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The Frontier Post

MPs set to give Rahin a tough time

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KABUL (PAN): Minister of Information and Culture Syed Makhdoom Rahin was summoned by the Wolesi Jirga — lower house of parliament — to appear before the house, officials said on Monday.

Second Wolesi Jirga Secretary Mohammad Farhad Azimi told Pajhwok Afghan News the minister had been summoned for Saturday at the request of lawmakers. The house religious and cultural panel head, Kamal Nasir Usuli, said 69 MPs had requested summoning Rahin. The MPs have cited four reasons for the ministerial appearance before parliament.

One of the reasons, Usuli said, the house had not been satisfied with the ministry's efforts to prepare Ghazni City, the capital of southern Ghazni province, as the centre of Islamic civilisation in 2013.

Seven years after the city was chosen to serve as the centre of Islamic civilisation at a 2007 ministerial meeting of Islamic countries in Tripoli, Libya, a number of projects in areas of reconstruction, security and education are yet to be completed.

Usuli said vulgar drama serials on TV channels and naming a street in northern Balkh province after slain Iranian diplomat were two others reasons for calling the minister.

During an earlier appearance before parliament, Rahin had said his ministry had not been taken into confidence over the naming of streets after Iranians.

Usuli said a music concert held on the 27th of Ramadan under the aegis of his ministry was another reason for summoning Rahin, who himself had attended the show.

When Rahin's office was contacted, an official who did not give his name said that the minister was not available and he could not comment on his behalf.