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The President recognises the Government's Success in Repaying Debts and Strengthening the Economy

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has recognised the government's success in repaying MVR2.7 billion without resorting to high-interest loans or issuing additional currency notes within the past seven months. The President made the remarks while speaking at the opening ceremony of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) House held last night.

The President revealed that the government had settled a substantial total debt of MVR13 billion to foreign and domestic parties within the past seven months, of which MVR2.7 billion was foreign debt repaid without default. The President further explained that the current government had settled MVR4 billion of the MVR9 billion in unpaid dues inherited as government bills for services commissioned from domestic parties by previous administrations.

The President announced that the sovereign fund, which stood at USD2 million when the current Administration assumed office, has substantially increased to USD54 million within the past seven months. Furthermore, the President unveiled plans to augment the fund to USD100 million by the end of the year.

Reiterating the Administration's strategic decision to halt the issuance of additional currency notes, the President conveyed that this policy has been met with positive recognition from international financial institutions.

Emphasising the ongoing development efforts at Velana International Airport (VIA), the President announced that the construction of the airport terminal and linked projects are on track for completion by the middle of next year. He also anticipated the successful completion and commissioning of at least three of the eight aerobridge installations planned for the new terminal by the end of this year. The President underscored that the first phase of the airport expansion project, as announced by the Administration, is progressing at a rapid pace.

SOURCE : The President's Office

Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer departs to the United States of America on an Official Visit



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Maldives, Moosa Zameer, has departed on an official visit to the United States of America from 24 to 27 June 2024. During the visit, Minister Zameer is scheduled to meet with senior officials from the US Government and the UN to further strengthen the Maldives – US partnership and to reaffirm commitment to multilateralism.

The visit is set to begin in Washington D.C. where Minister Zameer is scheduled to meet with the Secretary of State of the US, Antony Blinken, Administrator of the US Agency for International Development, Samantha Power and senior officials of the U.S. government.

In addition to the meetings with senior officials from the US Government, Minister Zameer will participate in an interactive discussion at the prestigious Council of Foreign Relations, followed by an engagement with the Maldivian community in Washington D.C.

Following his official engagements in Washington, D.C., Minister Zameer is scheduled to travel to New York and will be meeting with Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres and Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs of the UN, Li Junhua.

Minister Zameer will also meet with tour operators and travel advisors based in New York and the Maldivians residing in New York and New Jersey.

Minister Zameer is accompanied by Secretary, Bilateral, Dr Hala Hameed and Senior Undersecretary, Hassan Hussain Shihab.

SOURCE : Ministry of Foreign Affairs





Thinadhoo Airport project will revolutionise the atoll's economy



Mayor of Thinadhoo City Saud Ali has noted the establishment of an international airport in the city will directly connect tourists to the atoll, enhancing its appeal as a travel destination.

Speaking on a programme aired on PSM News, Mayor Saud highlighted the challenges tourists face due to high fare prices when traveling from Velana International Airport to the atoll. The new airport aims to address this issue, thereby promoting tourism in the region.

Mayor Saud further stated that with the airport's development, additional land in the city will be designated for tourism-related projects. The city council has secured funding to build a city hotel, which will further support the influx of tourists, he added.

The development of the Thinadhoo International

Airport is expected to significantly boost the atoll's economy. Mayor Saud pointed out that the airport will facilitate local tourism growth and generate substantial revenue.

The project, awarded to Pan Pacific Thailand Company on February 20, 2024, includes the construction of a runway capable of accommodating the largest aircraft. The airport will feature a cargo terminal, a fuel farm, a seaplane terminal, an air ambulance, a decompression chamber, and a flying school.

The current administration has a dedicated vision for the growth of Thinadhoo City and the Huvadho Atoll. President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu has announced plans to develop at least 10,000 tourist beds in the atoll, aligning with the overall strategy to enhance the region's tourism infrastructure.

SOURCE : PSM

Maldives Police provides temporary shelter for Stranded Somalis



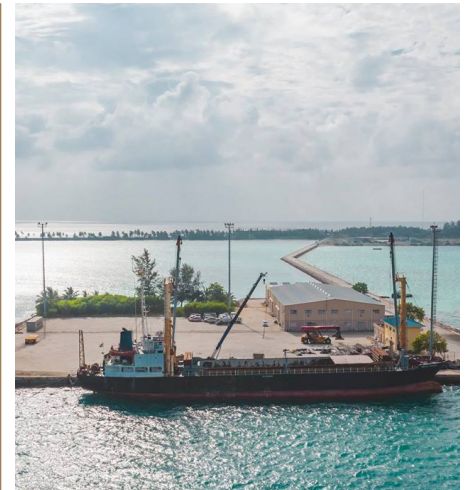
The Maldives Police Service (MPS) has revealed that the three Somalis who drifted to the Maldives were in dire need of assistance.

