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Vice President launches new logo of FDC



Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef has launched the new logo of Fahi Dhiriulhun Corporation Limited(FDC). The logo was of launched by the Vice President in a special ceremony held at CROSSROADS Maldives, commemorating the 5th anniversary of the corporation.

During the ceremony, FDC presented a video, showcasing the ongoing efforts and projects. The corporation further revealed that efforts are underway to complete the development of housing units expeditiously.

Several awards were distributed to the staff of FDC by the Vice President, recognising their dedication and contribution. Such awards include, Quality Assurance Award, Outstanding Contributor Award and the Employee of the Year Award.

FDC, a state-owned corporation, was established on March 12, 2019 aiming to launch nationwide housing projects.

SOURCE : PSM



The Special Envoy of the President calls for justice for the Palestinian people at the 15th Session of the Islamic Summit of the OIC

The Minister of Islamic Affairs, Dr Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed, delivered the national statement at the 15th Session of the Islamic Summit of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Banjul, The Gambia, from May 4–5, 2024, under the theme "Enhancing Unity and Solidarity through Dialogue for Sustainable Development." The Minister is attending the summit as President Dr Mohamed Muizzu's Special Envoy.

In his remarks, Islamic Minister Dr Shaheem called for the implementation of a sustained ceasefire and the guaranteed provision of adequate and urgent humanitarian aid.

Expressing profound distress over the failure of the United Nations Security Council to take immediate and essential steps toward lasting peace, he urged Islamic nations to do more to hold Israel accountable for its genocidal acts against the Palestinian people. He then reiterated the Maldives' support for Palestine's establishment as an independent and sovereign state based on the pre-1967 borders with East Jerusalem as their capital and their bid for full UN membership.



Reflecting on the dire humanitarian situation in Myanmar, the Maldives pleaded to work closely with The Gambia to prevent Rohingya genocide as an intervening state in their case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice. He also stressed the urgent need to combat Islamophobia through the dissemination of information on the true teachings of Islam, which are all about peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and tolerance.

The Islamic Summit of the OIC held every three years, brings the leaders of the Islamic nations together to deliberate, make policy decisions, and provide guidance on issues pertaining to the Ummah as outlined in the OIC Charter. During this year's summit, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chair of the 14th Islamic Summit, handed over the chairmanship of the summit to The Gambia. The summit will adopt three outcome documents, including a resolution on the issue of Palestine and Al-Quds Ash-Sharif.

The Maldives has been an active member of the OIC, comprising 57 member states, since becoming a member in 1976.

SOURCE : President's Office



Freedom of journalism must be practiced within the responsibilities



Minister at the President's Office for Strategic Communications Ibrahim Khaleel has underscored the importance of exercising the freedom of press within the responsibilities. He made the remarks while speaking at a programme aired on PSM News.

Commemorating the 7th anniversary of PSM News, Minister Khaleel was invited to the programme, as he played a pivotal role in founding the PSM News Channel during his tenure as the Former Managing Director of the Public Service Media (PSM). The minister worked in the field of journalism and broadcasting for several years, actively engaging in various media positions, including reading and writing news articles.

Highlighted the convenience within the field following the advancements of technology, Minister Khaleel revealed articulated his vision for PSM News to serve as the primary national channel, delivering reliable and timely news coverage across the entirety of the country. In observance of World Press Freedom Day, the minister noted the continuous expansion of press freedom over the years. On this stance, he stressed the significance of media outlets to execute obligations in disseminating news, urging the spread of credible information.

Furthermore, Minister Khaleel revealed the government's plan to expand and promote journalism. As such, efforts are underway to provide educational opportunities and to strengthen the financial stability of media organisations.

SOURCE : PSM

Indian troops stationed in Maldives to return by May 10

The government has announced the return of Indian troops stationed in the Maldives to India by the end of May 10, as stated in an official statement following the fourth high-level co-group meeting with the Indian administration.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu resolved to deploy Indian troops upon assuming office in November, in line with agreements made by the previous administration. Following negotiations, some Indian troops were already sent back before March 10, and now all remaining troops will be withdrawn by May 10, with ongoing efforts to facilitate this process.

Moreover, discussions during the fourth high-level co-group meeting in New Delhi also addressed the redeployment of Indian troops stationed in Male, with attendance from senior officials from both India and the

Maldives. The Maldivian administration emphasized that redeployment is proceeding according to schedule and assured its commencement.



Furthermore, bilateral relations between India and the Maldives were also discussed, with plans for the fifth high-level co-group meeting scheduled for June or July, aiming to further strengthen and intensify cooperation between the two countries.

SOURCE : PSM

17 News magazines registered this tenure



Minister of Youth Empowerment, Information, and Arts Ibrahim Waheed confirmed the registration of 17 News magazines registered during the tenure, speaking in honor of World Press Freedom Day.

