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President vows economic growth without printing money

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has reaffirmed his commitment to bolstering the economy while avoiding practices such as money printing, however, at the same time, paying off debt. He made the remarks at the inauguration of the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF) Air Corps and the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV).

Speaking at the inauguration, President Dr. Muizzu emphasised that despite its size, the Maldives is a significant nation with the capacity to effectively manage its extensive territory. He pledged to foster economic growth through prudent measures, avoiding the printing of money and prioritising debt repayment. Moreover, he vowed to inspire investor confidence and ensure adequate housing for all citizens, fostering a sense of pride in Maldivian identity.

Highlighting the potential of the Maldives' oceanic resources, President Dr. Muizzu urged the public to use such assets responsibly. He touted the benefits of a newly introduced fishing application, facilitating the identification and exploitation of fish-rich areas. Emphasising the economic significance of the nation's vast maritime territory, he advocated for the development of large-scale fishing vessels to further enhance the industry.

Furthermore, President Dr. Muizzu underscored the importance of fostering individual economic independence among citizens. He stressed the need for an economy where citizens are empowered financially. Notably, he reiterated his commitment to economic stability without resorting to money printing, contrasting with the government's recent printing of USD532 million over the past three years, according to the Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA).

SOURCE : PSM



Applications for IUI and IVF services opened

The National Social Protection Agency (NSPA) has officially opened applications for government-provided services such as Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) and In Vitro Fertilization (IVF).

One of President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's key commitments has been to ensure the provision of health services such as IUI and IVF through the Aasandha Scheme. In February, a service policy regarding these services was formulated and strategised. NSPA has announced that the application window for IUI and IVF services will be open from March 15 to May 15, 2024.

It has been confirmed that among eligible couples meeting the criteria, the couple with the maximum points out of 100 will be granted IVF service. NSPA has assured that IVF service will be available in all empaneled healthcare facilities, both domestically and internationally. Meanwhile, IUI service will be provided through empaneled healthcare bodies domestically under the Aasandha Programme.

Application forms for both IUI and IVF will be made available on NSPA's website, as well as on the Aasandha website and counters in designated locations. Additionally, forms can be submitted via NSPA's email and Viber number. NSPA has announced that the opportunity to apply through the Aasandha digital portal will be available by next week.

Eligible applicants for IVF will be contacted via message or email within 30 working days post-submission. Similarly, those applying for IUI service will be reached via SMS or email within 5 working days.

As per NSPA's gazetted regulation, individuals will be provided with IUI service thrice under the Aasandha scheme. Similarly, IVF service will be provided for a period of 2 years.

The requirements for those applying for IUI and IVF services include:

- Couples must not have undergone infertility surgery
- Couples must not have a child
- The wife's age should be within range of 25-42, and the husband must not be 55 years of age
- The wife's body mass index should be between 19-30
- The couple must not have engaged in the consumption of tobacco through smoking
- The couple must not have been convicted of a criminal offense in the past 3 years

In conclusion, individuals eligible for IVF assistance must have been married for 3 years and present a medical condition hindering natural conception. Assistance is extended to those who have had failed treatments and received a specialist's recommendation advocating IUI and IVF as the best option.

SOURCE : PSM



President Dr. Muizzu, A transformational leader shaping nation's history: Faisal



Minister of Tourism Ibrahim Faisal has stated the President Dr. Mohammed Muizzu is an inspirational leader bringing significant changes to the history of the nation. The statement was made in a post shared by the minister on social media following the officiation of the Air Corps of Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) along with the commencement of a system which will monitor the maritime and land areas of the country 24 hours a day.

In the post shared on Facebook, Minister Faisal highlighted that President Dr. Muizzu came into power with numerous commitments observing that the president has been working and taking initiatives to fulfill his vows from the very first day. The minister unveiled the president's intentions of establishing an independent prosperous economy ensuring good governance.

Previously, the Maldives have always been dependent on neighboring countries to monitor the maritime and land areas of the nation. As a part of the president's policy to ensure the independence of the country, many advancements have been brought to the defense system, including the inauguration of MNDF Air Corps and UAVs.

The introduced UAVs are medium altitude long endurance, tactical armoured UVs are capable of sustaining operation at speeds of up to 220 km/h for 20 hours continuously. They will primarily conduct intelligence and surveillance operations in various military missions aimed at safeguarding the Maldives' independence, sovereignty, and security.

SOURCE : PSM

Nazim confident UAVs will strengthen the security measures

Parliamentarian and President of Maldives National Party (MNP) Colonel (rt'd) Mohamed Nazim has expressed confidence that the introduction of services by the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAVs) will strengthen the security measures of Maldives.

