

MARTIN AMIDU BLASTS AKUFO-ADDO

...Accuses Him Of Causing Economic Hardship Due To Greed, Selfishness



President Nana Akufo-Addo



Martin Alamisi Amidu

Former Special Prosecutor, Martin Alamisi Burnes Kaiser Amidu, has descended on President Nana Akufo-Addo accusing him of being behind the current

economic mess and resultant hardships, due to greed and selfishness. In a write-up, Mr. Amidu insisted that President Akufo-Addo's family and

friends government is what has resulted in the current hardship and cannot exonerate and or extricate himself let alone lead in its resolution.

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Arise Ghana Demo To Hit Accra Nov 15



Just few days after the 'Kume Preko Demonstration' rocked Accra, pressure group Arise Ghana is also lacing its boots to demonstrate over the severe economic hardship

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The INSIGHT

— EDITORIAL

TACKLING NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Health experts have now identified Non Communicable Diseases (NCD) such as diabetes, stroke, hypertension and cancer as the main cause of morbidity and mortality in our public and private hospitals now.

Until recently, communicable diseases such as dysentery, typhoid fever, cholera among many others which are occasioned by untidy environment and lack of personal hygiene have been our bane.

Obviously, the growing cases of morbidity associated with NCDs are clear indications that these lifestyle diseases have become highly ingrained in our daily practices which need to be worked on.

It is regrettable that seeming improvement in general living conditions of some of the people considered part of the so-called growing Middle Class in the Ghanaian society has brought in its wake a deterioration of the health conditions of the majority of the people. It is even alarming especially as the health sector claims it concentrates higher percentage of its national budget to tackling diabetes and hypertension.

According to the Ghana Health Service records hypertension and diabetes, two preventable diseases attributable to lifestyle of the people are due to excessive drinking of alcohol, lack of exercises, and eating non-healthy diets. This means that if the majority of the people could adopt healthy lifestyles such as exercising, drinking lots of water and eating well, there will be improvement in the health of the people and these NCDs could be reduced if not prevented.

MARTIN AMIDU BLASTS AKUFO-ADDO

...Accuses Him Of Causing Economic Hardship Due To Greed, Selfishness

from front page

“Mr. President, you appeared by your promises and entreaties to Ghanaians to try you as our elected President to have been sincere as the person to be trusted to turn the fortunes of this country round. Time has shown your tenure as our President to be one of wasted opportunity, greed, avarice and selfish devotion to your Family and Friends who constitute your government and the foreign governments and associates you are enamored to please than those who elected you to serve our country.”

“Your management style and penchant for national polarization has brought our economy to its knees. You appear to have squandered all the national aspirations contained in our constitutional preamble and directive principles of state policy”, Mr. Amidu said.

This is the full text of his write-up; **Mr. President, you are part of the problem and cannot lead its resolution** Mr. President, you appeared by your promises and entreaties to Ghanaians to try you as our elected President to have been sincere as the person to be trusted to turn the fortunes of this country round. Time has shown your tenure as our President to be one of wasted opportunity, greed, avarice and selfish devotion to your Family and Friends who constitute your government and the foreign governments and associates you are enamored to please than those who elected you to serve our country. Your management style and penchant for national polarization has brought our economy to its knees. You appear to have squandered all the national aspirations contained in our constitutional preamble and directive principles of state policy.

Mr. President, I can tell you as one of

the suffering people of Ghana who served my country in public office and came out without much to show for that service that very few Ghanaians today, including members of your New Patriotic Party, think that your government of Family and Friends is one that cares about the ordinary Ghanaian in the street. The most recent developments and the challenges to your own authority within the New Patriotic Party is more than sufficient evidence for you to stop calling your government of Family and Friends a government that cares for Ghanaians.

The trust you have lost within your own New Patriotic Party is ample proof, if proof be needed, that as a lame duck President, you cannot between now and December 2023 (let alone by the end of election year 2024) restore stability to the economy and provide relief to the poor. Ordinary Ghanaians of every political persuasion are the recipients of the mess you have created in the economy. How can we support you to rescue Ghana from the throes of this economic crisis when you have demonstrated that your government is not for all Ghanaians contrary to your own promise when you sought our votes?

