

Application for utilization of farmland should benefit people

By Aung Khin

Locals from sub-urban areas in Yangon believe that land reform plans should benefit ordinary people in Myanmar, not privilege a handful of wealthy persons.

Myanmar enacted the Farmland Law in March 2012. Article 29 under Chapter 10 Utilization of Farmland under this law says; in the long-term national interest of the State, the respective implemented Ministry shall utilize the farmland for the project by the permission of the Cabinet of the Union Government after getting remarks from the Central Farmland Management Body.

A resident in Yangon region said: "Some paddy farms are being transformed into projects for petrol stations or factories. Businesspersons close to local authorities are applying for utilization of farmland in accordance with Article 30 (A) of the Farmland Law. However, they confiscate more land than required."

A lawyer said: "Some wealthy farmers who own the farms beside the motorways apply for getting the



Paddy farms being transformed into other project in Yangon Region.—PHOTO: AUNG KHIN

Land Use Certificate to the Township Settlement and Land Records Department Office, passing it through the relevant Ward or Village-Tract Farmland Management Body. To utilize paddy land for other purposes, the Central Farmland Management Body must give permission after the recommendation of the Region or State Farmland Management Body."

He also said application for each case for land utilization costs from K2

million to K5 million as there are many processes to go through to get permission.

A farmer from Thongwa Township, Yangon Region, said: "Any law should be fair for every citizen. As the farm lands can be transformed into other projects, wealthy people pay high prices for the paddy lands and the land prices become unaffordable for many farmers who are actually working cultivation."

A resident in Yangon

said: "Some businesspeople apply for construction of petrol stations, which are included under the title of long-term national interest of the State, but the distance from each station is not far. I suspect their plan. After changing from paddy land into project land with the help of close officials, no one can guarantee they will not sell the land at higher prices in the future. This is manipulating the land price."

The law also says that the Central Farmland Man-

agement Body shall confiscate the farmland if the farmlands is being used within six months in the prescribed manner from the date of permission order in accordance with Article 30 of this law or not completed within the prescribed period.

A resident in Yangon said this paragraph cannot prevent manipulation of the property market, and that there needs to be a better law to control a land and property market boom.

CPAM Chief denies complaint against Health Ministry, FDA on food poisoning case in Toungoo's Zeyathiri orphanage

By Ye Myint

U Ba Oak Khaing, chairman of Consumer Protection Association of Myanmar, denied at a press conference Saturday that the headline of The Street View Journal published on 26-5-2014 that read "Ministry of Health and FDA responsible for food poisoning from imported Deedo soft drinks" was contrary to what he said, saying that he did not say that in a telephone interview with the journal.

While meeting the media at the association's office in Hline Township, Yangon, the CPAM chief told The New Light of Myanmar he just questioned who, the ministry or FDA or the company, would have



CPAM Chairman U Ba Oak Khaing denies The Street View Journal's headline is contrary to what he said.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

a responsibility to take care of the case, saying that he was convinced that no test results had yet come out at that time.

On complaints against him by the Ministry of Health that called for measures to be taken against the association by the Ministry of Home Affairs, he said

that he has not yet been questioned about the comment by the Home Affairs Ministry.

"The ministry should ask first the Journal and confirm whether I said this," he said, adding that he had no contact with the Journal up to date, despite calling it several times.

According to a story published by The Standard Time, a local newspaper, on 20 June, Dr Tun Zaw, director of the Food and Drug Administration, was quoted as saying that "the ministry in early June informed the Ministry of Home Affairs that the association violated the rules and regulations of an association by making accusations against a government organization without having firm evidence."

"Being a partner of government organizations, our association is working in line with rules and regulations and we have always focused on ensuring a greater public awareness of consumer protection only, not on other cases," said U Ba Oak Khaing, one of the food-safety whistle-blow-

ers in Myanmar.

Through state-owned newspapers, the Ministry of Health on 14 June issued a statement on the food poisoning case in the Zeyathiri female orphanage in Toungoo Township, Bago Region, on 19 May, insisting that the cause of the case in the orphanage was a contaminated rice noodle dish and not Deedo soft drinks.

A total 68 people suffered food poisoning after having rice noodles and Deedo soft drinks (pineapple and lychee) at the orphanage, the Ministry reported.

According to the statement based on the test results, the rice noodles contained a bacterium that caused the food poisoning and no bacteria were found in Deedo soft drinks, the

water used in making the drinks or other things tested.

