

### (1) Danesh Stresses...

Danish said journalists should act impartially while reporting.

"A journalist should reflect the facts impartially," Danish said. "Under current circumstances of Afghanistan are responsible to consider national interests (in their reports)," Danish added.

Government named 27th of Hoot, March 18, as Journalists Notational Day.

This comes as a group of Afghan journalists at a gathering in eastern Nangarhar province on Saturday, March 18, expressed their concerns over their safety and said threats against media workers have increased recently.

In a recent incident, an employee of a local TV network in Khost province - Zhman - was killed in an attack by armed men in Khost city on Friday. He was the fourth journalist who lost their lives in armed attacks so far this year.

The journalists said that besides threats by armed men, they are faced with threats by individuals within government.

The Khost journalist, Sultan Mahmood Khairkhwah, 60, was the fourth journalist killed in Afghanistan so far this year.

Last week, Nisar Ahmadi, a local TV journalist in Helmand, was wounded in an IED blast in Lashkargah city.

'Worst Country For Journalists In 2018'

A report by the Kabul-based Journalists Safety Committee released in January shows that Afghanistan, with 120 cases of violence against journalists, has been ranked for the second time as the most dangerous country for journalists in 2018. Security threats and lack of access to information continue to impede activities for reporting, the report says.

According to the report, Cases of violence against Afghan journalists in 2018 include 17 cases of murder and others mainly of beatings, intimidation and kidnapping.

The report says that 11 cases of violence were recorded against female journalists. Kabul was the most dangerous place for journalists with 42 cases of violence, according to the report. Despite challenges for the media in Afghanistan, 57 new media outlets began activities in the country during 2018, the report added.

Figures by Afghan government show that there are 96 TV channels, 65 radio stations and 911 print media in Kabul, as well as 107 TV channels, 284 radio stations and 416 print media in other provinces.

The First Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish said last month that there are 1,879 active media outlets in Afghanistan. He said the freedom the press and the media are the main achievements of Afghanistan in the past 18 years and that they will not be ignored in the peace process. (Tolo news)

### (2) Afghan Delegation...

peace talks between the United States and the Taliban.

The second Taliban-Afghan politicians' meeting was scheduled to be held for two days on March 26, but it was delayed after the fifth round of U.S.-Taliban meeting lasted for 16 days.

It comes as the Afghan politicians have held first of their talks with the Taliban in Moscow in February, where the two sides released a declaration in which outlined a nine-point approach to reaching into an intra-Afghan dialogue to end the ongoing war in Afghanistan. (ATN)

### (3) Afghanistan Beat...

celebrations in the Afghanistan camp.

Ace spinner Rashid Khan, who is second in the ICC one-day international rankings, had played a key role in the historic win by taking five wickets on Sunday's day three to help dismiss Ireland for 288 in their second innings.

Khan returned career-best figures of five for 82 to stall Ireland's resurgence after Andy Balbirnie and Kevin O'Brien had hit gritty half-centuries.

Balbirnie made 82 and O'Brien 56 before a 10th-wicket 58-run partnership between James Cameron-Dow and Tim Murtagh set up the potentially tricky chase for the Afghans.

Spinner Andy McBrine had opener Mohammad Shahzad caught behind for two in the final session on day three before Janat and Shah played out the last few overs.

The overnight batsmen were tested by the Ireland bowlers early in Monday's morning session with Janat surviving a reprieve on 18.

Stuart Thompson spilled an easy catch at extra cover off George Dockrell and Janat cashed in alongside the in-form Shah.

Paceman Yamin Ahmadzai and spinner Mohammad Nabi took three wickets each on the opening day to bowl out Ireland for 172.

Shah and skipper Asghar Afghan, who made 67 to steer their team to a crucial first-innings lead of 142.

For Ireland Tim Murtagh stood out with scores of 54 not out and 27 batting at num-

ber 11.

It was Afghanistan's second Test outing after making their debut last year when they lost to India inside two days in Bangalore. Ireland have also played two five-day games. (AFP)

### (4) Afghan Refugee...

have signed off on our first collaboration with UNHCR, which will take us closer to achieving NAMA's goal of engaging 10,000 women by 2020."

She said they have been expanding their efforts to build a strong and far-reaching international partners network that works to empower women in a variety of sectors across the MENASEA region.

She further said that the project will help empower hundreds of local and Afghan refugees through the crafts, which will enable them to access sustainable livelihoods, and lead to better self-reliance and increased resilience, and ultimately boost the local economy.

