gnon Sangdong

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### Anti-Pak protests held in Jammu over ceasefire violation

**JAMMU, JUN 13 (PTI):** Several political parties and organisations today staged anti-Pakistan protests in different parts of Jammu city after four Border Security Force (BSF) personnel were killed and three injured in unprovoked overnight firing from across the border.

Led by their chairperson Harsh Dev Singh, workers of the Jammu and Kashmir National Panthers Party (JKNPP) demonstrated at the Exhibition Ground here.

Singh stressed that Pakistan needs to be isolated at the international level to ensure that it stops its “nefarious” activities.

He also attacked the BJP-led NDA government, alleging that the Centre had failed to deal with Pakistan effectively.

Pakistan has created terror along the border and the hinterland and the Centre is watching as a mute spectator with its focus only on winning the next year’s parliamentary elections, the JKNPP chairperson said.

**MADRID (SPAIN), JUN 13 (PTI):** In a disappointing start to the series, Indian women team was blanked 0-3 by hosts Spain in the opening match of the five-match series at the Consejo Superior de Deportes Hockey Stadium, here today.

It was an evenly matched encounter between the two teams but the hosts were helped by the efficient finishing shown by Lola Riera (48’, 52’) and Berta Bonastre (6’) whose goals were enough to secure the victory.

Spain dominated possession in the opening quarter as 26-year-old Bonastre found herself in the right spot to score the opening goal in only the sixth minute.

The hosts looked to add a second goal but India’s defence held on throughout the first quarter.

The visitors had chances of their own, but could not produce clear goal-scoring opportunities. Skipper Rani Rampal had a glorious chance in the 14th minute but her shot ended up going wide.

India started the second quarter fairly well as Anupa Barla’s shot in the 19th minute was saved by Spanish Goalkeeper Maria Ruiz. The next minute Rani had her second chance of the match but could not get the equalising goal.

India were awarded a penalty corner in the 24th minute but the resulting shot went just wide of the Spanish post. Two minutes later, the hosts looked to counter India and forced a reflex save from goalkeeper Savita, who made sure



that the visitors went into the half-time break only a goal down.

The Indian shot-stopper was called into action again at the start of the third quarter when she made a save from a penalty corner. At the other end of the pitch, Rani tried to make amends of the missed oppor-

tunities but her shot on goal was saved by Maria Ruiz.

The visitors looked to find an equaliser in the final quarter of the match as they took a more attacking approach and let runners get past the Spanish defenders on the flanks. However, in an unfortunate turn

of events for Sunita Lakra, a common-ball hit her head and the referee decided to give a penalty stroke to the hosts, which was well converted by Riera in the 48th minute.

Four minutes later, Riera was awarded her second goal of the match as her drag-flick from a pen-

alty corner was deflected by Sunita Lakra’s stick into the back of the net, giving Spain a 3-0 lead.

India tried to find an opening in the latter stages of the match, but the Spanish ensured comfortable victory with sufficient players behind the ball.

## Kabul Express set for ‘Test’ run in and against India

**BENGALURU, JUN 13 (PTI):** Statistically, it’s a classic David vs Goliath showdown but contextually, it’s the beginning of a historic new chapter in international cricket as world No.1 India take on a war-ravaged-but-resilient Afghanistan in their first ever Test match, here tomorrow.

While majority of the sports fans, in soul and spirit, will be in Russia enjoying the surreal skills of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo, the eternal cricket romantic will try to derive his little pleasures of life watching Rashid Khan trying to hurry Shikhar Dhawan with a flipper or bowl a googly to Ajinkya Rahane.

There is always a nervous anticipation associated with performance of a new team but the politico-social narrative associated with Afghanistan gives the game a different context.

On the surface, it is just another Test match but it is much beyond that.

The Rashids, Mujeeb Zadran and Mohammed Shahzads would like to put their best foot forward in trying to at least provide their countrymen a refuge in sporting success.

India have been Afghanistan’s close allies and the BCCI has shown magnanimity in opening their stadiums so that the national team can practice.

But come Thursday, Ajinkya Rahane’s India will not spare an inch as they are expected to put up a ruthless show.

No wonder the iconic CLR James line is still so relevant “What do they know of Cricket who only Cricket Know.”

India, sans their regular skipper Virat Kohli along with two frontline bowl-



ers Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Jasprit Bumrah, will look to record a comprehensive win before embarking on their long and grueling tour of England.

