

ANOTHER BANKING CRISIS LOOMING

US Based Economist Warns



Dr. Sa-ad Iddrisu, US-based Economist

Dr. Sa-ad Iddrisu, an Economist who is based in the United States (US) has warned of the imminent collapse of banks in the country if the government does not take steps to provide immediate

support. According to Dr. Iddrisu Ghana's financial institutions are heading towards doom and some banks will soon collapse if the government does not secure a \$1.5 billion Stability Fund by July 2023.

Dr Iddrisu said some banks have already recorded huge losses and the lack of liquidity support from the Stability Fund would lead to their collapse.

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Why China Shifted Gear On Ukraine Mediation page 9

NDC Elections

Amaliba Says Court Has Agreed To Hear Injunction Case Today



Abraham Amaliba

Mr. Abraham Amaliba, the Director of Legal Affairs for the National Democratic Congress (NDC) yesterday announced that the court has agreed to hear the injunction case against the party's primaries at an earlier date.

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I Don't Wish For A Coup But We're Getting There If Care Is Not Taken – Nunoo-Mensah page 8

The INSIGHT

EDITORIAL

DEAL WITH THIS HEALTH MENACE

The revelation that there is upsurge in stroke cases among young people per records at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi is very deeply worrying.

There is clearly no doubt that non-communicable or lifestyle diseases appear to have fast taken over from communicable which used to be our bane as a country. According to the Neurologist, Dr. Fred Stephen Sarfo those as young as 13 are now developing the condition which one suffers when a blood vessel that carries oxygen and nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or bursts resulting in lack of blood to the brain and thus death of the brain cells.

According to the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital it records between 800 and one thousand cases, each year with more than 300 dying and the rest becoming permanently disabled.

With its high risk factors being hypertension, diabetes, high alcohol intake and lack of exercise among others, there is the need for improved or change in lifestyle including other health measures to adequately deal with the situation. Stress is also another causative or factor and health authorities need to intensify public education to reverse the tide. The revelation that there is upsurge in stroke cases among young people per records at the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi is very deeply worrying.

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Dr. Sa-ad Iddrisu, US-based Economist

from front page

This, he said, would lead to job losses as several branches would also shut down.

In an interview with Accra based Joy News, he said, "We are heading into a banking crisis, believe it or not, we are currently suffering. If government is not able to get the \$1.5 billion Stability Fund by July 2023, some banks will start collapsing."

"Even what is happening in Ghana is affecting the Nigerian economy because a lot of the Nigerian banks in Ghana are also recording loses", he pointed out.

The Financial Stability Fund aims to strengthen the country's financial system by promoting overall macroeconomic stability.

It will provide short-term liquidity to eligible financial institutions and act as a buffer for any unintended shocks to the financial sector.

THE INSIGHT

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NDC Elections

Amaliba Says Court Has Agreed To Hear Injunction Case Today

from front page

The court process was brought by one of the presidential aspirants, Dr. Kwabena Duffuor who is seeking to stop the May 13 primaries over unsatisfactory processes. Speaking in an interview with Accra based Joy FM on May 10, 2023, Amaliba revealed that they had initially requested Thursday, May 11, 2023, for the court hearing; however, they were unable to reach a consensus with the court registrar, and Friday, May 12, 2023, was given as the hearing date.

"We actually wanted Thursday,

but the registry indicated to us that that is difficult because of some issues relating to scanning of the processes that would have to take place. And the judge who is going to preside must have foreknowledge of the process, so the available time has been fixed for Friday," myjoyonline.com quoted him to have said.

Amaliba maintained that the NDC is determined to pursue the dismissal of the injunction because it could have significant implications for the party, considering the substantial investments made

in preparation for the scheduled elections on Saturday, May 13, 2023.

"The party has invested so much money in this thing. Don't forget that delegates have started moving to their centres. Those in island communities who have to travel by river for a day and then go and sleep over have started moving, so, if you look at the combined effects and hardship, surely it is the party that will suffer."

Dr. Kwabena Duffuor sought the injunction to prevent the NDC from conducting its primaries, citing alleged irregularities in the voter



Director of Legal Affairs NDC, Abraham Amaliba

register photo albums and other concerns.

The party intends to contest the validity of the injunction, emphasizing the potential adverse consequences it could have on their operations and the significant financial resources already invested.

Meanwhile, the Electoral Commission (EC) has pulled out from supervising the primaries until all legal issues associated with it are resolved. According to the EC chairperson, their decision is to prevent the commission from being cited for contempt.

NDC Elections: Duffuor's Injunction Application Not Surprising -Kojo Bonsu



Kojo Bonsu, NDC flagbearer hopeful

Kojo Bonsu, a flag bearer aspirant of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), says he is not surprised by the suit filed by one of his contenders, Dr. Kwabena Duffuor, seeking an injunction on the Party's upcoming presidential primaries.

In an interview with the Ghana News Agency, Kojo Bonsu said he would, however, not comment on the substance of the case until he had spoken to his lawyer.