Ms. Ruvendrini Menikdiwela while appreciating NAMA's contribution said that this initiative will have a great impact on the lives of the local as well as Afghan refugee women. "Through this project, these women will not only achieve self-reliance in Pakistan but will also improve their future economic prospects upon return to Afghanistan.

She said that refugee women's economic empowerment is one of the key objectives of UNHCR livelihood strategy. "UNHCR is committed to ensuring that women are able to make a safe and sustainable living that meets their basic needs and contributes to their dignity," she said.

The signing came as part of a NAMA delegation visit to Islamabad, Pakistan, where the entity organised a 'Sharjah Welcomes You' networking event, to explore areas of cooperation and discuss possible partnerships to further women's economic empowerment.

The delegation also met with the ASR Institute of Women's Studies in Lahore, and visited the National University of Sciences and Technology. (Pajhwok)

### (5) 7 Presidential...

"The Afghan government is trying to sabotage the peace process and the US is seeking its own interests and the Taliban also have no strong intention for peace negotiations, so we created this Jirga to broker in these negotiations," he said.

"More players in the peace negotiations would cause more vagueness in the process", he said.

"10 years ago, addresses and venues for peace talks were chosen outside Afghanistan and this wrong decision led to the conflict of interests among countries involved and turned the peace process more complex," he said.

About interference of foreign countries in Afghanistan, he said foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, particularly peace process, should end.

Ghulam Farq, another presidential hopeful, criticized regional and cross-regional countries and said neighboring countries, the US and Russia were shedding the blood of Afghans everyday due to their old rivalries.

Mohammad Hakim Torsan criticized the government for what he said lacking the will for peace with the Taliban.

He said some groups inside the government did not want peace because they had their interests in the war.

Enayatullah Hafiz, another candidate, said, "We start our negotiations with the warring sides from today with advices from political parties, civil society activists and the Afghan people, we will later share details of our talks with the public."

Mohammad Ibrahim Alokozay called presidential candidates' role in peace process as important and said, "Unfortunately Afghans are unaware about what is discussed in the peace talks."

Noor Rahman Liwal, another presidential hopeful, called the ongoing peace efforts as complicated and said the impasse needed a broker to make the dialogue effective.

"Presidential hopefuls by creating the Jirga want to broker peace talks between the negotiating sides," he said.

A statement from the seven presidential runners said efforts so far made about peace by the Afghan government, the UN, some Islamic countries and Afghanistan allies particularly the US had no a tangible result.

The Jirga thanked regional countries who struggled for advancing the Afghan peace process and said, "We believe regional mechanisms for peace had never produced good results for our country but they even added to the complexity in peace process and conflict of interests of involved countries."

The source said the Jirga could broker the Afghanistan conflict in a better manner and could help simplify the peace process and end the war in the country. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Ghani. Sheikh...

Later, the two leaders witnessed the signing of six cooperation agreements between the UAE and Afghanistan.

Shaikh Mohammad said the UAE was paying great attention to supporting regional and international efforts for aiding the Afghan people to overcome challenges and achieve stability in their country. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Exports from Sistan...

of exports of Sistan and Baluchestan to foreign countries, 33% of it has been exported to Afghanistan, indicating a positive balance of trade with the country in the 11 months of this year."

The head of the Sistan and Baluchestan Industry, Mining and Trade Organization, said construction materials (cement), dates, spices, apples, and chemical and industrial products, were among the export items to Afghanistan.

Sistan and Baluchestan has created special conditions for regional and trans-regional exchanges for Iran and countries in the region, such as Pakistan and Afghanistan, due to its geographical location.

Sistan and Baluchestan located in the southeast of Iran has borders with the countries of Afghanistan, Pakistan and the Sea of Oman.

The length of the province's boundaries with Pakistan is about 300 km, equivalent to one-third of the entire Iran's border with Afghanistan, and length of joined border of the province with Pakistan is 921 km, which accounted for the total border between Iran and Pakistan. (IRNA)

### (8) Power...

pylon was also destroyed during the clash. The Taliban have not yet commented in this regard. (Pajhwok)

### (9) Wheat Products...

farmers in order to increase wheat production this year," Rustami said. "At the same time, distribution of 10,000 tons of fertilizer seeds to farmers is part of the plan to increase wheat production in solar year 1398."

Experts said that lack of machinery and lack of water irrigation of agricultural lands are main problems for wheat cultivation. "Afghanistan's exports are dependent on agricultural products and the increase in agricultural products are dependent on irrigation water which is created by snow and rainfalls," said Shabir Bashiri, an economic affairs analyst.

