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President calls on Israel to comply with UNSC resolution

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has called for Israel to immediately halt its attacks on Gaza and abide by the recently passed United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution. The resolution, backed by 14 out of 15 countries with the United States abstaining, seeks to bring an end to the ongoing violence.

Expressing his support for the UN resolution aimed at stopping the Gaza attacks during Ramadan, President Muizzu stressed its long-overdue necessity to halt the relentless Israeli assaults. He highlighted that a ceasefire would offer crucial relief to the people of Gaza, who are enduring the holy month amidst continuous violence.

President Muizzu underscored the importance of global collaboration to permanently end these attacks, condemning what he described as Israel's genocidal actions. He emphasised the need for concerted international efforts to adequately support Palestine.

Furthermore, the ceasefire resolution also calls for the unconditional release of Hamas prisoners. The death toll from the offensive, ongoing since October 7, has tragically risen to 32,333, with US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin revealing that 25,000 of those killed were women and innocent children.

SOURCE : PSM

“ The Maldives remains steadfast in its unwavering commitment to the Palestinian people in their pursuit of their inalienable rights including their right to self-determination. ”

His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu

Outsiders should not be entrusted with protecting our territory: Defense Minister



Minister of Defense Ghassan Maumoon has underscored the importance of self-reliance in protecting the freedom and sovereignty of the Maldives. Despite the strength of relations with other countries, Minister Ghassan emphasised that crucial tasks like safeguarding national independence should be undertaken independently, without dependence on external entities. The remarks were made in response to questions raised by the parliamentarians.

During the parliament sitting, Parliamentarian Hassan Latheef inquired regarding the work of foreign countries assisting to monitor the Maldives Economic Zone. His inquiry aimed to Minister Ghassan questioned whether or not the minister plans to hold discussions with President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu to obtain support from other countries to monitor the economic zone, with an aim to strengthen foreign ties.

In response to this, the minister affirmed that he will prevent any such situations ensuring they will not take place as long as he remains in office. He unveiled his firm belief and his patriotic personality stating that Maldives should be independent to carry out their own responsibilities and duties after standing up on their own feet, without relying consistently on other. The minister assured that he would not hold discussions with the president to obtain foreign assistance to monitor the Economic zone of the country stating that the work should be done by enhancing the defense system of the nation.

Minister Ghassan revealed that despite Maldives being a country holding strong bonds with other nations, the responsibility of safeguarding the nations independence and sovereignty is solely of the Maldives itself. The query raised by Hassan Latheef was posed to the minister shortly after the utilisation of military drones by Maldives National Defense Force (MNDF). While members of the opposition party claimed that this was a costly decision, the government disclosed that most of the facilities were provided from the Turkish government as a donation.

SOURCE : PSM





Japan donates USD 6.5 million to Maldives



The government of Japan has donated the Maldives with USD 6.5 million to support the monitoring and surveillance of the country’s maritime region and to initiate projects aimed at safeguarding the nation from natural disasters. Agreements pertaining to this aid were signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer and Ambassador of Japan to Maldives Takeuchi Midori.

Details of the aid provided by Japan are as follows:

- USD 1.87 million allocated for the development of the maritime safety and security field, including the provision of patrolling vessels to customs.
- USD 403 thousand earmarked for the purchase of necessary instruments for the vessels.
- USD 4.32 million designated to financially support projects aimed at combating natural disasters.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Minister Moosa Zameer underscored the enduring and robust ties with Japan, affirming that the financial aid provided would significantly bolster preparations to combat natural disasters. The minister also expressed gratitude for Japan’s assistance over the past 56 years.

During the event, Japan’s Ambassador assured that a specialised vessel designated to monitor the maritime area of the country had been donated. She highlighted that the 25ft vessel would be equipped with the latest advancements, emphasizing its crucial role in ensuring the security of a nation surrounded entirely by water.

The signing ceremony was attended by numerous officials from the Ministry of Finance, Maldives Customs Service, and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).

SOURCE : PSM



Ambassador nomination for two countries forwarded to parliament

The President has submitted the nominations for the new ambassadors to China and Bangladesh to the Parliament for approval.

Dr. Fazeel Najeeb has been nominated as the Ambassador of Maldives to China. Dr. Najeeb has an extensive background in the Ministry of Trade, holding various positions from 1984 to 2004, including Governor of the Maldives Monetary Authority and State Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Additionally, Shiuneen Rasheed has been nominated as the Ambassador of Maldives to Bangladesh. She is currently serving as the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The nominations for these ambassadorial appointments have been forwarded to the Foreign Relations Committee of the Parliament for thorough consideration.