"I'm not surprised (about the suit)," he said.

The NDC is expected to hold its presidential and parliamentary primaries on Saturday 13 May 2023, to elect a flagbearer and

parliamentary candidates for the 2024 presidential and parliamentary elections. The presidential aspirants are former President John Dramani Mahama, Kojo Bonsu, a former mayor of Kumasi, and Dr. Kwabena Duffuor, a former Minister of Finance.

With barely three days to the primaries, Dr. Duffuor, who had raised issues with some anomalies on the voter's register for the elections, filed an injunction application at the High Court on Tuesday, seeking to stop the Party from holding the primaries with a "dishonest" register.

Dr. Duffuor wants the Party to deliver the complete register to him at least five weeks ahead of the election.

In the writ, he explained that data from only 220 out of the 275 constituencies had been verified, alleging that an exceptional list of 74,799 had been created, which could not be verified because of "scanty information" provided about them in the Photo Album Register.

Again, he claimed that, for no credible reason, 3,910 eligible voters in the 220 constituencies had been disenfranchised.

Dr. Duffuor added that a sizeable number of the eligible voters had no photographs exhibited on the Photo Album Register making it impossible to conduct any meaningful verification exercise on those persons.

He indicated that the photo album put out by the Party's election committee with the "knowledge, consent, and tacit approval" of the General Secretary of the Party would compromise the integrity of the election to his (Dr. Duffuor's) detriment.

The NDC is yet to officially respond to the suit. Meanwhile, in an interview with a radio station in Accra on Tuesday, Johnson Asiedu Nketia, Chairman of the Party, said there was no basis for the Party to postpone the primaries. He said the Party had followed due processes based on the rules governing the upcoming elections and assured delegates and aspirants that the elections would come on as scheduled.

Source -- GNA

Weija Boat Disaster Leaves 9 Pupils Dead



The boat is said to have carried pupils between the ages of 3 and 13

It is being reported that some children have died from drowning in the Ga South district.

According to a 3news.com

report, the pupils were on the boat as it was transporting them from Fana to Kelee, in the Weija-Gbawe Municipality of the Greater Accra Region. The boat, which is said to have capsized, killed the children who are between the ages of 3 and 13.

The report added that the incident took place on

Wednesday, May 10, 2023.

It is unclear whether there are any rescue efforts being made currently.

The Ghana Police Service and the National Disaster Management Organisation (NADMO) are also yet to officially comment on the accident.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS REPORT

Compiled By Peoples Dispatch

Communists Across Europe Mark 78th Anniversary Of Soviet Victory Over Nazi Germany



Victory Day flag raised in the Union Anti-Fascist Patriotic Rally. (Photo: via KPRF.ru). Soviet red flags were raised in Victory Day celebrations across Europe, despite a ban on the display of Soviet and Russian flags in several countries including Germany

On May 8 and 9, communist parties and other anti-fascist sections across Europe organized various events to mark the 78th anniversary of the

victory of the Soviet Red Army over Nazi Germany that marked the end of World War II. The official Victory Day Parade was held in Moscow's Red Square and several major events were

organized across Russia by the Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF). In the wake of the ongoing war in Ukraine, many countries in Europe, including Germany, had banned the display of Russian and Soviet flags on Victory Day celebrations. However, people across cities defied the ban and paid tributes to the fallen heroes of the Soviet Red Army and the partisans who liberated Europe from the clutches of Nazis and fascists during World War II. Victory Day has been celebrated as a holiday in many post-Soviet Republics and other parts of Europe to mark the signing of the German Instrument of Surrender to the Soviet Red Army and Allied forces on the evening of May 8, 1945, in Berlin (May 9, Moscow

time). However, over the last few decades due to rising Russophobia, there has been an attempt to undermine the role of the Red Army and the sacrifices of the Soviet Union in the official Victory Day events in several European states. The Soviet Union lost 26.6 million lives as casualties of the War. Now, in the backdrop of the war in Ukraine, Russophobia is at an all-time high and a rampant process of decommunization is underway across Europe. Meanwhile, on Monday, the Union Anti-Fascist Patriotic Rally—dedicated to the 78th anniversary of the Soviet victory—reached Moscow after traveling 21,000 kilometers, touching various cities in Donbass, Abkhazia, Belarus, and Russia. The rally was started two months ago, on March 17, in

Mariupol. The Communist Party of the Russian Federation (CPRF) stated on Monday, “on the eve of Victory Day, we appeal to everyone to unite their efforts as much as possible in the fight against the greatest evil that exists—against fascism. It was generated by big capital in order to save their loot, in order to pacify the workers who demanded justice, in order to strangle Soviet power, and continue their domination. And the Soviet soldier, raising the Red Banner of October, the Banner of Lenin over the Reichstag, accomplished a great feat. We are the heirs of the winners, the people of Victory, and are simply obliged to defeat today, as almost 80 years ago, the brown plague of fascism, which in any of its guises is a vile and bloody product of capitalism!”

