



18 MARCH 2024

ISSUE 13



The elevator project for hiyaa flats to ease patient transportation

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has emphasised the importance of the elevator installation project in the Hiyaa towers during a session of the “Raees ge Javaab” series, which facilitates direct public interaction with the President on various issues.

During the session, Mohamed Labeeb from Gadhdhoo, Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll, expressed concerns about the need for additional lifts in Hiyaa towers within Hulhumale’ Phase II. In response, President Dr. Muizzu assured that elevators would indeed be installed in the towers, and special provisions would also be made for transporting patients on stretchers. He emphasised that this initiative would effectively address the challenge of patient transportation. Furthermore, he committed to installing more elevators in the towers, with progress already underway to fulfill this promise.

The Housing Development Corporation (HDC) has signed an agreement with Shenyang Yuanda Intellectual Industry Group Company Limited for the installation of additional elevators in the towers. This agreement includes the installation of 32 extra elevators, including a dedicated stretcher or patient elevator and a 14-seater elevator. The installation process has already commenced and is expected to be completed within a year.

SOURCE : PSM



Maldivians will see a golden era of housing, land ownership during my administration

His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu



Male’ Waste Transfer Station handed over to WAMCO



The Male’ Waste Transfer Station, designed to handle over 300 vehicles per hour, has been handed over to Waste Management Corporation (WAMCO) as part of efforts to address the country’s waste management challenges sustainably. The modern facility was established with a budget of USD 11.9 million under the Greater Male’ Environmental Improvement and Waste Management project, funded by the government with assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The handover agreement was signed by Minister of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim and Managing Director of WAMCO Mujuthaba Jaleel, in the presence of various dignitaries including the Ambassador of Japan to the Maldives, Takeuchi Midori.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Thoriq emphasised the inauguration of the station signifies a significant step towards permanently resolving the waste management issue. He highlighted the station’s capacity to accommodate more than 300 vehicles per hour and assured that the government is committed to providing facilities to enhance WAMCO’s services.

Under the project, additional waste management facilities will be established, including the Magu Saafu Raaje initiative included in the Week-14 roadmap. The Department of Waste Management and Pollution Control Department of the ministry, along with WAMCO, will collaborate in operating the newly established six-story Male’ Waste Transfer Station. The building is designed to meet ADB safeguard regulations and standards to ensure environmentally friendly waste removal processes.

The Waste Transfer Station includes a roof deck designated for parking WAMCO vehicles, an area for waste removal operations, a maintenance garage, and a front office for customer service. These upgrades aim to enhance WAMCO’s service capabilities and improve waste management efficiency.

SOURCE : PSM





The commencement of Air Corps positive towards future of MNDF



Several retired army personnel have hailed the establishment of the Air Corps of the Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF) and the introduction of military drones as a historic development for the nation's defense system. The individuals, who have served the country's military in the past and continue to support the MNDF, expressed pride in President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's initiative to inaugurate the Air Corps and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs).

Brigadier General (retired) Mohamed Shareef, with over 41 years of military service, emphasised that the traditional process of MNDF assisting vessels at sea often proves time-consuming. However, he noted that the introduction of modern facilities, particularly UAVs, would significantly expedite operations. Shareef expressed confidence in the UAVs' ability to revolutionise the defense system by conducting surveillance and military operations while facilitating humanitarian aid efforts. He commended MNDF for prioritising the acquisition of modern facilities to ensure the country's safety and security.

Moreover, National Security Advisor Lieutenant Colonel (retired) Ibrahim Latheef, who served in both the Maldives Police Force and MNDF for over 19 years, described the establishment of UAVs and the Air Corps as a long-awaited dream for military personnel. He underscored the importance of these initiatives in safeguarding the nation's independence, sovereignty, and security.

The MNDF Air Corps has procured Turkish-made Bayraktar model Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs) to support its operations. Training for troops has commenced, with the first team completing their training and additional personnel undergoing training in Turkey. These UAVs, characterized as medium altitude long endurance and tactical armored, are capable of sustained 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 play a crucial role in ensuring national security through effective intelligence gathering and surveillance.

SOURCE : PSM



TVET courses to commence in Dhindhoo and Alifushi

The Ministry of Higher Education, Labour and Skills Development has announced ongoing preparations to conduct programmes in Dhindhoo, Haa Alif Atoll, and Alifushi, Raa Atoll, starting from the second semester of the year.

