

OIC FM's Suggest Working Group to Check Militant Attacks

KABUL - Following a botched missile strike on Makkah, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has recommended the creation of a working group to check militant attacks.

According to the Saudi Press Agency, the recommendation came at a meeting of foreign ministers from OIC member states. The working group of members of the Executive Committee will consider taking steps to ensure such heinous attacks are do not recur.

It will also send a message from the OIC Executive Committee



to the United Nations to adopt the necessary international procedures to ensure the non-recurrence of such outrageous attacks on Makkah.

The ministers renewed OIC's commitment to strengthening unity and solidarity to safeguard international peace and achieve prosperity within the member states in the spirit of Islamic teachings.

The meeting denounced as vicious the attack from Huthi and Saleh militiamen, who fired a ballistic missile at Makkah on the 27th of October. (Pajhwok)

Legal, Hadith Experts Graduate from Sharan Seminary



SHARAN - Dozens of religious scholars, including legal experts and Hadith researchers, have graduated from a religious school in Sharan, the capital of southeastern Paktika province.

The graduates were awarded certificates at a ceremony at Misbahul Uloom Madrassa in Mohammdakhel area on the outskirts of Sharan late on Thursday.

Scholars from Kabul, Kandahar, Ghazni, Paktia, Logar, Maidan Wardak and Paktika participated in the event, which was attended by thousands of people.

Speakers urged the government and people to pay heed to the growth and expansion of seminaries.

Mohammad Amin Mujaddidi, a religious scholar from Kabul, called the large number of participants in the ceremony an indication of people's love of the religion and religious schools.

About the ongoing war, he said: "Outsiders have been in control of our destiny over the years. Each one of them has been stoking the flames of war in their petty personal interest..."

"Outsiders come here to mediate between the president and the chief executive. Governance is based on outsiders' whims and caprices. Subsequently, the government's credibility has declined," he claimed.

Another scholar from Sharan, Pir Syed Sabir Shah Sahibzada, commented. (Xinhua)

Taliban Shadow Governor, 10 Others Killed in Saripul

KABUL - Eleven militants including a Taliban shadow governor for northern Saripul province have been killed over the past 24 hours, Ministry of Interior said in a statement released on Thursday.

"Crackdown against enemies which launched Wednesday around Saripul provincial capital the Saripul city has left 11 rebels dead, including Mawlawi Najibullah nickname Attaulah the shadow governor of Taliban for the province," the statement added.

Mawlawi Najibullah was a notorious commander of Taliban militants who had organized subversive activities and terrorist attacks against government forces in Saripul province, the statement said. Taliban militants haven't commented. (Xinhua)

25 Bangladeshis Stranded at Afghanistan Factory Return Home

DHAKA - 25 Bangladeshis who were stranded at an Afghanistan factory for about a year have returned home.

Their repatriation became possible through the interventions of the Bangladesh embassy in Afghanistan and the International Organization for Migration (IoM).

Bangladesh's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a statement Thursday said here that the Bangladeshis on a flight of Flydubai reached the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on Thursday



for over 10 months.

The Bangladeshis reportedly left the country for Afghanistan in October last year illegally under the arrangement of an Indian national who pledged them lucrative salaries. (Xinhua)

Taliban Kill 8 Policemen in Farah: Official

FARAH CITY - An Afghan official says a Taliban attack in the country's western Farah province has killed at least eight police officers.

Mohammad Naser Mehri, spokesman for the provincial governor in Farah, says the attack happened around midnight on Thursday in the Bakwa district, when a police convoy came under attack. He says Taliban insurgents ambushed the convoy from different directions, killing the policemen. Mehri says the attack was repelled when reinforcement reached the scene.

Taliban spokesman, Qari Yusuf Ahmadi claimed responsibility for the attack in Farah. Ahmadi says Taliban fighters seized much weapons and ammunitions from the convoy they attacked. The Taliban have intensified attacks on... (More on P4)... (16)

Analysts See Growing Russo-American Rivalry in Afghanistan

KABUL - Some political experts believe the intensifying rivalry between the United States of America (USA) and the Russian Federation could push the war-torn country into a new political turmoil.