The three Somali men arrived at Vavathi, an uninhabited island in Noonu Atoll, on June 22. Vavathi, primarily used for agricultural purposes, is located near Velaa Private Island Resort.

Following investigations, MPS disclosed the necessary assistance and temporary shelters were provided for the Somalis in Holhudhoo, Noonu Atoll, through the collaborative efforts of the island council.

Somalia, situated in East Africa, has a coastline notorious for its hazards, including numerous incidents of piracy. This is not the first occurrence of Somali individuals drifting to the Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM



MPL reveals India will deliver perishable goods to Addu

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Maldives Ports Limited (MPL) Mohamed Wajeeh Ibrahim has announced that India will begin permanently delivering perishable goods to Addu City starting in July.

In a social media post, Wajeeh explained the new service is a collaboration between MPL and Hithadhoo Port Limited. He said that the service will be launched on July 1 and operated by Indian-based Finesse Group, the largest importer of fruits and vegetables in the Maldives. He said the new service will run year-round without interruption. He also said that the shipments are scheduled to arrive every 10-15 days.

Previously, MPL provided the service only on specific days, while importing goods from Male' City during the rest of the year. These trips typically carried items like eggs, onions, potatoes, vegetables, and fruits. The new vessels utilised will also be capable of transporting other food items and general cargo from India to the residents of Addu.

In addition to the new permanent service, Maldives State Shipping (MSS) will continue its operations, carrying perishable goods between Addu and Male'. MSS brings goods from abroad to Male' and then transports them to Addu, ensuring a steady supply of essentials.

SOURCE : PSM





Focal points allocated to ease access to project information



Minister of Cities, Local Government, and Public Works, Adam Shareef Umar has announced that all ministries and companies have appointed focal points to assist councils in monitoring the progress of projects in the islands.

Speaking to an exclusive interview with PSM News, Minister Adam Shareef emphasised his commitment to strengthening the relationship between councils and ministries, and to creating an accessible environment for service access. He noted that councils face challenges in tracking project progress and often lack information about the responsible agencies and contacts, complicating accountability to the public.

Additionally, Minister Adam Shareef highlighted his priority to address these issues by enhancing intergovernmental relations and facilitating service access. He noted that focal points have been established in each ministry and company to provide project information, in collaboration with the President's Office.

Furthermore, Minister Adam Shareef emphasised the government's goal to enable councilors to attend important meetings in their islands, reducing the need to travel to Male' City. As such, he said that a system will be developed to streamline meeting arrangements and expedite work completion.

Moreover, Minister Adam Shareef said that the cities ministry has divided the country into seven clusters, assigning an employee to manage each atoll's affairs. He said that the structure has improved the identification and resolution of island issues by providing relevant information to agencies promptly. He also said that the ministry is monitoring council affairs, resulting in positive changes and an improved relationship between councils and the central government, accelerating work progress.

SOURCE : PSM



Gov't announces health facility development in Hulhumale' Stadium

Minister of Sports Abdulla Rafiu has revealed plans to establish a health facility at Hulhumale' stadium, scheduled for implementation this month.

In an exclusive interview with PSM News, Minister Rafiu highlighted that integrating health facilities within sports stadiums aligns with national and international standards for sports venues. The initiative forms part of a broader effort by the Sports Ministry to enhance health services at sports facilities across the country. Minister Rafiu emphasised that the ministry is actively expanding its health infrastructure to meet these standards within a specified timeframe.

Underlining recent achievements in sports development over the past six months, Minister Rafiu also discussed plans for a comprehensive sports complex in Hulhumale'. This includes groundbreaking ceremonies expected for both the netball and futsal arenas by the year's end, with detailed development currently in progress.

Meanwhile, the netball arena is to become a multi-sports complex, while the futsal arena will serve as a versatile venue for various activities. Additionally, the sports minister announced plans to develop a surfing arena in Male' following the Maldives Pro Bodyboarding competition in August.

SOURCE : PSM



Celebrated in its own unique way, Eid al-Adha in the Maldives is not only a festival of prayer and feasting but also a carnival of colours, music, dancing and joy. Koadi kendun is one such artistic and traditional performance celebrated on the eve of Eid.