

NATIONAL DAILY PRESS REVIEW JUNE 3-27, 2013

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

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American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 27, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. **Ivoirian government announces new U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire**
2. **Ivoirian government to launch project seeking to provide jobs for youth**
3. **French grant to support gay rights in Cote d'Ivoire**

1. Ivoirian government announces new U.S. Ambassador for Cote d'Ivoire

***Fraternite Matin* (p. 5)** today features a statement issued by the Ivoirian government announcing the nomination of **Terence McCulley as the new U.S.** Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire. The statement was issued yesterday after a cabinet meeting presided over by President Alassane Ouattara.

The announcement also features prominently in pro-government daily ***L'Expression*** which carries a headline saying, "Gbagbo's nemesis in the departure lounge" along with a picture of Ambassador Phillip Carter III on its front page. An article in this paper (**p. 3**) says that Ambassador Carter's determination to have the results of the 2010 disputed presidential elections respected led to mixed opinions about him. While his detractors say that he was sent to Cote d'Ivoire to chase out the previous administration, other Ivoirians have welcomed his commitment to the cause of democracy.

"Terence Patrick McCulley to replace Phillip Carter III," reads another prominent headline in ***Le Nouveau Reveil***. The paper (**p. 3**), which notes that the announcement coincides with President Obama's second trip to Africa, quotes insiders as saying that President Ouattara may not see this nomination as a bad sign. The article also suggests that Ambassador Carter, who has consistently advocated for improved human rights in the country, has "irritated" the government. The paper further notes the departure of the American diplomat, who has also pushed for former combatants to be charged for crimes, would definitely bring certain people a "sigh of relief."

2. Ivoirian government to launch project seeking to provide jobs for youth

A report in ***Fraternite Matin (p. 4)*** says that the government yesterday announced a program designed to provide jobs for young people in Cote d'Ivoire. The program, which will be jointly run by two ministries, will help create a database that will outline career opportunities and job profiles designed to boost youth employment. According to the paper, the program will be supported by a government endowment fund.

3. French grant to support gay rights in Cote d'Ivoire

An article in ***Notre Voie (p. 9)*** says the French government has provided a US \$60,000-grant to support gay rights in Cote d'Ivoire. The paper, which describes the donation as a controversial move, says the grant is designed to uphold the rights of minorities in the country. According to the paper, the grant was signed yesterday in Abidjan between French Ambassador George Serre and Toure Claver, the head of Alternative Cote d'Ivoire, an NGO that advocates for gay rights. The paper also mentions that Alternative Cote d'Ivoire has received funding in the past from the PEPFAR.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Ivoirian refugees put down roots in Liberia](#)

[IRINnews.org](#)

ZWEDRU, 25 June 2013 (IRIN) - Though *Côte d'Ivoire* has officially been at peace for over two years, many of the nearly 60,000 refugees who ...

[Ivory Coast confers National Honour on Kandeh Yumkella](#)

[Sierra Express Media](#)

Ivoirian President Alassane Ouattara has on Tuesday, 25 June 2013 honoured the outgoing Director-General of UNIDO, Kandeh K. Yumkella, with the Commander of the National Order of Cote d'Ivoire award in appreciation of his contributions to Africa, to the ...

[African states join forces to tackle rising Gulf of Guinea piracy](#)

[The Star Online](#)

... a sharp rise in piracy in the Gulf of Guinea that is jeopardising the shipping of commodities in the region. The Gulf of Guinea, which includes Nigeria, Ghana and Ivory Coast, is a major source of oil and cocoa and increasingly metals for world ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 26, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Gbagbo's FPI party sets conditions for government-opposition dialogue
2. Attorney appeals ICC's ruling to take more time to build case against Gbagbo
3. Daily uncovers government disagreement over law on Ivoirian nationality
4. Contribution of European Chamber of Commerce to Ivoirian economy accounts for US \$6 billion per year

1. Gbagbo's FPI party sets conditions for government-opposition dialogue

Pro-opposition daily Notre Voie (p. 2) today features a statement issued by the former ruling FPI party stressing the party's conditions to participate in the ongoing dialogue between the government and opposition groups. The statement, which reaffirms their commitment to take part in the reconciliation process if certain conditions are met, calls on the government to create "an environment conducive to peace and mutual respect between parties taking part in the dialogue." The party of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo is also demanding the government put an end to, "the climate of terror, kidnapping, imprisonment, witch-hunting of opposition supporters, winner's justice and the confiscation of state media" in the country.

The FPI's conditions sparked criticism in the pro-government daily Le Jour Plus (p. 2), which accused the former ruling party of playing an, "angel and devil" game. The article reports political observers suggest that by this posture, the former ruling party is just trying to turn down the hand extended to them by the government and to undermine the reconciliation process.

2. Attorney appeals ICC's ruling to take more time to build case against Gbagbo

A report in L'Inter (p. 2) says the attorney of former president Gbagbo has filed an appeal after judges at the International Criminal Court (ICC) gave prosecutors until November to build their case against Gbagbo. Soir Info (p. 3), which reports on the same issue, says the former Ivoirian president, standing trial for crimes against humanity, is committed to use every legal means to escape trial at The Hague. However, a report in L'Expression (p. 4) claims that the ICC will turn down the appeal submitted by Gbagbo's attorney seeking his release.

4. Daily uncovers government disagreement over law on Ivoirian nationality

An article in L'Inter (p. 3) claims that the Ivoirian government is divided over a bill seeking reforms of a proposed law on Ivoirian nationality. According to the paper, the disagreement is over parts of the bill that seek to allow any man who gets married to an Ivoirian woman to acquire Ivoirian nationality after marriage. The article also indicates the government is split over sections of the bill that allow people who were born in Cote d'Ivoire before 1960 to become Ivoirians.

The Ivoirian nationality issue is also a major issue in Le Patriote (p. 2) which quotes Ivoirian Minister of Justice and Human Rights Mamadou Gnenema Coulibaly as warning, "If the issue of nationality is not resolved, we will find ourselves in a situation similar to that of the 2002."

5. Contribution of European Chamber of Commerce to Ivoirian economy accounts for US \$6 billion per year

Fraternite Matin (p. 7) quotes the president of the European Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Cote d'Ivoire, Maximilien Lemaire, as saying that their contribution to the Ivoirian economy accounts for US \$6 billion per year. Lemaire, who was speaking to the paper, said this input represents about 20 percent of the Ivoirian gross domestic product.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[What is middle class in Ivory Coast?](#)

BBC News

My dream is to become a businessman but here in Ivory Coast it's not easy to start that right now so I would like first of all to be a teacher and then if I get some money I will set up my own business. Konan Kouassi Vercruysses behind his phone booth ...

[Gbagbo ally faces extradition deadline](#)

News24

Accra - A key ally of Ivory Coast's former president will learn on 5 August whether he will be extradited to face charges relating to the post-election crisis of 2011, a court in Ghana said on Tuesday. The court set the deadline for the fate of Justin ...

[Ivorian cocoa disease concerns ease](#)

AgraNet (subscription)

Rains slackened across Ivory Coast's main cocoa growing regions in the last week, easing worries of disease outbreak, but more sunshine was needed to boost the last batch of the country's mid-crop cocoa. Ivory Coast cocoa traders and exporters expect ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 25, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Ivorian opposition leader expresses optimism about government-opposition dialogue
2. Ivoirian rights campaigners mark International Day in support of Victims of Torture
3. Germany agrees to cancel US \$504 million of Cote d'Ivoire's debt
4. President Ouattara and other Africans vows to fight piracy off the Gulf of Guinea

1. Ivorian opposition leader expresses optimism about government-opposition dialogue

In reference to the ongoing inter-Ivoirian dialogue, an Ivoirian opposition leader is reported by today's *Fraternite Matin* (p. 9) as saying, "We are moving steadily but surely." Laurent Dona-Fologo, leader of the CPD, a coalition of opposition parties close to the former ruling FPI party, was speaking yesterday in Abidjan after talks with Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan. According to Dona-Fologo, yesterday's meeting was "to evaluate key points," adding that progress has been made on certain issues. "What we want from the government is to create an environment conducive to peace where the opposition group can play its role," Dona-Fologo said.

"There has been some progress," an article in *L'Expression* (p. 2) quotes Dona-Fologo as saying. But the article in this paper wonders whether the dialogue to reconcile Ivoirians should move ahead without the FPI, the party of the former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo. To answer the question, the paper quotes political observers describing FPI's conditions to dialogue with the government— including amnesty of all political prisoners – as, "unrealistic."