While talking about the case, the CPAM chairman pointed out that two other kinds of Deedo soft drinks, apart from lychee and pineapple, were also served at the orphanage on that day and samples of rice noodles were taken to a laboratory the following day.

Some people, including a 90-year-old nun who had rice noodles only, avoided food poisoning, he added.

The Consumer Protection Association of Myanmar was founded in 2012 and registered in 2014 and is a non-profit organization with a membership of about 300. It is working on activities heightening awareness of consumer rights among Myanmar people.

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Parliamentary budgeting and transparency discussed



Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa with delegates of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and the German Agency for International Cooperation or GIZ.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 June — Myanmar Pyidaungsu Hluttaw joined ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and the German Agency for International Cooper-

ation or GIZ in hosting a workshop on 'parliamentary budgeting and transparency' at Hotel Royal Ace in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday, officials said.

Deputy Speaker U

Nanda Kyaw Swa delivered a welcoming speech, with AIPA Secretary-General Mr P.O. Ram and Ms Maureen Liwidjaja of GIZ addressing the workshop.

The workshop saw active participation by parliamentarians from Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

MNA

Some government bodies still hold conservative views of government machinery: Union Minister



Union Minister U Aung Kyi delivers speech at the meeting on accelerating Third Wave Reforms of the nation.—MNA

YANGON, 21 June—Despite the president's call for the realization of 'good governance and clean government' to ensure better administrative machinery, some departments and some staff are found to remain conservative, Union Minister U Aung Kyi told a meeting at MRTV in Yangon on Saturday afternoon, officials said.

The meeting was held as part of accelerating the Third Wave Reforms of the country.

Employees should be provided with capacity building training and encouraged with a 'carrot and stick' policy, with the union minister saying that pragmatic steps must be taken to practise decentralization in management.

"Staff will be willing to sharpen their abilities on their own when they are to work in a competitive working environment. When they become competent in their work, the functions of their departments will become smooth," he said.

He urged ministries and departments to be at the service of the general

public and win their trust, warning that gaining public trust and satisfaction is a measure of how government bodies serve public interests.

He noted two things remain to be done in the process of undertaking Third Wave Reforms, which are providing a solid foundation for democracy and paying priority to the better living standard of people from different socioeconomic backgrounds.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway and party pose for documentary photo with participants of workshop in China.—MNA



Myanmar Golf Tour continues third round

MANDALAY, 21 June—Min Naing (Sirxon) went ahead on his opponents with 214 strokes in men's professional division while Maung Maung Oo also stood first with 217 in men's amateur division

after the third round of Myanmar Golf Tour in Mandalay on Saturday.

The third leg of the tournament at Shwe Mann Taung Golf Club in Mandalay, Khin Mar Nwe won over her rivals with 162

while May Oo Khaing stood second with 162 and Wint Phu Nadi Aung, third with 165 in women's amateur level. The tournament is organized by the Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA.—Soe Nyunt

Awards presented to outstanding students in matriculation examination

NAY PYI TAW, 21 June—A ceremony to honour the outstanding students who have passed the matriculation examination for 2013-14 academic year was held at the hall of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee on Saturday.

Those students are offspring of staff from the President Office, the Union Government Office, the Nay Pyi Taw Council and the Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt presented prizes to six-distinction winner Maung Sai Hein Htet Aung, four-distinction

winner Ma Shwe Oo and three-distinction winner Ma Khin Yadana Nwe of the staff families.

Deputy ministers at the President Office and officials gave certificates and awards to the outstanding students.

A total of 10 of 15 students from the staff of President Office, six of 13 students from the Union Government office, seven of 20 students from Nay Pyi Taw Council, 18 of 44 students from Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and three from Nay Pyi Taw Cetana Night School passed the examination.

MNA

Deputy Information Minister concludes official visit to China

NAY PYI TAW, 21 June—Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday after attending the workshop on information ministers from developing countries organized by State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China from 11 to 20 June in PRC.

During the workshop, the participants discussed the media cooperation between China and the developing countries.

The Deputy Minister also discussed the reform process of Myanmar, the

country's media development, current activities on media cooperation with China, foreign direct investment in Myanmar and tourism industry.

During his visit, the Myanmar delegation made several media observations to China Central Television-CCTV, China Radio International-CRI and Beijing Television-BTV and met with the Chairman of Radio and Television in Yunnan Province to discuss media creation.

They also visited Hisense Electronic Company and International Horticultural Exposition 2014 on Thursday.—MNA

Tourism industry development discussed in Yangon

YANGON, 21 June—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung met delegates from Swiss Contact on Saturday at Inya Lake Hotel in Yangon to hold a discussion on the tourism industry development.