For Afghanistan, it will be a battle of attrition that they have never ever faced before. Test cricket is a different beast and Rashid’s real battle starts now.

That he is a brilliant four-over bowler, is a known and acknowledged fact.

However, the acid Test will start when he bowls that fifth over. The intelligence will be tested during the 15th over, patience during the 23rd over and endurance during the 40th over.

More importantly, will Rashid be able to maintain his quick arm speed over after over.

As Afghanistan coach Phil Simmons said, his men won’t understand what is

Test cricket until they get onto the field.

With no pressure of asking rate, a Murali Vijay or a Chesteshwar Pujara, if set, will play at their own pace. The Indian batsmen in their own backyard are not known to pull back punches.

Can a 17-year-old Mujeeb, who hasn’t played a single four-day game in his career, trouble a KL Rahul with whom he shared the IPL dressing room at the Kings XI Punjab?

This time he won’t have Ravichandran Ashwin’s guidance. Instead Ashwin might pass on a few valuable inputs to his batsmen on how to tackle Mujeeb.

Will Shahzad be able to curb his natural attacking instinct as the five-day format demands different attritional skills?

That Afghanistan have no idea how difficult it can get could be gauged from

their skipper Asghar Stanikzai’s pompous claims that his spinners are better than the home team.

When Dinesh Karthik was asked, his singular statement made it clear what the team thought about it.

“Our Kuldeep Yadav (2 Tests) has played more first-class games than all their spinners put together. I know from where its coming but I wouldn’t to harp too much on that,” Karthik said.

However, the Indians having watched and played against Rashid will be wary of what he can do.

That’s the reason the Indian team management might just prefer a hard bouncy track knowing full well that a rank turner could boomerang on them.

The problem with Afghanistan will not be their spinners but their batsmen.

How well Shahzad, Mohammed Nabi negotiate Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja will have a direct impact on the kind of fight Afghanistan will be able to put on.

And even before that they will have to counter the disconcerting bounce generated by Ishant Sharma and the pace worked up by Umesh Yadav.

As Kevin Pietersen said during his MAK Pataudi Lecture yesterday, a lot will depend on their “ability to take lessons from the nets into the heat of battle”.

Ireland had put up a respectable fight against Pakistan on their Test debut but again it was Kevin O’Brien who was the silver lining in the batting department.

But whatever be the outcome, “a beautiful journey” has already begun for Afghanistan.



### FC Pune City retain Marcelinho

**PUNE, JUN 13 (PTI):** FC Pune City have retained their inspirational skipper Marcelinho for the 2018-19 Indian Super League season.

One of the top scorers for the club, Brazilian Marcelinho led the team from the front to a historic first semi-finals appearance of the football league in the last season.

FC Pune City CEO Gaurav Modwel said, “You can’t let go the best you have. In Marcelinho, we not only have an impressive footballer, but also a great team player and leader par excellence”.

“His performance created a lasting impression on both the club and the fans alike and we are confident he will con-

tinue from where he left the last season,” Modwel added.

During his last outing with FC Pune City Marcelinho scored eight goals in 17 appearances, including a stunning hat-trick against NorthEast United FC.

With Emiliano Alfaro also joining the club, announced last week to join FC Pune City, a potent South American partnership will be seen for the second year running, the club said in a release.

“I am excited to join back FC Pune City, the club is now my second home. We created history last season and our goal for the coming season would be to match and better the performance,” Marcelinho said.

## Need to talk to selectors about preparation after this Test: Rahane



**BENGALURU, JUN 13 (PTI):** No longer a certainty in the shorter formats, India’s stand-in Test captain Ajinkya Rahane today said he will talk to the national selection committee in order to get a clearer picture about his mode of preparation for the upcoming Test series in England.

After the one-off Afghanistan Test match, Rahane has nothing to look forward to as he has been dropped from the limited-overs side which is going to UK first. The Test series against England is scheduled to start on August 1 after a limited-overs series featuring three T20 Internationals and an equal number of ODIs beginning July 3.

Asked what will he do for the next one and half months, a normally defensive Rahane let his guard down for moment.

“See, I don’t know what’s going to happen after this Test match. But yeah, I will definitely have a word with the selectors,” Rahane’s indecisiveness was palpable before he again tightened his

defences.

While there are talks that he might play a few games for India A, there’s no official word on the matter.