From the opposition point of view, an article in *Notre Voie* (p. 6) announces that the party has been invited to join the talks on June 27. The article also wonders whether the party's leadership will accept to dialogue with the government which continues "to turn them to ridicule." The paper notes that while the government is calling for dialogue, party leaders including FPI's youth leader Justin Koua are being "illegally" detained.

2. Ivoirian rights campaigners mark International Day in support of Victims of Torture

More than 2,000 people have been tortured in Cote d'Ivoire as a result of the post-electoral crisis following the 2010 disputed presidential election, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 12). The report also indicates that nearly 300 people died as a result of torture during the same period. According to the paper, this was announced yesterday at a joint press conference held by Christian Actions for the Abolition of Torture (ACAT-CI) and Ivoirian Coalition for International Criminal Court (CI-CPI) marking the International Day in support of Victims of Torture.

3. Germany agrees to cancel US \$504 million of Cote d'Ivoire's debt

A report in *L'Inter* (p. 10) says Germany has cancelled more than US \$504 million of Cote d'Ivoire's debt to their country. According to the paper, German Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Carl Prinz and Ivoirian Minister in charge of Economy and Finance Niale Kaba yesterday signed in Abidjan a debt cancellation agreement. Speaking during the ceremony, Kaba said, "These resources will be utilized efficiently to fight poverty as part of the national development program."

4. President Ouattara and other Africans vows to fight piracy off the Gulf of Guinea

Reports in *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4&) say President Alassane Ouattara and other leaders from West and Central Africa, meeting this week in Yaounde, Cameroon, have called for "firmness" on the part of the international community in a bid to curb the growing threat of piracy off the Gulf of Guinea. Speaking at the conference on Monday, Cameroon President Paul Biya warned that failure to act firmly to this threat could lead to "a drop in the movement of goods and compromise development in the sub-region." According to the paper, heads of state from Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Congo and Angola are attending the two-day conference on maritime piracy.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [Obama walks tightrope on gay rights in Africa](#)

Modesto Bee

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — A young man wearing rainbow suspenders entered the heavily-guarded residence of the United States ambassador to Ivory Coast. So did a transgender woman in a ruffled, purple gown, as well as seven men wearing matching baby ...

2. [Ivorian economy pins hope on privatization blueprint](#)

Zawya (registration)

The Ivory Coast economy grew 9.8% last year and is expected to grow another 9% as public and private investment prospects rise, said Niale Kaba, minister of economy and finance in a government document. The economy shrank 4.7% in 2011. "Economic ...

3. [Electricity hampers Africa's ICT use](#)

Biztech Africa

By Issa Sikiti da Silva, in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. From Dakar to Bamako, Abidjan, Kinshasa and Brazzaville and other African cities, the instability and inconsistency of electricity supply is mind-boggling, and its consequences of the continent's ...

4. [West Africa seeks anti-piracy force](#)

BBC News

West African leaders have called for the deployment of an international naval force to curb the growing threat of piracy off the Gulf of Guinea. Piracy in the region needed to be tackled with "firmness", Ivory Coast's President Alassane Ouattara said ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 24, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Dialogue between Ivoirian government and opposition to resume today
2. President Ouattara and other African leaders meeting in Yaounde over maritime piracy
3. Cote d'Ivoire hosts forum for African emerging economies
4. Ivorian Prime Minister Duncan attends economic forum for Ivoirian diaspora in France
5. Ivoirian media unions welcome sanctions imposed by state regulatory body

1. Dialogue between Ivoirian government and opposition to resume today

An article in Nord-Sud Quotidien (p. 4) says the political dialogue between the Ivoirian government and opposition groups designed to defuse tensions and speed up the reconciliation process in Cote d'Ivoire is due to resume today. The article also reports the government spokesperson saying that, "much progress has been accomplished" by the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CDVR), while an opposition leader has dismissed this assessment. "The reconciliation process has not moved an inch," the paper quotes Daniele Boni-Claverie, leader of the opposition APN party as saying.

Speaking on the achievements of the CDVR since its inception, the commission's spokesperson is reported by Fraternite Matin (p. 12) as saying that the body will organize this year a conference in order to identify the real causes of recent crisis in Cote d'Ivoire and propose recommendations.

2. President Ouattara and other African leaders meeting in Yaounde over maritime piracy

A report in Fraternite Matin (p. 8) says President Alassane Ouattara is expected today in Yaounde, Cameroon to join other African leaders meeting this week over maritime piracy in the sub-region. The conference, the report says, will help develop common strategies to respond to threats posed by the piracy in the region.

3. Cote d'Ivoire hosts forum for African emerging economies

A report in Fraternite Matin (p. 25) says delegates at the just-concluded forum on African emerging economies, held in Abidjan, have pledged to fight tax evasion in their countries. The participants committed themselves to rally behind the G8 countries in their efforts to reduce tax evasion in a bid to improve transparency in doing business. President Ouattara, whose speech at the closing ceremony was read on his behalf, called on African countries to look for business opportunities with the rest of the world. The paper (p. 24) also carries an interview with former IMF director Michel Camdessus who expressed optimism about the African continent's economic performance by the year 2050.

4. Ivorian Prime Minister Duncan attends economic forum for Ivoirian diaspora in France

Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan has called on the Ivoirian diaspora in France to invest in their country, reports Fraternite Matin (p. 13). According to the paper, Duncan was speaking over the weekend during a forum dubbed "Diaspora for Growth," a meeting that brought together nearly 300 Ivoirians and French businessmen in Paris. The forum, the report says, also

gave the prime minister the opportunity to market business opportunities for Ivoirians living abroad who are interested in doing business at home.

5. Ivoirian media unions welcome sanctions imposed by state regulatory body

A report in L'Expression (p. 10) says two Ivoirian journalists' trade unions have welcomed the decision by Conseil National de la Presse (CNP), the government's print media regulatory body, to suspend Ivoirian print outlets that do not comply with the press law. Leaders of the two unions, speaking at a press conference over the weekend, said the decision came at the right time. Reporting on the same issue, L'Inter (p. 16) reports the two unions urged the state regulatory body to continue the enforcement of current laws to better pay journalists.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [Full Steam Ahead: West African Countries Considering A Brand New Railway ...](#)

International Business Times

... Africa Consulting & Trading, or ACT, confirmed to the International Business Times that the firm had been asked to help with fundraising and organization for a railway project involving four West African countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast ...

2. [Africa increases cybersecurity efforts](#)

PC Advisor

Ivory Coast has passed laws related to cybersecurity and data protection and in 2012, the national CERT received 1,892 incidence reports that were investigated in conjunction with the authorities. As a result, 71 arrests were made and 51 people were ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 21, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Guillaume Soro to back President Ouattara for a second term
 2. PDCI youth leader calls on party chief to step down and abide by the party's rules
 3. Unemployment discussed by the government and World Bank experts
1. Guillaume Soro to back President Ouattara for a second term

In a recent interview with the Senegalese state broadcaster, the Speaker of the Ivoirian National Assembly, Mr. Guillaume Soro, said he will back President Alassane Ouattara should he decide to seek a second term. The information was the subject of banner headlines in several papers. Nord Sud Quotidien (pp. 2-3) published the full transcript of the wide-ranging interview held on the margin of Soro's visit to Senegal last week. "President Ouattara is doing a great job...I will definitely back him during the 2015 presidential race," Soro reportedly said, arguing that being a candidate himself is not an option.

2. PDCI youth leader calls on party chief to step down and abide by the party's rules

According to the leader of the PDCI youth branch, Bertin Konan Kouadio, a.k.a. KKB, the time has come for PDCI president Henri Konan Bedie to step down so that younger people can take over the party leadership. The information was reported by L'Inter (p. 6) which noted that KKB was reacting to recent remarks by Mr. Bedie that there is no longer an age limit for candidates for president in Cote d'Ivoire. Mr. Bedie, 79, said this arrangement was part of the 2003 Marcoussis Peace Agreement, the paper noted. However, the youth leader opposed this vision, arguing that the Marcoussis deal is neither part of the PDCI internal rules nor in the Ivoirian Constitution which sets the age limit at 75. "Mr. Bedie is known for being a man of his word, respectful of the law," the paper reported KKB as saying, calling on the party chief to abide by the law.

Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 4) denounced KKB's move. According to the daily his vindictive and recurrent "assaults" against Bedie are likely to pave the way for major divisions within the party.