Arab League Votes To Withdraw Syria's 12-Year Long Suspension



Syria's President Bashar al-Assad visited the United Arab Emirates, March 20, 2023. (Photo: SANA). Syria was suspended from the Arab League in 2012 after war broke out in the country. Several members of the League supported anti-government forces which included Islamist militias

In a significant step in the ongoing process of Syria's reintegration in regional politics, the council of the Arab League last Sunday, May 7 voted to readmit it as full member of the group. Though only [13 out of the 22](#) League members were present in the meeting at its headquarters in Cairo, all voted unanimously in favor of Syria's re-admission into the

regional group founded in 1945. Syria was one of the founders of the group. Its membership was suspended following the outbreak of the war in the country in 2011. Several members of the League accused the Bashar al-Assad government of violating human rights and went on to support anti-government forces, including Islamist

forces. Syria will be able to participate the upcoming Arab League summit in Saudi Arabia on May 19. Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit said that Assad is welcome to join the upcoming summit “if he wishes to, because Syria, starting from this evening [May 7], is a full member of the Arab League, and from tomorrow morning they have the right to occupy any seat,” [Al-Jazeera reported](#). Syria's rejoining the Arab League is the most significant step yet in the process of its [reintegration](#) into regional politics. Various Arab countries such as Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE, among others, have already reestablished bilateral relations with Syria, and some are in the process of doing so. **Regional and global reactions** While confirming the decision by the Arab League, the Syrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates reiterated the need for dialogue and joint action by all countries in the

region to face common challenges, [Syrian Arab News Agency \(SANA\) reported](#). Syria's close ally Iran also welcomed the decision. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said that reconciliation and collaboration to resolve disputes in the region “will deliver favorable results for collective stability and peace and will pave the way for reducing foreign profit seeking interference in regional affairs,” [Press TV reported](#). The US, which has imposed illegal unilateral sanctions on Syria, had earlier expressed its opposition to Syria's reintegration into regional politics, claiming that it was a “rogue state.” It also refused to recognize the reconciliation process initiated by individual Arab countries. Meanwhile, Russia has welcomed the decision of the Arab League. In a statement, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said that the move demonstrates the

wish of the Arab countries to be independent from external interference and reflects their “aspiration to bolster coordination of actions in the interest of settling pertinent regional and international issues.” Zakharova also emphasized that the decision “will facilitate a healthier atmosphere in the Middle East region and the swift overcoming of the consequences of the Syrian crisis,” [TASS reported](#). Some Arab countries—such as Qatar, which still backs anti-Assad forces in Syria, and Kuwait—have refused to normalize their relations with the country, so far. Qatar issued a statement on Sunday claiming that normalization of relations with Syria is conditional to finding a political solution to the war in the country, [Reuters reported](#).

John Mahama Speaks On Injunction Application By Dr Duffuor



John Mahama has reacted to the injunction filed by Dr Duffuor over the NDC polls

The former president of Ghana, John Dramani Mahama, has reacted to the injunction application on the National Democratic Congress (NDC) Saturday, May 13, 2023, elections. The application, by one of the presidential candidate hopefuls of the party, Dr. Kwabena Duffuor, is influenced by his concerns about the electoral album of the NDC. Reacting to the application,

which was filed on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, John Mahama told delegates, while in Wa, that he is hopeful the hurdle will be crossed. "We know on Saturday, God willing, we have a little obstacle to cross because of an injunction one candidate has placed on the primaries but we are hopeful that some understanding can be reached so that we go ahead with these primaries, and so on Saturday, we will come together and vote for our parliamentary

candidates and our presidential candidates," he is quoted to have said in a 3news.com report.

Duffuor files injunction against NDC primaries

Dr. Kwabena Duffuor, flagbearer hopeful of the National Democratic Congress (NDC), has filed an interlocutory injunction against the party's upcoming presidential and parliamentary primaries slated for Saturday, May 13, 2023.

The lawsuit specifically named as respondents the General Secretary of the NDC, the Director of the Elections Directorate, along with fellow flagbearer hopefuls John Dramani Mahama and another contender, Kojo Bonsu.

