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The invasion of the Chagos by UK Chagossians

Latest information on the Chagos dilemma is that the US ambivalent president Trump has reverted to his previous criticism that it was stupid of Britain to surrender the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius. His contention is that the US military base of Diego Garcia, the main island of the Archipelago, will play a vital part in any American military standoff with Iran.

Funded and accompanied by a member of the right-wing, Nigel Farage's Reform Party, a group of four UK Chagossians, led by Lindsay Mandarin, have on 18 February made the sea trip Sri Lanka in the Indian Ocean to the Chagos on a sailing boat.

They landed on a plot close to Peros Banhos, another one of the four larger islands among the 64 islets that make up the Atoll of the Chagos. Misley Mandarin, leader of this group of Four, has self-appointed himself as First Minister in exile and is claiming possession. Nigel Farage refers to him as the Chief Minister.



Picture from internet

Sailing Home: The Group of Four

The situation is getting more and more involved, i.e. more complicated, regarding the Chagos. The Maldives which is situated closer to the Chagos (500km) refused earlier this month (February 2026) to acknowledge Mauritius' sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago. The Maldives is putting a counter claim based on historic and geographical connections.

The Chagos, part of the British Indian Ocean Territory until recently, is under the protection of the British Government. British Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer has sent a letter to Misley Mandarin ordering him and his

compagnons to leave the island.

But Misley Mandarin is reported to have declared that the authorities will only remove him dead from the Chagos, He has come home and he won't leave, he says. He has provisions to last him for months, he tells enquirers.

Who is Misley Mandarin?

Misley Mandarin was born in Mauritius when his parents were among the Chagossians who were criminally removed from their homeland by the British Government in the 1960s and 70s. It is said his father, Fernand Mandarin, was the first Chagossian to start the protest movements in Mauritius in the 1970s against the British illegal action to evict them from their homeland to make room for the US occupation. He effectively became leader of the exiled Chagossians in Mauritius

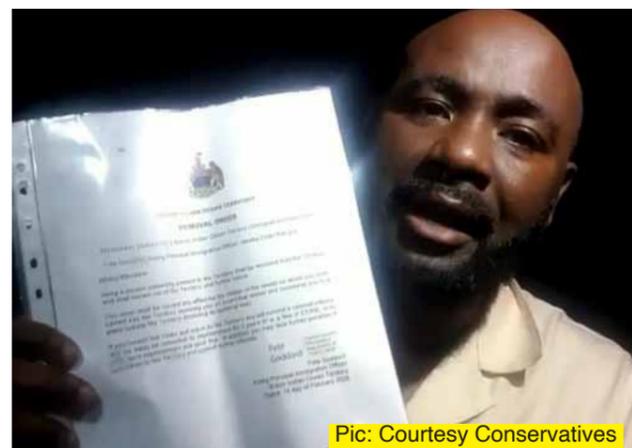
In the late 1990s, the British firm of solicitors Bernard Sheridans took the Chagossians' case to the High Court of Justice in London. Fernand Mandarin was dropped and the name of another exiled Chagossian, Olivier Bancoult, was put forward to accompany a Chagossian delegation from Mauritius. And so was born, overnight, a new leader of the Chagossians. Fernand Mandarin was heard no more.

When the British Government decided to include the Chagos Archipelago among the newly-created British Indian Territory in 1965, the Chagossians were automatically considered as British subjects, and many of the Chagos nationals in Mauritius subsequently decided to emigrate to the UK. A very young Misley Mandarin was among the expatriates.

The area of Crawley in Surrey, South-East England, has become the home of the Chagossians where a large colony of them decided to take up residence. This is perhaps because it was initially easier for them to find employment at the nearby Gatwick Airport.

But soon a movement was to start led by Alan Vencatessen for the return of the Chagossians to their original homeland. He even styled himself as the Chagos President in exile. Unfortunately, it was reported that he got himself embroiled with the law and allegedly did time for a while. This left room for Misley Mandarin to step in his shoes.

It is a known fact that British Government has



Pic: Courtesy Conservatives

Misley Mandarin holding British Government's evacuation order

agreed to return the Chagos Archipelago to the sovereignty of Mauritius, in accordance with the ruling of the International Court of Justice. Britain agrees to do so with the proviso that the Chagos Archipelago, situated some 1,500 miles in the north-east of Mauritius, would remain under the jurisdiction of Britain on a 99-year lease.

But Britain has entered into a separate lease of the archipelago's main island of Diego Garcia to the Americans so that they may carry on maintaining their military base on the island which was established in 1960s.