3. Unemployment discussed by the government and World Bank experts

Unemployment remains a concern for the Ivoirian government which is reportedly committed to addressing the issue. Fraternite Matin (p. 11) reported that a workshop on job creation brought together government officials and experts from the World Bank yesterday in Abidjan. On the occasion, Mr. Ezedine Ouerghi, an expert from the bank, argued jobs only thrive in a conducive environment that allows the private sector and investors to expand their businesses.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[40th ECOWAS anniversary high on agenda of Council meet](#)

[apanews-en](#) Friday, June 21, 2013 11:26:00 AM

APA Abidjan (Cote d'Ivoire) The 2nd meeting of the heads of Intelligence and Security Services of Sahelo-Saharan states is holding in Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire to examine the security situation in Mali

and in the Sahelo-Saharan region in general. The African Union Commission organised the meeting in collaboration with Côte d'Ivoire....

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 20, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Municipal and regional by-elections to be held on July 21, the government says
2. Lawyers denounce conditions of pro-Gbagbo detainees, allege some have contracted tuberculosis
3. France-based shipping conglomerate Bolloré Afrique defends contract

1. Municipal and regional by-elections to be held on July 21, the government says

By-elections will be held on July 21 in the three localities where the initial polls were marred by incidents. The information came from yesterday's cabinet meeting. According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 5) the decision came a few days after the Supreme Court nullified the results of the mayoral and regional elections in Anyama, Bettie and Doropo. Candidates have been given a week, starting July 13 to campaign, the paper added.

Several other papers including *Le Patriote* (p. 2), *Soir Info* (p. 7) and *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 2) carried a similar account.

2. Lawyers denounce conditions of pro-Gbagbo detainees, allege some have contracted tuberculosis

According to an article in *L'Inter* (p. 2) the trials of pro-Gbagbo detainees initially due to start yesterday was adjourned after the defense requested additional time to prepare the cases. Citing Mr. Felix Bobre, one of the lawyers defending the accused, the paper noted the trial has been postponed until July 3. "That day the court will confirm the counts they are facing," Mr. Bobre said, adding that the defendants, all from Gbagbo's inner circle, are facing a myriad of charges. On the occasion, Bobre complained about the detention conditions of the inmates, alleging that some have contracted tuberculosis as a result of the poor living conditions in the country's prisons.

Notre Voie (p. 5) said a total of six people have been confirmed with the disease in Katiola and other prisons in northern Cote d'Ivoire where they are being detained. The paper denounced what it termed a "death sentence" for the inmates.

In a separate development, *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 6) noted that an outbreak of tuberculosis has been reported in Daloa in western Cote d'Ivoire. Some 1,200 people have so far contracted the disease, the paper added, calling on the Ivoirian authorities to address the issue in a timely manner.

3. France-based shipping conglomerate Bolloré Afrique defends contract

The Ivoirian Prime Minister Daniel Kablan Duncan had talks yesterday with Bolloré Africa Logistics' chief Dominique Lafont. According to *Fraternite Matin* (p. 34) Mr. Lafont outlined the company's

projects in the country. The conglomerate which has been operating in the country's ports is to expand its activities and has pledged to invest 1000 billion CFA (approximately US \$ 20 trillion) to boost the country's rail road system and oil industry. Bolloré Africa Logistics was the government's pick following a bid to select a company to operate the container terminal of the Abidjan port. The selection process was denounced as unfair by rival companies, the paper said. Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 2) quotes Lafont as saying "We presented the best offer."

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Côte d'Ivoire adopts Bill on Electronic Transactions](#)

Biztech Africa - 3 hours ago

News about Côte d'Ivoire adopts Bill on Electronic Transactions ... in line with international conventions ratified by Côte d'Ivoire, including legal ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 19, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Trials of pro-Gbagbo detainees to resume today in Abidjan amidst political speculation
2. Speaking to counterparts, Guillaume Soro pleads for a lifting of the UN arms embargo on Cote d'Ivoire
3. A coalition of Ivoirian women to champion the fight for gender equality
4. Three dead of food poisoning in western Cote d'Ivoire

1. Trials of pro-Gbagbo detainees to resume today in Abidjan amidst political speculation

According to a report in Soir Info (p. 3) the trials of 90 people, including former Ivoirian first lady Simone Gbagbo, are to resume today in Abidjan. These individuals, all from the inner circle of the ex-leader, have been detained since Gbagbo's capture two years ago, the paper said. They are accused, among other counts, of plotting against the state, staging an insurrection and defiance against state authority. Eight of them are facing charges of genocide, the paper added. Today's hearing is to rule on their real role in violence that followed the 2010 presidential election, the paper noted, adding that although most of the individuals are still in detention in Abidjan and upcountry, some like Gbagbo's ad hoc prime minister Gilbert Ake have been granted bail.

Nord Sud Quotidien (p. 3) carried a similar account, adding that Gbagbo's son Michel and his right-hand man Pascal Affi are among those to appear before the court today.

This update came amidst speculation about a potential reconciliation between the FPI and the RDR in advance of the 2015 presidential race. Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3) though not confirming the information denounced it.

2. Speaking to counterparts, Guillaume Soro pleads for a lifting of the UN arms embargo on Cote d'Ivoire

The president of the Ivoirian National Assembly, Guillaume Soro called on Monday for the UN to lift the arms embargo on Cote d'Ivoire. The information was reported by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) which noted that the embargo has been in effect since 2004. Mr. Soro made the plea as he was speaking to a visiting delegation from the Inter-parliamentary Union or IPU on Monday in Abidjan. According to the Ivoirian Speaker, the embargo is obsolete now that the situation in the country is back to normal. Mr. Soro argued that the measure impairs the government's efforts to ensure security and promote investment in the country.

L'Inter (p. 4) said that Soro considers the embargo as a limitation on the country's sovereignty. "If the Ivoirian government cannot ensure security for its citizen and their belongings this will definitely prejudice development," he reportedly said.

3. A coalition of Ivoirian women to champion the fight for gender equality

A group of Ivoirian women has decided to stand up for their rights and advance the fight for gender equality. The information was reported by *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 8) which noted that the coalition dubbed "Femmes Savantes" or elite women intends to empower women and fight poverty. "75% of Ivoirian women live in poverty," the paper reported Mrs. Agnes Kraidy one of leaders of the coalition as saying recently during a conference in Abidjan. According to her, women are often left aside as men always outnumber women in the country's leadership positions, a situation that needed to be addressed to ensure equality, she argued.

4. Three dead of food poisoning in western Cote d'Ivoire

Three people were found dead yesterday in Divo in what seems to be the result of a food poisoning incident. The information was reported by *Le Quotiden d'Abidjan* (p. 2) which noted that another 14 people are being treated as a result of the incident.

In a related development, *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5) notes that the government has forbidden fishing along the Ivorian lagoon following the mysterious death of fish.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [Airtime transfer big business in Ivory Coast](#)

Biztech Africa

One does not need to struggle to top up his or her cellphone airtime in Ivory Coast. On almost every street corner of this West African nation, there is an airtime transfer businessman or businesswoman sitting in a plastic chair with three, four or ...

2. [Hundreds protest ICC delay for ex-Ivory Coast president, calling for more evidence](#)

Washington Post

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — About 300 people have protested over a delay on whether former Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo will be put on trial at the International Criminal Court. Gbagbo has been charged with four counts of crimes against humanity in ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 18, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Ambassador Phillip Carter III commits the U.S. government to supporting a safe and sustainable blood system in Cote d'Ivoire

2. An armed gang raids a village in western Cote d'Ivoire

3. The Ivoirian government to uphold children's rights

1. Ambassador Phillip Carter III commits the U.S. government to supporting a safe and sustainable blood system in Cote d'Ivoire

World Blood Donor Day was celebrated by the Ivoirian health community last Friday in the seaside city of San Pedro. The information was reported by L'Inter (p. 12) which noted that the event was highlighted this year by a series of conferences on blood security. On the occasion, U.S. Ambassador to Cote d'Ivoire Phillip Carter III said the partnership initiated nine years ago between the U.S. government and Cote d'Ivoire on blood security has paid off. "Today, Cote d'Ivoire has an efficient and powerful blood transfusion system that everybody can be proud of," Ambassador Carter III said. According to the daily, this achievement was made possible thanks to substantial support and investments by the U.S. to ensure blood and blood products are provided in a way that is safe, sustainable and supports the community and health systems. Despite these strides forward, the paper said, challenges remain; hence the U.S. envoy's plea to the Ivoirian government to take over the initiative and improve its health systems nationwide.

Fraternite Matin (p. 15) carried a similar account, adding that the country's 123,000 voluntary blood donors were celebrated on the occasion.

2. An armed gang raids a village in western Cote d'Ivoire

An attack over the weekend by a gang of armed men in Duekoue left one man dead and several others injured. Providing details, Soir Info (p. 5) noted that the gang was equipped with heavy weapons, including AK-47s and dressed in military uniforms. The deadly attack happened in Blody, a small village on the outskirts of Duekoue. The attackers, the paper said, opened fire on a truck and a microbus full of passengers before ransacking the two vehicles. According to eyewitnesses, there is plausible evidence to believe the perpetrators are members of the infamous militia of Amade Ouremi who was recently captured by the Ivoirian military.

