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The President orders national flag flown at half-mast for three days following the passing of Iran's distinguished President, H.E. Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu issued a directive (No. 10/2024) today, declaring that the national flag would be flown at half-mast for three days, from Tuesday, May 21, 2024, to Thursday, May 23, 2024, in mourning for Iran's late President, H.E. Dr Ebrahim Raisi.

### The President sends condolences following the demise of Iranian President H.E. Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi

President H.E. Dr Mohamed Muizzu expressed condolences to H.E. Mohammad Mokhber, the Vice President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, following the demise of Iranian President H.E. Dr Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and Foreign Minister H.E. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian.

In his message, the President conveyed his profound sorrow upon learning of the unfortunate news. He acknowledged that President Raisi's sudden demise undoubtedly leaves a deep void in the hearts of the Iranian people. He further noted that President Raisi's resolute decisions upheld the values of Islam, bringing solace and strength to many.

Concluding his message, the President also added that Maldivians join him in extending deep sympathies to the people of Islamic Republic of Iran in this time of national sorrow and in praying to the Almighty Allah to bless the souls of the departed and grant them Jannatul Firdaus.

Earlier in the morning, President Dr Muizzu also posted a message of condolence on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

SOURCE : PSM



### Minister confident heritage will be integrated in daily life

Minister of Dhivehi Language, Culture and Heritage Adam Naseer Ibrahim has expressed confidence that heritage will become a fundamental component of every individual's daily life in the future. The remarks were made by the minister, commemorating the International Museum Day. The theme for this year's International Museum Day is Museums for Education and Research, aiming to showcase and promote the innovative potential of museums in the fields of education and research.

Marking the occasion, Minister Adam Shareef affirmed that ongoing endeavours of the ministry will contribute in delivering tangible changes and results, aligning with the policy of the administration. The results of these committed efforts will ensure the seamless integration of heritage into the daily lives of all individuals.

The lecture held to commemorate the International Museum Day was organised with the collaborative efforts of the National Museum, Architect Association Maldives (AAM), the students from the Maldives National University (MNU) studying in the Faculty of Engineering, Science and Technology, Odimo, Atollscape and Dosain.

Furthermore, the ministry asserted that the event mainly shed light on the historical and stylistic aspects of ancient chairs from an educational standpoint, while spotlighting the architecture and carpentry techniques used in bygone times.

In addition to organising a lecture to mark the occasion, the National Museum has brought changes to its opening hours as well. As such, the opening hours have been announced as 1015hrs to 1800hrs and will be effective between May 19 to 23. The ministry further disclosed plans to organise interactive activities at the National Museum during this period.

SOURCE : PSM





## Alifushi records highest rainfall last 24hrs: Met Office

The statistics publicised by the Maldives Meteorological Service (Met Office) has showed that Alifushi, Raa Atoll, recorded the highest rainfall in the last 24hrs, with 40.4mm of rain. The ongoing rainy monsoon season has caused unfavourable weather conditions across the country.

The latest statistics from the Met Office indicate that heavy rainfall has affected most parts of the Maldives. Following Alifushi, Maafaru, Noonu Atoll experienced the second-highest rainfall with 40.1mm, and Makunudhoo, Haa Dhaalu Atoll recorded the third highest with 37.9mm of rain.

With the adverse weather conditions, seafarers are advised to exercise caution and pay close attention to the weather conditions due to the expected rough seas. The Met Office anticipates light rainfall around May 22 or 23.

SOURCE : PSM

## Operation Kurangi: Information collected from 700 immigrants



Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology has revealed that information and relevant data for over 700 immigrants have been collected under Operation Kurangi. The remarks were made by the minister on a post shared on social media. Operation Kurangi is an initiative undertaken by the government aiming to address the issue of illegal immigrants in the Maldives.

Operation Kurangi launched its first phase on May 2, in Himmafushi, Kaafu Atoll. The post-initial phase of the operation includes biometric identification procedures which will target undocumented immigrants, culminating in their deportation through coordinated efforts with the respective embassies. The ministry disclosed relevant information have been collected from the 705 immigrants currently residing on the island as part of the first phase of the initiative.

Furthermore, Minister Ihusaan revealed plans to launch operations in additional five areas in

the nation simultaneously, in the near future. The minister also expressed his appreciation towards Himmafushi Island Council, for their support and assistance in conducting the operation.

During the inauguration of the operation, Minister Ihusaan outlined the objectives of the operation, aiming to resolve the illegal immigration challenge within a three-year timeframe. As a primary measure, he said that the ministry will embark on a data collection initiative, gathering fingerprints, photographs, and pertinent information of all foreign residents within the Maldives over the course of a year.

