Survey Finds only a Few Women Employed in Government

KABUL - A new survey conducted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) shows that the presence of women in government ministries in Afghanistan is only around 35 percent.

The survey shows women constitute only 40 percent of the employees in some 18 ministries. According to the survey, there is a 30 to 60 percent female presence in the ministry of education, ministry of labor and social affairs and ministry of women's affairs. USAID has also raised deep concerns over the delicate role of women in these government institutions.

The survey noted that security threats, negative perception of women working outside of their homes, women and girls being harassed on the streets, and the lack of proper working environments are the main reasons behind a weak presence of women working in government.

Sexual Harassment, Cultural Issue, Lack of Policy Marred Women Working in Govt

KABUL - Ministry of Women’s Affairs on Tuesday released a report on “workplace obstacles against women”, which showed that sexual harassment, cultural issue, lack of policy and adequate infrastructures are the main factors limiting women working in governmental organs across the country.

The data presented in this report area based on findings of three survey questionnaires completed by 178 government employees.

“The report confirmed existence of harassment before women in governmental organs due to this challenge some families do not let their daughters to work in governmental organs,” said Ministry of Women’s Affairs Dilbar Nazari.

She said that harassments included verbal, visual, taunting and so on. Street harassment is other challenge ahead of women and young girls, which need to be prevented, she added. She said that lack of policy regulation, adequate infrastructures and cultural issues as other challenges that limited women from working in governmental organs across the country.

Minister urged females to fight against harassment and continue to work in governmental organs. According to the survey sexual harassment is a hindrance to recruiting and retaining female staffs, and unfortunately it has become a real challenge ahead of women.

Ghani Leaves for Qatar to Condole Former Emir’s Death

KABUL - President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday left for Qatar to condole with Qatari leaders the demise of the former ruler who was the Emir Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, who died on Sunday aged 84.

The Qatari government declared three days of mourning on the demise of the former ruler who was the Emir Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani.

President Ghani, who left for Doha on Tuesday, is accompanied.

Pakistan Says will Attend Heart of Asia Conference on Afghanistan in India

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has said it will take part in the Heart of Asia conference on Afghanistan to be held in India despite tension and periodic exchange of fire across the Line of Control (LoC).

Pakistan’s Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz confirmed that Pakistan will participate in the Heart of Asia conference. Pakistan will attend the Heart of Asia conference, he told media yesterday. However, it was not clear the level of participation by Pakistan. The key ministers of Pakistan will also participate in the conference.

Nine Health Facilities to be Built Across the Country

KABUL - Ministry of Public Health on Tuesday signed agreements with private sector to construct nine health centers in the country.

The construction projects of clinics would cost Afs 218 million, said public health minister Ferozuddin Ferozi.

“Following health development strategy, we plan to build health infrastructures across the country,” Ghani said.

Ashraf Ghani has strongly condemned the attack on Pakistan’s police academy and said that terrorism is a common threat to the region and the world.

He said that providing health service is one of the top priorities of the ministry and those projects which its procurement completed will be contracted soon.

The newly contracted projects included.

Narcotics, ‘Terrorist’ Attack on Pakistan Police

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