Mr. President, in your address to the nation on 30 October 2022 you appeared oblivious of the fact that the savings and incomes of o

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THE INSIGHT

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Arise Ghana Demo To Hit Accra Nov 15

from front page

visited on Ghanaians by President Nana Akufo-Addo's administration.

The demonstration is expected to come off on November 15, 2022. The leadership of Arise Ghana made the announcement to demonstrate in a statement jointly signed by Mr Rex Omar, Mensah Thompson, Bernard Mornah and Bobie Ansah. This is the full statement:

"Arise Ghana observes with grave concern the current trend of severe economic hardship that has been visited on Ghanaians.

"We are of the view that such degree of suffering visited on Ghanaians are as a result of the recklessness,

incompetence and greed of President Akufo-Addo, Ken Ofori-Atta and Dr Mahamadu Bawumia.

"Arise Ghana also notes with even greater concern the recent spate of insults thrown at Ghanaians at the mere attempt to complain about the severe economic hardship they are forced to endure under President Akufo-Addo, not only from the President himself but from his family and close acquaintances.

"Arise Ghana as the most vibrant pressure group that has led Ghana's economic struggles in recent past deem it very important to yet again rise to the occasion and bring some hope to struggling young people and the good people of Ghana.

"Arise Ghana, therefore,

wishes to use this medium to announce its plans to lead a massive demonstration in the capital on 15th November 2022.

"Ahead of this massive demonstration, Arise Ghana will also engage various groups such as trade unions, labour groups, youth groups and other stakeholders.

"Again we want to use this medium to commend people like lawyer Martin Kpebu, Prof Ransford Gyampo, Prof Bokpin and others who have been fearless in pointing out the current crisis that we find ourselves in.

"We wish to assure them that they enjoy unflinching support from Arise Ghana and we shall stand with them through thick and thin.



"But finally, we wish to use this opportunity to call on young people of this country to remain calm as we prepare to provide them a platform where they can express their frustrations in a democratic manner.

"We also call on the Ghana

Armed Forces to remain calm as we explore democratic avenues to put this country back on the path of prosperity and bring relief to the people.

Iran Imposes Sanctions On CIA And US Military Officials

Iran has imposed sanctions on the US foreign intelligence agency, the CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) and senior US military officials. The Foreign Ministry in Tehran published a list of 10 individuals and four entities to be punished on Monday, including the commander of the US military in the Middle East, General Michael Kurilla.

Iran accuses them of promoting violence as well as terrorism in connection with the recent anti-regime protests.

Whether the sanctions would have concrete consequences for those affected seemed uncertain. Observers spoke of a rather symbolic step by the Iranians.

For weeks, tens of thousands of people have been



demonstrating in Iran against the regime and the Islamic Republic. After the violent actions by the security forces, the US and the EU initiated further sanctions on Iran. The Islamic Republic itself reacted with entry bans targeting politicians.

The London-based BBC Persian channel and Iran International put the country on a terror list. The protests were triggered by

the death of the 22-year-old Iranian-Kurdish woman Mahsa Amini.

She died in police custody in mid-September after being arrested by the morality police for disobeying Islamic dress codes. Mass protests followed. Iran's government and leadership have been in a serious political crisis ever since.

Source -- GNA

13 African Countries Report 6,883 Monkeypox Cases In 2022: Africa CDC

Some 13 African countries have reported 6,883 monkeypox cases since the start of 2022, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) has said. According to data released by the Africa CDC, 173 deaths and a case-fatality ratio of 2.5 per cent have also been registered during the same period. The continental health agency noted that out of the 6,883 cases, 5,992 are suspected cases while 891 are confirmed cases.

The monkeypox cases were reported from eight endemic and five non-endemic countries. The eight endemic countries are Benin, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Liberia and Nigeria; the five non-endemic countries are Egypt, Morocco, Mozambique, South Africa and Sudan, according to the Africa CDC. Following the announcement by the World Health Organization that declared monkeypox a global public health emergency of international



concern in July this year, the Africa CDC has been calling on African countries to strengthen laboratory diagnostic capacities and genomic sequencing capacity for monkeypox. The continental health body also called on African states to develop and distribute both general and tailored risk communication messages for communities and vulnerable population groups. Monkeypox, first detected in laboratory monkeys in 1958, is assumed to transmit from wild animals such as rodents to people, or from human to human. It is a rare viral disease usually transmitted through body fluids, respiratory droplets and other contaminated materials. The infection usually results in fever, rash and swollen lymph nodes.