The Union Minister focused on the promotion of the quality of service that plays a vital role for development of the in-

dustry.

He also focused on the development of human resources under the strategic plan of Myanmar tourism industry.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said he welcomes the Swiss Contact's assistance to conduct the HR development courses in Myanmar supported by Swiss Development Cooperation and he also be-

lieves the citizens in abroad will also participate in the courses.

On Friday, the Union Minister attended the Food and Hotel Myanmar 2014 and the 11th AHRA Bartenders' Championship Myanmar 2014 in Yangon.

More than 250 companies from 29 countries participated in the show.

MNA



Ruling Thai military vows to fight human traffickers

BANGKOK, 21 June — Thailand is taking steps to combat human trafficking and regulate the employment of migrant workers including those from Cambodia, said military junta leader Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha on Friday.

In a nationwide televised speech, Gen Prayuth, head of the National Council for Peace and Order, the official name of the military junta who staged the 22 May coup, confirmed that the Thai authorities are currently taking measures not only to keep millions of migrant workers under

control of the Thai law but to fight labour abuses by human traffickers and corrupt officials.

The army chief categorically dismissed criticisms that the ruling Thai military had planned to crack down on migrant workers only to see a huge number of Cambodians scrambling across the border to return home via Poipet border town in Banteay Meanchey province earlier this month.

According to Thai media report, there are an estimated 430,000 Cambodians currently employed

in Thailand while some 200,000 others are believed to have been hired without official permission. Meanwhile, the Cambodian Minister of Labour Ith Samheng earlier said more than 200,000 Cambodian labourers, including 80,000 legal migrant workers, have been working in Thailand.

“A flurry of panic-stricken departures of a large number of migrant workers from Thailand was reported to have been designed by certain influential persons and corrupt officials.”

“They had deliberate-

ly fanned up rumours of a crackdown by the National Council for Peace and Order to scare away the migrant workers whom they may have planned to smuggle back into the country in exchange for payoffs,” said Gen Prayuth.

The so-called Policy Committee on Foreign Workers, chaired by supreme commander Gen Thanasak Patimaprakorn, is yet to set policy toward legal employment of the migrant workers nationwide, including those who may have been earlier hired in illegal fashion, accord-

ing to the army chief.

Instead of cracking down on migrant workers, the authorities will quickly quell human traffickers who might probably have conspired with corrupt officials preying on them, he said.

“We’ll crack down on human traffickers who might extort money from migrant workers and plug up legal loopholes through which they might otherwise prey on the labourers.

“We are very promptly taking steps to regulate the employment of migrant workers to make it all legal

and fair to the employees themselves,” Gen Prayuth said.

The authorities will have all foreign workers documented and given proper lodging, health care and humanitarian aid while basic human rights will be observed, he said.

A centre for identifying and cross-border shuttling of migrant workers will be set up in cooperation with the governments of their home countries in order to preclude the cross-border human trafficking, he added.

Xinhua

China committed to settling maritime disputes via dialogue: premier

ATHENS, 21 June — China is committed to settling maritime disputes through dialogues and negotiations, on the basis of respecting historical facts and international law, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said here on Friday. Li made the remarks as he addressed the

jointly safeguard free and safe navigation, fight against piracy and maritime terrorism, respond to marine disasters and construct a marine order of peace and tranquility, Li said.

He added that the country is resolute in safeguarding its national sovereignty and territorial integrity,



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang addresses the China-Greece Maritime Cooperation Forum in Athens, capital of Greece, on 20 June, 2014.—XINHUA

China-Greece Marine Cooperation Forum, where he called for stronger marine cooperation between the two nations, and expounded China’s viewpoints on maritime affairs.

Pledging to jointly build a “sea of peace” with other countries, Li said China will unswervingly follow the path of peaceful development and firmly oppose to any act of hegemony in maritime affairs.

“China firmly supports any act that safeguards marine peace and order, and firmly opposes any act that undermines marine peace and order,” he said.

China is willing to strengthen communication and cooperation with relative countries and improve any bilateral and multilateral mechanism, to

which is conducive to safeguarding regional peace and order as well.

Proposing to build a “sea of cooperation,” Li said China is willing to work with maritime states to actively forge a marine cooperative partnership to build sea lanes, develop marine economy and use marine resources, among other endeavors. While proposing to build a “sea of harmony,” Li touched upon his vision in protecting the marine environment.