The CSO statistics show that besides 3.6 million tons of wheat, 350,000 tons of rice, 6,000 tons of barley and 110,000 million tons of corn were harvested in the country during last year.

According to Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority, 21 provinces faced severe drought due to a 45 percent drop in rainfalls last year. (Tolo news)

### (10) Fallen Journalists...

"Many laws and regulations have not been implemented when it comes to supporting journalists' rights," said Basir Ahmad Danishyar, a university lecturer.

Government named 27th of Hoot, March 18, as Journalists Notational Day.

This comes as a group of Afghan journalists at a gathering in eastern Nangarhar province on Saturday, March 18, expressed their concerns over their safety and said threats against media workers have increased recently.

In a recent incident, an employee of a local TV network in Khost province - Zhman - was killed in an attack by armed men in Khost city on Friday. He was the fourth journalist who lost their lives in armed attacks so far this year.

The journalists said that besides threats by armed men, they are faced with threats by individuals within government.

The Khost journalist, Sultan Mahmood Khairkhwah, 60, was the fourth journalist killed in Afghanistan so far this year.

Last week, Nisar Ahmadi, a local TV journalist in Helmand, was wounded in an IED blast in Lashkargah city.

Worst Country for Journalists In 2018

A report by the Kabul-based Journalists Safety Committee released in January shows that Afghanistan, with 120 cases of violence against journalists, has been ranked for the second time as the most dangerous country for journalists in 2018. Security threats and lack of access to information continue to impede activities for reporting, the report says.

According to the report, Cases of violence against Afghan journalists in 2018 include 17 cases of murder and others mainly of beatings, intimidation, and kidnapping.

The report says that 11 cases of violence were recorded against female journalists. Kabul was the most dangerous place for journalists with 42 cases of violence, according to the report. Despite challenges for the media in Afghanistan, 57 new media outlets began activities in the country during 2018, the report added.

Figures by Afghan government show that there are 96 TV channels, 65 radio stations and 911 print media in Kabul, as well as 107 TV channels, 284 radio stations, and 416 print media in other provinces.

The First Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish said last month that there are 1,879 active media outlets in Afghanistan. He said the freedom the press and the media are the main achievements of Afghanistan in the past 18 years and that they will not be ignored in the peace process. (Tolo news)

### (11) Kabulis Want Mahsa...

they would widen their protest.

Gen. Sadruddin Fakhri, a resident of the area, said they strongly condemned the incident and wanted the murderers of the little girl to be hanged.

Haji Nisaruddin Baryali, former Kabul provincial council chief, also strongly condemned the incident and asked the government for what it was waiting when the murders of Mahsa had confessed to their crime. (Pajhwok)

### (12) 5 Officials Held...

the Interior Ministry decree, Col. Syed Khalil Ahmad has been appointed as deputy administrative commander, Maj. Majeed as commander of special unit, Fazal Karim as crime branch chief, Farhad as walkie talkie head and Col. Atiqullah Imaq as traffic department head and they had taken over charge.

The arrests follow a Pajhwok Afghan News report about corruption in Torkahm Township. (Pajhwok)

### (13) Ministry Sends...

said Shafiqullah, a relative of Hazratullah. The Ministry of Defense did not comment about the incident. Previously in many instances, officials of the ministry have vowed to address the problem.

Similarly, two years ago, the Ministry of Defense sent the body of a soldier to his family in Helmand but later it was became clear that the soldier was alive and he joined his family. (Tolo news)

### (14) Bala Murghab...

Afghan News the issue had been shared with the Presidential Palace for resolution through diplomatic channels.

Meanwhile, Deputy Chairman of Provincial Council Abdullah Afzali also confirmed the incident to Pajhwok and said the border police personnel were in bad condition but not one had so far paid attention to their plight. (Pajhwok)

### (15) Baraki Barak...

and two policemen were wounded. An investigation into the incident was underway, he added.

Yousaf Khan, a tribal elder, also verified the death of Sabir Khan. However, he was unaware of details of the incident, for which the Taliban claimed responsibility.

The insurgent group's spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said that commander Sabir Khan and some of his colleagues were killed in the blast. (Pajhwok)

### (16) Putin, in Crimea...

to integrate Crimea, including building a bridge to link the peninsula to southern Russia. But Western sanctions designed to punish Moscow for its annexation have helped isolate the peninsula, pushing up prices and slowing its development. (Reuters)

### (17) Interfaith Kidney...

Religious tensions between Hindus and Muslims are no joke in India. Last week, a detergent brand faced calls for a boycott after running an uplifting ad showing a friendship between a young Hindu girl and a Muslim boy.

