



22 JULY 2024

ISSUE 97



### The President affirms the Government's unprecedented commitment to advancing sports in the country

President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has affirmed the Government's unprecedented commitment to advancing sports in the country. He made the remarks while speaking at the Flag Bearer Awarding Ceremony for Team Maldives at the opening ceremony of the "Paris 2024 Olympics."

Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef also accompanied President Dr Muizzu at the ceremony held at the President's Office.

Speaking at the ceremony, the President stated that the Government's policy is to promote sports in the Maldives in order to create more opportunities for athletes to compete in various sports in future.

Furthermore, the President emphasised the Government's dedication to enhancing training and creating more opportunities for athletes. This will allow more athletes to participate in regional and international competitions like the Olympics. The President also mentioned Government plans to extensively support the training and development of athletes by providing opportunities for training abroad.

President noted that the Administration will transform the sports sector and prioritise sports development in the next year's budget.

The President commended the athletes competing in the "Paris 2024 Olympics" and encouraged athletes to bring laurels to the country.

The Maldives will send five contingents to the Paris 2024 Olympics, marking the highest level of participation for the country.

SOURCE : The President's Office

### CNTY, Maldives explore renewable energy options



China Tianying Inc. (CNTY) has held discussions with the Maldives on investment opportunities in the renewable energy sector of the Maldives.

The discussions were held during a visit by Maldivian ministers to China, which includes Minister of Foreign Affairs Moosa Zameer, Minister of Finance Dr. Mohamed Shafeeq, and Minister of Construction and Infrastructure Dr. Abdulla Muththalib. The team is on an official visit to China from July 20 to 24.

During the visit, the ministers met with Chairman of Tianying Inc. (CNTY) Dr. Yan Shengjun, where they discussed waste management, ongoing infrastructure projects in the Maldives, and sustainable development efforts. They also explored investment prospects in the renewable energy sector of the Maldives.

The Maldives and China Tianying are already collaborating, with an MoU signed in March this year between the Ministry of Climate Change, Environment, and Energy and CNTY. The agreement, spanning two years, focuses on climate change, water and sanitation, energy, environmental protection, and low-carbon urban development. CNTY has committed to leveraging its industrial and technological expertise to support the social and economic progress of the Maldives.

The Maldivian Ministers are visiting China at the invitation of Minister of Foreign Affairs of China Wang Yi. During their visit, they will meet with Wang Yi and other senior Chinese officials, as well as representatives from key Chinese companies involved in the Maldivian economy.



SOURCE : PSM





## Vice President inaugurates “Media Exhibition 2024”, organized by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs



Vice President Hussain Mohamed Latheef inaugurated the “Media Exhibition 2024” organized by the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. The ceremony was held this afternoon at the Islamic Centre.

Media Exhibition 2024 highlights the Ministry’s achievements over the past eight months in fulfilling the mandated component of the administration’s manifesto. The exhibition will continue until 6 p.m. tomorrow. Following the inauguration, the Vice President toured different stalls at the exhibition.

Nine stalls at the exhibition represented the Supreme Council for Islamic Fatwa, the Maldives Zakat House, the National Centre for the Holy Quran, and every department under the Ministry of Islamic Affairs. Each stall presented its work, accomplishments to date and future goals.

SOURCE : The President’s Office

## Maldives to develop an international standard art school



Minister of Youth Empowerment, Information and Arts Ibrahim Waheed has revealed that efforts are underway by the government to establish an international standard art school in the Maldives.

The remarks were made by the Minister during the ceremony held to launch Unveiling Vision 2024, the Maldives contemporary art exhibition.

Speaking at the ceremony, Minister Waheed disclosed that the government has formulated a special plan, aimed at developing and enhancing the arts field. As such, the Minister revealed that efforts are underway to establish an art school in the Maldives, adding that currently works are ongoing to make an outline of the school.

Additionally, Minister Waheed shed light on the opportunities which can be opened for local artists to showcase their artworks on global platforms. Under the initiative, the National Art Gallery will feature various art collections to tourists, under a special policy. He expressed confidence that the industry will grow during the current administration.

SOURCE : PSM



## New lightning detection systems launched

The Ministry of Climate Change, Environment and Energy has launched a new lightning detection system designed to detect and report lightning instantly.

The Ministry said that the system was installed by the Institute of Electrical Engineering, part of the Chinese Academy of Science, in collaboration with the Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS). It marks the first time such an instantaneous lightning detection and information system has been set up in the Maldives, with long-range lightning detection sensors installed at Velana International Airport (VIA) and Gan International Airport (GIA).

The Ministry said that the system will be integrated with a regional network to detect lightning and thunderstorms both within the Maldives and in surrounding areas. As such, it said that short-range lightning detection equipment will be installed to enhance monitoring capabilities.

The Ministry highlighted that lightning often damages electrical, electronics, and communication equipment and can sometimes cause accidents resulting in loss of life, property, and other assets. Air and sea traffic safety and security are also impacted. As such, the new lightning detection network will differentiate between different stages of lightning and identify the direction of associated storms, thereby improving forecasting accuracy and early warning systems.

The system will significantly enhance the accuracy of weather alerts (SIGMET) and forecasts (TREND) issued in accordance with International Civil Aviation standards and the Maldives Civil Aviation Regulation No. 3, ensuring greater safety and security for air traffic.