“But I will start my preparation in Mumbai as I always do at the Bandra Kurla Complex (BKC). I always prepare intensely before each and every series but as of now the focus on this Test match. Each and every Test counts and we need to win this one,” Rahane said.

Afghanistan might be newcomers but Rahane emphasised on the need to be “ruthless” against a Test side even if it’s making a debut on the big stage.

“We are not going to take Afghanistan lightly. They have a decent team... bowlers (are good).

“As a Test team, we cannot take anyone for granted because cricket is a funny game. We want to go out there and be ruthless. Yes, we respect them as our opponents but it’s important for us to go out there and give more than our 100. We just need to be ruthless,” Rah-

ane said.

Like Dinesh Karthik, Rahane also didn’t want to read too much into Afghan captain Ashgar Stanikzai’s statement about the visiting spinners being superior to the Indian trio of Ravichandran Ashwin, Ravindra Jadeja and Kuldeep Yadav.

“Every member will like to believe that their team is good. We all know the stats but we don’t want to focus on the stats. Ashwin, Jadeja and Kuldeep are experienced spinners. On a given day, it’s the mindset that makes a difference,” Rahane said.

For Rahane, the last three days have been about tuning out of the IPL.

“We have had a couple of practice sessions in Bangalore and it was fantastic. Coming back from IPL, it’s important that we train our minds.

“Getting back to Test mode from T20 is about tuning our minds rather than focusing on skills. We are not going to take Afghanistan lightly”



# Kim will announce its plans on dismantling other missile sites: Trump

**WASHINGTON, JUN 13 (PTI):** North Korean leader Kim Jong-un will be announcing plans to dismantle other missile sites over the next few days, US President Donald Trump said, a day after revealing that Pyongyang has agreed to destroy a missile testing site.

At the summit held in Singapore yesterday, Trump and Kim signed a document in which North Korea committed to "complete denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula" in exchange for US security guarantees.

Trump said Kim told him that he is getting rid of the nuclear weapons.

"Yeah, he's de-nuking, I mean he's de-nuking the whole place. It's going to start very quickly. I think he's going to start now. They'll be announcing things over the next few days talking about other missile sites," the



US president was quoted as saying by ABC News.

Trump said he also agreed to destroy a missile engine test site.

Trump said the US has assured security guarantee to the North Koreans.

"Well, we've given him (security guarantee), I don't want to talk about it specifically, but we have given him, he is going to be happy," he said.

Responding to a question, Trump said denuclearisation of Korean Peninsula does not mean that the nuclear umbrella that the US has over South Korea is on the table of negotiations.

Trump, however, said he did not discuss the withdrawal of US troops from South Korea with Kim.

"We didn't discuss that, no. But we're not gonna play the war games. You know, I want

to stop the war games, I thought they were very provocative. But I also think they're very expensive," he said.

At his press conference in Singapore, Trump said that he would halt US military exercises in South Korea, something widely seen as a concession to Pyongyang as it has long claimed they are invasion rehearsals.

Describing the war games as very provocative and a drain on the economy, Trump has said that the US is not going to play war games: its military exercise with South Korea.

"I'm doing something that I've wanted to do from the beginning. We stopped playing those war games that cost us a fortune. You know, we're spending a fortune, every couple of months we're doing war games with South Korea, and I said, What's this costing? We're flying planes in from Guam, we're bombing empty mountains for practice," Trump said.

"I said I want to stop that and I will stop that, and I think it's very provocative," he said.

Trump said he has invited Kim to the White House, but before the visit he wants to see some real progress.

"I want the process to start. I want to see some real work going



## After US-N Korea summit, Shahbaz Sharif asks India to follow suit

**LAHORE, JUN 13 (PTI):** India and Pakistan should resume comprehensive peace talks, taking a cue from the historic Singapore summit between US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, PML-N chief Shehbaz Sharif has said.

In a rare statement on India, the brother of ousted Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said the yesterday's summit between Trump and Kim should set a good precedent for both the bickering neighbours to follow.

"Ever since the start of Korean War, the two nations have been at odds with one another - both threatening to use military force with their nuclear arsenals facing each other.

"If the United States and North Korea can return from the brink of a nuclear flashpoint, there is no reason why Pakistan and India cannot do the same, beginning with a dialogue on Kashmir," Shahbaz said in a series of tweets.

The leaders of the US and North Korea met in Singapore for a summit where Kim pledged to work towards the "complete denuclearisation" in return for security guarantees from Washington.