3. The Ivoirian government to uphold children's rights

On the occasion of the 2013 Day of the African Child, Ivoirian Minister of Solidarity and Family, Anne Ouloto said children are still being denied basic rights in Cote d'Ivoire. The information was reported by Notre Voie (p. 7). According to Mrs. Ouloto, harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation, forced and/or early marriages and mistreatment are challenges to overcome to ensure children's rights are protected.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 17, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. President Ouattara attends the New York Forum Africa in Gabon
2. Denouncing procrastination in the case of former president Laurent Gbagbo, war victims stage demonstration in Abidjan against the ICC
3. Opposition figure says the government has failed to find common ground with the opposition
1. President Ouattara attends the New York Forum Africa in Gabon

According to *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5), President Alassane Ouattara is in Libreville, Gabon where over the weekend he attended the New York Forum Africa (NYFA). The high-profile two-day forum hosted policy makers, economic leaders, business executives and young entrepreneurs for intense discussions and working sessions on development plans for the African continent. In his address yesterday at the closing session, the Ivoirian leader said the industrialization of African countries as well as integration and the issue of youth unemployment are priorities to be addressed to achieve lasting and sustainable development in Africa. According to President Ouattara, only 1% of manufactured goods are processed on the continent, a situation that prevents the African economy from thriving. He calls on Africans to follow the steps of European and Asian countries by promoting open markets and ensuring that concerns of youth are addressed.

2. Denouncing procrastination in the case of former president Laurent Gbagbo, war victims stage demonstration in Abidjan against the ICC

According to a report in *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 5) victims of the post-electoral crisis are planning to hold a demonstration in Abidjan today to denounce the decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to adjourn the confirmation of charges against former president Laurent Gbagbo pending submission of additional evidence against the ex-leader.

Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 6) carried a similar account. Dubbed "Indignation Day" the demonstration will be peaceful according to Alphonse Soro, the spokesperson of the pro-governmental organization Alliance pour le Changement or APC who is also the leader of the movement. "We are civilized people...the victims will voice their concerns responsibly," he reportedly said.

Le Quotidien d'Abidjan (p. 2) qualifies the move as a provocation toward supporters of the ex-leader.

Notre Voie (p. 4) for its part said all this agitation is not going to change the decision of the ICC requesting additional evidence before opening a trial against the ex-leader.

3. Opposition figure says the government has failed to find common ground with the opposition

Mrs. Danielle Boni, a former Minister and supporter of former president Laurent Gbagbo said the government must do more to achieve reconciliation. Speaking over the weekend, Mrs. Boni, who is the Vice-President of a pro-opposition coalition known as APN or Agir Pour La Paix, claimed dialogue between the government and the opposition have not met expectations and achieved tangible results so far. She blames the government for not being sincere in addressing the demands of the opposition. "The reconciliation process has not moved forward an inch," she said.

The development came as an article in Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 3) said talks between the government and the opposition will resume on June 24.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [A woman's battle to inherit land in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

Africa Review

Land conflict dominates life in the west of Ivory Coast - a rich cocoa-growing region that has been home to some of the worst violence the country has ever seen. The town chief says it is likely Mrs Tiro will end up sharing the land with the man who ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 14, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Ivoirian government extends deadline for landlords to register properties
2. European Union to finance major water and sanitation project in Cote d'Ivoire

1. Ivoirian government extends deadline for landlords to register properties

Another ten years has been given to rural land owners to formally register their properties with the government. The information is reported today by *Fraternité Matin* (p. 4) which notes that the decision came out of yesterday's cabinet meeting. "People claiming ownership of lands have ten years to file supporting documents," government spokesperson Bruno Kone said after the meeting, adding that the government will seize any undocumented land after this deadline. The measure, which supersedes a 1998 law on land tenure, is meant to modernize farming and ensure a fair handling of land disputes, the paper says.

Soir Info (p. 4) carries a similar account, adding that land issues have fueled tension in Cote d'Ivoire for years, exacerbating the civil war in the country.

2. European Union to finance major water and sanitation project in Cote d'Ivoire

Some CFA 18 billion (approximately US \$ 36 million) has been made available by the European Union (EU) to address water and sanitation issues in Cote d'Ivoire. According to *Le Patriote* (p. 11) the signing ceremony of the project dubbed PHAM (The Millennium Hydraulic and Sanitation Program) was held yesterday in Abidjan. The Minister in charge of Economy and Finance Niale Kaba and Minister of Housing, Sanitation and Urban Planning Mamadou Sanogo joined EU Representative Geza Strammer at the event. These funds, welcomed as a "breath of fresh air," will help the Ivoirian government to step up its efforts to ensure an uninterrupted supply of high-quality water nationwide, the paper says. It adds that the project includes the rehabilitation and the construction of water infrastructure throughout the country. In her address, Kaba pleaded for continued efforts to increase to 75 percent the access to potable water in rural areas. For his part, Mr. Strammer underscored the EU assistance was in line with efforts to help Cote d'Ivoire become an emerging economy by 2020.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [Ivory Coast's drive to reclaim national parks may hit cocoa output](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN, June 13 (Reuters) - A drive by Ivory Coast authorities to reclaim land in national parks on which about 2,000 farmers have planted crops could hurt output of cocoa in the world's top producing nation, exporters said. Some 100 farmers were ...

2. [Ivory Coast Urged To Address 'Profound Political Fragmentation'](#)

RTT News

A United Nations independent expert on Wednesday urged Ivory Coast, also known as Cote d'Ivoire, to address its "profound political fragmentation," stressing that political dialogue is fundamental for effective reconciliation. "Although the basis of ...

3. [Ivory Coast farmers ditching cocoa for rubber](#)

Aljazeera.com

Humble cocoa is the key ingredient of chocolate but farmers in the Ivory Coast, the world's leading producer, are ditching their beans for rubber. Last year, Ivorian farmers produced 255,000 tonnes of rubber, and aim to increase production to 600,000 ...

4. [Analysts: West Africa Attractive Hezbollah Destination](#)

Voice of America

The U.S. Treasury Department said Tuesday that the four men helped Hezbollah broaden its reach in Sierra Leone, Senegal, the Ivory Coast and Gambia. Richard Downie, Deputy Director of the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International ...

5. [Sifca to Boost Ivory Coast Palm Oil Output 33% in Next 4 Years](#)

UkrAgroConsult

Sifca will be able to boost processing at its Sania plant in Ivory Coast, Vignes said. The plant processes about 400,000 tons of a year and has a capacity for 500,000 tons a year. Edible oil output is about 300,000 tons a year, he said. The oil is ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 13, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. 2015 Presidential elections: "There is no age limit," former president Bedie says

2. Government warns against false rumor peddling

3. Ivoirian exports to American markets through AGOA increase

4. IMF disburses about US \$74 million to Cote d'Ivoire

1. 2015 Presidential elections: "There is no age limit," former president Bedie says

Former Ivoirian president Henri Konan Bedie's interview with a French international broadcaster features prominently in the press today. "There is no age limit in politics," Bedie, age 79, is quoted by *Fraternite Matin* (p. 7) as saying ahead of the congress of his PDCI-RDA party due to be held this year. The congress is being held to nominate the party's candidate for the 2015 presidential elections. The former Ivoirian president quotes provisions of the Linas Marcoussis Agreement signed in January 2003 between the then government and Ivoirian political factions as saying, "the age limit of 75 years for candidates in the presidential elections has been abolished."

Regarding his reelection bid as the party's president in the coming congress, *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3) quotes the former president as saying, "I will abide by the congress's decision." Bedie also used the interview to speak out for his party's participation in the 2015 presidential elections. "I have never said that the PDCI will not have candidate in the 2015 presidential elections," *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3) quotes him as saying. An article in opposition paper *Le Temps* (p. 3) accuses the former Ivoirian president of using the Linas Marcoussis Agreement to cling onto power.

2. Government warns against false rumor peddling

The Ivoirian press carries today a statement issued yesterday by the national police denying rumors that they have imposed a night-patrol throughout the country to check if people are holding proper identification. The statement, which features prominently in *L'Inter* (p. 13) says, "The police have not launched such an operation." An article in the pro-government daily *L'Expression* (p. 5) says that the rumor, which was disseminated by text message, was designed to create fear among the population.