In October, an Indian primary school was accused of religious apartheid after it was reported that Muslim and Hindu students were being segregated. (RT)

### (18) Shooting 'Appears...

Utrecht police said on Monday that they were considering the possibility of a "terrorist motive." Heavily armed officers rushed to the area shortly after the shooting was reported on a tram at a busy traffic junction. (RT)

### (19) 'A Statement of...

The massive online and offline backlash he received culminated in a physical altercation with a 17-year-old protester on Saturday, who broke an egg over the back of Anning's head before getting hit in the face by the lawmaker.

Anning continued to stand his ground on Sunday, telling a specially arranged press conference that while media had "twisted" his initial statement, he did not feel the need to apologize for what many decried as an ill-timed diatribe.

"What people took out of context I think was that in the same press release I said that the countries that allow a large-scale Muslim immigration invariably have escalations in crime, violence and terrorist at-

tacks," Anning said Sunday.

"Now, as far as I'm concerned, it's just a statement of fact and for some reason I have upset a lot of people, including Mr Morrison," the independent senator said, effectively doubling down on his previous remark that landed him in hot water.

In a pointed swipe at Morrison and his government, Anning accused the PM of being a hypocrite for not paying as much attention to the plight of Christians facing Muslim attackers.

"In the last 30 days, there have been 122 terrorists attacks by Muslims on innocent Christians and other civilians in 21 different countries, killing 859 people. There has been deafening silence from Mr Morrison and from the media on those points."

Anning argued that Australia is on course to repeat the fate of European countries like France, Belgium, the UK and Germany, which underwent a spell of terrorist attacks inspired by radical Islam, if it does not stop "Muslim immigration."

Asked whether he regrets the timing of his statement, Anning said he did not regret "anything." The lawmaker, who was expelled from his most-recent party over his right-wing views, also defended getting physical with the teenage protester. (RT)

### (20) Indian Navy Deploys...

the names of the submarines in question. There are only two vessels of this class, the INS 'Chakra,' an Akula-class attack submarine leased from Russia, and the INS 'Arihant,' an indigenous ship carrying up to 12 ballistic missiles.

It is understood that some Indian vessels did go on patrol during the India-Pakistan standoff. On one occasion in March, Islamabad said its Navy had detected an unknown Indian submarine moving at periscope depth close to Pakistani waters. India dismissed the Pakistani report, calling it "propaganda" and "misinformation." (RT)

### (21) Boeing Crashes...

into the Java Sea in October 2018.

Investigations are ongoing but early evidence has pointed to a problem with the flight stabilization system designed to prevent stalling, the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System or MCAS.

Ethiopian Transport Minister Dagmawit Moges said Sunday that a study of the flight data recorder retrieved from the Ethiopian plane had shown "clear similarities" to that of the Lion Air flight.

While it may take months for definitive conclusions, experts are asking why the MCAS was green lit despite objections by American pilots who had voiced concerns with the system.

- Boeing employees at the helm -

The US Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) is in the line of fire because it authorizes the commissioning of airplanes.

But for the past decade, it has outsourced the mission, entrusting the task to airplane manufacturers themselves and to external experts. (AFP)

### (22) France Seeks...

of a mother and child - could further erode public support.

But the renewed attention energized some protesters, who took to social networks to call for new protests this Saturday to occupy the avenue to demand lower taxes and more support for workers for big business.

High-end boutiques along the Champs-Elysees remained closed and boarded up Monday, some of them ransacked and charred from arson fires set by rioters.

The Finance Ministry held a meeting Monday with groups representing small businesses, restaurants, hotels, insurance companies and banks to estimate the economic impact of the protests.

The Paris region's Chamber of Commerce said 91 businesses suffered consequences from Saturday's riot at the Champs-Elysees, 80 percent of which were severely damaged. It called for an "emergency plan" to support the those shopkeepers and employees.

One of the security officials meeting Monday with Macron, junior Interior Minister Laurent Nunez, acknowledged that the French police response to Saturday's rioting was "a failure." (AP)

### (23) Japan to Make...

It will turn into a ball and slam into the asteroid at the speed of 2 kilometers (1.2 miles) per second.

JAXA has previously planned to have Hayabusa2 briefly touchdown in a crater, but an agency researcher, Takashi Kubota, said they may not force it to prioritize safety for the spacecraft. Kubota said it would be the first time a spacecraft would take materials from underground a space object.

The asteroid, named Ryugu after an undersea palace in a Japanese folktale, is about 900 meters (3,000 feet) in diameter and about 300 million kilometers (180 million miles) from Earth. (AP)