



10 July 2024

ISSUE 88



### Maintaining global trust in the harmonious unity of the Maldives should be an unwavering national commitment, asserts the Vice President

Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef has asserted that maintaining global trust in the Maldives' peace and unity should be an unwavering national commitment. He noted that this harmony would result in a progressive economy and accelerated development, thereby expediting prosperity. He made this statement while delivering the opening remarks at the National High-Level Conference on Peace and Security at CROSSROADS Maldives.

In his speech, the Vice President attributed the progress and harmony of Maldivian society to the peace-loving nature of its people. He further noted that the Maldives, renowned as a heaven on earth, owes its reputation to the preservation of its natural beauty and the values of benevolence, compassion, patience, and unity upheld by its people.

The Vice President underscored the conference's mission, recognising its role in fostering cooperation among State institutions to envision and advance peace, societal unity, and resilience. He emphasised the importance of synergistic efforts towards upholding safety and security, stating that the conference aims to set future safety goals and establish corresponding measures.

Highlighting the importance of education, the Vice President stressed the need to inspire students to broaden their perspectives. He advocated for activities that promote authentic Islamic knowledge and awareness among individuals from all walks of life.

Concluding his remarks, the Vice President expressed confidence in achieving the goal of nurturing young minds to embrace Islamic norms, demonstrate patience and tolerance, exhibit patriotism, and foster unity. He urged everyone to work towards realising this objective.

SOURCE : The President's Office

### Defence Minister expresses concern over extremist tactics targeting youth



Minister of Defence Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon expressed deep concerns about the exploitation of technology to manipulate and harm youth. He addressed these concerns at the National High-Level Conference on Peace and Security organized by the National Counter Terrorism Centre.

Minister Ghassan underscored the alarming use of technology to spread fear and harmful ideologies, specifically targeting the nation's youth. He lamented that youth, pivotal for national development and productivity, are being influenced by destructive ideologies. He also emphasized the rising threat of terrorist activities, noting an increase in efforts to recruit new members, particularly those previously uninvolved.

Acknowledging the complex challenges and costs associated with combating these threats, Minister Ghassan affirmed ongoing efforts under President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's leadership to mitigate these threats. He stressed the necessity for comprehensive collaboration among all relevant stakeholders to effectively safeguard national security.

The National High-Level Conference on Peace and Security serves as a critical platform to bolster the capabilities of the National Counter Terrorism Centre and affiliated agencies. It facilitates strategic discussions among government officials to advance policies and priorities aimed at preventing terrorism and combating violent extremism.

SOURCE : PSM





## Lithuania willing to enhance the cybersecurity field of Maldives

The government of Lithuania has expressed keen interest in collaborating with the newly formed National Cybersecurity Agency of the Maldives. Ambassador of Lithuania to the Maldives, Diana Mickevičienė, made the remarks in an interview with PSM News upon assuming her role. She highlighted Lithuania's advanced capabilities in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) and significant opportunities for cooperation in both governmental and private sectors.

Lithuania, renowned globally for its cybersecurity expertise and ranked sixth in the Global Cybersecurity Index, aims to share its strategies and competencies with Maldives' cybersecurity initiatives. Ambassador Mickevičienė expressed readiness to engage in discussions with the Maldives' cybersecurity center to explore mutual interests and foster development.

Ambassador Mickevičienė, who presented her Letters of Credence to President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu on July 8, emphasized that her appointment marks a milestone in bilateral relations. Based in New Delhi, India, as a non-resident Ambassador, she aims to facilitate closer ties between businesses and institutions of both nations.

Since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1999, the Maldives and Lithuania have collaborated on various global and multilateral issues, including climate change. Lithuania's Indo-Pacific strategy aims at strengthening relations with democratic nations in the region, adhering to UN principles.

The National Cybersecurity Agency, established by President Dr. Muizzu in March, signifies Maldives' commitment to enhancing national cybersecurity and acting as a central point for cybersecurity initiatives nationwide.