This is where the American Great Manitou controlling all the activities on Planet Earth has of late dilly been dallying. At first, he categorically said that it was a mistake for Britain to return the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius. Then it was reported he felt good about Mauritius' sovereignty over the Chagos.

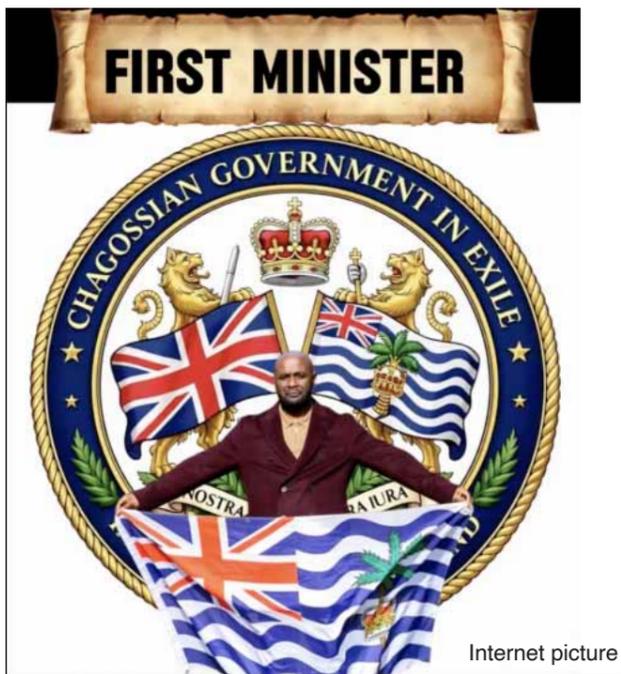
Now that the US is on the brink of war with Iran, Trump believes that the US military base of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean will play a vital role in the assault on that country. He is no longer happy that the sovereignty of the Chagos will be returned to Mauritius. He argues that Mauritius may make deals with China for the latter's easy access to the Indian Ocean.

However, the British government is denying Trump's intention to use the Diego Garcia base to attack Iran. But does he care? He is even defying judgement of the Supreme Court in his own country.

Continued on Page 2

The invasion of the Chagos by UK Chagossians

From Page One



Internet picture

Misley Mandarin pictured with his own design of the Chagos Coat of Arms. He has designed the flag for his republic

How is it that the US, from the other side of the world, can interfere with activities in the Indian Ocean?

This is happening thanks to the British who have always been subservient to the US. In the context of the decolonisation process, a Mauritian delegation headed by Premier SSR attended in September 1965 a constitutional conference at Lancaster House in London.

The British Government, under Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson, made it known to the Mauritian delegation that Britain had decided to grant independence to Mauritius with the excision of the Chagos Archipelago.

As a matter of fact that same year (1965) Britain created the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) to include the Chagos Archipelago. A year later, in 1966, Britain leased the Chagos to the US for a period of 50 years. British Prime Minister Harold Wilson declared to the world that the Americans would use the main island of Diego Garcia as a satellite communication base.

Was Wilson unaware of the Americans' intention to build a military base on the island or

was it a deliberate lie on his part?

India who had been campaigning throughout the sixties to declare the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace was very concerned about the US lease. India knew that the US would build a military base on Diego Garcia and made this fact known then.

So, this was how America got Diego Garcia on a plate without having to lift a finger or to make **any payment**. It happened thanks to the British imperialism.

The British were brutish and the white people of Britain today should not complain about non-white foreigners in the country today. Britain made great fortunes out of the exploitation of the colonies and the enslaving of people of colour during the colonial era

The Chagos Dilemma

The Chagos dilemma has still a very long, long way to go.



Internet picture

America has again been given a further lease of Diego Garcia for another 99 years without having to disburse a single dime, and yet with the right to dictate.

Britain has agreed to pay the rent to Mauritius for the new US lease to the American, and to pay compensation to the Chagossians for the inhumane treatment inflicted on them, con-

sidered as a crime to humanity.

Britain is at present under the control of a Labour Government in distress. The Labour leader, Sr Keir Starmer, is a marked man.

Valeur du jour, Labour will be out of office following the next general election. The Right or a coalition of the Right will secure power.

The Right in Britain are against the Chagos deal with Mauritius, the rent payment to Mauritius and the compensation payment to the evicted Chagossians. They argue that Britain's economy is in dire straights. Britain has no money.

The Reform Party

The most vociferous of the right-wing elements of Britain is the new Reform Party under the leadership of Nigel Farage.

