



Afghan Taliban Bans WHO and Red Cross Work Amid Vaccination Drive

KABUL - The Afghan Taliban have banned the World Health Organization and the Red Cross from operating in areas under their control until further notice, a spokesman said on Thursday, citing unspecified "suspicious" actions during vaccination campaigns.

The WHO is carrying out a vaccination campaign in Afghanistan, one of the last countries in the world where polio is still endemic.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said fighting across Afghanistan had created a "complex situation" and some charitable organizations including the WHO and the Red Cross were not operating in accordance with the situation.

"They have not stuck to the commitments they had with Islamic Emirates, and they are acting suspiciously during vaccination campaigns," he said, providing no details.

Other aid groups were free to continue operations, he said.

The Red Cross says it tries to build relationships with all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan, where it has worked for more than 30 years.

Sanela Bajrambasic, spokeswoman for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva, said the organization was seeking clarification but remained committed to Afghanistan.

"What we can say at this point is that we have seen the same statement on their website and we will be seeking to engage bilaterally with Taliban on it," she said, adding that people in Afghanistan were its main concern.

"They continuously bear the brunt of hostilities, and there is the clear need for humanitarian assistance, as well as for a renewal of commitment of all parties to make it happen."

There was no immediate comment from the WHO. (Reuters)

Taliban Have Ignored the Will of the People: Miller



KABUL - Hours after Taliban announced their so-called spring offensive, a spokesman of the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, Dave Butler, said the coalition forces will continue to support the Afghan forces in the fight against the Taliban as the group has chosen violence despite a "tremendous" opportunity for

peace. "The Taliban made an announcement this morning that they choose violence over peace. We assemble the Resolute Support leadership together and Gen. Miller said the Taliban have made it clear that they have ignored the will of the people and have guaranteed more violence," Butler said. "We have a tremendous opportunity for peace. We

are closer to peace than we ever have been in the past 40 years." "We will support the Afghan security forces as they fight to protect the people, we will support the Afghan security forces as they fight the Taliban," he said. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defense in a statement said the offensive has been ... (More on P4)...(7)



Bala Murghab 'Cleared of Taliban' after 10 Days of Clashes

KABUL - Afghan forces have retaken main parts of Bala Murghab district in Badghis province, in the northwest of Afghanistan, almost after 10 days of heavy clashes against the Taliban, which displaced thousands of families and left dozens of soldiers dead and wounded.

"Bala Murghab is cleared of Taliban 'terrorists,'" the Ministry of Defense said in a tweet on Thursday evening. "Afghan National Defense and Security Forces broke the Taliban's final resistance and are in full control in Bala Murghab."

Badghis Governor Abdul Ghafoor Malikzai confirmed that the special units of the Afghan Army and Police have entered Bala Murghab and that militants have been pushed back.

He said that the Taliban could not resist against Afghan security ... (More on P4)...(8)

Afghanistan's Post Office Begins Online Services



KABUL - The country's postal services have been "partially digitalized" as the offices of the Afghan Post, the national postal organization in Afghanistan, were connected to the fiber optic network through a one-year project, the Communication and Information Technology Minister Shahzad Aryubi said at

a ceremony on Thursday. He said this phase of the project has cost \$900,000 and that other phases will also be implemented through which the provincial offices will be connected to the fiber optic network. "After this, people can track their posts online. ... (More on P4)...(9)

Activists Collect 10,000 Textbooks in First Ever Social Campaign



KABUL - A group of 1,000 young activists has launched a large textbooks collection campaign in 21 provinces of Afghanistan, including Kabul, to help students in rural parts of the country to whom the Ministry of Education has

reportedly failed to provide textbooks. In this campaign, which started on March 8 and will continue for another 10 days, the campaigners collect textbooks in their offices in Kabul ... (More on P4)...(10)

Outlook Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 22-Apr.20)

Today's planetary energies may put spiritual matters in your mind, Aries. You may not be thinking in religious terms. Your focus is likely to be on the state of humanity and what you can do to help others less fortunate. Make some calls or do some research online. Find out how you can get involved.

Taurus (Apr.21-May 20)

You may be thinking about political or social matters today, Taurus, specifically, the deterioration of the planet. You may be worried about your future and that of your children. You might try to bring up the subject at a social gathering. Someone you meet there is bound to teach you something about the issue.

Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Today is going to present not only a continuation but also an intensification of the strong energies that have been pushing you toward self-discovery. If you've put up some resistance, you're going to be uncomfortable. Try to participate in the task. Question yourself. Why do you say and do certain things? If you're honest, the rewards will outweigh the growing pains.

Cancer (June 21-July 20)

Today you should be asking yourself a lot of important questions, Cancer. The Universe is pushing you on your journey of self-discovery. If you resist, you aren't going to be in a very good mood. You might want to facilitate this period with yoga or meditation. You may start a dream journal. Try to listen to yourself intuitively.

Leo (July 21-Aug. 21)

If you're feeling unappreciated by the people around you, Leo, try going somewhere else. Begging for attention is unattractive, and so is strutting around trying to distract everyone with your gorgeous physique or charming wit. Go where you know you're appreciated, where your stories will make people laugh, where you feel at home.

Virgo (Aug. 22-Sep 22)

You could be in an uncomfortable situation with friends today, Virgo. There may be gossip going around about a mutual friend and you will be tempted to join in. Remember that repeated stories are rarely completely true. You would hate to lose a friendship if he or she found out you said something unflattering. Be careful. The people you're gossiping with may gossip about you later.