Source: GNA



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Spanish Workers Demand Rise In Wages To Combat Soaring Inflation

Spanish workers under the leadership of trade unions have organized a massive mobilization in Madrid, demanding an increase in wages at par with the soaring inflation. The mobilization was called by unions including the Workers' Commissions (CCOO) and the General Union of Workers (UGT). More than 50,000 people participated in the protest stating that "This crisis is not paid for by the working class, salary or conflict!" Members of the Communist Party of Spain (PCE) and Communist Youth Union of Spain (UJCE) also participated in the march and expressed their support and solidarity with the workers.

As is the case in many other parts of Europe, workers and low-income households across Spain are facing an acute cost of living crisis marked by

soaring prices of food and fuel. Trade unions in Spain have alleged that "employers and their organizations are making a reckless and suicidal bet on devaluation and wage freezes." The parties in the incumbent government coalition – the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party (PSOE) and the Communist Party of Spain (PCE) – have stated that while the government had raised pensions, social benefits and salaries of employees and civil servants, the employers have been blocking collective bargaining and rise in workers' wages in the private sector.

On Thursday, while addressing the mobilization in Madrid, UGT's Pepe

Álvarez stated, "this mobilization aims to ensure that the Spanish employers are fully aware that our slogan salary or conflict is not a joke. Where there has been conflict, we have obtained wages and dozens of agreements have been signed with increases that allow workers to maintain their purchasing power, in companies with great benefits and with fewer benefits."

Unai Sordo from the CCOO said, "Today, Spain has inflation that is being contained because of intervention in the energy market, but the underlying inflation is already at 6.4% because companies have passed prices on to the shopping basket to safeguard their profits, preventing



Mobilization in Madrid. (Photo: via CCOO) Trade unions in Spain have alleged that "employers and their organizations are making a reckless and suicidal bet on devaluation and wage freezes"

millions of workers from making ends meet."

Earlier in June this year, a cap on the price of natural gas used in power generation was introduced in Spain in order to lower electricity bills. But several sections within the working class are unsatisfied as the government has been providing huge amounts of

money to energy monopolies to cover their loss in profits due to the cap on gas prices. The Communist Party of Workers of Spain (PCTE) stated that "in the face of the increase in wealth of 11% of Spain's billionaires, we have an inflation of more than 5% and an increase in prices by 10%. They're richer because they exploit us more."

Sri Lankan Protesters Take To The Streets Against Government



(Photo: via JDSLanka/Twitter). Protestors marched the streets of the Sri Lankan capital raising concerns about the increased repression of dissenting voices under the current regime led by Ranil Wickremesinghe, which came to power in July this year following a wave of mass anti-government protests

Opposition parties, unions, and civil society activists in Sri Lanka have jointly organized a protest march followed by an anti-government rally in capital Colombo to protest against

the current policies of the Ranil Wickremesinghe-led government. Protesters marched through the streets of the national capital raising concerns about the increased

repression of dissenting voices under the current regime which came to power in July this year following a wave of mass anti-government agitations. The protestors also raised concerns over the persistent shortage of essentials and the economic crisis in the island. Many protestors were seen holding placards demanding the release of student activist Wasantha Mudalige and others held in arbitrary detention under the Prevention to Terrorism Act (PTA).

The protest was organized by a number of political parties, including the Samagi Jana Balawegaya

(SJB) and Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), along with student organizations and trade unions like the Ceylon Trade Union (CTU). CTU General Secretary Joseph Stalin addressed the crowd saying, the protest was only the first step in a larger people's struggle," reported The Morning.lk: The protestors were blocked at several points along their route by more than 500 police, army, and security officers who were deployed around the area with water cannon trucks. According to local media, the leader of the opposition from the SJB,

Sajith Premadasa, also joined the protest march. The day before the march, on November 1, Sri Lankan police had issued a letter alerting numerous protest groups, including students, trade unions, and political organizations, that permission will not be granted to protest opposite the Fort Railway Station, the site where the protest was to culminate, citing traffic congestion and disruption of traffic flow.