3. Ivoirian exports to American markets through AGOA increase

An article published by the government media house the Ivoirian News Agency (AIP) says Ivoirian exports through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to American markets during the first quarter of 2013 account for FCFA 6.9 billion (about US \$14 million). According to the report, this was announced on Wednesday in Abidjan by the head of Cote d'Ivoire Association of Exporters, Gerard Amangoua.

4. IMF disburses about US \$74 million to Cote d'Ivoire

A report in *Le Patriote* (p. 10) says the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved the disbursement of FCFA 37 billion (about US \$74.1 million) to Cote d'Ivoire. The paper, which describes the IMF's decision as good news for the country's economy, says

the decision was based on the completion of the third review of Cote d'Ivoire's economic performance under the program supported by an Extended Credit Facility arrangement (ECF).

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [Ivory Coast remains fragmented, envoy says](#)

UPI.com

GENEVA, Switzerland, June 12 (UPI) -- The political culture in Ivory Coast remains fragmented despite democratic progress made since contentious 2010 elections, a U.N. rights envoy said. Thousands of Ivorian citizens died during conflict that followed

2. [A woman's battle to inherit land in Ivory Coast](#)

BBC News

A woman in rural Ivory Coast has been called to a meeting under the shaded veranda of the local chief's house to defend her right to inherit her husband's property. Barely in her forties, she sits quietly with her head down; the town chief in the small

3. [Gbagbo ally says he fears torture if returned to Ivory Coast](#)

AFP

ACCRA — A former Ivory Coast minister and key ally of ex-president Laurent Gbagbo said on Wednesday that he fears torture if he is extradited back to Ivory Coast from Ghana.

4. [Politics Play Role in PayPal Payment Freezes](#)

EcommerceBytes

Belgian auction site Delcampe notified its members this month, explaining that at the beginning of May, "PayPal froze payments for items including the name of the countries subject to U.S. embargo (Cuba, Iran, Ivory Coast, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, North

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 12, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. The ICC denies challenge from former president's lawyers, says his case can go ahead
2. UN Human Rights expert says the detention of FPI youth branch leader is move in wrong direction
3. Former top aide to Gbagbo denounces politically-motivated trial in Ghanaian court

1. The ICC denies challenge from former president's lawyers, says his case can go ahead

According to an article in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 2), the International Criminal Court (ICC) rejected yesterday a challenge by former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo's lawyers over the admissibility of the case at The Hague-based court. The paper noted that ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda argued the case can go ahead and that she is going to follow up on investigations in Cote d'Ivoire. She called on Ivoirians to remain positive about the ICC process, which she said is fair and unbiased.

Still on the issue, in an interview with *JeuneAfrique.com* and reported in *L'Inter* (p. 4), Gbagbo's lawyer Emmanuel Altit said the court must grant bail to the former president pending its decision to confirm or reject charges against him.

2. UN Human Rights expert says the detention of FPI youth leader is move in wrong direction

The arrest over the weekend of FPI youth leader Justin Koua continues to be reported in today's press. According to *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 2), Mr. Koua is being detained in Abidjan's MACA prison.

Notre Voie (p. 2) quoted criticism of the arrest by Doudou Diene, a UN Human Rights expert in Cote d'Ivoire. "The arrest [of Mr. Koua] was done without a proper arrest warrant. It is a step in the wrong direction that will likely impair dialogue between the government and the FPI." Diene also called on Ivoirian authorities to reach out to the opposition in a bid to find common ground in order to uphold the country's interests.

3. Former top aide to Gbagbo denounces politically-motivated trial in Ghanaian court

Kone Katinan, a former spokesperson of former president Gbagbo, appeared yesterday before a court in Ghana for charges of economic crimes and theft. The information was reported by *Soir Info* (p. 7) which noted that Katinan said he was the victim of a politically-motivated trial. "I think that this is basically a political case as Ivoirian authorities have been pressing the Ghanaian government to arrest me," the paper reported him as saying during his hearing.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [Lukoil gets stake in block offshore Ivory Coast](#)

Oil & Gas Journal

Lukoil has acquired a 65% interest in Block CI-504 in the Gulf of Guinea offshore Ivory Coast from Taleveras Energy, a private Nigerian company. The 399-sq-km block is close to Baobab oil field in 800-2,100 m of water.

2. [Bollere-Led Bid for Abidjan Terminal Violated Law, Minister Says](#)

Businessweek

Bollere SA (BOL)'s winning proposal to build a second container terminal at the port of Abidjan in Ivory Coast violates the nation's competition law, the country's minister of commerce said late yesterday.

3. [ICC denies challenge from Laurent Gbagbo](#)

UPI.com

Gbagbo was arrested in April 2011 and transferred to the ICC to face charges of committing crimes against humanity in Ivory Coast from December 2010 to the time of his arrest.

4. [US places sanctions on 4 Lebanese affiliated with Hezbollah](#)

United Press International, Asia

The U.S. Treasury Department said in a release Ali Ibrahim al-Watfa, Abbas Loutfe Fawaz, Ali Ahmad Chehade and Hicham Nmer Khanafer are responsible for Hezbollah's activities in Sierra Leone, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Gambia respectively.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 11, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. 34 newspaper companies suspended for non-compliance with print media laws
2. Disgruntled ex-combatants protest in Man
3. New members of National Human Rights Commission installed
4. African palm oil producers gathered in Abidjan to revamp the sector

1. 34 newspaper companies suspended for non-compliance with print media laws

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 16) says 34 newspaper companies have been suspended by the Conseil National de la Presse (CNP), the government print media regulatory body, on the grounds that the companies printing them have not complied with laws on print media in Cote d'Ivoire. The report also says that 26 other newspapers have been given a 15-day notice to comply with the law or be suspended, as well. Only nine newspaper companies - including the state-run *Fraternite Matin*, *Notre Voie*, a daily close to former president Laurent Gbagbo's FPI party and *Nord-Sud Quotidien*, a daily close to President Alassane Ouattara's ruling RDR party - have been deemed in compliance. The dailies that have been suspended include pro-RDR newspaper *La Matinale* as well as *Le Nouveau Courrier*, a daily close to the former president Laurent Gbagbo. Pro-government newspapers such as *Le Patriote*, *Le Nouveau Reveil* and *Le Jour Plus* are among those that have been granted the 15-day notice. Others are *Le Temps* and *Le*

Quotidien d'Abidjan, both pro-opposition, and L'Inter and Soir Info, independently-owned newspapers. The report also says the media regulatory body has made these decisions after an evaluation of the media environment in Cote d'Ivoire.

Regarding indicators used during this evaluation, a report in Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 8) explains that among others, editors working with the print media should be registered journalists, must take part in social security and that at least 50 percent of reporters must have received professional training.

2. Disgruntled ex-combatants protest in Man

According to Soir Info (p.2), activities in the western town of Man were virtually brought to a stand-still on Monday when hundreds of angry ex-combatants took to the streets to protest against their living conditions. The report says the protesters, who were members of the former rebel movement New Forces, are also demanding their integration into the Ivoirian national army. A report in Le Temps (p. 8) says the protesters, who besieged the office of the prefect in Man, are demanding U.S. \$11,000 apiece for allowances the government promised to them.

3. New members of National Human Rights Commission installed

The new members of Cote d'Ivoire National Human Commission (CNDHCI) were installed yesterday during a ceremony in Abidjan, reports Le Nouveau Reveil (p. 4). The report also says that the 22 member-commission elected a six-member executive committee chaired by Paulette Badjo Ezouehou, a senior judge. Ninety percent of the commissioners are representatives of Ivoirian civil society and are elected for five years, the report says.

4. African palm oil producers gathered in Abidjan to revamp the sector

Palm oil producers from more than 20 African countries are meeting in Abidjan this week to find new ways to give increase attention to the sector, reports Fraternelle Matin (p. 32). The conference is also aimed to develop strategies to counter efforts against the palm oil sector. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Ivoirian Agricultural Minister Mamadou Sangafowa Coulibaly said the ambition is to increase palm production from 300,000 tons to 600,000 tons by the year 2020.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

[Gbagbo-Allied Youth Leader Arrested in Ivory Coast](#)

ABC News-18 hours ago

A government spokesman in Ivory Coast says that authorities had arrested a youth leader from former President Laurent Gbagbo's political ...

[Half of I. Coast's press suspended in 'clean up'](#)

AFP - 14 hours ago

ABIDJAN — More than half of the Ivory Coast's press industry have been suspended, the regulatory authority announced as it promised to "clean up" the sector...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 10, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Former ruling party's youth leader detained for breach of state security
2. New Ivoirian citizenship bill sparks controversy
3. Ivoirian government signs contract with petrol companies

1. Former ruling party's youth leader detained for breach of state security

The detention of the former ruling party's youth leader, Justin Koua, features prominently in today's Ivoirian press. According to *Le Jour Plus* (p. 3), Koua, who was arrested Friday in Abidjan by government security forces, is suspected of being linked to a series of attacks organized by unidentified gunmen in Cote d'Ivoire. The article says that people who were arrested in connection with these attacks have mentioned Koua as one of the brains behind the operations.

