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Committed to genuine empowerment of the decentralised system: President



President Dr Mohamed Muizzu has reaffirmed his commitment to strengthening the decentralised system, continuing the work already underway.

In a post on his official X account marking Decentralisation Day, President Dr Muizzu highlighted the Government’s close collaboration with citizens to achieve meaningful empowerment. He noted that significant efforts have been made to tackle community challenges through island visits, council consultations, and direct citizen engagement.

These visits underscore his dedication to connecting with communities and gaining firsthand insight into their circumstances. He aims to visit every inhabited island twice during his Presidential term as part of his systematic plan.



Observed on February 26, Decentralisation Day marks the implementation of the Maldives’ decentralised governance system across its administrative regions.

SOURCE : The President's Office

Maldives calls for greater gender equality in global diplomacy at the Human Rights Council

The Maldives co-hosted a High-Level side event alongside Slovenia, Morocco, Spain, Thailand, UN Women and the Universal Rights Group entitled “Implementing Foreign Policy Goals with a Human Rights Lens: Advancing Equality through Multilateralism” on the margins of the 58th Session of the Human Rights Council.

The event brought together high-level officials and experts for a panel discussion on the role of women in multilateralism. The dialogue focused on strengthening women’s participation and leadership in addressing pressing global challenges, including threats to peace, sustainable development, and human rights.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Abdulla Khaleel was among the panellists at the event. In his remarks, Minister Khaleel underscored the Maldives’ commitment to fostering a more inclusive diplomatic landscape. He particularly highlighted the achievements of the Maldivian Foreign Service in promoting gender parity, including the historic appointment of the first female Foreign Secretary.

Minister Khaleel stated, “The Maldives has always believed in a multilateral system that is inclusive, representative, and responsive to the needs of all.”

He then reflected on the key role played by the Maldives in leading the United Nations General Assembly resolution establishing June 24th as the International Day of Women in Diplomacy.

Before concluding, Minister Khaleel emphasised the need to strengthen institutional frameworks to eliminate gender bias in recruitment and leadership. He highlighted the importance of building robust mentorship and leadership programs to empower women in diplomacy. He also called on multilateral organisations to lead by example, urging the appointment of the first-ever female UN Secretary-General as a significant step toward greater gender equality in global governance.

The Maldives remains committed to gender equality and inclusive diplomacy, recognising that multilateral progress depends on ensuring all voices are heard, and all individuals have equal opportunities to lead.

SOURCE : Ministry of Foreign Affairs





Vice President graces the closing ceremony of 'Golden Futsal Challenge 2025'

Vice President Uz Hussain Mohamed Latheef attended the Golden Futsal Challenge 2025 closing ceremony.

Upon his arrival at the Hulhumalé Rehendi Futsal ground, he was welcomed by the Golden Futsal Association President, Rizwan Moosa.

During the ceremony, the Vice President shook hands with the players from both teams competing in the final match of the Golden Futsal Challenge 2025. In this final, the K. Kaashidhoo Futsal Team emerged victorious, defeating the HDh. Naivaadhoo Futsal Team with a score of 4-1.



Following the match, the Golden Futsal Challenge 2025 winners were celebrated, and prizes were awarded to various competitors. Awards were given to players, teams, and referees in different categories. The runners-up received silver medals and cash prizes, while the champion team was honoured with a trophy, competition medals, and cash rewards.

The Vice President presented the crown to the 'King of the Tournament' and awarded the winning team medals, the championship trophy, and cash prizes.

SOURCE : The President's Office



Health Minister underscores vital role of EMS in strengthening healthcare system



Abdulla Nazim Ibrahim, the Minister of Health, underscored that the fortification of public healthcare services is inextricably linked to the enhancement of emergency medical services (EMS). He made this statement during his address at the launch of the Emergency Medical Services protocol and the Mass Casualty Management guideline.

Minister Ibrahim elucidated in his address that the challenges confronting the healthcare sector extend well beyond the confines of hospitals and healthcare facilities. He added that bolstering healthcare services necessitates improvements in the services provided outside conventional healthcare settings.

"The principal challenges to healthcare are not merely obstacles in service delivery but rather the absence of a comprehensive mechanism to provide these services," Minister Ibrahim stated. He said the administration is committed to implementing the necessary amendments, reorganising healthcare services, and enhancing the overall provision of healthcare across the nation.

