

U.S. Dismisses Pakistani Assertion that American Missiles Hit Afghan Refugees

ISLAMABAD - The United States on Thursday dismissed a Pakistani allegation that an American drone had fired missiles at an Afghan refugee camp in Kurram district, in the lawless regions bordering Afghanistan.

At the same time, Pakistani security officials who sought anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the information said the drone strike had killed two members of the militant Haqqani network, which is allied with the Afghan Taliban.

Although allies in the war against Islamist militants, the two countries are currently at loggerheads after Washington suspended nearly \$2 billion of aid, accusing Islamabad of supporting Taliban militants wreaking havoc in Afghanistan.

"The claim in an MFA (Ministry of Foreign Affairs) statement yesterday that U.S. forces struck an Afghan refugee camp in Kurram Agency yesterday is false," a U.S. embassy spokesman in Islamabad said in a statement.

It did not deny ...*(More on P4)...(14)*



New Retirement Draft Law 'Affects Morale of Security Forces'

KABUL - The new draft law requires the approval of Meshrano Jirga, Upper House of Parliament, to be put into practice.

Some members of Meshrano Jirga, the Upper House of Parliament, on



Friday said the approval of the new retirement-age draft law for security forces by the Wolesi Jirga, the Lower House of Parliament, has affected the morale of army generals and other security force members in the fight against enemies.

The new draft law requires the approval of the Upper House to be put into practice.

Head of security and defense commission of Meshrano Jirga, Hashim Alokozay, said the retirement-age draft law is one of the reasons behind an increase in casualties among security force members in the fight against insurgents.

"This draft law is not in favor of Afghanistan. It will push the experienced officers to stay at home. In fact, this is Americans' law as they want to remove the former mujahedeen commanders and those who have links with former parties such as Khalq and Parcham from the Afghan National Army's structure," said Alokozay.

Based on the draft law, colonels will retire at age of 54, major generals at age of 58, lieutenant generals at age of 60 and generals will retire at age of 62.

Alokozay said they have increased the retirement ages by two years at the senate and that these changes will be approved by a joint committee from the parliament and the senate. ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

MoI to Share Results of Hotel Attack Probe today

KABUL - Questions raised over which ministry decided to transfer responsibility of security of Intercontinental Hotel to a private security company.

Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior (MoI) on Thursday said it has wrapped up its investigation into Saturday's deadly rampage by Taliban insurgents on the Intercontinental Hotel in Kabul over the weekend and that the final report will be shared with the public on Saturday.

Meanwhile the hotel management has said that the security of the



hotel had been handed over to a private company at the request of the ministry of interior and the national Security Council. However, the interior ministry has rejected this claim. ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Explosion Targets Police Vehicle in Kandahar

KANDAHAR - Kandahar police chief said the explosion occurred in Aino Mina Township in PD11 of Kandahar City.

An explosion targeted a police vehicle in Kandahar province on Friday evening, Kandahar Police Chief Gen. Abdul Raziq confirmed.

Raziq said the explosion happened in Aino Mina Township in PD11 of Kandahar City. He said one police force member was killed and three policemen and a civilian were wounded in the explosion.

He told TOLONews that the



explosion was as a result of suicide attack.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. *(Tolonews)*

German Judge Removes Cross during Trial of Afghan Migrant, Faces Backlash

BELRIN - A Bavarian judge who ordered the crucifix to be removed from the courtroom during the trial of an Afghan migrant has faced a backlash. The defendant says he does not mind being tried under the cross.

Klaus-Juergen Schmid, a judge in the Bavarian town of Miesbach, has ordered a crucifix to be removed from the courtroom during the trial of a 21-year-old Afghan asylum-seeker accused of making death threats to another Afghan who converted to Christianity.

Initially reported last week, the story received wider coverage later with people on social media weighing in. Shortly after

the case was made public, Schmid began receiving "angry emails" accusing him of removing a symbol of Germany's "cultural and religious sovereignty."

"The blood shed by the hands of the defendant will be partly due to you," the judge quoted one of the comments as saying. This is despite the judge's claim that he imposed the maximum penalty on the defendant.

"I can't believe it," one Facebook user, Otti Friedrich, wrote. "The judge just has to realize where he lives, in a Christian country? Or did I miss something?"

Another person said: ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Blood Donation Campaign Held To Support ANDSF

KABUL - Members of Watan Party of Afghanistan on Friday donated blood to Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), calling on the people to stay united and have sympathy with each other.

Those who took part in the campaign said all the people have an obligation to stay united and help the country to come out of the current crisis.

"We have come here to donate blood to those soldiers who are fighting the countries' enemies," Farooq, member of Watan party said. "The color of Pashtun, Hazara, Tajik and ...*(More on P4)...(17)*



Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Aries An animated discussion could suddenly explode into a public battle of wills today as you run through a wide gamut of emotions. Although you may grow increasingly irritated with someone else, your annoyance might stem from something you want to say but don't have the courage to share.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Taurus Adopting a strategic view of your life can be extremely important now, especially if considerations of furthering your education conflict with more immediate concerns. Although you may be fully aware of the steps you must take to get ahead, it's tempting to withdraw into safer territory today.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Gemini You may need an intellectual fire extinguisher to subdue a red-hot argument that erupts out of the blue and then blazes through a conversation. Your life might become temporarily chaotic when an electrifying Mercury-Uranus square stimulates strange inspirations and provokes explosive outbursts. Calming your agitated nervous system is easy if you concentrate on discerning the difference