On the motive behind the detention of the opposition youth leader, an article in *L'Inter* (p. 2) quotes an army officer as saying that the arrest is a result of Koua's refusal to "recognize the state's authority." The other reason, the paper says, could have to do with the youth leader's "inflammatory" speeches against the current government.

Opposition paper *Notre Voie* (pp. 4&5) describes the motives behind the detention as "bogus" and alleges that Koua is being kept in a container at the government's intelligence department. The paper also claims that the opposition youth leader has never called for violence and could not be therefore associated with any plans seeking to breach state security.

In the same vein, a report in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 3) quotes former ruling FPI party leader Sylvain Miaka Oureto as saying that the detention of the party's youth leader could be seen as a sign of "feverishness" on the part of the government, which is continuously "scared about a coup-d'etat."

Meanwhile, a commentary in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 6) suggests that Koua's detention could serve as a lesson for political leaders to be more "responsible" when they are talking in public. The paper adds that the detention of Koua could lead the country's political stakeholders to tone down their rhetoric in order to preempt war and violence in the country, comments the paper.

2. New Ivoirian citizenship bill sparks controversy

A bill on Ivoirian citizenship adopted last week by the government during a cabinet meeting has sparked controversy. An article in the weekend issue of *L'Expression* (p. 5) describes the bill, which would enable people born in Cote d'Ivoire before 1961 to acquire citizenship, as, "just reparation" of damage caused in the past. According to the paper, the bill conforms to the letter and spirit of the Linas Marcoussis Accord signed in January 2003 between the then government and opposition forces following the September 2002 rebellion.

From the opposition point of view, *Notre Voie* (pp. 2&3) claims that with this bill, the government of President Alassane Ouattara is trying to "sell out" Ivoirian nationality. The paper also claims that the bill will enable the president to, "pay back his debt to those who helped him to get to

power.” The paper also sees the president as having political motivations given that it could help Ouattara, who announced his intention to seek reelection in 2015, to garner more voters.

Meanwhile, a report in the pro-government La Matinale (p. 4) quotes the president of the Mouvement Africain pour l’Intégration (MAICI), Boukary Sawadogo, as welcoming the government’s plan to send the bill to Cote d’Ivoire’s National Assembly. The article also says that Sawadogo, who is leader of Ivoirians born in Burkina Faso, has commended the government for its continuous efforts for “integration and equality.”

3. Ivoirian government signs contract with petrol companies

A report in L’Inter (p. 11) says that the government has signed four contracts with petroleum companies operating in Cote d’Ivoire. According to the paper, the contracts will enable the companies to carry out off-shore explorations in a bid to increase the country’s petroleum production.

International Stories on Cote d’Ivoire

1. [Cargill Inc. tries to improve conditions at West Africa's cocoa farms](#)

Minneapolis Star Tribune

Farmer Issiaka Ouedraogo walked past cocoa pods growing on a tree on a cocoa farm outside the village of Fangolo, near Duekoue, Ivory Coast. Photo: Rebecca Blackwell • Associated Press, Camera Star Tribune photo galleries.

2. [Soccer star Didier Drogba takes stake in Ivory Coast gold mine](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN, June 7 (Reuters) - Former Chelsea soccer star Didier Drogba has taken a stake in an Ivory Coast gold mine, the latest sign of his increasing engagement in his homeland which is recovering from a decade of crisis that ended in a brief 2011 war.

3. [Bollore Says It Made the Best Offer in Ivory Coast Port Tender](#)

Businessweek

Bollore SA (BOL) said it made the “best offer” in a “transparent and rigorous” tendering process to emerge winner to run a second container terminal at Ivory Coast's port of Abidjan.

4. [Ivory Coast sets up multi-million dollar fund for cocoa sector](#)

AgraNet (subscription)

Friday June 07 2013. IVORY Coast has paid CFAfr56bn (\$112.64m) into a reserve fund intended to protect against fluctuations in world cocoa prices as it introduces sector reforms, a government spokesman said.

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 7, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Ivoirian government takes new measures on citizenship
2. Supreme Court rules on electoral disputes
3. Former ruling FPI party accuses the government of fabricating evidence against ex-leader Laurent Gbagbo, calls for his immediate release

1. Ivoirian government takes new measures on citizenship

According to an article in *Fraternite Matin* (pp. 4-5), a decision on citizenship came out of yesterday's cabinet meeting chaired by President Alassane Ouattara. The paper says that the government adopted a bill to amend legal provisions on Ivoirian citizenship. The bill, the paper says, will allow people born in Cote d'Ivoire before 1961 and minor children before the year 1972 to apply for Ivoirian citizenship. The move, the paper added, was part of the 2003 Linas-Marcoussis Peace Agreement signed between the country's political leaders during the civil war. Government spokesperson Bruno Kone says the decision, which also grants de facto citizenship to spouses of Ivoirian nationals, is meant to address the issue of nationality, a problem that has fueled tensions in the country for more than a decade.

Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3) criticized the move, calling it a, "large-scale naturalization scheme".

2. Supreme Court rules on electoral disputes

A week after releasing its first batch of decisions on disputes over the results of the April 21 regional and municipal elections, the Ivoirian Supreme Court validated yesterday results of the municipal races in Koumassi, Adjame and in the Guemon region after rejecting claims submitted by the losing candidates. *Nord Sud Quotidien* (p. 4) notes that both Cisse Bacongo, the Minister of Higher Education, and Anne Desiree Ouloto, a top aide to President Ouattara, have seen their claims rebuffed.

L'Inter (p. 6) says the election will be rerun in the Tchologo and Doropo regions in northern Cote d'Ivoire as well as in Anyama, where the initial polls were marred with incidents.

3. Former ruling FPI party accuses the government of fabricating evidence against ex-leader Laurent Gbagbo

According to officials from the former ruling FPI party, the government is engaged in the manufacture of fake evidence against former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo. The information is reported by opposition paper *Le Temps* (p. 8) which alleges that the government is on the verge of using torture to extract so-called confessions from FPI detainees, including Gbagbo's former right-hand man Charles Ble Goude. *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 3) carries a similar account, arguing that the ruling RDR has vowed to cause mayhem in the country should Gbagbo be released.

In a statement made Wednesday and published in *Le Temps* (p. 4), FPI interim secretary Richard Kodjo said the former leader must be released immediately after the International Criminal Court said it needs additional evidence to open a trial against him.

This development came as Nord Sud Quotiden (p. 4) notes that RDR spokesperson Joel N'Guessan argued there is, in fact, additional evidence against Gbagbo.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [Bollore's Bid for Ivory Coast Terminal May Be Probed](#)

Bloomberg

A winning bid to construct a second container terminal at the Port of Abidjan in Ivory Coast by Bollore Africa Logistics CI, Bouygues SA (EN) and A.P. Moeller-Maersk A/S's APM Terminals may face scrutiny from a West African competition body.

2. [One dead as football team's bus attacked in Ivory Coast](#)

NDTVSports.com

Abidjan, Ivory Coast: One player was killed and 23 people seriously injured after a coach carrying second division football team ES Bafing was attacked by armed bandits, Ivory Coast press reported on Thursday. The attack happened during the night from ...

3. [After sour years, is French influence on the rise in West Africa?](#)

Christian Science Monitor

When Jonathan Valette tells his French friends he's from Ivory Coast, someone usually asks him if there are any elephants near his home. When he tells his fellow Ivorians about a shared French-Ivorian identity, they don't quite know what to make of ...

4. [Cocoa sustainability drive gains \\$3m industry commitment](#)

ConfectioneryNews.com

The money will be spent on programs including rolling Hershey's mobile phone scheme out in the Ivory Coast and building a new school in the country in partnership with Finnish confectioner Fazer. A project has also begun to support 70,000 cocoa farming ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 6, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. West African leaders pay tribute to French President Hollande
2. Heads of Interpol meeting on security in West African region
3. Ivoirian government destroys war munitions
4. Ivoirian minister opposes bidding in favor of French group

1. West African leaders pay tribute to French President Hollande

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p.5) says that leaders from Francophone West African countries honored French President Francois Hollande for his efforts in fighting Islamic extremists in Mali. Yesterday in Paris, President Hollande was awarded a U.N.-sponsored peace prize named after late Ivoirian president Felix Houphouet Boigny. President Alassane Ouattara, speaking at the ceremony, hailed the French president for his, "courage and statesmanship." The Ivoirian president continued, "By standing by leaders in the West African region to stop the progress of the terrorists who were threatening to invade southern Mali and the whole West African region, President Hollande had saved an endangered country and helped contain the terrorism that was threatening the whole Sahel region."