Evanmike Multipurpose Company Clears Air ---over Regional Maritime Univ. Auditorium Projects



Tiwaa Addo-Danquah, EOCO Boss

Evanmike Multipurpose Company Limited, the contractor working on the construction of library administration and auditorium complex projects for the Regional Maritime University (RMU) at Nungua in Accra has come out to set the records straight regarding a publication in The Inquisitor Newspaper in its edition of Monday November 7, 2022. The management of the building construction company has

vehemently rejected what the company described as a palpable falsehood being thrown about by the paper that, the Economic and Organized Crime Office (EOCO) has faulted the company for wrong doings in connection with the construction of Maritime University Auditorium project to soil its image and reputation. The company noted that although it has been investigated by the Economic and Organised Crime Office (EOCO) on alleged fraud, there has not been any final determination of the matter and was shocked to hear in the media space that the EOCO has faulted the company without even being informed about the outcome of the matter pending before EOCO. The leadership of the company served a notice to the paper to retract and apologize to the

company over the statement which it considers to be a fabrication of the paper's imagination. According to Evanmike, the said RMU projects were awarded to them on April 4, 2008, through an open legal competitive tender. Recounting how it won the tender, Evanmike said, following an advertisement in the Ghanaian Times for the construction of library, administration and auditorium complex for the RMU in 2008, "Our Company submitted a bid for consideration and won the tender." The company disclosed that the contract sum for the completion of the projects within eight (8) months was GH¢745,851.72, adding that the scope of the original works was for the completion of the substructure and ground floor level only. It stated that after securing the necessary mobilisation of resources, the site for the construction of the projects was

handed over to Evanmike Multipurpose Ltd. on 22nd May, 2008, and work was completed on schedule. However, Evanmike said in the course of work in June 2015, it became necessary for the rates contained in the contract document to be revised to commensurate with price increase of building material, labour and depreciation of the cedi against the dollar. The cedi, it stated, depreciated by 169% against the USD (the rate of the dollar changed from GH¢1.45 per dollar in 2011 which was applied to the contract sum which raised it to the tune of GH¢ 8,071,004.71 as against GH¢3.90 in 2015. In January 2019, the company recalled that when the work on the auditorium complex reached about 20%, there was a sharp increment in the prices of building materials, labour and equipment hiring. This therefore, called for the need for rate revision to apply to enable the contractor meet the cost of construction, it added.

According to Evanmike, following several consultations on the revised contract sum with the consultant, the amount sum was revised to GH¢35,880,707.57, because of price increment of goods and services, pending the consideration and the endorsement or approval by the Vice Chancellor of the RMU. It said, this proposed new contract revision was contained in a letter dated July 2, 2020, addressed to the Vice Chancellor of the RMU. But Evanmike indicated that, upon receiving the consultant's letter, the vice chancellor of the RMU single-handedly revised the contract sum of GH¢35,880,707.57 to GH¢31,670,584.75. It was against this backdrop that Evanmike petitioned the stakeholders on the revision of contract sum, which matter was currently being resolved. Continuing, Evanmike noted that it applied for rates revision as stipulated in the contract document through the official consultant on the project for his

consideration. More importantly, the company said during the construction of the auditorium complex, there was a change in scope of works, which therefore, changed all the quantities in the Bill of Quantities (BoQ) entirely from substructure (that is from foundation trench, foundation concrete, block work and on the superstructure; from concrete beams, block work roofing etc., etc.) These changes, Evanmike stressed, necessitated the revision in the BoQ. The company also pointed that the non-prompt payment of Interim Payment Certificate (IPC) which should have been paid within 28 days also affected progress of work, adding that some IPCs were paid between 6 months to over two (2) years.