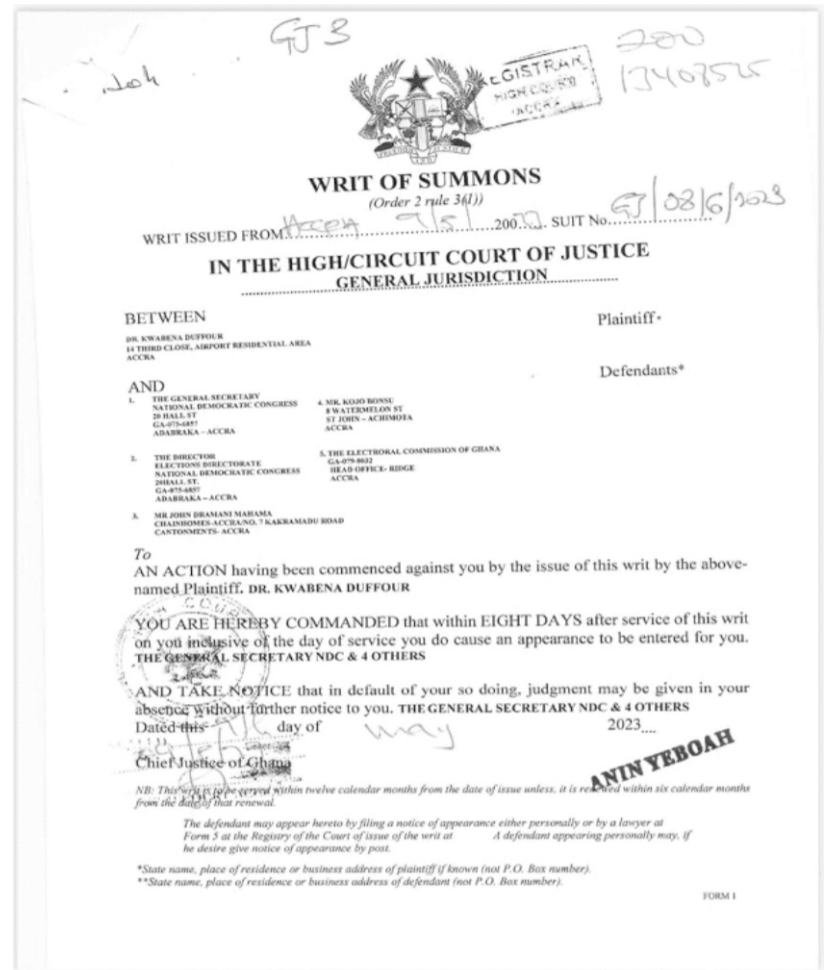
According to the writ, the defendants have been commanded to enter their appearance within eight days of being served with the legal documents.

The writ added that failure to comply with the order may result in a judgment being passed in their absence without further notice.

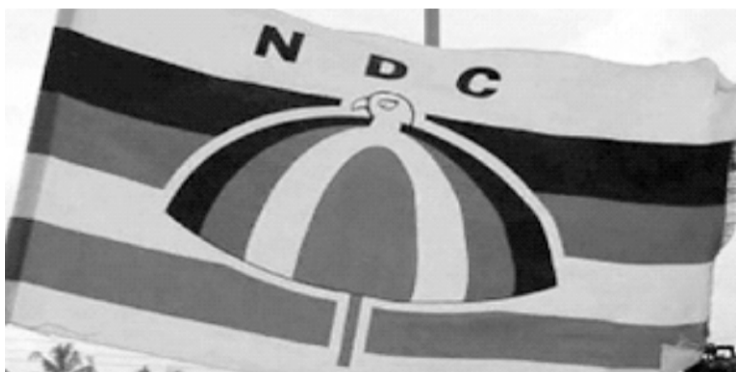
An earlier communique from the camp of Dr. Duffuor alleged certain irregularities and concerns

regarding the integrity of the upcoming primaries, prompting him

to seek legal intervention.



NDC To Audit 47 Constituency Electoral Albums Ahead Of Primaries



NDC believes, successful outcome of the primaries will send a strong signal to the ruling NPP

The Ashanti Regional regional branch of the opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) has set up a special office at the party's regional office in Kumasi to audit and confirm the party's delegates album for Saturday, May 13, 2023 primaries' credibility. The move has become needful following some concerns raised by the

party's flagbearer hopeful Dr. Kwabena Duffuor's team over the credibility of the voter's album after his research team's audit of the various constituencies album. This special audit which is said to have the blessing of the national chairman of the party, Johnson Asiedu Nketiah is expected to check and correct any error in the album to ensure smooth and successful organization of flagbearer and parliamentary primaries across the country on

Saturday, May 13, 2023, to avoid any possible confusion.

The party believes the successful outcome of Saturday's elections will send a strong signal to the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) that they are seeking to unseat in elections 2024.

The largest opposition National Democratic Congress (NDC) will on 13 May elect a Flagbearer to lead the party into elections 2024.

Three respected members of the party are in the race for the position. They include former finance minister and one-time governor of Ghana's central bank (Bank of Ghana) Dr. Kwabena Duffuor, ex-president John Dramani Mahama and ex-KMA boss, Kojo Bonsu.