The Junior College in Dhindhoo will specialise in providing various courses of different levels related to the food processing industry. Meanwhile, the TVET Centre in Alifushi will specialise in offering courses related to the boat building industry. It has been decided that additional vocational courses from different fields will also be initiated in these institutes.

Speaking to PSM News about the projects aimed at expanding higher education in various parts of the country, Minister of State for Higher Education, Labour and Skills Development Ahmed Shafeeu revealed that while the construction of the TVET Centre and Junior College is completed, work on the dormitories of the TVET Centre is currently underway. However, he said the work to prepare dormitories in the Junior College has not been awarded to any contractors yet and is currently in the tendering stage. Despite the incomplete status of the institutes, the minister stated that some necessary devices required to conduct the programmes have been installed, and the programmes can be launched on the finished floors, he added.

Additionally, Minister of State Shafeeu disclosed that although an initiative was taken to develop the campus of Polytechnic in Thulhusdhoo, Kaafu Atoll, to function as a TVET Centre, no construction work had started to this date despite contracts being made with individual firms. He further observed that no work has been done so far to establish the TVET Centre in Kendhikulhudhoo, Noonu Atoll, as planned.

The planned TVET Centres in various parts of the nation will have facilities to conduct workshops and experiments in laboratories related to the specialization programmes, along with multipurpose workshops and classrooms. These institutes will also feature areas for administrative works, staff rooms, student services, auditoriums, meeting rooms, study rooms, and libraries. Additionally, activity centers and gyms will be established within the institutes to ensure the healthy lifestyles of students.

SOURCE : PSM



More than 10,000 voters re-registered by deadline



The Election Commission of Maldives (ECM) has confirmed that over 10,000 individuals have re-registered to vote in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

Following amendments to the General Elections Act, ECM postponed the parliamentary elections originally scheduled for March 17, rescheduling them to April 21, 2024. Additionally, an extra 6 days were provided for re-registration submissions, with the deadline set for March 16 at 1500hrs.

Subsequently, ECM received a total of 11,169 re-registration forms post the deadline. However, 1,141 forms were rejected due to identified issues during thorough evaluation. The individuals were notified by ECM and given the opportunity to resubmit within the re-registration period.

According to ECM's statistics, a total of 10,028 potential voters have re-registered for the upcoming parliamentary election.

The placement of overseas ballot boxes is contingent upon a minimum of 150 registered voters in each location. Consequently, ballot boxes will be stationed in Colombo, Sri Lanka; Trivandrum, India; and Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The breakdown of registrations for overseas ballot boxes is as follows:

- Malaysia: 702 people
- Sri Lanka: 306 people
- India: 159 people

Furthermore, ballot boxes will be placed in 34 resorts, each requiring a minimum of 30 re-registered voters.

ECM also confirms the deployment of approximately 600 ballot boxes for the forthcoming parliamentary elections, with a maximum of 600 individuals permitted to vote at each polling station. A total of 371 individuals are contesting across 93 constituencies.

SOURCE : PSM

Coral Bleaching Conditions Persist

The Maldives Marine Research Institute (MMRI) has issued a warning about a potential coral bleaching crisis this year, noting a similar incident reported at the same time last year.

According to records from the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, ocean regions across the Maldives are currently at the 'watch' level for coral bleaching based on international standards. However, it is anticipated that this level may escalate to a 'warning' level within the next 1-4 weeks. Additionally, data suggests that the situation may progress to 'alert level 1' within the next 5-8 weeks, and potentially reach 'alert level 2' within the following 9-12 weeks.

MMRI has reported ongoing cases of coral bleaching and encourages individuals to report such instances through designated Google Forms and its official website.

Rapid climate change, accompanied by increased global warming, is identified as one of the primary causes of coral bleaching. MMRI emphasises the significant impact of marine life and biodiversity on the Maldives' economic sector, highlighting that any negative effects will directly harm Maldivian residents. Therefore, MMRI underscores the importance of identifying affected areas and implementing measures to address the issue promptly, as delayed action may prolong the recovery from coral bleaching.

SOURCE : PSM

Some Indian troops stationed in Maldives return to India

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