

In the Name of Allâh, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Friday, 21 January is the First of Days of the `Îd of Sacrifice

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Based upon the astronomical calculations, the First of days of the month Dhû-l-hijja of this year will fall upon Wednesday, 12 January 2005 AD by the will of Allâh, therefore the first of days of the `Îd of Sacrifice is Friday, 21 January. The geocentric conjunction of the month Dhû-l-hijja will happen on Monday, 10 January at 12:03 o'clock UT, and sighting of the crescent on Monday, 10 January will be impossible from all states of the Islamic world, as the moon will set before sunset. In the city Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, the moon will set 5 minutes before sunset, in Abû Zaby it will set 8 minutes before, in the city Makka al-Mukarrama the moon will set 3 minutes before sunset, in the city `Ammân it will set 9 minutes before, in Cairo it will set 7 minutes before, and in Rabât the moon will set 3 minutes before sunset. As the moonset on Monday will be before sunset in all states of the Islamic world, this confirms the impossibility of Tuesday being the First of days of the month Dhû-l-hijja, or Thursday being the First of days of the `Îd of Sacrifice.

On Tuesday, 11 January 2005 a sighting of the crescent by naked eyes can be easily expected from nearly all states of the Islamic world, and based upon sighting of the crescent, Wednesday, 12 January has to be the First of days of the month Dhû-l-hijja, and therefore, Friday, 21 January is the First of days of the `Îd of Sacrifice. It has to be mentioned that the crescent will be big and very prominent after sunset on Wednesday. This will cause some people to doubt whether the correct begin of the month Dhû-l-hijja should have been on Tuesday, but it is impossible that Tuesday is the First of days of the month Dhû-l-hijja, because moonset on Monday is before sunset. In general, it is never possible to use the shape of the crescent for gaining a sure knowledge about the beginning of a hijric month.

The Arab Union for Astronomy and Space Sciences likes to call upon the people interested in astronomy to participate in the observation of the crescent of the month Dhû-l-hijja on Tuesday, and to report their results to the Union, because since five years the Union publishes every month the results of observation of the crescent, and this is done on the Internet at the address <http://www.jas.org.jo/icop.html>.

Translation: Ahmad Kaufmann – ICOP Member – Germany