WJ Summons ICOIC Members on Electoral Reform Decree

KABUL CITY – Wolesi Jirga (WJ) – lower house of parliament – on Saturday decided to summon members of the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of Constitution (ICOIC) to brief lawmakers on the third presidential decree on election reforms. After the rejection of the two presidential decrees on election reforms by the assembly, the ICOIC advised the president to go ahead with the 3rd decree without involving MPs as the lower house could be dissolved anytime ahead of elections. The speakers and some lawmakers say the fate of the 2nd presidential decree is uncertain yet, and leaving the 3rd one against the laws. ICOIC members be summoned to explain their position to parliamentarians, they believe. On August 23, the cabinet approved in principle a draft election law, underlining the imperative of a single-seat system at polling stations for the upcoming Wolesi Jirga polls. At the meeting, chaired by President Ashraf Ghani, the election law was shared with the cabinet by 2nd Vice-President Sarwar Danish and head of the Research Committee. Danish said the draft law was placed before the Council of Ministers after participants focused their suggestions about amendments and a full review based on international norms. Ghani had tasked Danish with finalizing the draft law keeping into view cabinet suggestions. Under the single-seat election system, provinces are divided into polling stations based on their populations. At a poll, voting...(More on P6)...(1)

No Obstacles to Peace Deal with HIA: HPC

KABUL - The High Peace Council (HPC) on Saturday said all technical issues in the peace deal with the Hezb-i-Islami Afghanistan (HIA) had been resolved and there was no obstacle left. Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar, international affairs advisor to HPC, told Pajhwok Afghan News all technical problems in the peace accord with HIA had been resolved and the pact was ready for signing. He said a fair peace pact was in the interest of Afghanistan, saying:“Fortunately, there is no obstacle to the process of negotiations with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar-led HIA.” Without giving any timeframe for signing of the deal, he said work on it was still ongoing and the accord would be inked in the near future. However, a number of Wolesi Jirga...(More on P6)...(2)

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