"It is time for comprehensive peace talks in our region. International community must focus on the peace process in Afghanistan. Dialogue between Pakistan and India over Kashmir should also resume so that the long-festering Kashmir

dispute is resolved in accordance with the UN resolutions," Shahbaz said.

Many political pundits in Pakistan believe that Nawaz's efforts to normalise ties with India was one of the major reasons behind his ouster as premier.

Shahbaz, who is a prime ministerial candidate from the ruling PML-N, asked India to leave the past behind and start afresh.

"The US and North Korea talks should be a role model for Pakistan and Indian. If they can return from their previous hostile positions of attacking each other, Pakistan and India can also resume composite dialogue," he said.

Shahbaz said if his party returned to power in the July 25 elections, it will promote peace in the region with a focus on Afghanistan, noting that peace in the war-torn country is "inextricably intertwined" with peace and security in Pakistan.

He also welcomed the initiatives mooted by the Afghan government and the Taliban for a ceasefire during Eid-ul-Fitr.

Terming it a positive first step towards promoting an Afghan-led Afghan-owned peace process, Shahbaz said the PML-N government had played a pivotal role in initiating steps for peace in Afghanistan, including hosting the first-ever direct, face-to-face talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban in Murree in July 2015.

## Indian student racially abused for defending hijab-clad woman in UK

**LONDON, JUN 13 (PTI):** A 28-year-old Indian-origin student in the UK has been racially attacked by a white man, shouting "Brexit, go back home" after the Briton made sexist remarks towards a hijab-clad woman, media reports said.

Rickesh Advani, a political science student at Cambridge University, confronted the man for his comments towards the woman, only to be hit with an outburst of racial abuse, Cambridge News reported.

Advani stood up to the man in a Cambridge hospital after a female patient bent over to put her bag down only to be told to "spread 'em" and to "get your t\*\*\* out." But he was then heard saying "no not you, love" to a woman wearing a hijab.

The shocking footage shows Advani being told to "pipe down", before going on to make the comment 'Brexit, go home' and after that he walked out the surgery and reported the abuse to police, it said.

"I was absolutely disgusted by what I had heard and couldn't believe that in 2018 people can be so bigoted. At the very first opportunity I told him to politely stop and hoped that would be the end of it," Advani said.

"Any reasonable human in that situation would have accepted his wrong but he became unnecessarily aggressive to me," Advani, who also runs a charity for homeless people, said.

None of the other patients in the surgery stood by him when he confronted the racist and sexist comments and Advani says he is disappointed by how they reacted.

"I was very shocked that I was the only one that stood up and said 'no this is not right'. Even when I asked someone to call the police, everyone just sat their and I hoped people would stick up for something so wrong," he said.



Italy's foreign ministry said it had summoned the French ambassador today amid a diplomatic spat between the two countries over the handling of a migrant crisis. Yesterday, French President Emmanuel Macron accused Italy of "irresponsibility" after the Rome government refused to open its ports to the NGO Aquarius ship carrying hundreds of migrants in the Mediterranean. Italy's new populist government was quick to respond to the accusations denouncing "hypocritical lessons" from countries like France on migrants. The 629 migrants saved by the Aquarius, run by French NGO SOS Mediterranee, were stuck on the overcrowded ship for over 30 hours as Italy and Malta bickered over who should take them before Spain offered to receive them in its port of Valencia. The French ambassador Christian Masset is due to be received at the Italian foreign ministry at 0800 GMT, according to a diplomatic source.

## How can a commando be so afraid to return to his country: Pak SC to Musharraf

**ISLAMABAD, JUN 13 (PTI):** Pakistan's Supreme Court today gave former military ruler Pervez Musharraf a deadline until tomorrow afternoon to present himself in the court in the lifetime disqualification case against him, taunting that how can a commando be so afraid to return to his country.

Chief Justice of Pakistan (CJP) Saqib Nisar, who is heading a three-judge bench hearing Musharraf's appeal against his 2013 disqualification by the Peshawar High Court, warned that if the former president does not show up in court by 2 pm tomorrow, a decision would be taken in the case according to law.

Last week, the apex court had allowed Musharraf, 74, to file nomination papers to contest the July 25 general elections on the condition that he would appear in person before the court on today in Lahore to attend the hearing in the case.

