

Bangladesh considers launching sea cruise to Maldives

A Monitor Report

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Dhaka : Bangladesh and Maldives are considering to launch sea cruise between the two countries. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 17 expressed sea cruise services can be introduced between Bangladesh and Maldives in the winter season. The premier said this while the High Commissioner of Maldives to Bangladesh Shiruzimath Sameer paid a courtesy call at Ganabhaban in the capital, according to a press statement by the Prime Minister's Deputy Press Secretary Hasan Jahid Tusher after the meeting.

The premier further urged the Bangladeshi nationals residing in Maldives to take Covid-19 vaccine.

In response, the High Commissioner said her country has already started vaccination of the labourers working in Maldives as they have been playing a significant role in the socio-economic development of the country.

Shiruzimath Sameer also informed Sheikh Hasina that students of Maldives have been pursuing academic education on medical sciences in Dhaka, Chattogram and different parts of Bangladesh for long.

The Prime Minister mentioned said her government is giving vaccines to the teachers first and then they will vaccinate the students.

Since there are many public engineering universities and colleges, medical

colleges, aviation university, and maritime university in Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina called upon the Maldivian students to come in large numbers for study purposes. She also urged Maldivian businessmen to invest in agriculture and agricultural goods, fisheries, leather and leather goods, ceramic, medicine and information technology industries.

The Maldivian envoy mentioned her country's keen interest to increase trade and commerce with Bangladesh. She has sought investment from Bangladesh in a new city being built at Male Island, she added.

Shiruzimath praised the Bangladeshi government's efforts to relocate Rohingyas to Bhashan Char in a move to better accommodate them and protect the forest and environment of Cox's Bazar being polluted greatly.

Prime Minister's Office Secretary Md Tofazzel Hossain Miah and Military Secretary to the Prime Minister Major General Naquib Ahmed Chowdhury were also present at the meeting.

Maldives records over 100,000 tourist arrivals for 2021

On February 17, 2021, a total of 147,744 tourist arrivals were recorded in the Maldives, and according to the Ministry of Tourism, 29,591 of these arrivals took place between February 1-10.

At present, the top source market for tourist arrivals is Russia, followed by India. Other top markets include France, Germany, Kazakhs-tan, Romania, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States.

During the same month, on February 1, 2021, the Maldives commenced the administration of the COVID-19 vaccine. President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and First Lady Fazna Ahmed were two of the first to receive doses of vaccine, along with other government officials, and frontline workers.