As to China-Greece cooperation, the Chinese premier said his country is glad to see Greece make achievements, pledging to continue to adopt cooperative measures to support the southern European country in reviving its economy.

Xinhua

South Korea closes net round family of most wanted man after ferry disaster

SEOUL, 21 June — The wife of South Korea’s most wanted man, a businessman linked to a ferry disaster in which hundreds of school children drowned, was arrested on Saturday, prosecutors said, as the net tightens around the fugitive’s family. Police and prosecutors arrested Kwon Yoon-ja, 72, on suspicion of embezzlement after chasing her for more than 20 days, an official said.

Prosecutors and police are seeking Yoo Byung-un, 73, who has eluded one of the country’s biggest manhunts for more than a month. The husband of Yoo’s younger sister, a former ambassador to the Czech Republic, was arrested on Friday on suspicion of helping Yoo escape arrest.

Yoo is wanted on charges of embezzlement, negligence and tax evasion stemming from a web of business holdings centred on I-One-I, an investment

A girl looks at yellow ribbons dedicated to the missing and dead passengers of the sunken passenger ship *Sewol*, in front of Danwon high school in Ansan on 27 April, 2014. REUTERS



vehicle owned by his sons that ran the shipping company, Chonghaejin Marine.

Chonghaejin owned the *Sewol*, which sank off the southwest coast on 16 April killing more than 300 people, many of them school children, on a routine journey from Incheon on the mainland to the southern holiday island of Jeju.

Authorities suspect Kwon, who owns one of Yoo’s subsidiary compa-

nies that sells health supplements, poured funds into companies owned by her husband and son.

Reporters bombarded her with questions — “Are you in contact with your husband?” “Do you plead guilty to all charges?” “Why have you been hiding?” “Do you know where your husband is?”

She did not reply.

The sinking of the *Sewol* was a disaster that prompted a national out-

pouring of grief and anger, especially after some crew were caught on video abandoning ship while the children, following instructions, stayed in their cabins.

Yoo’s elder brother, Yoo Byung-il, has been arrested on charges of embezzlement and violations of real estate laws. His daughter, Yoo Som-na, has been held in France after Interpol called for her arrest “for fraud and embezzlement”.—Reuters

Civilian killed in Afghan capital suicide bombing

KABUL, 21 June — At least one civilian was killed on Saturday morning as a suicide car bomb went off in the western part of the

Afghan capital of Kabul, sources said.

The target of the attack was Mohammad Masoom Stanikzai, a member and



Officials investigate at the site of a bomb attack in Kabul on 21 June, 2014.—REUTERS

secretary of the Afghan High Peace Council.

However, Stanikzai escaped the attack but several cars of the convoy were damaged in the blast, unofficial source said.

“The explosion occurred at around 07:00 am in Charrah-e-Qambar locality. We still cannot provide details on casualties. There is fear of possible casualties,” a security source told Xinhua.

A private college — Dawat University, an army compound and an intelligence training center are located near the blast site.

“First I thought it is

an earthquake. Then a big bang shocked me. My children got up from sleeping and began to cry. Our house glasses were shattered following the explosion. Fortunately, none of my family members got injured,” Ahmad Jawad, a local resident, told Xinhua.

The blast caused a plume of gray smoke to rise above the scene as seen by a Xinhua reporter. Several ambulances and siren police vehicles arrived in the area. No group claimed responsibility. The government troops cordoned off the area shortly after the blast.—Xinhua

WORLD

Ukraine's Poroshenko declares week-long ceasefire, warns rebels

KIEV, 21 June — Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Friday ordered a seven-day ceasefire in the fight against pro-Russian separatists, but also warned them they could face death if they did not use the time to put down their guns.

In Moscow, the Kremlin, whose support Poroshenko needs for his plan to end the insurgency in the rebellious east, denounced the ceasefire as an ultimatum to separatists rather than a peace offering.

Poroshenko, installed only three weeks ago as president after seven months of turmoil in the ex-Soviet republic, ordered government forces to cease firing to allow his peace plan for the region to take root.

But after fierce fighting on Thursday about 100 km (60 miles) from the Russian border that apparently caused heavy losses for separatists and some

deaths on the Ukrainian side, Poroshenko backed his declaration with a warning to the rebels. *Interfax* news agency quoted him as telling military officers in the east that the temporary ceasefire would give the rebels just one week to lay down their arms, after which “they will have to be eliminated.”