Although Musharraf's nomination papers for Chitral's NA-1 seat were submitted earlier this week, the former dictator did not appear in court today despite SC orders that his national identity card (CNIC) and passport were unblocked in order to facilitate his travel.

Expressing strong displeasure when Musharraf did not



turn up and told the court through his lawyer that he needed guarantees for security, justice Nisar said, "The Supreme Court is not bound to Musharraf's terms."

"We've already said that if Musharraf returns, he will be provided with security. We are not bound to provide a written guarantee."

"If Pervez Musharraf is a commando, he should show us by returning, instead of continuously parroting that he will return like a politician," he said.

"Why does Musharraf need protection, what is he so afraid of?" he said.

"How can a commando be

so afraid? Musharraf would say that he has evaded death many times but he was never afraid," he said.

When's Musharraf's lawyer Qamar Afzal informed the court that the former dictator is unwell, the chief justice said, "Come in an ambulance. He should at least come. Had he been a commando, he would have showed valour and come to the court."

The chief justice said that Musharraf who did not feel afraid when he was taking over the country in 1999, is now afraid of facing the courts.

Musharraf, the former Pakistan Army chief, began his military service in 1964 as a commando of the Northern Light Infantry. He also participated in the 1971 war as a company commander in a commando battalion.

When the lawyer said that Musharraf was suffering from Parkinson's disease, the chief justice said, "How will he show off his fist in the election if he has Parkinson's?"

"He needs to come back otherwise we won't allow the vetting of his nomination papers, he warned.

"Musharraf should face the Constitution, the law, the nation and the courts," he asserted.

The chief justice said Musharraf should return to the country and face the cases against him, which included a high treason case for suspending the Constitution and imposing emergency in 2007.

In 2013, Musharraf was declared ineligible to contest elections for life by the Peshawar High Court (PHC) in view of the 2009 judgement in which 2007 emergency was declared illegal.

In his appeal, Musharraf had pleaded before the Supreme Court to set aside the high court order, stating that in it he was condemned unheard without due process of law.

### Zipchu Shegu



The 49 days Zipchu Shegu of **Late Lham Dupla Singhi Lama** son of Late Kam Chezung Lama who left for his heavenly abode on **3rd May 2018 falls on 19th - 20th June 2018 (Tuesday - Wednesday)**. All families, relatives and friends are requested to join us in offering prayers for departed soul at our residence at **Sang Phelong, East Sikkim**. We also like to express our gratitude to all those who stood by us during our time of bereavement.

**Family members:- Phum Chung Doma Lharipa(wife), Sonam Lendup Lharipa(son), Rinzing Choden(daughter), Karma Chopel Lharipa(grandson), Pema Wangdi Lharipa & Norzang Lharipa.**  
**Ph no. 8670409110, 8170028292, 7797885087.**

### MISSING



Name: **Munni**  
Age: **19** years (aprox.)  
Complexion: **Fair**  
Missing from: **Kazitar, Namchi, South Sikkim since 6th June 2018 (Wednesday)**  
If seen please contact: **9647854249** or nearest police station.



BEYONCE, JAY-Z TICKETS GIVEN AWAY FOR FREE IN CAR PARK AS TOUR FLOPS

They have joined forces for their hotly anticipated On The Run II tour. But Beyonce and Jay-Z have been hit by claims they have given tickets away for free due to struggling to fill thousands of seats on their tour.

Music fans at their recent Glasgow concert reported they were handed free tickets for the show in a car park because of empty seats.

One wrote on Twitter: "If you are near Hampden Park go to the main parking lot they are giving out free tickets for the Beyoncé & Jay Z concert because of empty seats."

Tickets range in price from £51 to £475 for a VIP standing pass.

The theme of the tour — a follow up from their original joint run in 2014 — was 'This Is Real Love', an assured declaration that their marriage is now on Roc solid ground.

During the opening show of the On The Run II tour, the couple - who celebrated their 10th anniversary in April - appeared to reveal that they recently renewed their wedding vows.



Video footage broadcast during the concert at the Principality Stadium in Cardiff showed the pair dressed in white apparently exchanging vows — and it certainly wasn't from their ultra-private 2008 ceremony.

Hidden among the montage was a clip of the intimate setting, attended by one-year-old twins Rumi and Sir, as well as older sister, six-year-old Blue Ivy.

Beyonce and Jay Z recently celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary with little fanfare, similar to their ultra-private nuptials on April 4, 2008.