Source: starrfm.com.gh

We Will Not Relent On Calls To Review 3 New Taxes - GUTA

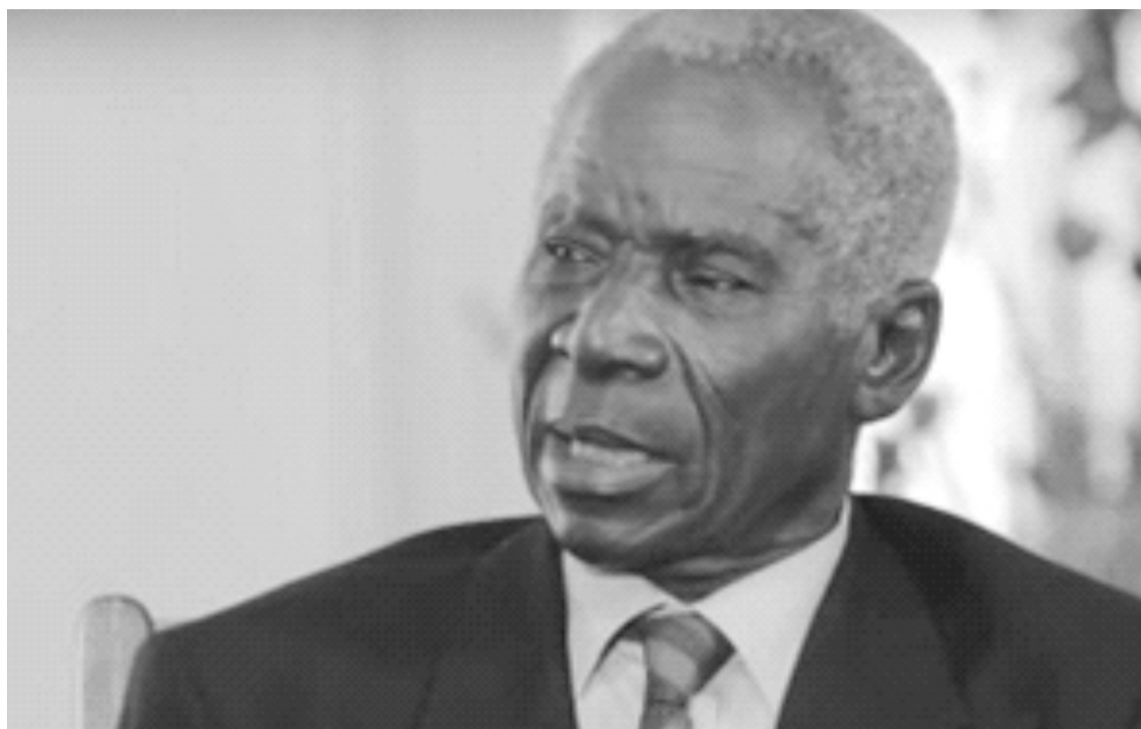


Ghana Union of Traders Associations

The Ghana Union of Traders has noted that it will not relent on its demands for a review or withdrawal of the three new taxes introduced by the government. According to Clement Boateng, the association will continually engage the government to review the taxes during the mid-year budget review. He explained that traders will be forced to transfer the extra cost to customers. According to a myjoyonline.com report, he made the statement after the swearing-in of new executives of the Abbosey Okai Spare Parts Dealers Association. "GUTA is still calling on the government to have an engagement so that we can offer some solutions that will raise more revenue than the

taxes. But we are looking at the 2023 Mid-year Budget Review for the taxes to be reviewed. "It is not too late for us as a trading community and we will still be pushing. But in the meantime, we have to pass on the cost to consumers because this is a business and every businessman or woman will do that," he was quoted by myjoyonline.com. The Ghana Revenue Authority revealed that the implementation of the three new and revised taxes passed by parliament will begin on May 1, 2023. A notice by the Authority noted that businesses had been given enough time to configure their systems for the taxes to be implemented since the law was passed. Meanwhile, the Ghana Union of Traders Association has noted that this may result in an increase in the price of goods and services as they may be forced to pass on the extra cost to consumers. The new and revised taxes include three key tax measures – the Excise Amendment Act, 2023; Income Tax Amendment Act, 2023; and the Growth and Sustainability Levy Act, 2023.

I Don't Wish For A Coup But We're Getting There If Care Is Not Taken – Nunoo-Mensah



Brigadier General Joseph Nunoo-Mensah rtd

A former Chief of Defence Staff of the Ghana Armed Forces, Brigadier General Joseph Nunoo-Mensah, has cautioned that Ghana is heading towards destruction as the anger of the citizens

might push people to stage a coup although that is not the best way to go. According to the retired military officer, people are forced to organised coups out of anger against the system, as no one organises a coup unless something pushes

them to. Bemoaning the state of the economy, he said things are getting worse in the country and, thus, the youth must rise up because the two main dominant political parties – New Patriotic Party and the National Democratic Congress