"One of the paramount priorities for President Dr Mohamed Muizzu is to identify and address the systemic issues plaguing the healthcare system," Minister Ibrahim remarked. He noted that numerous novel measures are being instituted under the president's administration, including preventative strategies that have not been previously implemented.

Minister Ibrahim further noted the importance of reinforcing and strengthening the healthcare system to achieve significant progress. He underscored that establishing comprehensive systems would reduce costs and enable the public to benefit from healthcare services fully.

The administration's healthcare policies strongly emphasize expanding and reinforcing healthcare services. In addition, the minister highlighted the priority of extending emergency medical services to the outer atolls.

The Emergency Medical Services protocol and the Mass Casualty Management guideline were officially launched by Minister Ibrahim and Payden V., the World Health Organization (WHO) representative in the Maldives.

SOURCE : PSM



Maldives National University, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, hosts model Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting



The Maldives National University (MNU), in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, held a model Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) today.

In the lead-up to Commonwealth Day on 10 March 2025, the model CHOGM was held under this year's theme, "Together we thrive." The event simulated the Executive Sessions of CHOGM, bringing together students from various batches of the Faculty of Arts of MNU. It provided them with the platform to engage in a productive discussion, raising critical issues and challenges vital to the Commonwealth, including climate change, sustainable development, and economic resilience.

During the session, the students reflected on the Commonwealth's shared values, emphasising the importance of fostering cooperation and youth involvement in addressing global challenges. The model CHOGM session served as part of the broader Commonwealth Day commemorations, reinforcing the Maldives' commitment to empowering young people to shape the Commonwealth's future.

The event was attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, senior officials of the Maldives National University, representatives from the diplomatic community, and university and high school students.

SOURCE : Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Foreign Minister reaffirms Maldives' commitment to 'keep the internet on' at the Freedom Online Coalition event on the sidelines of the High-Level Segment of the 58th Session of the Human Rights Council

Today, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Abdulla Khaleel, spoke at the 'Keep the Internet On! The Impact of Internet Shutdowns' event hosted by the Permanent Mission of Estonia on behalf of Freedom Online Coalition on the sidelines of the High-Level Segment of the 58th Session of the Human Rights Council, taking place in Geneva, Switzerland.

Minister Dr Khaleel noted the remarkable progress the Maldives has made in expanding digital access and highlighted the outcomes of the national efforts to bridge the digital divide. Further, Minister Dr Khaleel emphasised the importance of digital connectivity for Small Island Developing States such as the Maldives in terms of education, healthcare, and industry.

Expressing that the Maldives' geographically dispersed nature poses a natural challenge to connectivity, Minister Dr Khaleel called for solutions based on collective action to ensure that the internet remains open, secure, and accessible to all.

In conclusion, Minister Dr Khaleel reaffirmed the Maldives' commitment to working with its bilateral and multilateral partners to ensure that the benefits of digitalization are shared equitably, to bridge the digital divide, and to 'keep the internet on' as a space of opportunity, possibility, and creativity.

SOURCE : Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Government seeks sustainable plan to preserve national monuments in Utheemu

Minister of Dhivehi Language, Culture, and Heritage Adam Naseer Ibrahim has met with the Utheemu Island Council to develop a sustainable plan to preserve and protect national monuments in Utheemu, Haa Alifu Atoll.

The birthplace of national hero Sultan Mohamed Thakurufaanu, Utheemu holds immense historical and national significance.

During the meeting, Minister Adam Naseer praised the Island Council and the people of Utheemu for their dedicated efforts to preserve the island's historic and culturally significant monuments.

The minister said special emphasis will be placed on preserving and maintaining such heritage sites across the country and exploring ways to generate revenue for councils through cultural tourism.

He pointed out that Utheemu can become an ideal destination for cultural tourism.

During the meeting, President of the Utheemu Island Council, Abdulla Rasheed, shared the primary challenges faced by the council in preserving and maintaining the 'Utheemu Ganduvaru' - once the official residence of Sultan Mohamed Thakurufaanu.

He explained the need to increase the current entrance fee of USD1.30 for visitors, adding that the regular maintenance and security of the palace needed to be heightened.