Receiving the award the French president said, "The French intervention in Mali is a debt that my country must pay to Africa," reports *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 2). A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 7) quotes President Hollande as saying, "Africans themselves had asked me to intervene in Mali." A report in the pro-opposition newspaper *Aujourd'hui* (p. 4) also says that supporters of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo yesterday protested in Paris against the award of the prize to President Hollande.

2. Heads of Interpol meeting on security in West African region

Officials of Interpol from West African countries are meeting in Abidjan this week in an effort to hammer out a communication strategy to improve security in the sub-region, reports *Fraternite Matin* (p. 16). Dubbed "Wapis-Sipao," the project, the report says, will help compile a database at both the national and regional level in order to reinforce fighting of criminal activities in the region.

3. Ivoirian government destroys war munitions

A report in *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 5) says the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Authority (ADDR) has destroyed 20 bombs in the Anyama neighborhood of Abidjan. The destruction of the munitions collected from former combatants was designed to help restore security and spare the population of dangerous weapons used during violence that followed the 2010 presidential elections in Cote d'Ivoire, reports the paper.

4. Ivoirian minister opposes bidding in favor of French group

A report in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 2) says Ivoirian Minister of Commerce Jean Louis Billon has denounced the award to a French group, Bolloré, the management of the second container terminal at the Port of Abidjan. While the bid will help increase the competitiveness of the port,

reports the paper, the Minister is concerned that it would give the group a monopoly on the management of the container terminal. Minister Billion, who was speaking to a French newspaper, said, "This super-monopoly is not good for our economy." "Billion contests Bollore and defies Ouattara," writes Le Nouveau Courrier (p. 3). The article claims that by opposing the award, the Ivoirian Minister of Commerce is playing a "dangerous" game. The paper also suggests that Mr. Billion's stance could have political motivations.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [Cocoa smuggling picks up from Ivory Coast](#)

Reuters

ABIDJAN, June 5 (Reuters) - Cocoa smuggling is back on the rise from top grower Ivory Coast after an 8-month lull as a high guaranteed farmer price for the April-to-September mid-crop has dampened interest from traders, forcing farmers in need of cash

2. [French president awarded a peace prize](#)

Greenwich Time

Hollande was awarded with the prize, named after late former president of Ivory Coast, for his contribution to peace and stability in Africa. Photo: Etienne Laurent, Pool. French President Francois Hollande receives the Felix... French President ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 5, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia army officers meeting on security issues
2. More reactions after ICC delays trial of former president Gbagbo
3. American Chamber of Commerce reopens in Cote d'Ivoire

1. Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia army officers meeting on security issues

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 11) says army officers from Liberia are meeting with their Ivoirian counterparts in Grand-Bassam this week in a bid to find ways to improve security along the border between the two countries. Officials from the UN Mission in Liberia (MINUL) and UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) are also taking part in the two-day meeting that began Tuesday. The two sides have noted illegal activities along the border by pockets of militia leaders and mercenaries, reports the paper. The paper also quotes Ivoirian Minister in charge of Defense, Paul Koffi Koffi, as calling on these groups to stop these activities.

2. More reactions after ICC delays trial of former president Gbagbo

The decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to delay the trial of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo for crimes against humanity in order to give prosecutors time to collect additional evidence is again a major issue in the Ivoirian press today. Pro-government daily *La Matinale* (pp. 6&7) deplores the decision, which it says, has put the credibility of the ICC in jeopardy. The paper also believes that the decision could be seen as a "mockery" for the victims of the political crisis that followed the presidential election of 2010 and asks the ICC's judges to "wake up."

An article in another pro-government newspaper, *L'Expression* (p. 5), calls on the ruling RHDP coalition to stop "dreaming" that the simple transfer of Mr. Gbagbo to The Hague was sufficient enough to have the former Ivoirian president be sentenced to prison. The paper also notes that the coalition has virtually become dormant since the transfer while supporters of the defendant are using social media to present the former president as, "a victim of imperialism and neo-colonialism."

An article in *Le Mandat* (p. 2) suspects diplomatic pressures from South Africa in the recent decision taken by the court in The Hague concerning the trial of the former Ivoirian president. At the same time, *Le Jour Plus* (p. 4) warns against what the paper sees as "manipulation" of the public opinion in favor of Mr. Gbagbo following recent critics of the ICC by African leaders meeting in Addis Ababa. On the same tone, *Le Nouveau Reveil* (pp. 5&6) wonders whether the ICC's decision was a simple "dysfunction" in the investigation or "strategic maneuvers" on the part of the ICC's chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda. The paper also quotes the lawyer of the Ivoirian government saying, "The decision was neither a victory nor a defeat," but should be rather seen as a, "law abiding decision."

With a front-page picture of the former Ivoirian president smiling, the pro-Gbagbo newspaper *Aujourd'hui* (p. 3) quotes his lawyer as saying that Monday's ruling was a "victory of the historic truth." In a commentary titled, "The big brother never fails," the paper (p. 7) suggests that the

fact the ICC has asked the chief prosecutor to produce more evidence against Mr. Gbagbo is a "sign of failure of the international community."

In the wake of the court's decision, an article in Notre Voie (p. 2) says the ICC's prosecutor is set for a "still-born mission." Le Temps (pp. 6&7), which shares the same point of view, describes the investigation as a, "comedy," adding that the task to be completed by the chief prosecutor is "doomed for failure."

Reacting to the ICC's decision, a supporter of the Ivoirian president is reported by L'Intelligent d'Abidjan (p. 5) as saying, "This decision is chance for the reconciliation" in Cote d'Ivoire." A former aide to Mr. Gbagbo is also quoted by L'Inter (p. 3) as saying that Monday's decision by the ICC could also pave the way for the release of the former president.

3. American Chamber of Commerce reopens in Cote d'Ivoire

A report in Fraternite Matin (p. 25) says the American Chamber of Commerce has reopened in Abidjan after a launching event on Monday. The article notes that the chamber will facilitate the presence of American businesses in Cote d'Ivoire and foster business relations between the country and the United States. "The American Chamber of Commerce will open new business opportunities," the paper quotes the spokesperson of the chamber as saying; while Ambassador Phillip Carter III described the chamber at the event as a "platform for exchanges between Ivoirian and American investors."

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [Court Ruling on Gbagbo Sparks Frustration in Ivory Coast](#)

Voice of America

ABIDJAN — Frustration with the International Criminal Court (ICC) is growing in Ivory Coast following Monday's decision that gave prosecutors more time to build their case against former President Laurent Gbagbo.

2. [Ivory Coast Crude Oil Production Fell, Gas Rose in First Quarter](#)

Bloomberg

Production of crude oil in Ivory Coast dropped 14 percent in the first three months of the year, according to a document from the country's ministry of mines, oil and energy.

3. [Central Bank Sees Niger's Economy Shrugging Off al-Qaeda Attacks](#)

Bloomberg

Ivory Coast. Growth in Ivory Coast, the biggest of the eight economies, may reach 8.9 percent this year as the country recovers from the effects of a political crisis in 2011, Kone said.

4. [Hershey brings mobile phone scheme to Ivory Coast](#)

AgraNet (subscription)

US chocolate maker Hershey has announced it is rolling out its mobile phone cocoa farming programme to the world's top producer Ivory Coast. CocoaLink was first launched in Ghana in 2011, where Hershey said it has delivered more than 350,000 SMS.

5. Cote d'Ivoire leader makes case for broader ties

The Japan Times

Further Japanese involvement in the development of Cote d'Ivoire, in such fields as agriculture, manufacturing and infrastructure

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 4, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. ICC delays trial to build case against former president Gbagbo

The decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to delay the trial of former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo for crimes against humanity sparks mixed reactions in the Ivoirian press today. On Monday it was announced the delay was needed to give prosecutors more time to collect additional evidence and conduct more investigations before a trial can go forward. Pro-Gbagbo paper *Le Temps* (pp. 6&7) calls the ICC's decision a "bombshell" and a "slap in the face" of ICC's chief prosecutor Fatou Bensouda. The paper also sees the court's decision as a sign that, "the ICC has no evidence to try Laurent Gbagbo."