– are both the same. Speaking to Korku Lumor on the Class Morning Show on Class91.3FM, Wednesday, 10 May 2023, he stressed that coups destroy nations but Ghana is gradually getting there. Explaining what triggers coups, he said: “We don't go on that road [coups] with our eyes wide open. People like Rawlings who went on that road, something pushed them to go that road. Somebody will get up and do something spontaneously, the anger will come and you can't control the anger because what is happening now you can't bare it.” “I don't wish for a coup for this country at all, when we get there we won't come back, Ghana will be finished. Look at Libya, look at Iraq, they'll never come back, they're finished they are gone, Sudan is going that way, it's finished. I don't want Ghana to go that way but if we don't

take care, we will go that way. We are not going there willingly but anger will push us there,” he stated. The octogenarian passionately said “NPP and NDC are all the same.” “Rawlings thought he could change Ghana before he died but he couldn't change it and it's a horrible pain and I don't know why,” he expressed his frustrations before asking rhetorically, “do you have to kill people or murder people before they listen to you?” Brigadier General Nunoo-Mensah, who said he has lived in UK, Russia, Canada, Ukraine, Russia, wondered why the youth will queue at the American Embassy looking for visas when Ghana is a beautiful country. “Ghana is a beautiful place but let's build it...all our politicians should be ashamed of themselves and the youth must get up,” he charged.

Source: [classfm.com](https://www.classfm.com)

Stroke Becoming Prevalent Among The Youth

Programme Manager of the Non-Communicable Diseases of the Ghana Health Service, Dr. Efua Commeh, has indicated a rather worrying trend of rising stroke cases among young people of 40 years and below in Ghana.

According to her, these have become so owing to many cases of hypertension in such young persons that go untreated or unmanaged in recent times, a graphiconline report says.

Dr. Commeh further indicated that whereas such cases were more prevalent among the aged – persons between 80 and 90 years old, people as young as 35 and 40 are now being diagnosed of stroke due to uncontrolled hypertension. “These strokes that originally we used to see in very aged

people are now occurring in the productive work group; people who are actively working,” she said. “They bring them to the hospital and they say nothing happened and the person collapsed. You check them and they have hypertension. It is this hypertension that gives them complications like stroke, heart attacks, kidney diseases, among others,” graphiconline quoted her as having said.

Dr. Commeh further noted that about 600,000 cases of hypertension are recorded annually, with fewer of these people in their older ages and more of these patients being younger persons, sometimes in their 20s. She was speaking in an interview ahead of World

Hypertension Day which will be observed on May 17, on the theme: “Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer”. Dr. Commeh however mentioned some key causes of stroke among the youth. Among others, she said that stress is one of the key causes of stroke.

“(For) Some of them, it is pressure from school, pressure from work, pressure from the home and pressure everywhere; and on top of these stresses, closing quite late from work and getting home late before eating in the night. “At that time of the night, you are not going to get any appropriate food to eat. “You end up taking fast foods, and these, among others,



Many cases of stroke being recorded are among the youth

contribute to making us unhealthy, and they are the things that can give us hypertension,” she explained. She also explained that bad habits including cigarette smoking, alcoholism, and unhealthy diets contribute to hypertension. “Hypertension is said to be a

silent killer. “It is called silent because when it starts rising, you don't notice anything. “The first thing you know is you have severe headache and then the person collapses, and by that time, it would have gotten a bit too late,” Dr. Commeh said.

Why China Shifted Gear On Ukraine Mediation

By M. K. Bhadrakumar

The nuclear plant in the Zaporozhya region which is under Russian control. The Ukrainian counter-offensive region is expected in the region. For all the noise out of Washington, more and more countries are integrating their supply chains with China. Even the UK Foreign Secretary is [making overtures to China](#), while Ukraine's Zelensky had a "long and meaningful" phone call with Xi Jinping on Wednesday. Washington's position, sanctions and all, is disintegrating. It is too early to predict what will emerge out of the speech on Tuesday at Mansion House by the UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly outlining the government's position on China. *The Global Times* gave a [cautious welcome](#).

Clearly, Britain feels the urgency to dig its way out of the foxhole in which it found itself following the collapse of the Five Eyes attempt to ignite the Hong Kong protests. Britain cannot be far behind when the overall interests of European countries that enjoy deep mutually beneficial economic ties with the world's second largest economy, are manifesting as reluctance to be dragged into becoming a vanguard that confronts China. (See my blog [Who gains from a forever war in Ukraine?](#))

That said, the timing is interesting. Cleverly's speech came on the eve of the phone conversation between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy (at the latter's request.) From its unique perch on the transatlantic axis, Britain can sense tremors that impact the geopolitics of Indo-Pacific and the Ukraine conflict, which are in some ways inter-connected. Britain is positioning

itself.

Contents of conversations at top leadership level are never publicly divulged and the overwhelming mass lies submerged, like icebergs breaking off glaciers. But the [Chinese readout](#) of Xi-Zelensky conversation on Tuesday exudes positive tone.

Xi hailed Sino-Ukrainian relations as "strategic partnership boosting development and revitalization of the two countries" and went on to make a flattering reference to Zelensky's personal role. Xi also stated China's consistent position that "Mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity is the political foundation of China-Ukraine relations." Xi showed readiness in advancing the two countries' strategic partnership with a long-term perspective. On Ukraine issue, Xi made three key points: China's "core stance is to facilitate talks for peace," as enunciated in its position paper of February 24; Beijing intends to be proactive; and, dialogue and negotiation are the only way forward.