They suggest the Afghan government maintain friendly relations with the two world powers and other regional countries. They called for the Kabul administration to avoid disturbing the regional power Afghanistan may not become a ground for rivalries

among Washington, Moscow, New Delhi, Islamabad, Tehran and Riyadh if relations with these countries maintained in a proper and responsible manner, they say.

Najib Paikan, a political commentator, said Russia had been in search of more influence and greater say in Afghanistan since the issue of US and NATO withdrawal had been raised. A powerful country and neighbour of Afghanistan, Russia should play a key role in shaping Afghan

politics and other regional issues, he suggested.

"Since 2014, visits by Russian officials to Afghanistan have increased. Afghan security and drug issues were discussed at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Conference. Russian is in a bid to regain its lost status and create a bipolar world."

According to Paikan, Moscow has been in a push to med its relationship with Afghanistan. Russian officials had lately evinced an... (More on P4)... (18)

A Dozen Insurgents, 7 Police Killed in Andar Firefights

GHAZNI CITY - A dozen Taliban fighters and seven policemen have been killed during clashes in the Andar district of southern Ghazni province, a senior police officer said on Friday.

The insurgents staged group attacks in Dabal and Mirzazar areas of the districts on Thursday night, the provincial police chief told Pajhwok Afghan News.

Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel said the rebels wearing Afghan National Army (ANA) uniforms



clashed with police in the villages. Twelve militants were killed and six others injured.

He added four Public Order Police personnel were also killed and six others wounded in the firefights.

The security forces seized a... (More on P4)... (19)

7 Militants Eliminated, 10 Wounded in Baraki Bark Clash

PUL-I-ALAM - Militants have suffered at least 17 casualties during a firefight with security forces in the Baraki Barak district of central Logar province, local officials said on Friday.

The overnight clash was triggered by an insurgent attack on the security personnel, who were on their way to the Shah Mazar area of district, the governor's spokesman said.

Salim Saleh told Pajhwok Afghan News the security forces wanted to take away an Interior Ministry helicopter that made an emergency landing in the area three days back.

Seven fighters were killed and 10 others wounded in the engagement that caused security officials no harm, the spokesman said, adding the chapter was removed from the site.

Resident Ziauddin said the village remained under siege for three consecutive days, with security forces searching suspected houses. The clash resulted in casualties on both sides, he added.

However, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid denied the fighters had suffered any casualties. Instead, he claimed, heavy losses were inflicted on the security forces. (Pajhwok)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Deeply rooted passions fuel your desire to connect with someone you love today. However, it may be tricky to articulate exactly what you want; you could miss your opportunity if you can't put your thoughts into words right now. But be wary of fabricating an emotional pipe dream because you might end up fooling yourself more than anyone else.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

Contradictions abound today, making it exceptionally difficult to find your way as you drift through uncharted waters. Logical Mercury's square to indefinite Neptune widens the gulf between your ideals and the practical world in which you must exist. No matter what happens now, open your mind to imagine new goals, even if your actions are currently restrained.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Explaining your thought process can be particularly problematic today, especially if you're talking with a pragmatic person who wants you to deal strictly in numbers and facts. However, imagination is at the forefront of your world as psychic images and fleeting impressions flood your mind. If your creative ideas aren't given an enthusiastic reception now, hold onto them until someone arrives who is capable of understanding your bold vision.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

It's easy to misread a situation today and accept responsibility for more than you can handle. Mental Mercury on its journey through farseeing Sagittarius squares illusory Neptune, inspiring you to make grandiose promises that you struggle to keep. You are itching to speak, even if you're unsure of your intentions.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

Your optimism about a creative project may be off the charts today, but you could be overstating your position simply to make your point. You might confuse your co-workers if you sound more certain than you actually are now. But it's not your responsibility to manage everyone else's expectations.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

A small difference of opinion can balloon into a major disagreement today. Unfortunately, the communication planet's square to fantasy-prone Neptune promotes exaggeration when feelings are presented as facts. Nevertheless, you're able to keep your head in the clouds if your feet are solidly planted back on earth. Warren Buffett said, "I don't look to jump over seven-foot bars; I look around for one-foot bars that I can step over."