The second phase of the project which involved decoupling/redesigning were awarded in 14th November, 2011, to Evanmike Multipurpose Company Limited with the approval from the Public Procurement Authority through sole sourcing. This, Evanmike explained, was because it was already on site working on the phase one project. Further, the company said the auditorium complex with an initial sitting capacity of 600 people was decided by the management of the RMU to be decoupled from the administration/library block to the present new auditorium complex site. The company described the current teasers published by some of the media houses as mischievous and misleading. To this end, the company called on the general public to disregard the publication of the newspaper attributed to EOCO since Evanmike would be the last company to engage in fraudulent activities in discharging of its contractual agreements with its clients.

First Phd, Postgraduate Diploma Students Graduates From UPSA

By Florence Anim

The University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA) has graduated its first batch of students in Doctor of Philosophy in Marketing and Postgraduate Diploma in Leadership and Organisational Development yesterday.

The ceremony is the fifth session of the 14th congregation for 4,360 final year students of the 2021/2022 academic year cohorts which also includes 18 postgraduate Diploma, 951 Masters and nine PhD students.

The Vice Chancellor of the University of Professional Studies, Accra (UPSA), Prof. Abednego F. O. Amartey speaking at the event disclosed that the University has received accreditation for the introduction of the Master of Business Administration in Corporate Communication, Master of Philosophy in Accounting, and Doctor of Philosophy in Accounting programmes in the 2022/2023 academic year.

According to him, admission to enroll the first batch of students onto these programmes have already been completed and academic work has started earnest. "During the earlier part of the 2021,

2022 academic year, approval was also granted for the mounting of post Graduate Diploma in Leadership and Organisational Development, adding that "we would be graduating the first batch of students from that Programme today", he explained. "We are also excited about the following new GTEC - approved programmes: Doctor of Philosophy in International Security and Intelligence, MA in Media and Digital Communication Management, MPhil in Media and Digital Communication Management", Prof. Amartey further added. He stated that the University enrolled 7,110 new students at the beginning of 2021/2022 academic year which brings the total student population to about 20,131. This number according to him includes 2,026 postgraduate students, 14,877 undergraduate students, 2,786 diploma students and 442 students thus the total student population is 10,892 male and 9,239 female.

He explained that teaching and learning further 201/2022 academic year was delivered through blended mode for both postgraduate and undergraduate students.

The end - of - semester examination were also Adminstrated in the blended mode but with a great percentage (about 95%) being in person sittings. Prof. Amartey commended the Minister for National security, Hon. Albert Kan Dapaah, for providing unflinching support to the university and paved the way for current smooth running of the Master of Art in Peace, Security and Intelligence.

The Minister for National Security, Hon. Albert Kan Dapaah, on his part said it is very important to continue to learn in this world that is in constant progress and evolution, saying " in the past decade we have been constructed by certain amount of new information, new ideology, new development with attendant opportunities, answers that has pushed us to the cycle of learning to remain relevant and competitive.

He recalled that the launch of the 1st National Security Strategy was very important and the aim behind is to ensure that Ghana is secured and also becomes a prosperous nation.

Minority Request Refund Of Alleged \$100 Million Diverted From Petroleum Fund



Minority in parliament

The Minority Caucus in Parliament Tuesday requested an immediate refund of about \$100 million allegedly diverted from the Petroleum Fund by the government.

The caucus had earlier alleged that Mr. Ken Ofori-Atta, the Finance Minister, had ceded shares from the 2021 Occidental (OXY) transaction in

respect of the Jubilee and TEN Fields to an offshore company known as Jubilee Holdings.

Debating a report on the floor of Parliament by the Committee on Employment, Social Welfare and State Enterprises on the audited financial statement of the Ghana National Petroleum

Corporation (GNPC) for the 2019 and 2020 financial years, Mr. John Abdulai Jinapor, Ranking Member of the Mines and Energy Committee of Parliament said the move commenced without parliamentary approval.

“Mr. Speaker, if you go to page 2, subsidiaries of GNPC...nowhere is Jubilee Holdings mentioned here. The Minority, therefore, demands that the \$100 million that has been transferred by the Finance Minister to Jubilee Holdings as captured in the PIAC Report, that money must, with immediate effect, be paid back into the Petroleum Holding Fund as envisaged in the Petroleum Revenue Management Act,” he said.

Mr. Jinapor also alleged that “there is a certain explanation that GNPC borrowed money.” That, he claimed, was in contravention of “Act 919 of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Act which states categorically in Section 15 and Section 32 that before GNPC could borrow such an amount they need Parliamentary approval, and they don't have the approval.”

