



09 MAY 2024

ISSUE 43

The President and First Lady officiate the ceremony to commemorate World Thalassaemia Day 2024



President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu and First Lady Sajidha Mohamed officiated the ceremony to commemorate World Thalassaemia Day 2024 this evening.

At the ceremony held in the hall of the Social Centre, the President conferred plaques of service to two organisations for their contributions to improving patient services for people with Thalassaemia. He also presented plaques to three individuals who made exceptional contributions to the expansion of services for Thalassaemia patients.

The First Lady presented plaques of service to six individuals for dedicating more than 20 years to the Maldivian Blood Services.

During the ceremony, a video presentation honouring World Thalassaemia Day featuring NGOs' and individuals' initiatives to increase access to Thalassaemia services were screened.

As pledged by President Dr. Muizzu, children with Thalassaemia are currently receiving free bone marrow transplant treatments abroad, with the Government covering all expenses. Likewise, the Government continues to prioritise ensuring the availability of medicines and supplies for children with Thalassaemia in rural areas.

The President's pledge to treat Thalassaemia includes plans for a specialised hospital in the Malé region. As such, a plot of land has been designated in the second phase of Hulhumalé for the construction of this hospital, ensuring swift progress. This year's World Thalassaemia Day theme emphasises empowering people with Thalassaemia, advancing treatment, raising awareness, and advocating for positive change.

Minister reiterates aim to control Thalassemia



Minister of Health Dr. Abdulla Khaleel has reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to control Thalassemia. The remarks were made by the minister on a social media post, commemorating the International Thalassaemia Day.

On the post, Minister Dr. Khaleel reiterated the government's overarching target of ensuring the provision of quality treatment to all Thalassaemia patients equally. The minister further underscored the unwavering commitment of the administration to safeguard the society from the disease.

Thalassaemia is an inherited, genetic blood disorder caused when the body doesn't make enough hemoglobin. A total of 914 individuals in the country has been registered as Thalassaemia patients, according to the annual report of Maldives Blood Servicing for the year 2023.

The majority of the patients are children diagnosed with Beta Thalassaemia Major. As such, the total number of children registered and diagnosed with this type of Thalassaemia is 762.

Alleviating the suffering of Thalassaemia patients and their family is a prioritised task of President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu. Aiming to achieve this goal, the government has initiated a nation-wide campaign of screening school students for Thalassaemia in February 2024. This campaign serves as an awareness campaign, aiming to reduce the birth rate of children with Thalassaemia.

SOURCE : PSM

“strengthening the national healthcare system is one of my administration's key policies.”

His Excellency President
Dr. Mohamed Muizzu





Major industries experience growth in first quarter: MMA



Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) has revealed that the quarterly reports of all the major economic industries reported expansion in activity. The statement was released by MMA following the Quarterly Business Survey held every three months. The report sheds light on the current stance of the respective industries, while outlining the anticipated changes it may face.

According to the Quarterly Business Survey, the employment levels rose for businesses in all the sectors except for the wholesale and retail trade sector.

The report further indicated the slow pace for the expansion of the tourism sector compared to previously. As such, the revenue index of tourism dropped significantly from 80 to 63. Resort booking have additionally reduced from 63 to 26. While the tourism peak season of the Maldives has come to an end, companies within the industry anticipate lower tourist arrivals in the ongoing quarter. Additionally, transportation and communication services companies have also reported expected slowdown of businesses within this quarter.

Nonetheless, enterprises operating in the construction industry and the wholesale and retail trade sector maintain a positive outlook towards future business prospects and expansion.

The Quarterly Business Survey conducted four times annually since 2013, aims to determine the ongoing activities and anticipated changes for the industries. MMA expressed confidence that this initiative will assist in making decisions and policies as well.

SOURCE : PSM

Foreign minister visits India on an official trip

Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer has arrived on his inaugural official trip to India, marking a significant milestone in bilateral relations.

Scheduled from May 8 to 10, this historic visit signifies Minister Zameer's first journey to India since assuming office. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has unveiled that during this diplomatic mission, Minister Zameer will engage in discussions with his Indian counterpart, Minister of External Affairs S. Jaishankar.

An objective of this meeting is to fortify and enhance the existing ties between the two nations, underscoring the commitment to fostering robust and enduring diplomatic relations.

SOURCE : PSM



Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer and Minister of External Affairs of India, S. Jaishankar

BCC seeks local producers to supply to Thoddoo outlet

Business Center Corporation (BCC) has invited local manufacturers to collaborate for the launch of an Authentic Maldives store in Thoddoo, Alifu Alifu Atoll. BCC said it marks a significant stride in Authentic Maldives' commitment to empower local manufacturers and foster entrepreneurial growth.

Since its inception in 2020, Authentic Maldives has successfully established its presence across four key regions in the Maldives: Male', Crossroads Maldives, Velana International Airport (VIA), and Gan International Airport (GIA).

What began with 54 suppliers has now flourished into a network encompassing over 300 diverse suppliers. The prospect of supplying to the Thoddoo store promises a gateway to expanded opportunities for businesses across the region. The upcoming establishment not only opens doors to new market avenues for manufacturers but also plays a pivotal role in bolstering the regional economy.

Moreover, the Authentic Maldives store in Thoddoo will serve as a platform to showcase the rich cultural heritage of the area, promising to attract foreign exchange through immersive experiences centered around the region's history and traditions.

SOURCE : PSM