SOURCE : PSM

The President sends Independence Day greetings to the President and Prime Minister of Bangladesh



President H.E. Dr Mohamed Muizzu congratulated the President and Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh on the occasion of the 53rd Independence Day.

In separate messages to President H.E. Mohammed Shahabuddin and Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina, President Dr Muizzu conveyed greetings and extended his heartfelt felicitations to their Excellencies and the people of Bangladesh on the 53rd Independence Day of Bangladesh.

President Dr Muizzu expressed confidence in the warm brotherly relations and fruitful collaboration between the Maldives and Bangladesh to persist and thrive in the coming years, bringing mutual advantages to the people of both countries.

Concluding the messages, the President extended his best wishes for the President and Prime Minister’s good health, well-being, and greater success, as well as for further progress and prosperity for the people of Bangladesh.

SOURCE : PSM



Minister highlights neglected climate change sector, calls for action



Minister of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim has highlighted the neglect of climate research and action, underscoring its critical importance. He made these remarks during the launch of the Maldives Impact-Based Forecast Programme, supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), aimed at strengthening climate resilience and response mechanisms.

Addressing the launch ceremony, Minister Thoriq emphasised the significance of climate-related initiatives for the Maldives, expressing concern over the deterioration of essential services such as the Maldives Meteorological Service (Met Office) due to years of neglect. Despite previous efforts to improve Met Office services, he noted that neglect has resulted in many facilities falling into disrepair and becoming unusable.

In addition, Minister Thoriq drew attention to the challenges faced by the Doppler weather radar system, crucial for air travel and covering 45% of the Maldives, which has suffered damage. He announced plans for its reconstruction and installation in Addu City, with completion expected within two years.

Furthermore, Minister Thoriq revealed that out of the 44 automatic weather stations deployed across the atolls between 2013-2018, only 12 remain operational. He stated that efforts are underway to repair these damaged stations, with a renewed focus on climate research and human resource development in the sector. He noted the indispensable role of climate information in daily life and stressed the importance of modernising the sector to address contemporary challenges.

SOURCE : PSM



President says loan applications for housing will open soon

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has announced the opening of loan applications aimed at facilitating new housing projects. He made this announcement during his address at the inauguration of a campaign office for a parliamentary candidate contesting the Central-Machangoalihi Constituency.

During the inauguration, President Dr. Muizzu highlighted the challenges faced by individuals who own land but lack the means to construct homes. He reiterated the government's commitment to providing loans with capped interest rates at 5%. He emphasized that all necessary preparations have been completed, paving the way for the launch of the loan application process.

Furthermore, President Dr. Muizzu mentioned that the loans would be available for various housing-related projects, including new construction, unfinished developments, and home repairs. Importantly, he stated that the financial assistance is not limited to residents of the Greater Male' Region but is accessible to individuals across all areas. He also acknowledged the heightened demand for housing within the Greater Male' Region and indicated that a significant portion of the loans would be allocated to the region due to its dense population.

The introduction of a housing loan scheme with an interest rate not exceeding 5% is a key presidential pledge.

SOURCE : PSM

Theveli Conference to be held in August

Maldives National University (MNU) has announced that the annual 'Theveli' conference will take place this year on August 19 and 20. Theveli Conference, initiated by MNU, aims to provide a platform for international researchers to present their findings and share significant information regarding researches carried out.

The Dean of Research at MNU Dr. Shahuneeza Naseer stated during a press release that three papers will be presented at the conference, covering Dhivehi, English, and Arabic. She also highlighted that pre-conference sessions will be held on August 18, with leading scholars from diverse fields in attendance.

Additionally, Research Fellow at MNU Nadiya Abdulla, mentioned during the press opportunity that 13 additional sub-topics will be covered along with the main topic. She noted that several other topics will also be discussed.

Nadiya further declared that the deadline to submit abstracts is May 23. She emphasized that abstracts will be accepted until June 23, and all proposals must be submitted by August 10. Moreover, she stated that the top 10 proposals will be selected this year as well.

The theme for this year's conference is "Bridging Boundaries: Exploring Synergies Across Research Disciplines." MNU informed that a registration fee of USD 150 is required for participants from foreign countries, while Maldivians will pay USD 32.37 and Maldivian students a registration fee of USD 12.95.

The Theveli Conference 2023 was held on August 21 and 22.

SOURCE : PSM