SOURCE : PSM



Innovative MMA 'tamweel' Initiative seeks to transform Islamic finance education

The Maldives Monetary Authority (MMA) has introduced the 'MMA Tamweel Islamic Finance Initiative,' an ambitious programme to increase awareness on Islamic finance and expand training opportunities in this sector.

Inaugurated by Dr Mohamed Shaheem Ali Saeed, the Minister of Islamic Affairs, the initiative articulates two primary objectives: enhancing public understanding of Islamic financial services and broadening training opportunities. Minister Shaheem lauded the central bank's steadfast commitment to financial education and awareness in his keynote address at the launch ceremony. He assured that the Islamic Affairs Ministry would continue to provide unwavering support and cooperation to the MMA in its efforts.

Minister Shaheem also underscored the central bank's critical role in advancing Islamic finance in the Maldives, drawing comparisons to the successes seen in Malaysia, where the sector has thrived under the guidance of its central bank.

Addressing the function, MMA Governor Ahmed Munawar outlined the central bank's strategic initiatives to boost awareness and expand training opportunities in Islamic financial services. A key feature of the initiative is the newly established capacity development fund, which will be used to enhance sector-specific training. According to the central bank, the fund's initial allocation amounts to USD 324,423.74, dedicated to supporting educational and training programmes in Islamic financial services.

The MMA also announced that the fund will provide sponsorships for various courses and training initiatives. Malaysia's International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance (INCEIF) has pledged its support to the Maldives' central bank in these capacity-building efforts.

The MMA Tamweel Islamic Finance Initiative will feature a television awareness campaign, adding a multimedia dimension to the initiative. During Ramadan, a dedicated programme titled 'Tamweel' will air on Television Maldives (TVM), complemented by an Islamic finance quiz competition. According to the MMA, participants can win daily gift cards worth USD 64.87 from Bank of Maldives (BML) Islamic, with the highest-scoring contestant receiving the grand prize of an Umrah trip for two.

The televised awareness campaign is a collaborative effort between the MMA and Public Service Media (PSM). Other MMA Tamweel Islamic Finance Initiative stakeholders include key Islamic financial institutions such as BML Islamic, Maldives Islamic Bank (MIB), Allied Insurance, and the Maldives Centre for Islamic Finance Corporation (MCIFC).

Booking.com and MMPRC sign MoU to boost Maldives tourism



Booking.com, one of the world's leading digital travel platforms, and the Maldives Marketing & Public Relations Corporation (MMPRC) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on promoting the Maldives as a premier travel destination. This partnership will leverage Booking.com's global reach and marketing expertise to showcase the islands' stunning natural beauty, vibrant culture, and diverse experiences and drive increased tourism to the entire region.

The MoU, effective from March 1, 2025, until March 1, 2027, outlines a collaborative framework between Booking.com and MMPRC for several joint initiatives, campaigns and strategic partnerships. These efforts will focus on increasing tourist arrivals through innovative marketing, enhancing the visibility of Maldives' tourism offerings on Booking.com, developing joint marketing campaigns, conducting skill-building workshops for accommodation providers and promoting sustainable tourism practices.

MMPRC CEO and MD Ibrahim Shiuree said, "The partnership with Booking.com is a crucial step in showcasing the Maldives' beauty and diversity globally, particularly highlighting our unique attractions beyond the traditional appeal. By leveraging Booking.com's extensive network and digital marketing, we aim to boost visitor numbers and drive tourism growth significantly. This collaboration will also enable us to reach a broader, global audience, effectively positioning the Maldives as a multifaceted destination."

Booking.com will contribute to the partnership by providing supply chain optimisation training to accommodation partners and MMPRC staff, supporting MMPRC's marketing campaigns with engaging promotional activities and sharing travel trend insights (in compliance with data privacy regulations) to inform promotional strategies. Furthermore, Booking.com will provide input to MMPRC for its destination marketing initiatives and actively promote sustainable tourism practices in line with MMPRC's goals.

Santosh Kumar, Country Manager, India, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Indonesia at Booking.com, said, "We are delighted to partner with MMPRC to promote the Maldives as a premier travel destination. The Maldives offers an unparalleled travel experience, and we are committed to leveraging our platform and resources to showcase its unique attractions to travellers worldwide. We are particularly excited to support local accommodation partners through training and skill-building initiatives, which will contribute to the long-term sustainability of the Maldivian tourism sector."