# INTERNATIONAL

#### Cash-strapped Maldives says no need for IMF bailout

AFP, Colombo

The Maldives says 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, with along rationalisation of stateowned 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

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A Ukrainian serviceman calls home after being released from Russian captivity at an undisclosed location near the Ukrainian-Belarusian

# Russia, Ukraine swap 206 POWs

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

"Another 103 soldiers were returned to Ukraine from Russian captivity," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said on

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.

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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-halfyear 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 vesterday. 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

## Trump pledges to deport Haitians in Ohio city if elected

REUTERS, California

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump pledged on Friday to conduct remarks that have been widely mocked. mass deportations of Haitian immigrants from the Ohio city of Springfield, even evacuated and one middle school in 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,

Two elementary schools were 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.

#### **DEADLY FLOODS** Myanmar junta makes rare request for foreign aid

AFP, Taungoo

Myanmar's junta chief made a rare request yesterday for foreign aid to cope with deadly floods that have displaced hundreds of thousands of people who have already endured three years of war.

Floods and landslides have killed almost 300 people in Myanmar, Vietnam, Laos and Thailand in the wake of Typhoon Yagi, which dumped a colossal deluge of rain when it hit the region last weekend.

In Myanmar, more than 235,000 people have been forced from their homes by floods, the junta said Friday, piling further misery on the country where war has raged since the military seized power in 2021.

In Taungoo -- around an hour south of the capital Naypyidaw -- residents paddled makeshift rafts on floodwaters that reached the roofs of some buildings.

### Bangladesh at crossroads

FROM PAGE 1

with primarily two goals intertwined holding on to power and amassing wealth. Towards that end, the Awami League corrupted, throttled, disappeared bludgeoned, and, as everyone realised, killed without compunction. When the former prime minister flew away, she had left a government rotting at every pore.

It is no surprise then that Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus instituted six reform commissions judiciary, police, election administration, system, the national corruption and watchdog constitution. These are at the very heart of a dispensation democratic and in much need of reform, if not an overhaul. Those recommendations and the following public however, consultations, would be the easy part.

One need only recall the fate of the tri-partite roadmap that reflected a political compact of three major coalitions that united to topple the regime of military dictator HM Ershad. To say that subsequent governments diverged from the democratic spirit of the roadmap would be a gross understatement. The more difficult part of crafting a truly democratic state entails a robust adoption of the core democratic principles among the stakeholders where Bangladesh keeps failing.

The rule of the majority has typically been taken to mean the primacy of measures – so long as they do not inconvenience the majority – for only those groups that the majority recognise. Minorities must include not just the religious minority, but also the ethnic minority, the gender and sexual minority, the social and cultural minority that would include people with disabilities as well as people with differences.

But even as the interim government strives towards ideals, there are

stirrings that do not bode well. Any remote association with the previous regime is cast in bad light. It appears almost as a matter of ritualistic response to oppose all that the Awami League championed and embrace all that it shunned. Only a month ago people wishing to observe the death anniversary of Bangladesh's founding president were barred, manhandled and beaten away.

While one party is free to conduct its activities being despite recognised as an active opponent of Bangladesh's Liberation War, the one that stewarded it has been turned into a pariah. Even an adviser of the interim government indicated that the ruling party of the last 15 years must face trial before the resumption of its activities. That also implies a temporary disenfranchisement of at least a fourth, if not a third, of the electorate.

Even as there are talks about reforming the Anti-Corruption Commission, which was used as a political tool, the graft watchdog has initiated cases against 42 former ministers, state ministers and MPs in one fell swoop. Government agencies and autonomous organisations are being purged of people perceived to be sympathisers of one party only to be replaced by seemingly vocal advocates of another political party, all in the name of cleansing.

These do not make for the right ingredients to build a solid foundation of a durable the majority. Protection of democracy. A cornerstone minorities is taken to mean of democracy ought to be tolerance. And tolerance can only be tested when the most revolting, the most repugnant are not only accommodated but also protected. Democracy must mean the accommodation of every exception and respect for anyone's right to say, "No". It must mean everyone's right to pick up a stick and stand across the street with outstretched arms and shout ourselves without fear, hoarse, without persecution, without being shot.

#### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Government Engineering Department Office of the Executive Engineer Dist: Natore www.lged. gov.bd

Memo No. 46.02.6900.000.07.001.24.1599

Dated: 12/09/2024

GD-436

Date & time for

Opening of e-

16/10/2024 up to

16/10/2024 up to 11.15 AM

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16/10/2024

up to 11.00

AM

16/10/2024

up to 11.00

#### e-Tender Notice: 06/2024-25

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works as stated as below:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tendering method
1	2	3	4	5
1	1014736	LGED/Nat/GOBM/ 24-25/RW-58	Periodic Maintenance of Natore Tebaria GC- Bagatipara Upazila HQ Road from Ch. 00m-4000m. [Natore-S] Upazila District Natore (Road ID: 169632008)	OTM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and offline/hard copies will not be accepted. To submit e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks' branches up to 5:00pm date: 16/10/2024.

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.



#### Iran puts 2nd satellite this year in orbit

REUTERS

Iran vesterday 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.

Chamran-1 The satellite, which was launched into space by the Qaem-100 satellite carrier, was put into a 550-kilometre 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



#### **Mymensingh City Corporation** Mymensingh

Estd: 2018 **Engineering Division** www.mcc.gov.bd

Memo No. 46.21.6100.014.00.000.24-1395

Dated: 11/09/2024

### e-Tender Notice-05/2024-25 (2nd Time)

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SL No.	Tender ID & Package No.	Name of work	Tender publication date & time	Tender document last selling date & time	Tender closing and opening date & time
1	ID No. 1009538 & LGCRRP/ Mymensingh/	Construction of RCC drain starting from Bolashpur Jomsher Morol house to Vatikashor Rail Gate via Abdul Awal Minto house in Ward No. 19	17/09/2024 10.00am	06/10/2024 15:00pm	07/10/2024 13.00pm
	2023-24/W-06	(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)			

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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).



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