Highlighting Air Corps of the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) introduced on March 15 signifies a milestone for the nation, Nazim emphasised its potential to strengthen the security measures of the defense system.

In a post shared by Nazim, he stated that the incorporation of these advanced facilities would enhance the effectiveness of intelligence surveillance operations. The MNDF Air Corps has acquired Turkish-made Bayrakta model Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs) to support its services.

Training for the required troops has already commenced, with the first team having completed their training and additional personnel undergoing training in Turkey. The UAVs, described as medium altitude long endurance and tactical armored UAVs, are capable of sustaining operations at speeds of up to 220 km/h for 20 hours continuously.

The primary objective of these UAVs is to conduct intelligence and surveillance operations across various military missions aimed at safeguarding the Maldives' independence, sovereignty, and security. They are proficient in conducting intelligence and surveillance operations to ensure national security.

SOURCE : PSM

Former President Maumoon lauds MNDF Air Corps inauguration

Former President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom has extended congratulations on the inauguration of the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) Air Corps and the commencement of the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Army (UAV) service.

In a post on social media, former President Maumoon praised President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Dr. Mohamed Muizzu and the MNDF for the momentous event.

The new Air Corps will handle all aerial military operations necessary to safeguard the airspace

of the Maldives. Collaborating with the Coast Guard, it will conduct aerial surveillance operations to protect both the airspace and the ocean territory of the Maldives. In addition, the Corps will play a vital role in securing national strategic installations and critical infrastructures, as well as assisting in search operations for missing persons and vehicles during domestic emergencies.

The introduced UAVs are medium altitude long endurance and are capable of sustained operation at speeds of up to 220 km/h for 20 hours continuously. They will primarily conduct intelligence and surveillance operations in various military missions aimed at safeguarding the independence, sovereignty, and security of the Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM



'Ras'ain' App launched by MNDF, offers insights on fishing hotspots



President to introduce risk allowance for SEN teachers



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has announced that the administration is set to introduce a risk allowance or special compensation for teachers catering to Special Educational Needs (SEN) students. He made the statement during the “Raees ge Javaab” series, which facilitates direct public interaction with the President on diverse issues.

During the series, Aishath Shaufa, a SEN teacher at Mulah School, Meemu Atoll, voiced her concerns to President Dr. Muizzu regarding the challenges of recruiting SEN teachers and the reduction in their allowances.

In response, President Dr. Muizzu emphasised the government’s commitment to prioritising teacher training, especially in critical areas across the Maldives where teacher recruitment is challenging. He also pledged to focus on increasing the number of educators specialising in teaching children with special needs.

Additionally, President Dr. Muizzu assured that efforts would be made to address the salary concerns of SEN teachers. He also attributed the reduction in their allowances to changes in the previous government’s pay framework.

Ensuring equal opportunities for individuals with special needs within the education system is a cornerstone of the government’s agenda. As such, efforts are underway to enhance educational and employment prospects for the segment of the population.

SOURCE : PSM



ECM to place ballot boxes in three countries for parliamentary election

The Elections Commission of Maldives (ECM) has officially confirmed the placement of ballot boxes in three countries in preparation for the upcoming parliamentary election, scheduled for April 22nd, 2024.

Initially planned for March 17th, the parliamentary election saw a substantial increase in the number of polling stations due to the reopening of re-registration for voters wishing to cast their ballots outside their registered island. As a result, ballot boxes will be placed in Colombo, Sri Lanka; Trivandrum, India; and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Secretary General of ECM, Hassan Zakariyya, stated that the selection of these countries was based on the number of individuals who had re-registered to vote abroad. The placement of ballot boxes abroad is contingent upon a minimum of 150 registered voters in each location. While re-registrations were observed in London, UK; Abu Dhabi, UAE; and Thailand, they did not meet the minimum requirements for ballot box placement.

Additionally, ballot boxes will be placed in resorts, with a minimum requirement of 30 re-registered voters for each location. The number of designated resorts has increased to 34 following the rescheduling of the parliamentary election, marking an increase of 7 resorts compared to the initial arrangement.

Approximately 600 ballot boxes will be placed for the parliamentary election, with a maximum of 600 individuals allowed to cast their votes at each polling station. A total of 371 individuals are contesting across 93 constituencies.

SOURCE : PSM

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We will maintain close relations with all nations. We are not enemies with any. What is important for us is to pave the way for this proud nation to stand up on its own and remain independent on its own strength.

His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu

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