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Cancer The fast pace of communication is so exciting today that success seems within reach. Although you may be confident enough to take a risk at work if you see a chance to get ahead, the results of your impulsive actions may not live up to your expectations. In fact, you could be overwhelmed with so much new information that you're at a loss to do anything with it.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Leo You can see a wide variety of amazing possibilities ahead as you imagine what's next in your life. However, circumstances you can't change right away could bother you. Fortunately, clever Mercury forms a shocking square to wild Uranus, triggering thoughts about brilliant escape routes out of an uncomfortable situation.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

Virgo Words crackle like lightning today as one brilliant idea sparks another again and again. A simple statement could trigger an explosion of excitement as loose-lipped Mercury lets a secret slip into a conversation. Someone's surprise at your disclosure could put an awkward stop to your creative flow. A more helpful approach is to say less and listen more.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Libra Bridging the gap between what you have and what you want is tricky business. Your desire to make progress at work stresses domestic conditions when unpredictable Uranus squares communicator Mercury in ambitious Capricorn. Downplaying your focus on the outer world may be useful, so you can take care of personal business and attend to family matters.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Scorpio Although you have something important to get off your chest today, angrily blurting out the truth won't properly get your message across. However, carefully thinking about what you want to say and how you wish to convey your feelings enables you to effectively make your point while expressive Mercury squares uncontainable Uranus.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

Sagittarius Complications emerge due to a mental bandwidth overload today. You may miss important details in a memo or in a conversation because you're so distracted by all the data that's flying your way. Normally, you like anything that expands your mind and widens your horizons. Unfortunately, too much information too fast can shock your system and send you into an emotional tailspin now.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

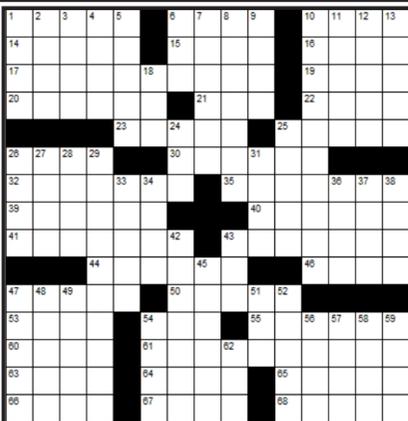
Capricorn Your brain lights up with original ideas when trickster Mercury in your 1st House of Self squares unorthodox Uranus. However, your unusually brusque communication style can provoke an argument today. Unfortunately, it's all too easy to waste time and energy trying to prove that you're right.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

Aquarius A casual conversation with a friend can take a sudden turn when something you hear stimulates feelings you thought were permanently buried. Your recollection of long-forgotten information may cause you to unexpectedly change your mind as a brilliant but volatile Mercury-Uranus square rattles your 12th House of Destiny.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Pisces Your attention may be pulled in so many directions today that it's wise to set priorities before responding to any new information. High-frequency thoughts are inspired by each fascinating story you hear, but this erratic mental process is better for getting sudden hits of intuition than for methodical problem-solving. Conversations are likely to be interrupted and there's a sense of urgency that can wear on your nerves.



Across

1. Bends, 6. Clothing, 10. Decant, 14. Agitated, 15. Region, 16. Sea eagle, 17. Link, 19. Fully developed, 20. Move unsteadily, 21. Before, poetically, 22. Footnote note, 23. Fastening, 25. Barbed, 26. Backside, 30. Sew, 32. A 19th century art movement, 35. Golden, 39. Series of connected ideas, 40. College treasurer, 41. Anagram of "Carpets", 43. Stays behind, 44. Threefold, 46. Not first, 47. Snow house, 50. Yokels, 53. French for "Black", 54. Hit on the head, 55. Unusual person, 60. Constellation bear, 61. Beekeeping, 63. Awestruck, 64. ___ fide, 65. A tart fruit, 66. If not, 67. Utilized, 68. All tucked out,

Down

1. Proven information, 2. Double-reed woodwind, 3. Solitary, 4. Effort, 5. Mixture of rain and snow, 6. Make lace, 7. The far east, 8. Black Sea republic, 9. Rational, 10. The outer area, 11. Small African antelope, 12. Remove the pins from, 13. Slender, 18. Weep, 24. Belief, 25. Rugby formation, 26. Circle fragments, 27. Harvest, 28. Satisfy, 29. Voters, 31. Pipe, 33. Foreword, 34. Indian dress, 36. Largest continent, 37. Bronzes, 38. At one time (archaic), 42. Fitting, 43. Confederate soldier, 45. Wolf-like, 47. Accustom, 48. Small goat antelope, 49. Speech defects, 51. Australian flightless bird, 52. Thresholds, 54. Hindu Mr., 56. Stair, 57. Be furious, 58. Weightlifters pump this, 59. Canvas dwelling, 62. Knave,

Yesterday's Solution

ACRIE SLEDS RINK
POLI PILES ANON
AMALGAMATE INTO
REC URINE ASKEW
ATHLETIC RAMIE
ALLE GOLLINES
SLICE ENEMA SPIT
KITH KILNIS SRE
IRE BUDGET STREP
TARGETED TAU
ALDER LAUNDER
BETASO RAVIN EIU
BERTS BOUNDARIES
EGOS OWNER ACNE
PONI ANTISY WEIS

alien, allegations, angle ashore, assist, brass check, comment, cream crumb, drake, drill, energy event island, magic malice, music, number resign, reveal, sere, shame, shred, slate, solitary, strange

