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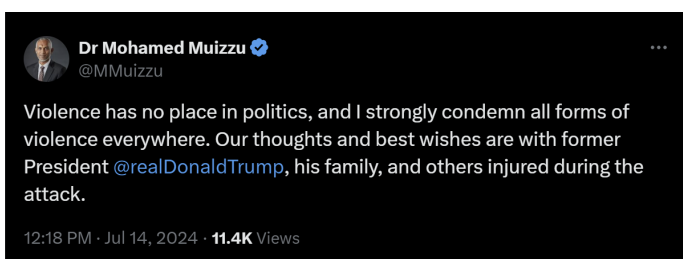
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The President condemns the violent attack on former President Trump

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has stated that violence has no place in politics and strongly condemned violence everywhere, following the attack on the former President of the United States, Mr Donald J. Trump.

In President Dr. Muizzu's post on social media platform 'X', President Dr Muizzu also expressed his best wishes to the former President, his family, and others injured during the attack.



DNR to launch online portal for ID Card requests via island councils



The Department of National Registration (DNR) is set to launch a new portal allowing island residents to submit identity card requests through their respective island councils. Preparations for the portal are nearly complete, with plans to go live by July 18.

Deputy Minister of Homeland Security and Technology Ahmed Aly explained that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, island councils assisted in submitting ID card requests, but this service was discontinued. Although the previous government moved the ID card application and renewal process online, councils showed little interest in assisting, leading to challenges for residents.

To address this issue, the new online platform aims to streamline the ID card issuance process. Additionally, a special training program for all island councils will be held on July 19 and 20 to ensure familiarity with the new system.

Aly highlighted the difficulties faced when the previous administration left the DNR solely responsible for issuing ID cards, resulting in over 3,000 ID cards pending issuance when the current administration took office. These ID cards have since been issued. Currently, ID cards are being issued upon request through DNR's website. This new portal aims to improve the efficiency and accessibility of ID card services for island residents.

SOURCE : PSM





STO approves highest dividend payout in 17 years



The State Trading Organisation (STO) has approved a dividend distribution of MVR 80 per share, marking the highest payout in 17 years. This decision was made at the company’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Noovilu Seaplane Terminal at Velana International Airport (VIA).

The AGM saw participation from 189 shareholders, with 99% voting in favor of the dividend distribution. Additionally, Deloitte was appointed as the company’s external auditor for 2024.

In the previous year, STO reported a revenue of MVR 16.4 billion and an operating profit of MVR 1.3 billion. The total company profit after tax increased to MVR 818 million, driven by higher fuel sales and growth in other business areas.

Despite generating a higher profit in 2023 compared to the MVR 728 million in 2022, with a total revenue of MVR 18.2 billion in 2022, STO noted a decrease in total revenue in 2023 due to fluctuations in global fuel prices. This year STO made a 12% progress in overall business performance. The group’s profit increased to MVR 1.1 billion, marking a record amount generated by the group.

STO’s focus on strengthening and enhancing its business activities has contributed to its robust financial performance and record dividend payout.

SOURCE : PSM



MACL plans major shift to renewable energy at VIA

Managing Director and CEO of Maldives Airports Company Limited (MACL), Ibrahim Mohamed Shareef, announced plans to convert 90% of the energy used at Velana International Airport (VIA) to renewable sources within the next two years.

Currently, renewable energy sources account for only 4% of the Maldives’ total energy usage.

The administration aims to develop renewable energy systems to cover 33% of the nation’s electrical needs within the next five years. Shareef emphasized MACL’s commitment to supporting this goal, outlining significant plans to transition VIA to renewable energy within the next two years.

Deputy Managing Director of MACL, Mohamed Lamaan, highlighted the eco-friendly efforts underway at VIA. He mentioned that the new power plant at the airport will soon be operational, enhancing service delivery and supporting the transition to renewable energy.

The government has launched a 20-year master plan to expand VIA to accommodate 25 million passengers annually and efficiently serve 4,000 individuals per hour. These initiatives reflect the Maldives’ broader commitment to sustainable development and renewable energy.

SOURCE : PSM

