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The Minister of State for Indo-Pacific at the Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office of the UK pays a courtesy call on the Vice President



The Minister of State for Indo-Pacific at the Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office of the United Kingdom, the Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, paid a courtesy call on the Vice President, H.E. Hussain Mohamed Latheef. The meeting took place at the President's Office this morning.

During the meeting, the Vice President expressed gratitude to the Government of the United Kingdom for their ongoing support and assistance to the Maldives. He ensured that the Administration was committed to improving multilateral and bilateral relations with UK. The Vice President also highlighted the importance of Maldivian students' access to higher educational opportunities in the United Kingdom.

The Minister, Rt Hon Anne-Marie Trevelyan MP, spoke of the existing strong bilateral relations between the two countries and expressed desire to strengthen them further. Speaking at the meeting, she highlighted critical issues such as clean energy challenges and policy development to improve climate diplomacy. They also discussed the importance of enhancing aviation security as the Maldives' tourism sector advances drastically.

The courtesy call concluded positively, with the Vice President and Minister expressing enthusiasm for future collaborations and the Administration's endeavours on the international platform to address climate issues.

SOURCE : The President's Office



Gov't launches Hope Island for crime-exposed kids

The Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology has announced the launch of Hope Island, a rehabilitation initiative aimed at children exposed to crime.

Speaking at a collaborative press briefing involving agencies under the homeland ministry, Minister Ali Ihusaan outlined the planning efforts for Hope Island. He emphasised the provision of fundamental education and religious guidance for the children residing there. He also highlighted the implementation of psychosocial intervention and sports programmes on the island.

Additionally, Minister Ihusaan disclosed that children would reside on Hope Island until they turn 18 years, and serve a designated term in either the Maldives Police Service (MPS) or the Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF). Subsequently, he said that they would be granted opportunities to pursue their chosen careers.

Furthermore, Minister Ihusaan announced a reduction in the age of criminal responsibility to 15 years, with previous advocacy for lowering it to 12 years. He cited instances of 12-year-olds engaging in criminal activities and revealed ongoing legal initiatives, in collaboration with the Prosecutor General's Office (PGO), to effect the change.

Moreover, Minister Ihusaan revealed plans to direct 12-year-old offenders to Hope Island for rehabilitation, with a dedicated facility established to mitigate exposure to criminal influences. He also disclosed intentions to develop a separate island specifically for this rehabilitation facility.

SOURCE : PSM





Dubai company awarded the development of SEZ

An agreement has been signed by the Maldivian administration with UAE's International Free Zone Authority (IFZA) to develop Special Economic Zones (SEZ) in the Maldives.

The agreement, officially co-signed by Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed and IFZA Chairman Martin Gregers Pedersen during a special ceremony, marks a significant milestone in economic development.



Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Saeed emphasized the timeline for finalizing the agreement, committing to reach a consensus within the next four months. As part of the agreement, Funadhoo Island in Kaafu Atoll will be transformed into a financial hub, featuring a new financial center and a bridge connecting Male' and Hulhule. IFZA will bear the expenses for these developments.

The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade further highlighted plans for the Economic Gateway project in Ihavandhippolhu, aiming to attract investors with IFZA's expertise. Addressing the attendees, Chairman Pedersen expressed confidence in the success of the project, underscoring collaborations with investors to further enhance opportunities in the Maldives.

The development of SEZs remarkably aligns with the President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's vision to diversify the economy and stimulate financial growth. The Maldivian administration is optimistic about attracting future investments and positioning the country as a desirable destination for business opportunities.

SOURCE : PSM

Gov't to commence 5 million tree planting on World Environment Day

Minister of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy Thoriq Ibrahim has announced the government's commitment to commence planting five million trees in commemoration of World Environment Day.

Speaking to PSM News, Minister Thoriq elaborated that President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's initiative for this tree planting project will commence on World Environment Day in June. The project aims to cover all residential islands and resorts, focusing on four tree types, which include endangered species, fruit-bearing trees, shade-providing trees, and those used in local medicine.

Additionally, Minister Thoriq highlighted previous tree planting initiatives, noting their lack of sustainability due to insufficient maintenance. To address this, he said that over 90 tree species will be introduced in the subsequent phase, with nurseries established on islands to facilitate public access to trees. He urged local councils, businesses, and private organisations to participate in the initiative.

President Dr. Muizzu's commitment to planting five million trees over the next five years in the Maldives, announced during the United Nations Climate Change Conference COP28, underscores the government's dedication to environmental conservation. In addition, neighboring countries have pledged to contribute trees to support the Maldives' ambitious tree planting programme.