They married 10 years ago at Jay-Z's 13,500-sq.-ft. Manhattan penthouse. It was reportedly decorated with 70,000 Dendrobium orchids flown in from Thailand.

According to sources, it was "a very emotional and really spiritual" soirée attended by Destinys Child stars Kelly Rowland and Michelle Williams as well as formerly married stars Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin.

Their relationship had weathered rough waters, inevitably in full view of the world and summarized in their music.

First rumors of cracks began to

widen following the 2014 Met Gala, when now infamous footage leaked of an altercation between Beyonce's little sister Solange and Jay-Z.

Beyonce's monumental 2016 album Lemonade laid out all her insecurities about unfaithfulness, lamenting "what a wicked way to treat the girl that loves you", and introducing the phantom of Becky With The Good Hair.

Meanwhile Jay-Z's next record 4:44 — dubbed 'the apology album' — seen him admit to womanizing, and realizing it almost cost him his family.

"I'll f\*\*k up a good thing if you let me / Let me alone, Becky / A man that don't take care his family can't be rich," he rapped on Family Feud.

But if the couple's sizzling chemistry on stage was anything to go by, Jay and Bey are a team once again.

The On The Run II tour next heads through England, The Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Poland, Italy, Spain and France, before returning to the US and Canada from July to October.



"1000% win against Donald Trump in the race to Presidency in 2020": Alec Baldwin

He may have his hands full as a father-of-five but that didn't stop Alec Baldwin, 60, from claiming he would "1000 percent" defeat Donald Trump, 71, if he ran for President in 2020.

After playing a parody version of the US leader on Saturday Night Live, he revealed on Monday that he was confident he'd beat the controversial figure head in a race to the White House.

"If I ran, I would win," he told Howard Stern. "I 1000 percent would win. It would be the funniest, most exciting, craziest campaign."

And it seems as though Alec's confession was only talk, admitting he wouldn't want the role of a President as he'd miss crucial time with his family.

"I don't want to miss summer - boy would I miss summer with my kids," he reasoned.

And although the Boss Baby actor isn't keen on running himself, he said he had a good feeling about the candidates in the next election.

"Somebody great is going to come up, I hope," he said on the SiriusXM show.

"I'd love to run for that kind of position to just have things be very common sense. There are so many things that this country needs to do that are so obvious."

And Alec isn't the only celebrity who has been speculated as a possible Presidential candidate.

Both Kanye West and Oprah Winfrey have been rumoured to be involved in the 2020 political campaign.

However, the talkshow queen recently denied she was planning on running - revealing she would only step up if she was given a clear sign from God.

"I went into prayer. 'God, if you think I'm supposed to run, you gotta tell me, and it has to be so clear that not even I can miss it'. And haven't gotten that," she told People.

Avengers: Infinity War joins USD 2 billion club!



Marvel's smash-hit superhero ensemble film "Avengers: Infinity War" has crossed the USD two billion mark at the global box-office.

The film, which brings together the largest gathering of superheroes, achieved the milestone on 48th day of its release, Disney said in a statement.

The global haul of "Infinity War" currently stands at USD 2.002 billion, which includes USD 656.1 million in North America and USD 1.346 billion from other territories.

It is the fourth film to achieve the feat and follows "Avatar" [USD 2.788 billion], "Titanic" [USD 2.188 billion] and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" [USD 2.068 billion].

In the US, the Anthony and Joe Russo-directed film amassed USD 257.7 million in its opening weekend and held the number one spot for three consecutive weeks.

In China, the film raked in a total USD 370 million and is the third-biggest Western film of all time.

"Avengers: Infinity War" featured Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Mark Ruffalo, Scarlett Johansson, Chris Hemsworth, Josh Brolin, Anthony Mackie, Paul Bettany, Elizabeth Olsen, Chadwick Boseman, Sebastian Stan, Don Cheadle, Chris Pratt, Dave Bautista, Zoe Saldana, Pom Klementieff, Benedict Cumberbatch, Benedict Wong, Tom Holland, among others.

Jackie Chan and John Cena Team Up For New Action-Thriller 'Project X'!

Here's something with a heck of a lot of potential: legendary action star Jackie Chan and wrestler-turned-surprisingly-funny-actor John Cena are teaming for a new action-thriller called Project X.

Cena is replacing Sylvester Stallone, who was originally set to co-star with Chan. The film focuses on an attempt to extract oil workers from "a China-run oil refinery in the Middle East."