This man **almost** single-handedly brought about Brexit, the exit of Britain from the European Union. And yet he was at the time a member of the European Parliament from which he wanted Britain to dissociate. It did not bother him to lose his seat.

Funding the Chagossians trip to Peros Banhos

It has been said that a member of Nigel Farage's Reform Party has been funding and advising the rebel Chagossians to Peros Banhos.

Reform Leader Nigel Farage who is giving his total support to the Chagossians has vowed that he would soon broadcast to the world from the beaches of Peros Banhos.

The occupation of Peros Banhos by the UK Chagossians has taken place under the very nose of the Americans on the nearby Diego Garcia. How can Mauritius which is 1500 miles away patrol the Archipelago as a whole?

No the plight of the Chagos and the Chagossians is far from over.

Editor's Note:

As regards those four Chagossians, they may soon find how hard it is to survive on a desert island. Multi-millionaire Nigel Farage will not send them provisions for long. They MAY soon turn into some Man Fridays. We are still during the cyclonic season in the Indian Ocean. Already cyclone warnings are being in the area. Without any proper infrastructure in place they will wish they never set out.

P.C.

AI Impact Summit 2026: Prime Minister Ramgoolam calls for international partnerships

“As Artificial Intelligence (AI) reshapes the global power structure, we cannot act in silos. AI holds enormous promise but also carries major risks requiring new governance frameworks through international coordination. This is precisely why strategic international partnerships must be set up”.

The Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, made this statement, on 19 February, in New Delhi, India, during the 'Leaders' Plenary – Global Vision for AI Impact and Governance' of the AI Impact Summit 2026 which is being held from 17 to 22 February.

Prime Minister Ramgoolam warned that widening technological disparities between developed and developing nations could have far-reaching consequences. He stressed that the growing AI divide is already placing developing countries at a disadvantage, threatening their development prospects and compounding existing socio-economic challenges.

While describing AI as a structural pillar of future development, he underlined its vast potential to enhance public service delivery, strengthen decision-making, optimise resource management, bolster climate resilience and unlock new avenues for

growth. However, he cautioned that AI also raises critical issues relating to ethics, governance, equity and trust.

Dr Ramgoolam underlined that without the relevant infrastructure, developing countries, in particular Small Island Developing States, are already disadvantaged in areas such as education, health and trade, and will fall further behind. He emphasised that small economies thus need rapid upskilling in order to stay competitive.

In this regard, the Prime Minister indicated that Government has published the 'Mauritius Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025-2029' as a bridge to the future. It is a strategic roadmap outlining Government's commitment to modernising public services and empowering our people through technology despite our limited resources, he stated.

Moreover, he underscored that Government is establishing a Specialised Economic Zone dedicated to digital technology and AI, designed



world leaders for strategic discussions on the future of AI. Key themes include: AI governance and global cooperation; Balancing innovation with responsibility; and AI's role in economic growth and social impact.

G.I.S

Japan Local Colour

Sapporo Snow Festival 2026
A Winter Wonderland Under the Stars

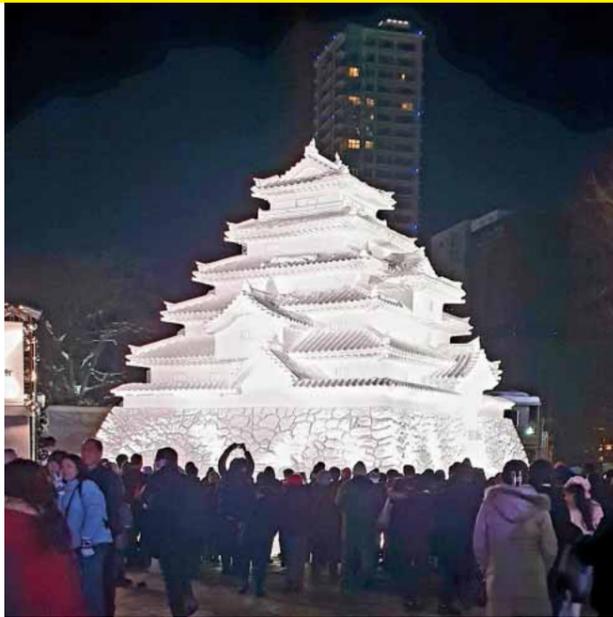
From Mylene



The beauty of this festival is that all the sculptures featured below are fashioned out of snow, and they last

The Sapporo snow festival takes place in Odori Park, right in the heart of the city, from February 4 to February 11. With no gates or barriers, it's a completely open-air, 24-hour event where you can stroll around at your own pace, taking in everything from towering snow sculptures to smaller, more intricate ones. Best of all, it's completely free.

