

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

KYIV, Ukraine

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.

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.

Around 300 people were sheltering at a monastery on high ground in a nearby village.

“We are surrounded by water and we don’t have enough food for everyone,” one man said.

“We need food, water, and medicine as priority.” Outside another temple, Buddhist nuns in pink and orange robes waded through knee-deep water.



“I lost my rice, chickens, and ducks,” said farmer Naing Tun, who had brought his three cows to higher ground near Taungoo after floodwaters inundated his village.

“I don’t care about the other belongings. Nothing else is more important than the lives of people and animals,” he told AFP.

FLEE BY ANY MEANS

The rains in the wake of typhoon Yagi sent people across Southeast Asia fleeing by any means necessary, including by elephant in Myanmar and jetski in Thailand.

“Officials from the government need to contact foreign countries to receive rescue and relief aid to be provided to the victims,” junta chief Min Aung Hlaing said on Friday, according to the Global New Light of Myanmar newspaper.

“It is necessary to manage rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures as quickly as possible,” he was quoted as saying.

Myanmar’s military has previously blocked or frustrated humanitarian assistance from abroad.

Last year, it suspended travel authorisations for aid groups trying to reach around a million victims of powerful Cyclone Mocha that hit the west of the country.

At the time, the United Nations slammed that decision as “unfathomable.”

AFP has contacted a spokesperson for the UN in Myanmar for comment.

After cyclone Nargis killed at least 138,000 people in Myanmar in 2008, the then-junta was accused of blocking emergency aid and initially refusing to grant access to humanitarian workers and supplies.

‘TERRIBLE EXPERIENCE’

The junta gave a death toll on Friday of 33, while earlier in the day the country’s fire department said rescuers had recovered 36 bodies.

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01.	17/2024	Local	Repair and renovation works of E-1 and E-2 residential building at SPCBL, Gazipur	15/09/2024	16/10/2024 up to 11.00 AM	16/10/2024 up to 11.15 AM
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GD-436

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.

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
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)

e-Tender is Re-invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works under Mymensingh City Corporation, Mymensingh:

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 & LGCRP/ 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

This is online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will 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.

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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GD-437

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
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Memo No. 46.02.6900.000.07.001.24.1599

Dated: 12/09/2024

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.

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

GD-435