

A group of divers in black wetsuits and masks are gathered around a wooden table underwater. One diver in the foreground is writing on a document. A nameplate on the table reads "Dr. Ibrahim Didi Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture".

Today in History

October 17, 2009

▲ The government of the Maldives held the world's first underwater Cabinet meeting to highlight the threat of global warming to the low-lying Indian Ocean nation

1849: Polish composer Frederic Chopin died of tuberculosis in Paris

1855: British engineer Henry Bessemer patented a process to burn off impurities in iron to create steel inexpensively

1989: San Francisco was hit by its worst earthquake since 1906, which killed 67 people and injured over 600

2004: A referendum in Belarus lifted a constitutional ban on a third term for President Alexander Lukashenko