The ceasefire “does not mean that we will not fight back in the event of aggression towards our military. We will do everything we can to defend the territory of our state,” his website quoted him separately as saying.

The ceasefire will run from 10 pm on Friday until 10 am on 27 June, it said.

After announcement of the ceasefire, Poroshenko launched a 15-point peace plan to end the insurgency in the Russian-speaking east which erupted in April after street protests in the capital Kiev toppled the Moscow-backed Viktor



Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko (L) talks to servicemen at the military camp near the town of Svyatogorsk in Eastern Ukraine, on 20 June, 2014.

REUTERS

Yanukovich.

Russia subsequently annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula. Kiev's new authorities quickly saw the hand of Moscow when separatist groups took control of strategic buildings and towns in the east, declaring “people's republics” and

declaring they wanted to join Russia.

In Donetsk, the main industrial hub in the region, the rebels remained unmoved by Poroshenko's ceasefire gesture or the unveiling of a peace plan on Friday.

“What kind of reac-

tion do you expect? When they (the Kiev side) pull out their army, then you will have our reaction,” a spokeswoman for the self-styled Donetsk People's Republic said.

The first soldiers for a people's republic army would take oaths of alle-

giance on Donetsk's Lenin Square on Saturday, she announced defiantly.

A spokesman for government forces said about 300 separatists was killed in fighting on Thursday in an eastern area about 100 km from the border and fighting continued there on Friday.

Ukrainian forces lost seven servicemen, he said. The rebel casualties could not be verified independently. Earlier on Friday, Kiev said government forces had regained control of the border with Russia and could now stop supplies being sent to arm pro-Russian separatists — something Poroshenko needed to hear before calling a ceasefire.

Poroshenko is now gearing up for a round of high diplomacy to sell his peace plan to allies and adversaries alike in a bid to end the insurgency that threatens the unity of the country.—Reuters

Russia challenges US at WTO over sanctions — PM Medvedev

MOSCOW, 21 June — Russia has filed a complaint with the World Trade Organization against the United States for imposing sanctions over the Ukraine crisis, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Friday.

Moscow had already told Washington it considered the sanctions, imposed in response to Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea and its involvement in the Ukrainian crisis, to be illegal under WTO rules.

“When the United States imposed sanctions against Russia, which had

a negative impact on our foreign trade, we decided to challenge these sanctions in the World Trade Organization,” Medvedev told a law conference in Russia's northern city of St Petersburg. “We've sent a communique to the World Trade Organization.”

Washington and the European Union have imposed sanctions on several Russian and Ukrainian individuals, but Washington has also targeted a number of Russian firms and banks it says are linked to President Vladimir Putin or his close associates.—Reuters

Protesters in Kabul calls for transparency in presidential runoff votes

KABUL, 21 June — Hundreds of Kabul residents came to streets on Saturday calling for transparency in the votes cast during the presidential runoff on 14 June in the conflict-ridden Afghanistan. “Our votes must be respected and those committed fraud in the elections should be brought to justice and we defend our votes by our bloods,” the protesters said in their slogans.

The protesters came

to the streets in the wake of the objection made by presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah on Wednesday over what he termed fraud in the election process and halted engagement with the election commissions.

Abdullah, who secured 45 percent of the votes out of some 7 million votes cast in the 5 April presidential election against his rival Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai who garnered 31.6 percent, on

Wednesday accused the election commission of fraud in the election process and called for the suspension of the duty of Ziaul Haq Omarkhil, chief of the election commission secretariat and halting vote counting immediately, a demand has yet to be met.

Abdullah who has claimed to be the winner of both the first and second round of the presidential polls on Thursday suspended his engagement with the

election commission, saying any decisions and any performances made by the election commission are illegal. “We are demanding the positive involvement of the United Nations in the election process and want transparent result of the elections,” the protesters further said in their slogans.

Police have cordoned off the protesters and have been trying to disperse them peacefully.

Xinhua

Ukraine crisis forces US to bolster Europe forces



A Russian tank crew member runs in front of his T-72B tank after their arrival in Crimea in the settlement of Gvardeiskoye near the Crimean city of Simferopol on 31 March, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 21 June — Only last year, the US European Command was facing some of the deepest cuts of any region in the US military. Now, after Russia's annexation of Crimea, the Pentagon finds itself focusing on the continent in a way not seen in decades.

Earlier this month, US President Barack Obama said he would ask Congress for an additional \$1 billion to increase Washington's military commitment to the continent.