“Mr. Speaker, through our leader, Haruna Iddrisu, we intend to elevate this particular issue to its highest level. We cannot allow the nation's resources to be dissipated in such a manner,” Mr. Jinapor said.

Corroborating with the Minority's allegations, Mr

Haruna Iddrisu, the Minority Leader, called on the Mines and Energy Committee of Parliament to probe the alleged diversion of the Fund.

“Mr. Speaker, we are requesting the Committee on Mines and Energy and Committee on Employment to probe further because the PIAC Report 2022 recommends that the proceeds of liftings by Jubilee Oil should be paid into the Petroleum Holding Fund as the Committee is convinced that the proceeds form part of Ghana's petroleum revenue,” he said.

“Significantly, Jubilee Holding is not listed as a subsidiary, so how come they will be holding up to \$100 million of state resources?” Mr. Iddrisu asked.

Source: GNA

How I Nearly Fought At A Fuel Station Over Price Increment - KT Hammond

The economic hardship facing Ghanaians has worsened, especially with the recent increase in fuel prices.

Currently, at the fuel pumps, diesel is being sold for more than GH¢23 whilst the price of petrol is hovering around GH¢18.

The recent hikes have not affected only ordinary Ghanaians but also some Members of Parliament (MPs). This is despite the widely held notion that the state fuels their vehicles. Kobina Tahir [K.T.] Hammond, the Adansi Asokwa NPP MP has been detailing how he nearly fought with a fuel attendant after he was told about recent hikes at the pump.

In a Joy News interview last Thursday, November 3, the MP lamented about the current hardship, especially

the fuel price increment, and its effect on Ghanaians. K.T. Hammond said, “a few days ago, I went to the garage, they pumped the fuel into the car and they came to give me the bill, it almost turned into a Third World War at the station. I asked why is he giving me this, and he said just yesterday price of super moved to what the price of diesel used to be.

“It is a particularly difficult situation and I do not envy the lot. Those who are really having to juggle.” He added, “it is not a situation peculiar to only Ghana. We have heard about the situation in Sri Lanka. It is a redeeming situation for those of us in Ghana. At least, we are not in long queues. Oil-producing countries like Nigeria and others are all in

queues, we are not.”

The MP, who is also a member of the Mines and Energy Committee in Parliament is of the view that the current price hikes is largely blamable on Oil Marketing Companies and Bulk Distribution Companies trying to make astronomical profits but he did not rule out the poor performance of the cedi as a factor.

He stressed that he is completely against removing taxes and other margins on the fuel price build-up because there are serious governmental efforts underway to ease the pressure in the system. “It's the OMC, the big ones and the BDCs. I have a problem and they better sort it out well. They got



the dollar at whatever rate so somebody should pay for it...I am concerned that some OMCs are making unnecessary profits and I think we should be careful how they are also playing the market, we are in this together.

“President has travelled out

of the country many times and sent out a delegation to make sure that in a very short time we would be able to flood the market with some petroleum products. I am not happy with the way the BDCs are going about this situation,” K.T. Hammond observed.

A Biden-Putin Meeting In Bali Cannot Be Ruled Out

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

US President Joe Biden said in a CNN interview recently that Russian President Vladimir Putin is a “rational actor who has miscalculated significantly” on the Ukraine issue.

The Russian-American summit meetings have a history of calibrated foreplay. As the G20 summit in Bali on November 15-16 draws closer, the big question is still hanging in the air: Will there be a meeting between the US President Joe Biden and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the event? From the look of it, a meeting cannot be ruled out. It increasingly seems that the scheduling of such a meeting may even be under discussion between Washington and Moscow.

On Wednesday afternoon, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in Moscow that Putin had a call with Indonesian President Joko Widodo (who is hosting the G20 summit.)

Parrying questions, Peskov cryptically added that “we are currently working on a statement” and declined to answer if Putin and Widodo had discussed the Russian president's possible participation in the G20 summit. Instead, he simply told reporters to wait for an official statement on the phone call.