Additionally, Minister Ihusaan stated that the information collected during the first phase of the operation is not for the sole purpose of taking action against the illegal immigrants. The minister affirmed that the opportunities will be provided to illegal immigrant such that they can enter the Maldives legally.

SOURCE : PSM

## Minister holds discussions to strengthen bilateral ties with China



Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed has held discussions with the Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Yunnan Provincial People's Congress of China, Li Xiaosan. The discussions aim to hold official talks in strengthening the bilateral ties in trade and investment.

Speaking at the meeting, Minister Saeed acknowledged the long-standing relationship between the Maldives and the Yunnan province has enabled both nations to explore various avenues of collaboration. This includes opportunities to actively participate in the Kunming Fair and to provide training

opportunities in the field of sports, especially table tennis. This meeting will undoubtedly serve as a pillar to strengthen these existing ties and pave way for stronger cooperation in the trade and investment front.

Furthermore, Minister Saeed emphasised the importance of interpersonal connections in fostering diverse economic initiatives. Expressing his deepest gratitude to the delegation, the minister highlighted how the bilateral ties between China and Maldives have strengthened, forming a strategic economic partnership.

SOURCE : PSM





## Air Service World Congress to showcase Maldivian culture globally



Managing Director of the Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL) Ibrahim Shareef Mohamed has highlighted the significance of the Air Service World Congress as a platform to highlight Maldivian culture globally.

MACL has partnered with various organisations for the 7th Air Service World Congress, scheduled from July 9-11 at Kurumba Maldives. The partnerships span seven categories and the event has received endorsements from the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Transport and Civil Aviation. The Maldives Association of Tourism Industry (MATI) and the Maldives Association of Travel Agents and Tour Operators (MATATO) also support the congress.

Speaking at the signing ceremony with event partners, Managing Director Ibrahim Shareef stressed the importance of leveraging the event to seize business opportunities and strengthen relationships. He encouraged all stakeholders to use the event to establish strong connections and prepare for future success.

Meanwhile, Board Chairperson of the Maldives Marketing and Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) Ayesha Nurain Janah highlighted the potential of the event to promote sustainable tourism in the Maldives. She expressed hope that the congress would increase airline traffic to the Maldives and boost tourism. She also noted the unique chance to present the Maldivian culture and natural beauty to an international audience, facilitating the expansion of the country's aviation network and tourism sector.

The Air Service World Congress, organised annually by Global Travel Investment, is a platform for connecting airlines and airports worldwide. MACL expects over 300 delegates, including airport and route development executives, airline executives, networking planners, aviation suppliers, and other stakeholders from the aviation and tourism industries, to attend the event.

SOURCE : PSM



## IOTC meeting successfully concludes

The Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) meeting, held in Bangkok, Thailand, has successfully concluded with a delegation from the Maldives, represented by the Ministry of Fisheries and Ocean Resources, actively participating. Notably, 16 proposals were adopted following the convention.

The Maldives expressed optimism regarding the strategic adaptation of Drifting Fish Aggregating Devices (dFAD) management measures, initially facilitated and proposed by President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu. Following proactive engagement in the meeting, the Maldives highlighted plans to establish a dFAD register and monitoring system, impose strict limits on the number of dFADs, and reduce the number of supply vessels. This comprehensive system aims to enhance the management and monitoring of dFADs.

Moreover, Maldives further acknowledged the support of delegations from South Africa, Indonesia, Korea, European Union (EU), Pakistan, Mauritius, and Seychelles in adopting the measure. Their collaborative efforts were instrumental, especially as the meeting approached its commencement.

Furthermore, one of the central highlights of the meeting was the comprehensive adoption of management procedures (MP) for Skipjack tuna and Swordfish. This proposal was a joint effort by the Maldives and the European Union, following years of collaboration by expert scientists and managers within the IOTC. Remarkably, this is the first swordfish MP globally and the first non-tuna MP ever adopted by a regional fisheries management organization.

Additionally, the Maldives and South Korea led a proposal addressing climate change, aimed at bolstering existing measures and providing extensive guidance on the direct impact of climate change on the IOTC's operations.

However, the Maldives expressed discontent when a proposal focusing on shark conservation, submitted by the Maldives and Pakistan, was withdrawn due to the lack of unanimous agreement. The Maldives strongly supported this implementation, which would have required all sharks to be landed with their fins naturally attached and prohibited the use of shark lines.

SOURCE : PSM