The salience lies in Xi's pointed reference to "rational thinking and voices on the rise" lately and that Kiev should "seize the opportunity and build up favorable conditions for the political settlement."

Xi kept his eyes on the ball and may have hinted that Zelensky can still win by a nose if only the risky, senseless idea of a "counteroffensive," the germaine seeds of which have been planted on his mind by Washington and London, is set aside. Sensing Zelensky's receptiveness, perhaps, Xi proposed that China will "make its efforts for early ceasefire and restoration of peace." Specifically, "China will send the Special Representative of the Chinese Government on Eurasian Affairs to Ukraine and other countries to have in-depth communication with all parties

on the political settlement of the Ukraine crisis."

But no timeline was mentioned. Nonetheless, Xi has made a proactive move. What could be the calculus? At the obvious level, Xi has just had a series of interactions with European leaders who visited Beijing, which convinced him that "Ukraine crisis is evolving in complex ways with major impacts on the international landscape," as he told Zelensky. Meanwhile, the leaked Pentagon documents exposed that disunity, distrust and divergences between the US, Europe and Ukraine are serious and keep worsening. On the other hand, Washington is not only the biggest obstacle to a ceasefire and peace talks but is nudging the western allies to rally behind its Indo-Pacific Strategy to contain China. This is where French President Emmanuel Macron's extraordinary outburst in his [interview with Politico](#), aboard Cotam Unité (France's Air Force One) while returning from China after spending around six hours with Xi, becomes a defining moment.

To be sure, Macron's stirring call that Europe should avoid "getting into a bloc versus bloc logic" resonated in Zhongnanhai — viz., Europe's longing for strategic autonomy; Europe's gnawing doubts and weariness of being a "vassal"; and Europe's multiple challenges in social governance and its prioritization of development and prosperity ultimately leaving it with no choice but to embrace Eurasia with greater connectivity, develop bilateral economic and trade relations with China, and rebuild ties with Russia. An avalanche of Chinese commentaries followed Macron's remarks. A clincher, however, would have been the recent leak of classified US and NATO documents on the Ukrainian military and Kiev's much-anticipated "spring counteroffensive" (on which the US Department of Justice has



The Chinese readout of Xi-Zelensky conversation on phone exudes a positive tone. The Chinese President may have hinted that Zelensky can still win by a nose if only the risky, senseless idea of a "counteroffensive."

since opened an investigation.) The documents exposed numerous disadvantages and shortcomings of Ukrainian military and gave way to Washington's top secret assessment that Ukrainian military is in dire straits after recent setbacks. Indeed, [a pall of uncertainty](#) and loss of self-esteem descended on Kiev, which is increasingly unsure about the steadfastness and reliability of Western support. Compounding these complexes were the leaked intelligence reports that the US "is also spying on Ukraine's top military and political leaders, a reflection of Washington's struggle to get a clear view of Ukraine's fighting strategies." (*New York Times*) Shades of Edward Snowden — this is how the US keeps its hegemony! Nonetheless, an [editorial in Global Times](#) has written: "As time goes by, the international community has engaged in more cool reflection on this hot conflict. Especially, the willingness to negotiate among all parties is rising, and more rational voices are emerging in various European countries. In a sense, the window of opportunity for promoting a political solution to the Ukraine crisis has emerged." Xi swiftly followed through his conversation with Zelensky by appointing Li Hui, the deputy director-general of the department of Eurasia in the foreign ministry, to head China's delegation for the settlement of

the crisis in Ukraine. It is a smart decision. Li Hui, one of China's ablest Eurasia hands, had previously served as the envoy to the Kremlin for an extraordinarily long period of ten years (2009-2019). He is very familiar with both the Ukrainian and Russian situation, understands the psychology of Slavic peoples and, of course, he speaks Russian. The appointment of a special representative signifies a serious attempt to activate mediation functions to build bridges. But there are formidable challenges. Russia welcomes anything that could bring the end of the Ukraine conflict closer, but the bottom line will be that it still needs to achieve the aims of its special military operation in Ukraine. Also, Russia does not see readiness on the part of the West for a peaceful settlement. There is sound basis to it, as Washington relies entirely on military solution and total victory. China-brokered negotiations will be a huge blow to the American strategy in Ukraine and if it gains traction, that will put the US on the back foot in Indo-Pacific as well. In the short term, therefore, [pressure may only build up](#) on Zelensky to launch the "counteroffensive." *MK Bhadrakumar is a former diplomat. He was India's ambassador to Uzbekistan and Turkey. The views are personal.*

US Interventionism In The Peruvian Justice System And The Coup D'état Against Pedro Castillo



US Ambassador Lisa Kenna with Peruvian Attorney General Patricia Benavides. Photo: Twitter. Suspicions were raised after the US Ambassador to Peru posted a photo with Peru's Attorney General. Peruvian activist and jurist José Carlos Llerena Robles argues that US interventionism in the Peruvian justice system has much deeper roots

