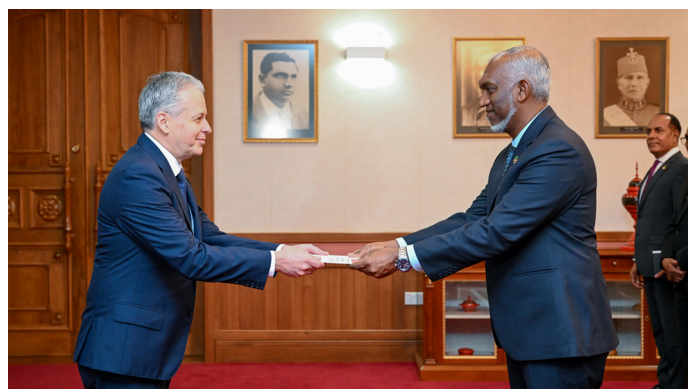


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## High Commissioner of Sri Lanka, Nepal, Eritrea, Philippines, Italy and Colombia presents credentials to President



Arrival of His Excellency Dr Victor Echeverri Jaramillo, The Ambassador of the Republic of Colombia to the Maldives



His Excellency Dr Victor Echeverri Jaramillo presents credentials to the President



Arrival of His Excellency Leo Tito L. Ausan, Jr, The Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines to the Maldives



His Excellency Leo Tito L. Ausan, Jr presents credentials to the President



Arrival of His Excellency Pelpolage Ranga Sujewa Goonawardena, High Commissioner of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka to the Maldives



His Excellency Pelpolage Ranga Sujewa Goonawardena presents credentials to the President





Arrival of His Excellency Bashu Dev Mishra, The Ambassador of Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal to the Maldives



His Excellency Bashu Dev Mishra presents credentials to the President



Arrival of His Excellency Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam, The Ambassador of the State of Eritrea to the Maldives



His Excellency Alem Tsehaye Woldemariam presents credentials to the President

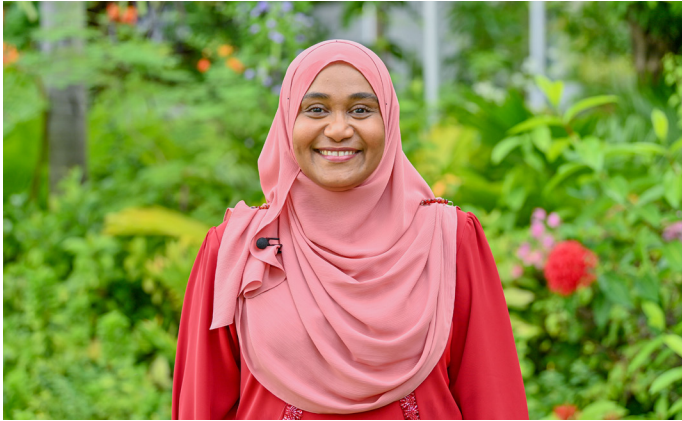


Arrival of His Excellency Damiano Francovich, The Ambassador of the Republic of Italy to the Maldives



His Excellency Damiano Francovich presents credentials to the President





## The First Lady emphasises importance of building trust and fostering parent-child relationships to shield children from adverse societal influences

First Lady Madam Sajidha Mohamed has stated that it is easier to protect a child from society's negative influence when the child has more trust in the parent. She made the remarks in a video message commemorating 'Global Parenting Month'.

In her message, the First Lady emphasised the importance of establishing stronger connections with children to raise them effectively. She highlighted the significance of adapting interactions based on the age of the children to nurture these relationships.

Additionally, she mentioned that engaging in age-appropriate activities is crucial for strengthening the bond between parents and their children. Specifically, she suggested that parents should strive to develop a friendly rapport with teenagers to create a safe and open environment for them.

In her message, the First Lady urged parents to commit to the wholesome upbringing of their children, enhance the level of trust children have in their parents or guardians, and to maintain that trust.

"Positive Parenting Programme, Beleniveriyaa, Shaping the Future of Maldives" is an initiative of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which aims to educate parents to create an environment where children can be protected and valued.



## Immigration detains 83 illegal immigrants



Maldives Immigration has revealed that, under the largest raid operation in collaboration with the Maldives Police Service (MPS), a total of 83 illegal immigrants were identified and are currently in custody. The initiative, which commenced on June 29, aims to implement the government's policies and address the issue of illegal immigrants across the nation.

### Key actions taken during the operation include:

- Four areas in the local markets within the Greater Malé region were checked.
- Individuals detained include expatriates without a valid visa, expatriates working without permits, and those involved in activities outside the permitted activities.



Immigration disclosed that efforts are underway to deport the illegal immigrants to their respective countries with the collaboration of relevant authorities. Over 1,800 illegal immigrants have been deported so far. Maldives Immigration affirmed that operations will expand across the nation, aiming to resolve the issue of illegal immigrants. Legal action will be taken against illegal immigrants under the Immigration Act to reduce the challenges encountered and observed within the Maldivian economy and society.



## Duty exemption limit for tourists and goods increased

The Maldives Customs Service (MCS) has announced an increase in the customs duty exemption limit from USD 389.12 to USD 648.51, effective from July 1. This adjustment applies to goods purchased by tourists and small items brought by private individuals. According to the new regulations published by Customs, the exemption limit has been raised to USD 648.51, and goods exceeding this value will require the submission of a goods declaration form.

Key changes in the updated regulations include:

- Tracking numbers on goods shipped via post will be treated as a single shipment.
- Items arriving in the same postbag under one individual's name will be considered a single shipment for customs purposes.
- Medical drugs prescribed by doctors for a period of six months are exempt from customs duties.
- Documents without a monetary value, such as postcards and electronic media documents, are duty-free.
- Leaflets, brochures, and posters are also considered duty-free.
- If the value of sample goods exceeds USD 50, they must be clearly marked as "sample goods."

Additional changes include adjustments to the duty exemptions for personal goods brought by individuals returning from abroad:

- Individuals returning after one to six months will receive a duty exemption up to USD 583.66 based on the Free on Board (FOB) price.
- Individuals returning after one to three years will have an exemption limit of USD 745.79 at the FOB price.
- Individuals returning after more than three years abroad will benefit from a higher duty exemption of up to USD 907.91 at the FOB price.

To oversee the implementation of these regulations, the Commissioner

General of Customs will establish a special committee responsible for maintaining updated records and ensuring compliance.

## STO states staple foods imported from Türkiye since April



The State Trading Organisation (STO) has confirmed that shipments of staple foods from Türkiye arrived in April, following bilateral agreements signed during President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's official visit to Türkiye in November 2023. The visit resulted in agreements aimed at diversifying the Maldives' food supply sources.

In a previous statement, President Dr. Muizzu announced the government's decision to import staple foods from Türkiye as part of a strategic plan to address the nation's food security needs. The agreements included the import of essential food items such as flour, sugar, and rice.

Key details about the shipments include:

- A shipment of 20,008 bags of flour arrived from Türkiye on April 20, 2024.
- The imported staple foods are currently available in local shops, despite opposition party criticisms claiming no such shipments had arrived.
- STO is committed to importing these items based on demand to ensure a steady supply and avoid shortages.

President Dr. Muizzu emphasized the government's goal to make the Maldives more self-reliant and less dependent on a single country for essential food supplies. Efforts are also underway to import other staple items, including onions, potatoes, and eggs from various countries to further strengthen the nation's food security. The shipments from Türkiye are part of a broader initiative to diversify the Maldives' food sources and stabilize the availability of key food items for the population.