SOURCE : PSM

## Minister departs to USA to discuss Maldives-USA trade relations



Minister of Economic Development and Trade Mohamed Saeed has departed on an official visit to the United States (US) to discuss trade relations between the Maldives and the US. The Ministry of Economic Development and Trade stated that Minister Saeed will meet with senior US economic leaders and officials from the country's trade agencies, as well as representatives from the US Chamber of Commerce. The primary goal of the visit is to hold extensive discussions aimed at strengthening economic ties and attracting trade and investment between the two countries.

Earlier this year in May, Minister Saeed announced plans to address challenges related to PayPal usage in the Maldives during his talks with the US government. PayPal, an e-wallet application widely used by Maldivian citizens for sending and receiving money online, can currently only be used to send money abroad. Minister Saeed also intends to discuss enabling the receipt of funds through PayPal.

Minister Saeed highlighted President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu's commitment to facilitating financial transactions through online payment systems and e-wallets. He noted the rapid introduction of various e-wallets while acknowledging the challenge posed by the small market size in the Maldives. To overcome this, he suggested exploring the possibility of introducing services through a single channel, potentially including neighbouring countries.

SOURCE : PSM

## MSS commences operations to Singapore and Malaysia

Maldives State Shipping (MSS) has decided to start operations to Singapore and Malaysia. The trips will begin from Port Klang in Malaysia to Singapore and Colombo in Sri Lanka using their vessel, MSS Graphene. The vessel is set to depart from Port Klang on July 13.

Managing Director of MSS Ahmed Shareef disclosed that MSS Graphene can carry a total of 500 containers simultaneously, highlighting the high demand for these trips. Goods will be transported to Colombian ports first and then brought to the Maldives on another vessel. Shareef also revealed plans to start operational trips to other destinations.

The MSS fleet consists of five vessels and currently conducts trips between Colombo to Male' and Dubai to Male'. With agents from over 30 different countries, the company handles over 2000 containers. MSS has the capability to bring goods from across the world to the Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM





## Ambassador of Maldives to the European Union Geela Ali presents her Letter of Credence to the President of the European Council

The newly appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Head of Mission of the Republic of the Maldives to the European Union, Geela Ali, presented her Letter of Credence to Charles Michel, the President of the European Council. The ceremony took place at the Europa Building in Brussels.

During the meeting that followed the ceremony, Ambassador Geela conveyed greetings from His Excellency President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu to the President of the European Council. She reflected on the existing friendly relations between the Maldives and the European Union. Ambassador Geela also highlighted the conclusion of the first framework agreement, the "Samoa agreement," between the Maldives and the European Union and reiterated her commitment to further intensify cooperation.

President of the European Council Charles Michel congratulated the Ambassador on her appointment and welcomed the positive and growing momentum between the Maldives and the European Union.

Ambassador Geela was accompanied by Mohamed Shaffau Ibrahim, First Secretary, and Hassan Nawaaf, Second Secretary at the Mission of the Republic of Maldives to the European Union.

SOURCE : PSM



## High Commissioner Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed presents Credentials to His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia

The High Commissioner of the Republic of Maldives to Malaysia, Dr. Mariyam Shabeena Ahmed, presented credentials to His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, on Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at Istana Negara, Kuala Lumpur.

Following the submission of credentials, His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim received the High Commissioner in audience. During the audience, the High Commissioner conveyed warm greetings and best wishes from His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Muizzu, President of the Republic of Maldives, to His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim for his good health and happiness, as well as for peace, prosperity, and happiness for the people of Malaysia.

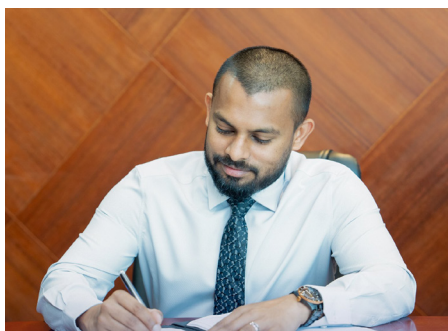
His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim congratulated the High Commissioner on her appointment and assured her of the full support and cooperation of the Government of Malaysia in discharging her responsibilities.