Libra (Sep 23-Oct. 22)

A close friend or colleague could receive special recognition for good works today. You're pleased with your friend's success, Libra, and grateful for your own good fortune. It seems that you also have achieved a long-term goal. While you may not be acknowledged in public like your friend, you know in your heart that you accomplished what you set out to.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.22)

You may have heard a juicy story about a friend lately and be just dying to share it with your entourage, Scorpio. Be careful with this impulse! The party in question would not appreciate hearing about what you're doing. You could unnecessarily harm someone's reputation. Think about how you would feel if the show was on the other foot!

Sagittarius (Nov.23-Dec.20)

It looks as though your ship is about to come in, Sagittarius. It's likely that you will receive a letter or call alerting you to good financial news. Your mind may immediately begin to spin with ways to spend this windfall. Take care not to go on any shopping sprees. If invested wisely, this money could last a lifetime.

Capricorn (Dec.21-Jan19)

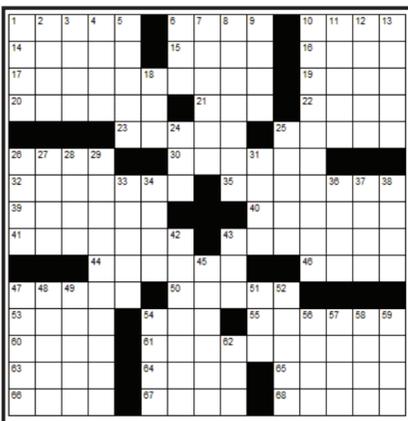
Today you may find all your recent efforts rewarded, Capricorn. Your quick thinking and astute powers of observation have impressed others. Today you're likely to be recognized in some way. Don't be surprised if you end up in the spotlight, blushing at the acclaim. This is likely to give you confidence a big boost and cause you to consider other ways to advance

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb.18)

If you're a salesperson, Aquarius, expect orders to roll in today. You're unusually persuasive, making it virtually impossible for anyone to say no to you. All signs indicate you will be successful with whatever you undertake. Take advantage of this auspicious time. But be wary if you end up on the receiving end of a sales pitch. Opportunities that seem too good to be true usually are.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20)

- This is a good day to spend with your family, Pisces, as you love to do. Try to get chores out of the way as quickly as possible and schedule something fun for the afternoon. Maybe you would enjoy an outing to a park or movie. Perhaps it would be fun to bake cookies. Whatever you decide, warmth and love will permeate the air and bring you closer together as you create wonderful memories.



Across

1. Verse writers, 6. A male college social club, 10. Absorbs, 14. Course around a star, 15. Chance, 16. Iridescent gem, 17. Interdependence of living organisms, 19. Roman emperor, 20. Slogan, 21. And so forth, 22. Fortitude, 23. Delete, 25. Flooded, 26. Male deer, 30. Loan shark, 32. Shellfish, 35. Ash, 39. Like a bear, 40. Adherent, 41. A type of racehorse, 43. Bad-mouth, 44. Scheduling, 46. Absorb written material, 47. Donnybrook, 50. Wharves, 53. Winglike, 54. Policeman, 55. Enclose in, 60. A Star Wars hero, 61. Particularly, 63. Portent, 64. Flower stalk, 65. Gloomy, in poetry, 66. Jewelry, 67. Arid, 68. Swelling under the skin, , ,

Down

1. Lyrical composition, 2. Killer whale, 3. Black, in poetry, 4. Lean, 5. Shop, 6. A law enforcement agency, 7. Break time, 8. Not a professional, 9. After-bath powder, 10. Composer, 11. A drama set to music, 12. City in France, 13. Indolence, 18. Needlefish, 24. Arctic bird, 25. Writer, 26. Pom, 27. Unit of pressure, 28. Too, 29. Scintillating, 31. Guns an engine, 33. Loosen, as laces, 34. Appear, 36. Challenge, 37. Celestial bear, 38. Gave the once-over, 42. Rejoinder, 43. Fon, 45. Child, 47. Captain's superior, 48. Lacquer ingredient, 49. Burdened, 51. Record (abbrev.), 52. Malicious, 54. To tax or access, 56. Credit or playing, 57. Away from the wind, 58. Close violently, 59. Tropical American wildcat, 62. An uncle, ,

Yesterday's Solution

FADE BOGGA HATE
IBIS AFFOUL OGOR
COTTONTAIL OVER
HUT DIFETS SKIDS
UTOPIAN IDEAS
HUN ANYWHERE
TOTEM PRIES DOR
SNOWCAGES CLAN
ACT AUGUR RHYN
RETICLES GOA
ENEMA CAUTION
HORNS NULLS CUE
URIA STRREETWISE
LENT ORGAN HEED
LOGE HYEMIA ORLY

annoy, arctic, arrest, blanket, break, brook chill, conceivable, corrupt crook, , delay, divide, gear hilt, horn, irritation, , laser, lone lore militia, muggy, , nail, naked, neatnight phone, place, poodle

C O R R U P T H B P E H C
M R K L A V I R L R L I O
A Y O L I R E A O L D R N
F R O O R A C I P L O R C
E E R N K E N T R I O I E
I T B E N E T I I H P T I
L T R E S A L L C C W A V
E U G N I T S I E I P T A
R U B B E R N M C H R I B
Y A L E D H A E O I S O L
S W E A T E K N A L B N E
X M U G G Y E L S T O V E
Z N I G H T D I V I D E U