In his address commemorating the occasion, Minister Waheed stressed the administration's commitment to safeguarding press freedom, emphasizing President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's unwavering dedication to this cause. He assured that hindering press freedom by any state-owned authority is not government policy.

Moreover, Minister Waheed highlighted government initiatives aimed at facilitating ease for journalists, including the passage of legislation for a media village by parliament and plans for practical implementation. Efforts are underway to incorporate press freedom into the government's legislative agenda, and steps are being taken to ensure the legal backing of institutions like the Maldives Broadcasting Commission (MBC) and the Maldives Media Council (MMC).

The Minister also noted the administration's proactive efforts to promote higher education in media fields and raise awareness of media careers, resulting in an increase in the ease of news magazine registration. He emphasized that a total of 265 news magazines have been registered thus far.

Furthermore, Minister Waheed stressed the importance of responsible and reliable reporting, urging journalists to uphold their responsibilities. He assured that any threats to Maldivian journalism, whether direct or indirect, will be taken seriously by the administration, with President Dr. Muizzu's tenure prioritizing safety and security for all.

SOURCE : PSM



Companies decide to provide discount on April's electricity bills

In accordance with President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's directive, companies have implemented reductions in electricity bills compared to previous months and are actively working to address billing concerns.

Chief Spokesperson at the President's Office Heena Waleed emphasized that this reduction fulfils a presidential pledge, acknowledging instances where this provision was not initially granted. She highlighted President Muizzu's swift response to address these issues and ongoing efforts to resolve them.

Hussain Fahumee, Managing Director of State Electric Company Limited (STELCO), confirmed discounts on electricity bills for the month of Ramadan, with efforts underway to ensure timely billing and distribution to customers.

Similarly, Fenaka Corporation Limited has introduced adjustments to electricity bills outside Male' city, with Managing Director Muaz Mohamed Rasheed stating that April bills reflected part of the Ramadan period, resulting in increased consumption.

Thus, efforts are currently being made to bill electricity in a manner consistent with March rates.

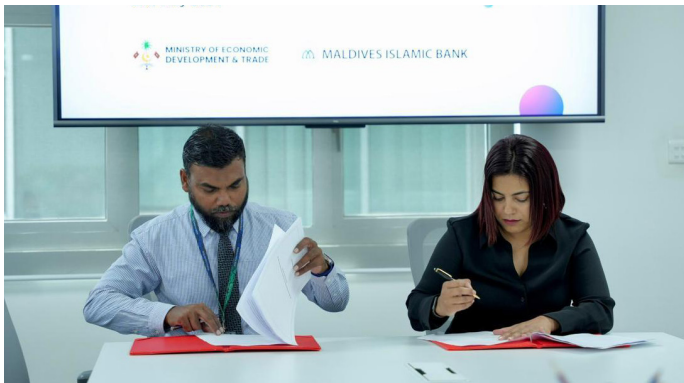
Furthermore, President Muizzu previously committed to reducing electricity bills compared to average rates, with significant discounts granted in March. However, complaints arose due to increased rates in April, partly attributed to higher electricity consumption during the hot weather and Ramadan. Companies persistently urge consumers to optimize electricity usage accordingly.

SOURCE : PSM

MIB signs an agreement to expedite business registration process

Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the Maldives Islamic Bank (MIB) has entered an agreement, aiming to expedite and streamline the registering services for businesses. The agreement was signed to enhance the quality of services, ensure information security, and facilitate an efficient registration process.

Following the signing of the agreement, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed disclosed that customer data can be readily verified with the assistance of the ministry's Application Programming Interface (API). The minister stated that this would enable



businesses to set up bank accounts in a convenient manner. Regarding this, Registrar of Companies Mariyam Visam underscored the pivotal role API will play in authenticating businesses to customers and expediting in the verification process.

This initiative will significantly benefit individuals accessing online services from the ministry, fostering economic development within the nation. This marks the first agreement of its kind signed by the ministry.

SOURCE : PSM

18 imams and khatheebis depart to Saudi Arabia for training

The Ministry of Islamic Affairs has announced that 18 individuals have departed to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as part of the National Project for Refreshing Imams and Khateebis. The programme was launched on February 11 and will offer training both locally in the Maldives and abroad. The initial batch of further training for imams under the project, departed for Mecca on February 16.

Minister of Islamic Affairs Dr. Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed disclosed that the second batch of further training for imams and preachers will return on May 17. The minister unveiled plans to send the group to historical sites and attractions situated in Mecca and Medina, in addition to partaking in training programmes.



Additionally, Minister Saeed outlined plans to send imams and khateebis to various countries including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Malaysia, Brunei, and Indonesia for training throughout the year.

The National Project for Refreshing Imams and khateebis is a programme aimed at enhancing the skills of permanent imams across 11 regions through additional training. With the launch of this programme, over 64 imams and khatheebis have been trained from the islands within Gaafu Alif Atoll. The government has set a target of training of the imams by the year's end through this initiative.

