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Newsletter

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“We both acknowledge and appreciate Pakistan's important efforts to host these conversations.”

WJ rejects Anisa as Supreme Court member

Khawaja Basir Ahmad, 08 July 2015

KABUL (Pajhwok): Anisa Rasouli, the member-designate for the Supreme Court, failed to win vote of confidence from the Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament. On July 1, the government introduced nominees for the Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) and Supreme Court to the Wolesi Jirga. Anisa Rasouli while explaining her plans to the lawmakers today said she would improve meritocracy, maintain justice and basic rights of citizens, preventing inference in judicial affairs and trying to ensure equality between individuals. She stressed on fighting corruption and said that judges should be independent in making decisions under law. Judges should be completely neutral in addressing cases and nothing should affect their decisions, Rasouli added. Of 193 lawmakers present in the session, 88 voted in favor of Anisa Rasouli while she required 97 votes to win the membership. It was the first time an Afghan female nominated for the membership of Afghanistan Supreme Court. Anisa Rasouli is the daughter of Mohammad Alam. She was born in 1967 in Parwan province. She was graduated from Aysha Durani High School and received her bachelor in judicial and prosecution from Kabul University in 1987. Rasouli received her master degree in penal law and criminology from Islamic Azad University of Iran in 2014. She worked as an administrative officer of the audit department at Supreme Court, served as member of the penal cases section of the research department at Supreme Court. Rasouli also worked as judge in public security, head of children appellant court in Kabul, lecturer of legal issues at the Ministry of Women Affairs in Herat, Balkh, Badakhshan, Parwan and Kunduz provinces. She received several awards and prizes during her duties.

WJ approves Sediq as central bank governor

Khawaja Basir Ahmad, 08 July 2015

KABUL (Pajhwok): Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament on Wednesday approved Khalilullah Sediq as governor of Da Afghanistan Bank. The government introduced Khalilullah Sediq to parliament for a vote of trust along with two nominees for members of Supreme Court -- Mohammad Yusuf Halim and Anisa Rasouli. Presenting his plans to lawmakers, Sediq said he would introduce measures to prevent crisis in banking sector and rigorously implement laws against money laundry and financing of terrorism. Development of good banking, promoting non-cash payments, persistence in monetary policy would be his priorities. Sediq also underlined to

maintain value of Afghan currency against foreign currency in the country. In today's lower house session, 193 MPs were present and each nominee required 97 votes for being elected to the posts. Sediq managed to bag 100 votes and become the unity government's governor for central bank. Khalilullah Sediq is the son of Mohammad Sediq. He was born in 1949 in capital Kabul. He completed his studies at Habibia High School in 1967 and received his bachelor degree in economy from Kabul University in 1971. During his 30 years experience, he served in various posts. Sediq worked in banking and commerce, leading committee of money and credit, served as general director of foreign trade, director of research department, deputy head of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), advisor of the DAB head, CEO Afghanistan International Bank (AIB) and head of the DAB. He had also attended meetings of International Monetary Fund in the US and some regional seminars. Sediq also served as director of Private Banks Association (PBA) in 2012. Under his leadership, he was able to approve anti-money laundering and anti-terrorists financing laws by the parliament.

Direct Afghan govt, Taliban talks a welcome step: White House

Lalit K Jha, 08 July 2015

WASHINGTON (Pajhwok): The direct talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban in Pakistan is a welcome step, the White House said Tuesday. "The United States welcomes talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban. This is an important step in advancing prospects for a credible peace," the White House Press Secretary, Josh Earnest, told reporters at his daily news conference. The United States, he said commends the government of Afghanistan's prioritization of peace and reconciliation efforts with the Taliban. "We both acknowledge and appreciate Pakistan's important efforts to host these conversations," he said. Earnest was responding to questions about reports of direct talks between Kabul and the Taliban in Pakistan. The United States, he said, has been encouraging the Afghans to participate in an Afghan-led process that would bring about a political reconciliation in Afghanistan and a de-escalation, if not an end, to the violence that has wracked that country for more than a decade now. "That's a process that we're going to continue to be supportive of, but ultimately it's a process that must be led by the Afghan people and the Afghan government, of course," Earnest said.

“We will fully support the governor and cooperate with him.”



Above: Anisa Rasouli President Ghani's nominee for Supreme Court high council.