Back in the '90s, a team-up



movie starring Jackie Chan and Sylvester Stallone would've been one of the coolest things ever. But this isn't the '90s anymore, folks, and while a Stallone/Chan tag-team flick would still be pretty cool, a Jackie Chan/John Cena movie sounds appealing as well. Stallone and Chan were originally

set to appear together in an action-thriller tentatively titled Project X, but now THR reveals that Cena is taking Stallone's place.

The film focuses on "a Chinese private security contractor [Chan] who is called in to extract the oil workers when a China-run oil refinery in the Middle East is attacked. When he learns that the attackers' real plan is to steal a fortune in oil, he teams up with an American — a former Marine played by John Cena- to stop them."



DRESSED TO THE NINES! Naomi Campbell wows in glam glitter gown and feathered cape as she walks the red carpet for the Fragrance Foundation Awards in NYC.

THE DAY AHEAD

**ARIES:** You love meeting people others might consider eccentric. You can't help it. You're simply attracted to them. You will probably cross the path of one of these people today, Aries. But you might have a feeling of déjà vu. As strange as it may seem, it's possible that this person will be no one but you.

**TAURUS:** You have always tried to build up your health using traditional methods, and you take great care of yourself. But this morning you might feel a little curious. Indeed, there are so many different courses of treatment available. Why not inquire about alternative forms of medicine? You could learn a great deal today and benefit your health in the process.

**GEMINI:** Sometimes, it's amazing to see how your relationships can

spin so easily out of control, Gemini. Today you may have to deal with a lot of tension within your group. You'll almost feel as if no one understands the situation. You just need to keep your cool. Why not try to solve any outstanding issues with your relatives? Stay calm and things will be OK.

**CANCER:** You sometimes have difficulty making up your mind. You don't always know exactly what you want. Today, Cancer, you'll be at peace with yourself. If you need to make an important decision concerning your private life, you'll be able to do it. But if you find yourself confronted by a big decision, you should take the time to think about it. You will decide once you have more clarity.

**LEO:** Sometimes we all feel a little

lost, Leo. We often want to move mountains and use all our energy and enthusiasm to try to do so. But a few moments later we could feel that all efforts have been in vain. It pays to remember one of the hard facts of life - take nothing for granted. You shouldn't let that keep you from trying to make changes to things around you. Be vigilant.

**VIRGO:** You have a natural ability to accomplish a great deal rather easily, Virgo. But today you may feel snowed under with projects. Things around you might be moving quickly, and perhaps you're having difficulty dealing with it all. For once, try to take it easy. You don't need to struggle all the time in order to be accepted by the world. Lighten up!

**LIBRA:** Your day has finally come,

Libra. You have your own vision of life and you like sharing it with others. You're far from thinking that you're any sort of new messiah, but you feel the need to talk to children or young people about your views. Today, you'll be able to communicate clearly with the people around you and they'll be receptive to your ideas.

**SCORPIO:** Today you'll have the strange feeling that something is floating in the air. The time is right to try to understand the different needs of your family circle. There will be a lot of movement around you, Scorpio, so you should feel free to step back. Your relatives will understand that you need more space in order to gain perspective on the situation.

**SAGITTARIUS:** As the dawn

of another quiet and peaceful day appears, Sagittarius, you will be in the best disposition to observe and appreciate the lightness of things. Life can seem so beautiful on some days. You will benefit from this state of mind, because you'll be able to meditate. But be careful not to start reminiscing about sad memories. Keep things light and calm.

**CAPRICORN:** You will find a clean page on the agenda today, Capricorn. You should try to think only about yourself. This will allow you to meditate about your life and be at peace with yourself. Life will seem much simpler. This frame of mind will enable you to solve issues with some of your personal ties, if so you desire. Take advantage of this energy to calm your mind and your life.

**AQUARIUS:** You will wake up today on cloud nine, Aquarius. Your morale is at a peak. You will feel totally free and be able to clearly perceive the essentials of life. You have the perfect opportunity to share this gift from the stars with your loved ones. Even after this aspect has passed, you may have trouble getting your feet back on the ground. Don't rush it.

**PISCES:** The astral energy will have you reminiscing all day long over childhood memories, Pisces. These memories will take you to the houses and places where you were raised and where your personality and character were formed. Many memories will surface - happy, melancholy, and everything in between. You should probably seize this opportunity to write them down.