The Russian-American meetings at the highest level are customarily announced simultaneously in the two capitals. The delay in the release of the statement that Peskov referred to can only be taken to mean that consultations are still going on.

A readout drafted by a Kremlin official would have served the purpose in the normal course on the phone conversation between Putin and Widodo,

but in this case, there has been an undue delay while a statement is still under preparation. Given the state of relations between the US and Russia, a unilateral announcement of a Biden-Putin meeting by either side is simply inconceivable. Then there are discernible signs that both sides are striving to lower the tensions as much as they can so as to create a “cordial” enough atmosphere. Thus, from the American side, the White House spokesman John Kirby went on record yesterday to categorically state that the US does not see any signs that Russia is making preparations to use nuclear weapons.

From the Russian side too, it is apparent that Moscow has virtually ignored the media leaks in the US that American military personnel are on Ukrainian soil on a mission to audit the weaponry given to Kiev to fight the war with the Russian forces. The US has a record of staying put in foreign countries and Moscow is in all likelihood conscious of that. Yet, it is keeping mum.

Again, on Tuesday, the Russian Foreign Ministry issued an important statement proposing out of the blue that the atomic powers should “demonstrate in practice” their own commitment to the principle that a nuclear war can never be won and should never be fought as well as “abandon dangerous attempts to infringe on each other's vital interests, balancing on the brink of direct armed conflict and encouraging provocations with WMD, which can lead to catastrophic consequences.” The statement reaffirmed categorically that “[u]se of nuclear weapons by Russia is hypothetically allowed only



There are discernible signs that both sides are striving to lower the tensions as much as they can so as to create a “cordial” enough atmosphere

in response to aggression carried out with the use of WMDs, or aggression with the use of conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is threatened.”

Interestingly, the IAEA inspectors on a mission to Ukraine have given a clean chit to Kiev on Wednesday regarding the latter's “undeclared nuclear activities and materials.” This followed Moscow's recent allegation that Kiev was working on a “dirty bomb.”

Clearly, there will be no need now for Biden and Putin to squander away their time discussing the spectre of Armageddon if they meet in Bali.

On Thursday, again, Moscow and Kiev conducted a second major prisoner swap in under a week.

Meanwhile, Russia has returned to the UN-brokered grain deal to facilitate the transportation of Ukraine's produce to the world market. Of course, this followed a written guarantee from Kiev that the humanitarian corridor will not be used for military purposes. Russian Foreign

Minister Lavrov, in turn, expressed appreciation that such an assurance has been held out by Kiev. Neither Moscow nor Washington has shown any inclination to dial up tensions over the Russian allegation regarding the involvement of British intelligence in the sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines and the drone attack on the Russian naval base at Sevastopol. Curiously, Washington has been somewhat indifferent in washing its hands off the entire unsavory episode involving Britain, while the Russian demarche with the UK ambassador today suggested good behavior by the British intelligence in future and hinted at a desire to move on. Indeed, Russia is not contemplating any retaliation against the UK.

Quite obviously, if a Biden-Putin meeting indeed takes place, the discussion will be largely devoted to the Ukraine situation.

Significantly, the deputy head of the Russian

presidential administration, Magomedsalam Magomedov, said today at a public function in Moscow that Putin's decision to launch the special military operation in Ukraine was not an easy one but he had no other choice given existing dangers. That said, if a meeting between Biden and Putin were to take place, that would create a piquant situation insofar as the stated American position all along has been that the US will not discuss Ukraine with Russia without President Zelensky's participation. However, on his part, Zelensky said today that Ukraine will not participate in the upcoming G20 summit if Putin also attends the event. He sounded wary of being left out. One possible way out of the labyrinth would be that Putin also meets Zelensky in Bali. Perhaps, that is precisely what the wily TV actor himself has in mind.

Peruvian President Turns To OAS For Help Amid Threat Of Parliamentary Coup

By Tanya Wadhwa

Peruvian President Pedro Castillo, has requested that the Organization of American States (OAS) activate and apply the Inter-American Democratic Charter to help his government defend democracy and avoid rupture of constitutional order in the country.

“My government has asked the OAS to activate and apply the Inter-American Democratic Charter to initiate a consultation process with all political forces, state powers, and social forces (...) to find a way that prevents a serious alteration of the democratic order in Peru,” said President Castillo in a televised message to the nation.