WJ approves Yousuf Halim as Supreme Court member

Khwaja Basir Ahmad, 08 July 2015

KABUL (Pajhwok): Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament on Wednesday approved Sayed Yousuf Halim as member of Afghanistan Supreme Court. On July 1, the government introduced the nominee for the Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB) and two members-designate of the Supreme Court to the Wolesi Jirga for vote of confidence. Halim while explaining his plans said he would pay special attention to prevent confession under torture, good behavior with accused and address cases publicly. He added that maintaining justice, preventing administrative and judicial corruption, improving the rule of reward and punishment in the Supreme Court, employing professional officers, building coordination among judicial organs, and creating a telecommunication system to listen to people's complaints would be among his other priorities. Halim pledged neither any criminal would go unpunished nor any innocent person would get punishment under his service in the Supreme Court. If the law implemented justly, people would find more trust on courts and it would reduce the level of crimes and insecurity in the country, he said. Of 193 lawmakers present during the session, 103 voted in favor of proposed Supreme Court member Sayed Yousuf Halim. He required 96 votes to win the membership. Son of Said Hussain, Prof. Sayed Yusuf Halim was born 1959 in Nangarhar province, Afghanistan. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Law and Political Science from Kabul University. Halim got his master degree in general politics from Islamic Azad University of Iran. He joined the Ministry of Justice in 1985 and served in various posts.

He was recently serving as deputy minister of justice. He visited several foreign countries and participated in short-term workshops for capacity building. He also received the first, second and third degree awards during his duties.

New Jawzjan governor formally assumes office

Hamid Tamkin, 08 July 2015

SHIBERGHAN (Pajhwok): Maulvi Lotfullah Azizi on Wednesday officially began as the governor of northern Jawzjan province, vowing to launch four key projects during his first year in office. Speaking at his introduction ceremony in the provincial capital, Shiberghan, the new governor said he would launch the four major projects as his top priority. He identified the projects as an agricultural farm, construction of 2,500 residential plots for teachers, establishing water canals in Shiberghan and a 200-bed hospital. These projects would be launched and completed during his first year in office, the governor said. Azizi said the projects would help create thousands of jobs for Jawzjan residents. "If I come to know some is taking bribe or is accused of embezzlement and corruption, I will deal with him personally," he warned. Inayatullah Babur Farahmand, a member of parliament, said the security situation in Jawzjan had deteriorated, with criminal incidents like murder and abductions on the rise. He mentioned the lack of electricity, potable and irrigation waters other grievances of the residents and urged the new governor to promote the reward and punishment culture across-the-board. Abdul Qadir, deputy head of the provincial council, said: "We will fully support the governor and cooperate with him." He asked the governor to pay special heed to problems of insecurity and electricity in the province.

“Women in villages should stop their brothers, sons and husbands from going to the war and invite them to lead a normal peaceful life.”



Above: Lotfullah Azizi newly-appointed governor for northern Jawzjan province

Joint efforts needed to curb terrorism: Ghani

Javed Hamim Kakar, 11 July 2015

KABUL (Pajhwok): President Ashraf Ghani has said terrorism is a regional threat which should be curbed through joint and regional program. Ghani expressed these views at Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Russian city, a statement from the Presidential Palace said. The 15th BRICS summit was held on Friday in the Russian Ufa city. He said two different sides of Afghanistan had been presented; the one which highlights terrorism, drugs and instability where as the second side showed people who believe in election despite being the part of imposed war where 37% of women had casted vote in election. He said: “The central focus of discussion here is the first picture where as I would like to focus on the second picture of my state.” “Mostly terrorists come from your countries and use our soil against you and we, as your representative, fight against them,” the president said, adding that terrorists from central Asia, China, Pakistan, Russia and Saudi Arabia had targeted Afghanistan.

Drug is the second largest dilemma of Afghanistan and his country cannot be solely blamed for drugs since drug producers, drug processing, drug smugglers and drug users should be equally responsible, he noted. Smugglers, he said were getting financial benefits which are used for the development of terrorism. Afghan security forces had killed two prominent commanders of Daesh and Pakistani Taliban in Afghanistan, the president added. He pointed out that keeping the above points in view, that terrorism and drugs need regional cooperation to be addressed. The statement stated that Ghani also mentioned to form special regional forum of minister levels against terrorism and drugs and Afghanistan could host such a forum.