Last week, the US Air Force said it had deployed two B-2 stealth bombers to England, joining two B-52s

sent earlier this month. The two aircraft are America's premier nuclear bombers.

Washington has sent additional warships to the Black Sea and the Baltic, F-15, F-16 jets and early warning AWACS aircraft to join ramped up NATO patrols near Russian airspace and troops to train in Germany and Eastern Europe.

With fighting raging in eastern Ukraine between pro-Moscow forces and troops loyal to Kiev, Washington says Russia has put large numbers of troops on the border and may be preparing to deliver tanks and artillery to the separatists.

At a time of budget cuts and when Obama would rather focus its strategic gaze on Asia and the Middle East, resources are limited and few expect America to rebuild the permanent garrison-type presence set up in Europe during the Cold War.

While more military supplies will be placed in the European region, US units will be largely rotated through from existing European bases and elsewhere.

Washington also wants European states to step up more.

“Collective action

doesn't mean the United States puts skin in the game while others stand on the sidelines cheering,” US National Security adviser Susan Rice told the annual conference of the Centre for a New American Security.

Although the United States has pledged to strengthen the military capabilities of non-NATO states near Russia such as Ukraine, Georgia and Moldova, officials say no decisions have been made on details and the real focus is on boosting NATO's defences.

Reuters

Three US troops killed by Afghanistan explosion

WASHINGTON, 21 June — Three US troops and a working dog were killed by a bomb blast on Friday in southern Afghanistan, a US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

No information was immediately available about the incident. The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, or ISAF, in Afghanistan said in a statement three service members died following an improvised explosive device attack.

ISAF did not provide

the nationality of the victims. The Taliban, ousted by US-backed forces in the aftermath of al-Qaeda's 11 September, 2001 attacks on the United States, is engaged in a summer offensive ahead of the planned withdrawal of most foreign troops by the end of this year.

The United States plans to reduce its force in Afghanistan to less than 10,000 after 2014 and withdraw almost all of them by the end of 2016.

Reuters

Hollande, Obama discuss Ukraine, Iraq crises over phone

PARIS, 21 June — French President Francois Hollande held telephone talks Friday with his US counterpart Barack Obama on Ukrainian crisis and on the situation in Iraq.

According to a statement issued by the French presidency, the two leaders "agreed on the importance to quickly stabilize the security situation and reach accord to stop fighting in the east of (Ukraine)."

Hollande and Obama

called on Russian President Vladimir Putin to urge Pro-Moscow separatists "to cease their military action, prevent the transfer of materials in Ukraine and strengthen the control of Russian-Ukrainian border," to pave the way for a de-escalation and dialogue.

They also warned Russia over new sanctions if it won't contribute positively to end the standoff in Kiev, the communique said.

Xinhua

Two Iranians get jail terms on espionage charges

TEHERAN, 21 June — A court in Iran's Kerman Province sentenced two Iranian suspects to prison terms on spying charges for Britain and Israel, Iran Daily paper reported on Saturday.

One of the suspects, who was arrested last year over spying for Britain's MI6, was given a 10-year

prison sentence, Kerman prosecutor Yadollah Movahed was quoted as saying.

The convicted person "made 11 contacts with MI6 officers" in other countries to provide information to them, Movahed said.

Another person was sentenced to five years in prison for contacting intel-

ligence officers at Israeli embassies in Turkey and Thailand, he added.

Iran has accused some western intelligence services, including Mossad of Israel, of carrying out intelligence work inside the Islamic republic and even of being involved in the killing of Iranian nuclear scientists—Xinhua.

Central America presses Biden on migrant rights as US vows aid



US Vice President Joe Biden

GUATEMALA CITY 21 June — Central American leaders on Friday pressed visiting US Vice-President Joe Biden to improve migrant rights, even as the United States committed tens of millions of dollars in extra aid to the region in a bid to stem a surge of illegal immigration.

The White House said the United States would launch a \$40 million programme to improve security in Guatemala to reduce pressures fueling migration to the United States and a \$25 million programme to

provide services to youth in El Salvador who are vulnerable to organized-crime pressure.

Responding to what President Barack Obama has called a humanitarian crisis, the US Congress on Tuesday advanced legislation boosting funds by as much as \$2.28 billion to handle a surge of foreign children entering the country illegally. But underlying tensions continue to simmer.

Senator Robert Menendez and Democratic Representative Luis

Gutierrez said US lawmakers in the Congressional Hispanic Caucus on Wednesday held a "very testy meeting" with diplomats from El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.