SOURCE : PSM



## Maldives, Saudi Arabia discuss developing Arabic Language Institution

The Maldives and Saudi Arabia held discussions to establish an institution focusing on Arabic language.

It was initiated by Imam Mohammad Ibn Saud Islamic University (IMSIU), a university situated in Saudi Arabia and is to be titled Arabic Language Institute.

The University expressed its interest in establishing an institution and held important discussions with the Ministry of Higher Education, Labour and Skills Development. The meeting was attended by the Minister of State for Higher Education, Labour and Skills Development Dr. Abdulla Nazeer, and key representatives from the University.

During the meeting, the Ministry provided information on registering the Institution and provided insight on the courses which are accredited by the Maldives Qualification Authority (MQA). Both parties noted that the establishment of the institution would enhance the existing bilateral ties between the Maldives and Saudi Arabia.

Furthermore, the Ministry highlighted that the development of such an institution will promote Arabic as a language amongst local students. It disclosed that this was also a golden opportunity for foreign students interested in learning Arabic.

SOURCE : PSM

## President decides on important measures to address the issue of illegal immigrants in Maldives



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has decided on important measures to address the issue of illegal immigrants in Maldives, following recommendations from the Cabinet. This decision followed a comprehensive discussion on a proposal submitted by the Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology during a Cabinet meeting held on Sunday.

Following comprehensive discussions with the Cabinet on illegal immigrants in the Maldives, measures were reviewed for expatriates across inhabited, resort, industrial, and agricultural islands. Steps include implementing 10 fingerprint scans and facial recognition for identification, alongside programs for regularization and Assisted Voluntary Return (AVR) for those opting to return home voluntarily.

The Cabinet has also resolved to strengthen

the enforcement system to address illegal immigration in the Maldives. This includes establishing and publicly disclosing a list of companies that neglect their responsibilities towards migrant workers upon arrival, enforcing penalties for employer non-compliance, and taking further action if these issues recur.

The Cabinet has also decided to conduct audits and pursue strict legal action against illegal immigrants in the Maldives. This is intended to eliminate obstacles to employment opportunities for Maldivian youth, which are caused by the presence of illegal migrant workers.

The Cabinet also decided to place amendments to the Maldives Employment Act (2/2008) in the Parliament at the earliest to provide a permanent solution to the problem of illegal immigrants in the maldives.

## MPS commences 37th Basic Training Course

The 37th round of basic training course for newly recruited police officers of the Maldives Police Service (MPS) has commenced at the National College of Policing and Law Enforcement.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Ahmed Abdul Rahman attended the inauguration ceremony.

Speaking at the ceremony, Assistant Commissioner Abdul Rahman urged all the newly recruits to work hard to achieve good results and complete the course.

A total of 48 female officers and 151 male

officers will undertake the training course. MPS stated that the course will cover physical training, operational safety and tactics, laws and regulations as well as sections related to police services.

The course is designed to provide the training and education required for the police job and to provide the relevant knowledge, skills, and experience required for the work of the police.

SOURCE : PSM





## Crackdown on undocumented migrants intensifies



Maldives Immigration has reported that the agency has intensified their efforts to combat undocumented migration.

Authorities have intensified their efforts, searching 153 locations and deporting over 2,000 undocumented migrants from November 2023 to July 2024.

The latest data released by Immigration reveals that many foreigners are involved in prostitution, drug-related activities, gang fights, and black-market foreign exchange transactions. As per the data, authorities deported eight individuals involved in black market foreign exchange, 65 involved in prostitution, 141 involved in drug and gang-related crimes, 15 wanted in various cases, and nine with altered visas and documents.



An additional 1,289 foreigners attempting to enter and work in the country on tourist visas were intercepted and deported. A total of 341 foreigners from 22 countries were prevented from entering with forged work permits and visas.

Immigration has launched an online platform called Immigration Watch to report illegal immigrants and urges the public to report any such cases immediately. The government plans to expand the operation to all the islands by next year and aims to consolidate information on all foreigners in the Maldives into a single database, providing a comprehensive solution to the issue within three years.

SOURCE : PSM



## LGA Chief calls on political parties' input on decentralization measures

Local Government Authority (LGA) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Maryam Zulfa has called on political parties to put forth their input into the proposed changes to the decentralization system initiated by the President.

President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu recently proposed reforms to the decentralisation system, suggesting a reduction in the number of councillors to improve service delivery. He cited that the current system is overly complex and inefficient due to the large size of the councils.

The President recommended electing three councillors for populations under 3,000, consisting of a council president, a women's representative, and a youth representative. For populations between 3,000 and 10,000, he recommended electing five councillors.

In support of President Dr. Muizzu's proposal, Dr. Zulfa stated that the suggested changes to the councils and the decentralisation Act were not unprecedented. She emphasised that the formula recommended by President Muizzu represents the most effective approach to decentralisation, stressing the importance of incorporating the views of political parties in shaping the system.

As such, she said that discussions with all political parties will be conducted. The Ministry of Cities, Local Government, and Public Works is currently conducting studies to inform potential adjustments to the decentralisation system.

Dr. Zulfa also highlighted that the Maldives has previously collaborated with the International Republican Institute (IRI), affiliated with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), during the initial introduction and strengthening of the decentralisation system. She said the changes will be reviewed with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker of Parliament, and a parliamentary committee.



SOURCE : PSM