

Cash-strapped Maldives says no need for IMF bailout

AFP, Colombo

The Maldives says its financial troubles are “temporary” and the luxury tourist destination has no plans to seek an International Monetary Fund bailout after warnings of a possible sovereign default.

Foreign Minister Moosa Zameer said the Indian Ocean archipelago, best known for its upscale resorts and celebrity visitors, was pressing ahead with tax hikes to meet its debt servicing obligations.

“We have bilateral partners who are very sensitive to our needs and our situation,” Zameer told reporters in Colombo, Sri Lanka on Friday night.

“I seriously don’t think it is a time where we will be right now engaging with the IMF... The issue that we have is very temporary because currently we are having a dip in reserves.”

He said tax reforms, along with the rationalisation of state-owned enterprises, would improve liquidity.

Zameer was visiting Sri Lanka along with Finance Minister Mohamed Shafeeq to meet with local central bankers and other officials.

China and India are the two largest bilateral lenders to the Maldives, a tiny nation of 1,192 tiny coral islands in the Indian Ocean scattered across the equator.

President Mohamed Muizzu came to power a year ago on the back of a campaign to evict a small contingent of Indian troops deployed in the Maldives and pursue closer ties with China.



A Ukrainian serviceman calls home after being released from Russian captivity at an undisclosed location near the Ukrainian-Belarusian border. PHOTO: AFP

Russia, Ukraine swap 206 POWs

AFP, Kyiv

Moscow and Kyiv swapped 103 prisoners of war each yesterday in a deal brokered by the United Arab Emirates, a rare moment of coordination between the two warring sides as Russia pushes ahead in east Ukraine.

The Russians released in the swap were captured during Ukraine’s incursion into the Kursk region, Moscow said, while some of the Ukrainians freed had been held prisoner since Moscow seized the Azovstal steel plant in May 2022.

“Another 103 soldiers were returned to Ukraine from Russian captivity,” Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Telegram.

Among the freed were 82 privates and sergeants as well as 21 officers, Zelensky said. “The defenders of Kyiv, Donetsk, Mariupol and Azovstal, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and the Kharkiv regions,” he added.

Russia confirmed it had “handed over” 103 Ukrainian army prisoners, and received 103 Russian servicemen captured by Kyiv in its Kursk offensive in return.

“At present, all Russian servicemen are on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, where they are being provided with the necessary psychological and medical assistance, as well as an opportunity to contact their relatives,” the Russian defence ministry said.

Despite ongoing hostilities, Russia and Ukraine have managed to swap hundreds of prisoners throughout the two-and-half-year conflict – often in deals brokered by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia or Turkey.

The announcement comes a day after Zelensky said 49 Ukrainian POWs had been returned from Russia, and three weeks ago both sides swapped 115 prisoners each in a deal also mediated by the UAE.

The UAE’s foreign ministry hailed the deal as a “success” and thanked both sides for their

cooperation yesterday.

RUSSIAN ADVANCES

The prisoner swap came as Russia pushed ahead in east Ukraine, where it claims to have captured a string of villages in recent weeks.

The Russian defence ministry said in a daily briefing it had “liberated” the village of Zhelanne Pershe, less than 30 kilometres (19 miles) from the key Ukrainian-held logistics hub of Pokrovsk.

Pokrovsk lies on the intersection of a key road that supplies Ukrainian troops and towns across the eastern front and has long been a target for Moscow’s army.

More than half of the city’s 60,000 residents have fled since the invasion began in February 2022, with evacuations ramping up in recent weeks as Moscow’s army closes in.

Ukraine had hoped its major cross-border incursion into the Kursk region last month would slow down Russia’s advances in the east.

Trump pledges to deport Haitians in Ohio city if elected

REUTERS, California

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump pledged on Friday to conduct mass deportations of Haitian immigrants from the Ohio city of Springfield, even though the majority of them are in the United States legally.

The city for days has found itself at the center of a social media maelstrom after right-wing agitators latched onto false claims that Haitian arrivals were eating household pets.

“We will do large deportations in Springfield, Ohio,” Trump said at a press conference at his golf resort near Los Angeles.

The majority of the 15,000 Haitians in Springfield are there legally. Trump’s longstanding pledge to conduct mass deportations usually refers to those in the country illegally.

Trump did not repeat the assertion


he made during Tuesday’s presidential debate with Democrat Kamala Harris that immigrants were eating dogs and cats, remarks that have been widely mocked.

Two elementary schools were evacuated and one middle school in Springfield was closed on Friday after anonymous bomb threats were made against the community for the second day in a row, according to ABC News.

At the White House, President Joe Biden urged the attacks on the Haitian community to cease.

“It’s simply wrong. There’s no place in America. This has to stop – what he’s doing. It has to stop,” Biden said.

The Biden administration extended Temporary Protected Status to hundreds of thousands of Haitians in the United States in June, a decades-old program that protects legal immigrants from deportation and gives them work permits.

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(Md. Mahbul Haque)
General Manager (Engineering Department)
Phone: +88-02-223375570
E-Mail: info@spcbl.org.bd

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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk (E-mail: xen.natore@lged.gov.bd or Call to 01708-123222).

Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.


Md. Rezaur Rohman
Executive Engineer
LGED, Natore
Mobile No. 01708-123222
E-mail: xen.natore@lged.gov.bd

GD-435

Iran puts 2nd satellite this year in orbit


REUTERS

Iran yesterday launched a research satellite into orbit with a rocket built by the Revolutionary Guards, its state media reported.

The launch comes as the US and European countries accuse Iran of transferring ballistic missiles to Russia that would likely be used in its war with Ukraine within weeks. Iran has denied this.

The Chamran-1 satellite, which was launched into space by the Qaem-100 satellite carrier, was put into a 550-kilometre (340-mile) orbit and its first signals had been received, the media said, adding that the solid fuel carrier was designed and built by the Aerospace Force of the Revolutionary Guards.

The primary mission of the satellite, which weighs 60 kg (132 pounds), “is to test hardware and software systems for demonstrating orbital manoeuvring technology in height and phase.

**Mymensingh City Corporation**
Mymensingh
Estd: 2018
Engineering Division
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Memo No. 46.21.6100.014.00.000.24-1395

Dated: 11/09/2024


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1	ID No. 1009538 & LGCRRP/ Mymensingh/ 2023-24/W-06	1) Construction of RCC drain starting from Bolashpur Jomsher Morol house to Vatikashor Rail Gate via Abdul Awal Minto house in Ward No. 19 (Length=790m) 2) Upgrading of Uni-block road starting from Bolashpur Jomsher Morol house to Abdul Awal Minto house in Ward No. 19 (Length=650)	17/09/2024 10.00am	06/10/2024 15:00pm	07/10/2024 13.00pm

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Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).


Md. Rafiqul Islam Miah
Chief Engineer
Mymensingh City Corporation
Mymensingh
E-mail: ce.dee.ce.mym@lgi.gov.bd

GD-437