The High Commissioner conveyed her gratitude to the people and Government of Malaysia for their support to the Maldives. She highlighted the strengthening of long-standing friendly relations between both countries.

The High Commissioner was accompanied by Minister Counsellor Aishath Samaha.

SOURCE : PSM

## Legal action to be taken against employers of illegal expatriates



Controller General of Immigration Mohamed Sham'aan has urged the public to comply with the Maldives Immigration Act and its regulations regarding the employment of expatriates. In a social media post, Sham'aan emphasized that it is unlawful to engage in financial transactions with expatriates or to hire unauthorized foreign workers. Violators will face penalties as stipulated by law.

Sham'aan highlighted the authority given to the Controller General of Immigration to penalize individuals employing illegal expatriates, including fines up to MVR 50,000 (USD 3,242.5) and temporary passport retention.

The Maldives Immigration has launched a joint operation with the Maldives Police Service (MPS) to identify illegal immigrants nationwide. Several immigrants have been taken into custody under this operation.

The government plans to expand the operation to encompass all islands within the coming year. Efforts are also underway to centralize information on all foreigners in the Maldives into a unified database, aiming to resolve related issues within a three-year timeframe.

SOURCE : PSM



## Non-Resident High Commissioner of Singapore to the Maldives calls on Foreign Minister Zameer

Non-Resident High Commissioner of Singapore to the Maldives, His Excellency Soo Kok Leng, paid a courtesy call on Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, His Excellency Moosa Zameer, during his official visit to the Maldives.

Minister Zameer welcomed High Commissioner Leng to the Maldives and thanked Singapore for its close ties, longstanding support, and cooperation. He expressed keen interest in further expanding trade and investments between both countries.

Minister Zameer and High Commissioner Leng exchanged views on further consolidating close bilateral ties and discussed avenues for collaboration in various areas of mutual benefit.

Minister Zameer was accompanied by Secretary Bilateral Dr. Hala Hameed, Additional Secretary Farzana Zahir, and Assistant Director Aishath Jumana.

SOURCE : PSM

## Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer sends congratulatory message to the newly appointed Foreign Minister of Netherlands

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives, Moosa Zameer, sent a congratulatory message to Caspar Veldkamp on his appointment as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

Minister Zameer's message reads as follows:

"It is my pleasure to convey my warmest congratulations on Your Excellency's appointment as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. I am confident that under your able leadership, the existing cordial relations between the Maldives and Netherlands will be further strengthened and enhanced. We remain committed to working closely with you for the mutual benefits of our two countries and peoples. Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your success, good health, and well-being, and for the peace, prosperity, and progress of the people of the Netherlands."

SOURCE : PSM

## Maldives says efforts ongoing to prevent export of unprocessed fish



Minister of Fisheries and Ocean Resources Ahmed Shiyam highlighted the Maldives' commitment to transitioning from exporting unprocessed fish products to processed ones. He spoke at the 36th session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in Rome, Italy.

Minister Shiyam underscored the vital role of the fisheries industry in the Maldives' economy, noting that it employs 11% of the national workforce. He emphasized the Maldives' leadership in sustainable fishing practices and marine conservation while acknowledging the challenges of maintaining these practices without adequate international support.

The Minister requested international assistance to enhance fisheries sustainability, particularly for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) like the Maldives. He pointed out that high costs associated with processing fish for international markets have led to the export of unprocessed fish products.

Minister Shiyam expressed the government's commitment to reversing this trend and reducing exports of unprocessed fish. He urged global leaders to implement significant measures to support sustainable fishing practices, emphasizing adherence to FAO's guidelines and principles of fairness and equity.



On the sidelines of the COFI session, Minister Shiyam discussed the Maldives' initiatives to promote fishing and mariculture industries with FAO's Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo.

SOURCE : PSM