"I proposed to the Vice President the possibility of considering temporary work programmes, which would allow (Guatemalans) to go for a time and return," Guatemalan President Otto Perez Molina said on Friday after meeting Biden, along with other Central American

leaders, in Guatemala City.

US data show that between October and May more than 47,000 unaccompanied minors, mostly Central Americans, crossed into the United States, nearly double the number in the prior year.

"As long as (US) immigration reform is not approved, the exodus of children to the United States will continue," Jorge Ramon Hernandez, the senior representative of Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez, said at the talks.

A partisan divide in the United States has stymied Obama's efforts to reform immigration laws.

Insisting the immigrant children should be returned to their parents, Biden also said "immigration reform has not died".

El Salvador's President Salvador Sanchez Ceren said this week he would press Biden for a reform to help reunite existing family members in the United States with more recent arrivals. After Friday's talks, Sanchez said he intended to keep working for the rights of the affected children.

Reuters

Canada overhauls temporary foreign worker programme

OTTAWA, 21 June — Canadian hotels, restaurants and retail stores will not be able to hire temporary foreign workers for low-wage and low-skill jobs in areas with high unemployment, the Canadian government said on Friday.

As part of an overhaul of the Temporary Foreign Workers Programme (TFWP), Canadian employers with 10 or more employees will be limited to having 30 percent of their workforce consisting of low-wage temporary foreign workers — a cap that will be reduced to 10 percent two years from now, and which could be further lowered in the future. Employers will also have to re-apply every year for approval to hire these workers as opposed to every two years.

"Canadians must be first in line for available jobs," Canadian Employment Minister Jason Kenney told a news conference.

He said the reforms restore the TFWP to its original purpose "as a last and limited resource for employers where there are no qualified Canadians to fill available jobs."

He said employers wanting to hire temporary foreign workers would also have to inform the government how many Canadians applied and were interviewed for a position, and why they were not hired.

Companies that use the programme will now have to pay 1,000 Canadian dollars — or a 725-dollar increase — for every temporary foreign worker position requested.

One in four employers using temporary foreign workers will also face annual inspections, resulting from tips, employers being deemed high-risk and random audits, according to Employment and Social Development Canada that oversees the TFWP.

Serious allegations of

abuse of the programme within the food-services sector, including three McDonald's franchises, led to Ottawa imposing a moratorium on that industry's access to the TFWP in April. On Friday, that suspension was lifted.

Still, employers found to have broken the rules will face fines of up to 100,000 Canadian dollars, starting this fall, and have their names and the amount of the fine publicly disclosed on an online blacklist. As part of the reforms unveiled on Friday, international mobility programmes for highly skilled and highly paid foreign workers will no longer fall under the TFWP and be subject to the new rules.

According to the Canadian government, 83,740 temporary foreign workers entered Canada last year — a number that represented 0.44 percent of the total Canadian labour force.

Xinhua



Security personnel are seen before the Constituent Assembly (CA) by-election in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 20 June, 2014. Nepal police has planned to beef up security in the city for the upcoming CA by-election which is going to take place on 22 June. —XINHUA

WORLD

Car bomb in Syria's Hama Province kills 34: state news

BEIRUT, 21 June — A car bomb in Syria's western Hama Province killed 34 and wounded more than 50, Syria's state news agency SANA said on Friday, blaming the attack on rebels fighting forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad.

It was not immediately clear if the attack was in any way related to the militant Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which is very active in Syria and has seized vast tracts of territory across the border in Iraq.

Nusra Front, which is linked to al-Qaeda and has been fighting rival group ISIL, is thought to have been behind several bomb attacks in Hama in recent months.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an anti-Assad monitoring group, said 38 were killed and more than 40 wounded in the blast which took place in Hurra, an Alawite village close to the city of



People gather around a crater in Homs city on 20 June, 2014, in this picture released by Syria's national news agency SANA.—REUTERS

Hama. Assad is from Syria's Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam.

It said a suicide bomber in a truck had detonated himself, killing mainly ci-

vilians, including women and children.

It said there were over-

night clashes between government forces and Islamist fighters in the province, as

well as bombings by the Syrian army.

SANA described the car bomb as a "terrorist" attack, wording it uses to refer to rebel fighters.

The agency said the Syrian army had also carried out a campaign to eliminate "terrorists" in a number of villages in the Homs Province to the south of Hama.

Syria's conflict began in March 2011 as peaceful protests but has turned into civil war, killing at least 160,000 people.

Rebels have been joined by hardline Islamists, some of them linked to al-Qaeda, who have become increasingly powerful among opposition forces.