By Jose Carlos Llerena

On April 13, US Ambassador to Peru Lisa Kenna [posted](#) a photo with the Peruvian Attorney General Patricia Benavides on her personal Twitter account. She added that the two had a meeting to discuss “the importance of moving forward with investigations of incidents of violence and human rights cases in recent months”. This tweet is further evidence to not only the [role played by the US embassy](#) in the coup d'état against President Pedro Castillo Terrones on December 7, 2022, but also a long history of US interventionism in the justice system of our country. It also shows that today, in a period of multi-polar transition, is extremely strategic for the US to take care of its “Backyard” and give continuity to the Monroe Doctrine.

There is no doubt about the fundamental role played by Prosecutor Benavides in the judicial, parliamentary, and media plot to achieve the illegal and arbitrary detention of President Castillo. As such, the meetings held prior to the

coup d'état of December 7, 2022, as well as the public congratulations from Ambassador Kenna, a former CIA officer according to her public resume, to the prosecutor are no coincidence. It is worth noting that the prosecutor's sister is a suspect in the organized crime case “Los Cuellos Blancos del Puerto” (White Collars of the Port).

However, this meddling of US hegemony in the internal affairs of the Peruvian State is neither recent nor specific to this case. Economist Silvio Rendón, in his book “The intervention of the United States in Peru. From the project of the protectorate till Wikileaks”, systematizes the Yankee interventionism in our country since the War of the Pacific, with its modalities ranging from its military modalities to the “Human Rights” industry. At the beginning of the year 2000, in the well-known period of the “return to democracy”, this interventionism adopted a different garb. Through NGOs and with USAID funding, support was given to the “Reform of the Justice System”. The purpose of this interventionist tactic is to guarantee control over the

design and application of the Justice System in Peru in order to safeguard US economic, commercial and geopolitical interests in the country. For example, USAID was in charge of the training and promotion of the new Criminal Procedure Code, as detailed by Javier De Belaunde in his text “The Reform of the Justice System, on the right path?” As De Belaunde points out, “the new Code proposes a new model of criminal procedure. The new law, which is accusatory, oral and public, redefines the roles of the judges and the Public Prosecutor's Office”. In other words, the United States Agency for International Development helped determine the procedural rules of the Peruvian criminal process, as well as the “training” of state actors in the process, such as the Public Prosecutor's Office. The importation of legal categories or mechanisms is also part of the interventionism in the justice system. This not only guarantees procedures similar to those that exist in the United States, but also builds and feeds a consensus among

legal operators about how the American model of justice is an ideal. This happens with the Law of Effective Collaboration, or Plea Bargaining, which today is so useful for Lawfare schemes where the imputation of crimes of “corruption” to progressive and leftist leaders are always based on testimonies of “witnesses” and “effective collaborators”, rather than on evidence to support a criminal charge. Effective Collaboration makes it possible for Judge Moro, a ward of the US Department of Justice, to say bluntly, at the time of sentencing President Lula Da Silva: “I have no evidence, but I have convictions”.

Another manifestation of this interventionism in the justice system, and perhaps more shamelessly, is the extension of the scope of application of US laws to Peruvian territory. This happens, for example, with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), which turns out to be, as Romano and Britto [point out](#), “a legal and institutional framework that enables the extraterritoriality of US regulations, affecting individuals, companies and entire economies”. Precisely, this legal scheme allows the United States to apply economic sanctions to States whose alternative projects do not satisfy US expectations, violating any notion of sovereignty of the peoples, or to prosecute leftist leaders for accusations of “corruption” which in the long run are never proven but which are effective for short-term political purposes of the Creole elites and US imperialism.

In this sense, the recent meeting between the US Ambassador Kenna and the

Peruvian Public Prosecutor is nothing but another evidence of the level of interventionism of the US imperialism that Peru has been suffering for several years. The official communication channels show that the US Embassy, even before Patricia Benavides took office, has had an intimate relationship with the Public Prosecutor's Office, which raises doubts as to whether the interests of the Peruvian people are being prioritized in the prosecutor's work in Peru. It is enough to lift a stone in the Peruvian justice system to find funds from the US State that seek to guarantee its geopolitical interests instead of the effective jurisdictional protection that all Peruvian men and women deserve. From the presence of USAID in the first level of the Judicial Branch building, to the apparently “collaborative” Justice Sector Support Project -managed by the ABA ROLI and funded by the US State Department- which in 2017 developed a “[Digital Evidence Manual](#)” for the Public Prosecutor's Office, to the training and capacity building of justice system operators by NGOs with funding from USAID and NED. The meeting between the Prosecutor of the Nation and the ambassador is only the tip of the iceberg of an affront to the sovereignty of justice of Peru, but, at the same time, irrefutable proof of the role of the United States in the ['coup d'état against President Pedro Castillo](#) on December 7, 2022.