Kabul provincial council playing active role: Hashmi

Shabnam Sherzad, 09 July 2015

KABUL (Pajhwok): Syed Najibullah Hashmi, member of Kabul provincial councils, has said the council has resolved 150 public disputes since it has started work officially. In his exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Hashmi said that six different committees had been formed soon after the commencement of the house to help resolve issues of residents of Kabul. Eight

committees had been tasked to listen to complaints of people, resolve ethnic and tribal disputes, look after the affairs of districts, schools and developments, he remarked. He said majority of the problems were related to land grabbing and similar issues between the two tribes in the Qarabagh district were resolved. At least 10 people were killed from both the sides over the issue. The members of the council had traveled to other areas such as Ahmad Shah Baba Mena, Pul-i-Charkhi, 9th police district, and Desabz distract where long-standing complicated issues of the residents were settled.

‘Women should stop their men from war’

Bashir Ahmad Nadem, 12 July 2015

KANDAHAR CITY (Pajhwok): Women have the ability to stop their male family members from going to the war if their awareness is increased, peace negotiators in southern Kandahar province believe. Jamila Yousafi, the provincial peace committee secretary, told this to a gathering of women coming from Kandahar City, the provincial capital, and districts a day earlier. The gathering which took place at the women’s affairs department was attended by the department head, Ruqia Achakzai, and the provincial peace committee members Shahida Hussain and Zarghona Baloch, the provincial council member Sarina Faizi, defence lawyer Gul Maki and a representative of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission Zubida Kamal. Jamila Yousafi said women in villages and remote parts could help with the peace process if work on creating awareness among them was done. She believed enlightening women’s minds would mean progress in the reconciliation process and ending the turmoil. She said women in villages should stop their brothers, sons and husbands from going to the war and invite them to lead a normal peaceful life. She said women influenced many matters pertaining to their male family members and a wise woman could effectively play a positive role in shaping destiny of her family. She called for creating awareness among women through an organized mechanism about the devastating effects of war in order to encourage them to stop their men from joining the conflict and raising their children in a proper way to make their future secure. Kandahar Women’s Affairs director Ruqia Achakzai said now the time had come when men and women should make joint efforts at ending the conflict. She urged female members

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of the peace committee to launch awareness-creating programmes for women in rural areas and inform them that the government wanted an end to the bloodshed and

fratricide. Peace committee member Zarghona Baloch said women could play a major role in bringing peace and stability to their villages and homes.



Above: Jamila Yousafi provincial peace committee secretary speaking at a gathering.

Panjshir PC fails to deliver on pledges: residents

Farid Tanha, 11 July 2015

PARAKH (Pajhwok): Some residents of central Panjshir province say despite initial optimism the provincial council has failed to deliver on promises and render satisfactory services. The result from the April 5 provincial council elections was announced after a seven-month delay due to the deadlocked presidential vote. Based on the results, Maulvi Syed Yahya Anabi, Mullah Mohammad Faizi, Wahidullah Dajhkohi, Najibullah Yaqubi, Azmuddin Mirzaee, Abdul Samad Sultani, Qalandar Khan Bahaduri, Rahela Ataaee, and Wida Saeedi won seats on the Panjshir council. Yaqubi, Mirzaee, Sultani, Bahaduri and Ataaee are new faces while the others are reelected. Some residents say most of the members are youth and they had been hopeful the young representatives would perform well. But several months in office, their performance has not been satisfactory, the residents say. Fateh Mohammad Qudusi, a resident of the Anaba district and a civil society activist, told Pajhwok Afghan News: “The performance of the provincial council has not been remarkable since they were sworn in. We haven’t seen anything they did for Panjshir or its residents.” He said the public representatives should have urged high government officials to build schools, health clinics, roads and other welfare and development projects. Mohammad Asghar, a student, said: “The provincial council has not worked as much as people needed.” “They always think about their gatherings and meetings. Their monitoring right has been reinstated, but it seems they haven’t utilised that authority. You can see how much problems people have,” the 23-year-old said. The national assembly once barred the provincial councils from evaluating the performance of local departments. In response, the councils went on a countrywide strike until a presidential decree restored their evaluation right. Asghar continued: “When people vote you to power, then they expect work from you no matter if less but honestly.” Haji Abdul Qudus, a local elder in the Hissa Doem district, said the now PC members would visit their homes on a daily basis during their election campaign. He said their

campaign promises included construction of roads and others, but they did nothing since taking office. He added people needed roads and healthcare centres because in his locality there existed only one clinic more than 700 families. “I swear we won’t vote for these candidates next time if they come to our village during elections.” Rahela Ataaee, the provincial council deputy head, however, told Pajhwok Afghan News the council was part of the emergency relief committee during winter avalanches and had taken part in relief efforts. “The council has played a significant role in all spheres. In some cases we have resolved tribal disputes and refugees’ problems,” she added.

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