"Bensouda and Ouattara have been knocked out," says an article in *Le Quotidien d'Abidjan* (p. 3), another daily close to the former ruling FPI party. It says it believes that it would be difficult for the ICC's prosecutor to produce evidence to prove the culpability of the former Ivoirian president in the political crisis that followed the presidential election of 2010.

Notre Voie (p. 3) describes the court's decision as a "victory" for Mr. Gbagbo and calls for his release. The article also claims that, "it is indecent for the court to keep the defendant in prison while the prosecutor is looking for evidence against him." According to *Aujourd'hui* (p. 5), another daily close to the former ruling FPI party, the lawyer of Mr. Gbagbo will follow-up on yesterday's decision by submitting a writ seeking for the release of the former president.

An article in *L'Intelligent d'Abidjan* (p. 4) suggests that the court's ruling that investigations should continue could be seen as "a failure" on the part of ICC's chief prosecutor Bensouda. A leading member of Mr. Gbagbo's FPI's party says that the court's decision was "a polite way to tell the prosecutor to abandon the case." Reacting to the court's decision, FPI youth leader Koua Justin accuses the ICC's prosecutor of, "forgery," reports *Soir Info* (p. 3), while a report in *L'Inter* (p. 4) describes this decision as "the first set-back" for the ICC's prosecutor.

On the pro-government side, Ivoirian human rights advocate Ali Ouattara is reported by *L'Expression* (p. 3) as saying the ICC's ruling yesterday is not "a victory," per se, for Mr. Gbagbo. *Le Patriote* (p. 2) shares the same point of view saying the adjournment of the case is just a "reprieve" for the former president as the court has given the chief prosecutor up to January 2014 to produce enough evidence for the trial to move ahead.

According to a report in *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3), the case against the former Ivoirian president has been postponed to 2014 and during that time, he has to stay in prison. From now to January 2014, "The prosecutor will have enough time to produce evidence to support the accusation," *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3) quotes an official at the ICC as saying. The paper also carries a commentary saying that supporters of the former president might be jubilant after the court's decision, but this celebration, it says, will end soon because Mr. Gbagbo will have to remain in jail.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [ICC judges delay decision on charges against former Ivory Coast president ...](#)

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — International Criminal Court judges delayed a decision Monday on

whether to put former Ivory Coast president Laurent Gbagbo on trial for alleged involvement in deadly post-election violence, telling prosecutors to beef up ...

2. [Aga Khan Fund to Withdraw From](#) Ivory Coast Airline Stake

Bloomberg

The Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development will withdraw from Air Cote d'Ivoire as other investors in the state carrier of Ivory Coast increase the company's stock, airline General Director Rene Decurey said. Air Cote d'Ivoire, which started flying

3. [EU Tightens Laws On African Cocoa Exports](#)

Ventures Africa

Ivory Coast is the world's leading exporter of the crop with a whopping 40 percent market share. Together with Ghana, Nigeria and Cameroon, the West African region produces more than 50 percent of the world's cocoa beans. Cameroon was the first African ...

4. ['Political Overtones'? Liberia Court Denies Another Motion in Ivorians ...](#)

AllAfrica.com

In a counter argument, state lawyers led by Solicitor General Betty Larmie Blamo also argued that the crimes allegedly committed by the mercenaries were not committed in Liberia rather in neighboring Ivory Coast, therefore it was necessary to have them ...

American Embassy's National Daily Press Review

JUNE 3, 2013

Today's Top Stories

1. Ivoirian student organizations sign no-violence pact
2. Speculation ahead of confirmation against ex-president Gbagbo
3. Detained former militia leader charged with illegal occupation of forest reserves
4. Alleged jihadists arrested in Abidjan

1. Ivoirian student organizations sign no-violence pact

A report in *Fraternite Matin* (p. 11) says 16 different student unions and 17 associations from universities in Cote d'Ivoire have signed a no-violence agreement after a seminar this past weekend in Abidjan. The pledge also makes it compulsory for Ivoirian students to settle issues with which they are confronted through, "dialogue, negotiation, justice and peace," reports the paper. A committee was put in place, tasked with overseeing the application of the agreement over the next three months. The report also notes that the signing of this bond followed a series of violent demonstrations organized recently by different student factions on various campuses in Abidjan.

2. Speculation ahead of charges confirmation against ex-president Gbagbo

A prominent article in *Soir Info* (p. 3) suggests that the International Criminal Court will decide today on whether former Ivoirian president Laurent Gbagbo, charged with crimes against humanity, should be tried or not. The article also speculates that today's announcement could lead to four possibilities, including that the former president be set free or be tried for charges leveled against him in connection with the 2011 post-electoral violence in Cote d'Ivoire.

A report in *Le Nouveau Courrier* (p. 5) quotes the former president's lawyer as saying that Gbagbo, who was jailed before his detention at The Hague has, "good morale and is not feeling pitiful about his fate." *L'Inter* (p. 5), writes, "Gbagbo's fate hangs in the balance," while his supporters as well as supporters of his rival, President Alassane Ouattara, "hold their breath."

While speculations on Mr. Gbagbo's hearing at the International Criminal Court continue, *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 5) quotes Appiah Kabran, an Ivoirian political leader close to the former president, as casting doubt about the release of the former president. *Le Nouveau Reveil* (p. 3) shares a similar point of view saying that even the optimism that could be seen amongst his supporters both at home and outside the country has completely, "faded away."

3. Detained former militia leader charged with illegal occupation of forest reserves

A report in the weekend issue of *Nord-Sud Quotidien* (p. 3) says former militia leader Amade Oueremi, who surrendered recently to Ivoirian government forces, has been charged with "illegal occupation of forest reserves." According to the paper, the decision was made on Thursday after the former militia leader was questioned by a judge in Abidjan.

4. Alleged jihadists arrested in Abidjan

An article in L'Inter (p. 4) says 10 Egyptians believed to be jihadists were arrested in Abidjan in March. The paper attributes this information to French international broadcaster, RFI, which reports that the alleged jihadists were arrested during a joint operation carried out by French and Ivoirians security forces. Another article on the same page of the paper says three Ivoirians have been identified among the Islamic groups operating in northern Mali.

International Stories on Cote d'Ivoire

1. [France warns of terrorists in Ivory Coast](#)

UPI.com

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast, June 1 (UPI) -- French anti-terrorism officials are warning travelers and diplomats in Ivory Coast to beware of a growing ...

2. [In Ivory Coast, the former ruling party tries to rebuild](#)

Christian Science Monitor

After rebels loyal to President Alassane Ouattara stormed Ivory Coast's commercial capital Abidjan in 2011, they descended on the headquarters of the ruling Ivorian Popular Front (FPI), breaking windows, ripping out electrical sockets, and stealing air ...

3. [Insight: Nigerian pirate gangs extend reach off West Africa](#)

Reuters

As the afternoon sun glinted off the waters in Ivory Coast's port of Abidjan, a team of gendarmes set out in a leaky wooden pirogue with no weapons and nothing more than mobile phones for communication. Their mission: to hold the front line against piracy in the world's new hotspot for maritime crime, the Gulf of Guinea off the coast of West Africa.

4. [Ivory Coast Techies Elect New 'Web Mayor'](#)

Washington Post

Abidjan, the largest city in the Ivory Coast, boasts a budding network of bloggers, strategists, designers and Web entrepreneurs who organized a separate vote for "Web Mayor" after local elections.

5. [Would-be Chicago backpack bomber gets 23 years](#)

The Beirut-born Hassoun blamed his actions in part on childhood trauma living in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. During civil strife there, Hassoun, then 11, witnessed machete killings from an apartment balcony, he wrote.

Media affiliation and circulation

(Newspaper circulation figures represent number of copies printed, not actual sales)

[Fraternite Matin](#)

Government-owned daily newspaper

23,000 daily

[L'Intelligent d'Abidjan](#)

Privately-owned daily; leans pro-President Alassane Ouattara
7,000 daily

[L'Inter](#)

Independent daily 20,000 daily

[Le Nouveau Courrier](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo
10,000 daily

[Le Nouveau Reveil](#)

Daily close to the PDCI-RDA party of former President Henri Konan Bedie
17,000 daily

[Le Patriote](#)

Daily close to the RDR party of President Alassane Ouattara
17,000 daily

Le Temps - (no current website)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo
30,000 daily

Nord-Sud Quotidien- (no current website)

Daily close to Speaker of the National Assembly Guillaume Soro
10,000 daily

[Notre Voie](#)

Daily close to the FPI party of former President Laurent Gbagbo
15,000 daily

[Soir Info](#)

Independent daily 22,000

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[Agence Ivoirienne](#) de Presse

Government-run news agency

[RTI Television](#)

Government-run television and radio conglomerate