SOURCE : PSM



Minister Zameer meets with the Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the State of Qatar

Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer met the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani today. During the meeting, Minister Zameer reflected on the growing Maldives

Minister Zameer also conveyed appreciation for Qatar's role in the mediation process on the Gaza crisis. The two Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to further strengthen the partnership in the multilateral fora on matters of global concern.

- **Qatar partnership and thanked Qatar for the generous assistance in our socio-economic development. The two Ministers reiterated the commitment to deepen bilateral cooperation between the two countries.**

Minister Zameer was accompanied at the meeting by Secretary, Bilateral, Dr Hala Hameed, Ambassador-at-Large, Dr Fazeel Najeeb, and Assistant Director, Lamha Saleem.

SOURCE : Foreign Ministry



Gov't, UNDP to co-host Asia Pacific Blue Economy Forum



The Asia Pacific Blue Economy Forum will be co-hosted by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The aim of the forum is to delve into the strategising and execution of the emerging economic model. The forum is scheduled for May 13 and 14 and it is a collaborative effort involving the Maldives, the economic ministry, UNDP, and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.

In a post on social media, Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed expressed pride in the Maldives' role as a co-host. He emphasised the hope for tangible

outcomes from the forum's discussions, as shared on social media.

The forum will be attended by member countries of the UNDP Climate Finance Network. The forum also anticipates over 100 participants from 12 nations.

The concept of the green economy entails the sustainable use of coastal resources and ecosystems to foster economic progress, enhance living standards, and bolster employment. It encompasses various sectors such as renewable energy, sustainable fisheries, maritime transportation, climate action, waste management, and other coastal-related industries.

SOURCE : PSM

Hospital with IUI and IVF services under development

The Ministry of Health has announced the commencement of designing a hospital which will provide Intrauterine Insemination (IUI) and In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) services. Decisions have been made such that the hospital will be situated in Hulhumale' Phase II.

Speaking to PSM News, the ministry revealed that the hospital will be designated to provide treatment for women and children. It highlighted the ongoing efforts to design the hospital, disclosing that bidding opportunities will also open, aiming to seek reliable contractors to develop the hospital. The ministry further assured that the hospital will be established with the most modern facilities and advancements, ensuring utmost convenience to the patients.

Special services that will be provided in the hospital include; services given for pregnant women, family planning services, treatment for premature babies, treatment for children diagnosed with certain diseases, screening for breast and cervical cancer and IUI and IVF services as well. The ministry affirmed the completion of the hospital development and the commencement of hospital services within the upcoming five years. The establishment of this hospital marks the first hospital developed in Hulhumale' Phase II. Currently, only one clinic under the Hulhumale' Hospital provides medical treatment in the second phase of Hulhumale'

SOURCE : PSM

Gov't places 19 FADs across different areas

The Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources has informed about the placement of 19 Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) across different areas in the Maldives, including 7 sports FADs and 12 pole and line FADs.

The placement of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) is a government-led initiative aimed at supporting and enhancing the welfare of fishermen. These FADs include both pole and line and sports FADs, providing valuable resources and opportunities for fishing communities.

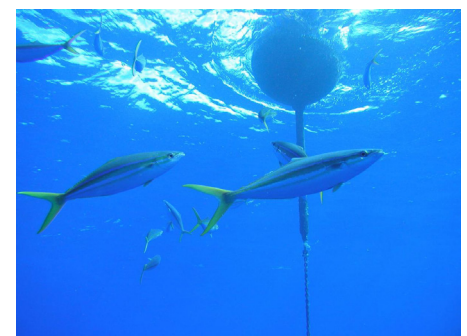
Newly anchored areas where FADs have been developed:

- Gadhdhoo in Gaafu Dhaalu Atoll
- Buruni in Thaa Atoll

- Fonadhoo in Laamu Atoll
- Veyvah in Meemu Atoll
- Mahibadhoo in Alifu Dhaalu Atoll
- Funadhoo in Shaviyani Atoll
- Hulhumale' in Kaafu Atoll

There are currently 80 FADs placed across different areas in the Maldives, consisting of 65 pole and line FADs and 15 sports FADs.

However, to ensure the effectiveness of these FADs in aiding fishermen, certain regulations are in place. Activities such as sinking fish, capturing sharks, laying lanes, and using pits as bait within 3 miles of FAD boundaries are prohibited by law. Additionally, damaging FADs



or engaging in any activities that could harm their fishing potential are strictly prohibited and enforced.

SOURCE : PSM