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

Make sure you stick to the facts today because cerebral Mercury's confident square with confusing Neptune lures you into the least certain realms of your imagination. Unfortunately, your unbridled enthusiasm can trick you as well as others. Your sense of perception might be warped and you won't even know it until you check out your conclusions with someone you trust.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

Your stories might have very little in common with reality today, yet you could go on denying that something is amiss. However, your outlook on life is distorted by fantasy while Mercury the Winged Messenger flies through adventurous Sagittarius and squares blurry Neptune.

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

You could lose your temper today if you believe that someone recently undermined your efforts. However, it's nearly impossible to prove that others don't have your best interests at heart. Thankfully, the pieces begin to fall into place when a close friend steps forward to help you see the current situation in a more positive light. Finally, you gain the motivation to transform lingering fear of the unknown into trust in the cosmos.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

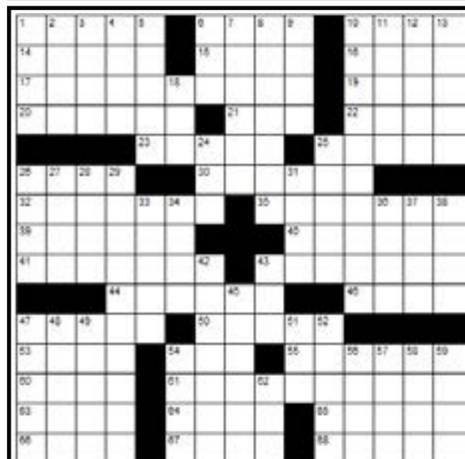
Someone may awaken you to the inspirational potential of your imagination when communicator Mercury in your 12th House of Soul Consciousness squares illusory Neptune. You're more curious now about all aspects of metaphysics, even if you're not usually focused on spiritual matters. Give your mind permission to roam through unfamiliar territory.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

No matter what kind of action you take now, it either feels like you aren't doing enough or like you're doing too much. It's nearly impossible to know the amount of pressure to apply to influence reality in your favor. Oddly, you might have trouble getting your bearings but there's no reason to be overly concerned. The outcome of even the simplest conversation is unpredictable today.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

Discriminating between wishful thinking and realistic possibilities is the most important task before you now. Your judgment is blurred by your own dreams as a magical mystical weekend starts off with an enchanted evening. Don't make any major commitments or take what you hear today too seriously. Promises made in the heat of the moment may not stick long enough to matter in the long run.



Across

1. Chimes, 6. Overtake, 10. An escape of water, 14. Dimwit, 15. Modify, 16. Relating to aircraft, 17. Assemble, 19. Poop, 20. Vomiting, 21. Some people chew this, 22. Employ, 23. Courtyards, 25. Cause to happen, 26. Weight to be borne, 30. ___ public, 32. Memory loss, 35. A Christian recluse, 39. Trader, 40. Breathes noisily during sleep, 41. Invigorate, 43. A man's high tasseled boot, 44. Next to, 46. Being, 47. Less hazardous, 50. Speedy, 53. A purring sound, 54. Avenue (abbrev.), 55. Emissary, 60. Murres, 61. Wildlife warden, 63. A mooring post, 64. Dwarf buffalo, 65. Vermin, 66. Dull pain, 67. Deliver a tirade, 68. Shooting sport.

Down

1. A pale blue pigment, 2. Anagram of "Dome", 3. Connects two points, 4. Records, 5. Stripes, 6. Dowel, 7. Slowly, to a conductor, 8. Place, 9. Flower stalk, 10. Sorrowful, 11. Creepy, 12. A kind of macaw, 13. 1/100th of a ruble, 18. Eastern Standard Time, 24. Ribonucleic acid, 25. Small songbirds, 26. Stow, as cargo, 27. Portent, 28. A Freudian stage, 29. Careful, 31. Backside, 33. Cut, 34. Angers, 36. Colored part of an eye, 37. Orange pekoe, 38. Feudal worker, 42. Enlightenment, 43. Cool, once, 45. An evil supernatural being, 47. Aqualung, 48. Golden, 49. A woody place, 51. Type, 52. Oceans, 54. Food thickener, 56. Eccentric person, 57. Church alcove, 58. French for "Head".

Yesterday's Solution



ahead, ales, automobile, backwards, bacon, bale, banjo, bird, catch, cheese, colt, control, create, dives, dollar, dominate, equal, erase, every, fries, harder, hoed, lever, motion, pivot, point, politics, position, really, right, separate, spark, stand, taste, teal.