President Castillo denounced that the opposition-controlled parliament, the prosecutor's office, and other public institutions had been planning a coup against him.

“In recent months, a series of events and situations have been occurring in Peru, on the part of the Legislative Branch, the Public Ministry and other constitutional bodies, which, in open contradiction with the constitutional provisions and the norms regulating the separation of powers, (...) have configured a process aimed at altering the democratic order and institutionality,” said the president.

“I must denounce before the country and the international community that this practice of breaking the constitutional and democratic order, the political forces that plunged the country into the largest process of corruption in national history in the 1990s, are the ones that are now promoting a new form of coup d'état in Peru,” he added. This request came a week after Attorney General Patricia

Benavides filed a constitutional complaint against Castillo before Congress, accusing him of corruption and allegedly leading a criminal organization.

In this regard, the head of state, in the national address, stressed that the complaint is “unconstitutional, illegal, baseless and lacks any corroboration and objective evidence,” adding that it puts in “serious threat” the democratic stability and the rule of law in the country. Castillo also stated that the country's right-wing and conservative political forces had been making recurrent misuse of legal instruments with the complicity of some magistrates from the prosecutor's office against him and members of his government. He reiterated that he, his family, and his government are victims of political persecution that began even before he took office in July 2021.

He pointed out that the right-wing first accused him of being a communist, then called him a terrorist, and are now promoting a strategy focused on destroying his image.

“They want me to leave so that they can govern without having been elected,” he said. Castillo ratified his commitment and loyalty to the Peruvian people and emphasized that despite the odds he would fulfill the mandate for which he was elected and “end this scourge that damages the country.”

OAS Democratic Charter
Castillo formally requested the OAS to activate articles 17 and 18 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter. Article 17 provides that “when the government of a member



Peruvian President Pedro Castillo, on October 19, requested the OAS to help his government defend democracy in the face of a new coup, promoted by the prosecutor's office and the opposition-controlled parliament. (Photo: Pedro Castillo/Twitter).

state considers that its democratic political institutional process or its legitimate exercise of power is at risk, it may resort to the Secretary General or the Permanent Council in order to request assistance for the strengthening and preservation of democratic institutions.”

Article 18 establishes that “when such situations arise in a member state, the Secretary General or the Permanent Council may, with the prior consent of the affected government, arrange visits and other steps in order to make an analysis of the situation.” It also establishes that “after making a collective assessment of the situation, if necessary, the Permanent Council may adopt decisions aimed at preserving democratic institutions and strengthening them.” During his speech, Castillo highlighted that articles “had already been applied in previous opportunities, as in during the political crisis that threatened in 2008 to alter the constitutional and democratic order in Bolivia and that finally allowed a national agreement with the good offices of the OAS.”

The Permanent Council of the OAS has scheduled an extraordinary session for today to address the Peruvian government's request.

Attorney General's complaint

After an intense day of raids on congressional offices, arrests and interventions in presidential homes, the country's Attorney General filed a constitutional complaint with Parliament for the alleged crimes of criminal organization, aggravated influence peddling and alleged accomplice to collusion.

The prosecutor's office alleged that Castillo was the head of a criminal organization active in the Ministry of Transport and Communications, which in complicity with former Transport Minister Juan Silva, officials of Provías Nacional and Provías Descentralizado, the Presidential Office and businessmen and third parties, favored the Tarata III Bridge consortium and other companies in public bidding processes.

Immediately after the message released by Attorney General Benavides, Congress reported that the

constitutional complaint had already been referred to the Subcommittee on Constitutional Accusations. In the past 15 months in office, Castillo has had six investigations opened against him accusing him of alleged crimes of corruption, criminal organization, influence peddling, accomplice to collusion, personal concealment against the administration of justice, and plagiarism of his master's thesis.

The president has also faced and survived two vacancy motions. At the moment in Parliament, opposition parties are collecting signatures to seek a third vacancy motion. He has been forced to reshuffle his cabinet three times, and has changed over three dozen ministers over disputes and disagreements with the Congress. During these months, the Congress has impeached at least three ministers and presented a motion of censure against two dozen ministers.