It's hard to believe the festival began back in 1950, when a group of high school students built a handful of snow statues in Odori Park just for fun. They probably had no idea they were kick-starting what would become one of Japan's most famous winter events, now attracting millions of visitors from around the world.



Tsuruga Castle

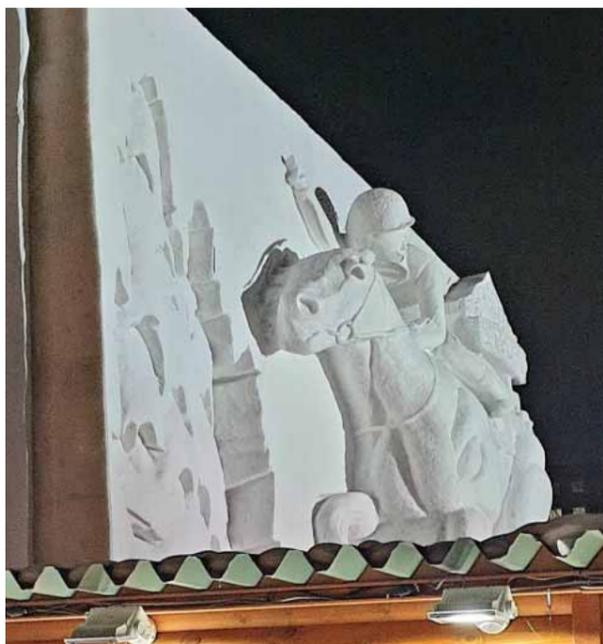
teams all joining the snowy creative party. Despite its global scale today, the festival's roots remain charmingly local.

I've been to the festival many times, but always during the day. This year, I decided to go at night, and it felt like stepping into a completely different scene.

more relaxed, more hushed atmosphere.

Under the floodlights, the sculptures look even more magical, especially ones lit up with colourful projection mapping that brings them to life in shifting colour and light. There's something about the cold night air too. It feels sharper.

Standing there, I couldn't help but think how temporary it all was. Walking through a park filled with giant works of art made entirely out of snow, knowing they won't last forever. They shine brightly for a short time, delighting visi-



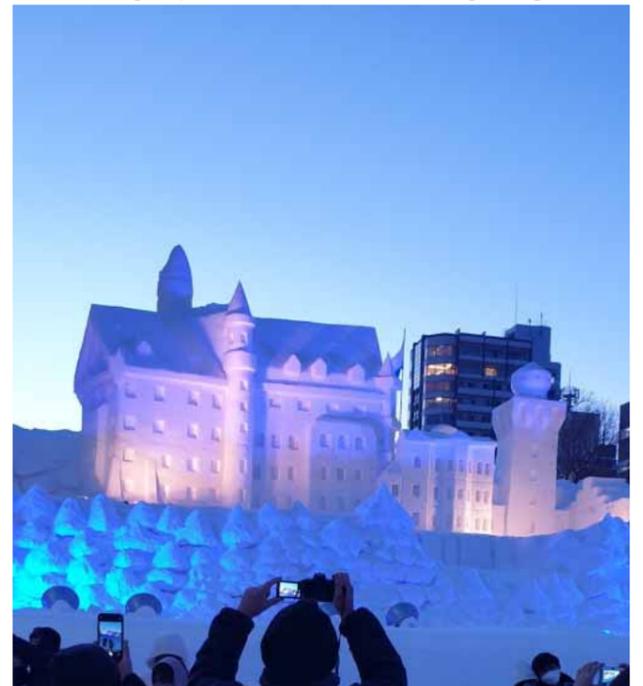
The Thoroughbred Crowned in Glory

Things really took off in the 1950's when Japan's Self-Defense Forces joined in, using their technical skills and manpower to create much larger and more elaborate sculptures. By the 1970s, the festival had grown into a major winter attraction, with professional artists, community groups and international



Projection mapping .

The daytime buzz, cheerful crowds, constant chatter, and families weaving in and out from sculpture to sculpture gives way to a calmer,



A Grand Home

tors before eventually melting away. Somehow, that fleeting nature just makes the whole experience feel even more special as if the night itself shaped them, and will quietly reclaim them when the lights go out.

That, perhaps, is the real charm of the Snow Festival. It isn't meant to last. It's a fleeting winter spectacle, gone with the snow, but not from our memory.



Yes, these too are

Story Book Character



made of snow

Animation characters