

All great deeds and all great thoughts have a ridiculous beginning. Albert Camus

During the state of emergency, the Constitution cannot be amended.

Article 146

WJ Fate to be Decided as Per Constitution: President

KABUL - President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani on Sunday said fate of Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament would be decided as per constitution and developing national consensus. Article 83 of the constitution states: "The constitutionally mandated tenure of the house of people shall terminate after the disclosure of the results of the election, on the 1st of Saratan (22 June), and the new parliament shall commence work." Based on article, the elections should have taken place by



now, but was postponed by the Independent Election Commission (IEC) due to lack of funds. Some lawmakers vehemently criticized the delay, urging

president to specify a date for parliamentary elections. Some parliamentarians were of the opinion that after June 22, the lower house work would have no legal basis, while others insisted without elections they could continue work. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has held 12 separate meetings with several groups, discussing the future of Afghan parliament, a statement from the Presidential Palace said on Sunday. According to the statement, the ... (More on P4)...(1)

Senate Again Asks Govt. to Specify Election Date



KABUL - A number of members of Mesharano Jirga or upper house of parliament on Sunday urged government to specify date for holding Wolesi Jirga (WJ) and district council elections simultaneously. In line with constitution, WJ election should have been conducted one or two months earlier and the newly-elected members must have taken charge from June 22. The law also says that members of the district councils should be elected through ballot but no elections had been conducted for district councils from the past 12 years. Zalmay Zabuli, a lawmaker from Zabul province, said: "Date for holding WJ and district council election be specified." Another Lawmaker Maulvi Muhayudin Munsif said conducting simul ... (More on P4)...(2)

President Stresses Respect, Reverence for Mothers



KABUL - On the eve of International Mothers Day, President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani has said on Sunday though Afghan culture has special prestige for mothers but unfortunately majority of mothers suffered from rampant poverty and spiraling violence. The president's message was read out at a gathering marking International Mother's Day which was attended by civil society activists, government officials and human rights organizations. "At this day, we should promise to leave no stone unturned to serve our mothers and sisters and provide them all facilities of life," the president added. First Lady Rula Ghani message was also read out. She said being ... (More on P4)...(5)

EU Special Rep Stresses Inclusive Electoral Reforms

KABUL - The European Union (EU) special representative to Afghanistan on Sunday underlined comprehensive electoral reforms be resumed without further delay. In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Franz-Michael Mellbin said people were asking as to why electoral reforms had not taken place and the government had not initiated steps. Mellbin stressed steps should be taken to resume electoral reforms, which were direly needed for stability of Afghanistan. Electoral reforms were a major



point of agreement between President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah after formation of unity government.

In a presidential decree, electoral reforms commission was formed some three months back but it hasn't officially resumed its mandated work. The delay in reforms has raised concerns among people, civil society organizations and international community. "We also have this question from the Afghan government, especially when we meet the leaders. The Afghan people want to move forward and this should be respected. You should ask the president and CEO as to why they have delayed the reforms?" the ... (More on P4)...(3)

Ministry Pledges More Transparency in Mining Sector



KABUL - At a gathering of energy industry stakeholders on Sunday, Minister of Mines and Petroleum Daud Shah Saba pledged to undertake efforts to bring transparency to the mining contracts process and to earn back foreign investors' trust. Officials from the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum (MoMP), representatives from the private sector, delegations from donor ... (More on P4)...(4)

Ghani Introduces First Afghan Female Supreme Court Judge

KABUL - Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani has introduced Anisa Rassouli as the new High Council Member of the Supreme Court, a presidential palace source told TOLONews on Sunday. Ghani's move is in keeping with his pre-election promise to appoint at least one female judge to the Supreme Court. According to the source this move is also part of Ghani's commitment to engage women in senior government posts. ... (More on P4)...(6)

Afghan Army Chief Lifts Night Raid and Heavy Weapons Ban



KABUL - The newly-appointed Chief of Army Staff Gen. Qadam Shah Shaheem has lifted a ban issued by former president Hamid Karzai and vowed that soldiers who use heavy weapons against insurgents and conduct night raids will no longer be prosecuted. During a four-day trip to the northern provinces of Badakhshan, Sar-e-Pul, Kunduz and Balkh, Shaheem ... (More on P4)...(7)

HRW Calls on UN to Endorse Safe Schools Declaration

KABUL - Human Rights Watch has called on world leaders to take action to protect children by endorsing the Safe Schools Declaration at this week's United Nations Security Council debate on children and armed conflict. So far, 38 countries have joined the Safe Schools Declaration, which was made public in May in Oslo, Norway. Signatories of the declaration agree to endorse new guidelines that call for the protection of schools and universities from military use during armed conflicts.



"Human Rights Watch has documented the use of schools for military purposes in some 26 countries with conflict in the last decade. We've seen the use of schools in Syria, Libya, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan, but really in every region of the world. And that is why it is so important that countries come together right now and commit to this agreement, the Safe Schools ... (More on P4)...(8)

Ministry to Sign Accord on Afghan Workers in Arab Countries

KABUL - Afghan Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled (MoLSAMD) officials on Saturday said the draft agreement on migrant workers to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and



Saudi Arabia is in its final stages and is expected to be signed soon.

MoLSAMD spokesman Ali Eftekhari said the agreement once signed will help Afghan workers get work permits from the UAE and Saudi Arabia and thus resolve issues currently faced by locals in the two Arab nations.

"The agreement which is about work permits to Afghan workers will be signed soon with UAE, and the agreement will help to overcome the problems in the short term," he said. Meanwhile, officials from Afghanistan's Labor Union have expressed confidence that with the signing of the agreement, Afghan laborers will get more incentives while working in the UAE and Saudi Arabia and some other gulf states.

"We met the president and he pledged to take the initiative forward for resolving the issue of unemployment and he positively responded to our recommendations," deputy of Afghanistan Labor Union Ghulam Baryal said.

Based on statistics, currently more than 300,000 Afghan workers are working in Saudi Arabia and 270,000 in the UAE, however the majority of the workers work there using Pakistani identification. (Tolonews)

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