In the northern city of Aleppo, Syrian air forces dropped two barrel bombs on the outskirts of the Ashrafiyeh neighbourhood, the Observatory said, adding that there were no details on casualties.

Reuters

Egypt court confirms death sentence on Brotherhood leader

CAIRO, 21 June — An Egyptian court confirmed on Saturday death sentences against the leader of the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood and 196 of his supporters, Al Arabiya TV said quoting a lawyer involved in the case.

The court's decision came two months after it referred the case against the Brotherhood's general guide Mohamed Badie and hundreds of others to the state's highest religious authority, the Mufti, the first step towards imposing a death sentence.

Badie faces a second death sentence in a separate case.—Reuters

BAGHDAD, 21 June — Iraqi forces were massing north of Baghdad on Friday, aiming to strike back at Sunni Islamists whose drive toward the capital prompted the United States to send military advisers to stiffen government resistance.

Iraq's senior Shi'ite religious cleric issued a call for unity, saying Shi'ites and Sunnis should rally behind the authorities to prevent the Sunni militant Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant from destroying the country.

Already, ISIL has started to enact its puritanical vision of Islam in Mosul, which it captured 10 days ago as it swept across northern Iraq. Mosul residents said ISIL members had destroyed symbols of Iraq's rich heritage, razing statues of cultural icons and the

Iraqi forces ready push after Obama offers advisers



Members of the Iraqi security forces prepare to fire mortar bombs during clashes with Sunni militant group Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in Muqadiyah in Diyala Province on 19 June, 2014.—REUTERS

tomb of a Mediaeval philosopher. President Barack Obama offered on Thursday up to 300 American special forces advisers to help the Iraqi government recapture territory across northern

and western Iraq that ISIL and other Sunni armed groups have seized. But he held off granting a request for air strikes to protect the government and renewed a call for Iraq's long-serv-

ing Shi'ite prime minister Nuri al-Maliki to do more to overcome sectarian divisions that have fuelled resentment among the Sunni minority. In office since 2006, Maliki has disap-

pointed Washington by alienating Sunnis. Obama has called for a more inclusive government in Baghdad, although he has stopped short of saying Maliki should be replaced. There has been speculation Maliki may also have lost the confidence of allies in Iran.

Teheran and Washington have both spoken of cooperating with each other after decades of mutual hostility to prevent anti-Western, anti-Shi'ite zealots controlling swathes of Iraq.

In the area around Samarra, on the main highway 100 km (60 miles) north of Baghdad, which has become a frontline of the battle with the ISIL, the provincial governor, a rare Sunni supporter of Maliki, told cheering troops they would now force ISIL and its allies back.—Reuters

Nigeria wraps up kidnap investigation with 200 girls still missing

ABUJA, 21 June — Nigeria wrapped up its inquiry into the abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls by militants on Friday with little progress to show, reporting almost none had been freed after the initial kidnapping. Submitting the final report, Brigadier General Ibrahim Sabo said 219 girls re-

mained at large, a total virtually unchanged since Boko Haram militants stormed their secondary school in northeast Borno state on 14 April to kidnap them. A total of 57 girls, almost all of whom escaped shortly after the abduction, have been reunited with their families, he added. The kidnapping of the teenage girls taking

exams in Chibok village sparked global outrage for its sheer barbarity. The government's failure to rescue the girls, or protect them before their abduction, has become a political liability for President Goodluck Jonathan ahead of elections next year. "We are ... pained that the schoolgirls remain in captivity," Sabo said in

a statement. "The hostage situation that this represents is obviously delicate." The Chibok kidnapping and other increasingly bloody attacks by Boko Haram have underscored Abuja's inability to stamp out the militant group, which aims to carve out a radical Islamist state in the mostly Muslim north.

Reuters



A member of the #BringBackOurGirls Abuja campaign group addresses a sit-in protest at the Unity Fountain in Abuja on 18 June, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 22 June, 2014

Displaced people are mounting up amidst unsolved political problems

By Aung Khin

Is life cheap for them? Many people had to abandon their homes, livelihoods and lands, facing starvation for many days. Parents cannot send their children to government schools, instead they are desperately seeking shelter from the conflict, with considerable uncertainties for the future of their offspring.

UNHCR reported on 20 June, World Refugee Day, that 51.2 million people were forcibly

displaced at the end of 2013, fully 6 million more than the 45.2 million reported in 2012. In its annual Global Trends report, UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres said: "Peace is today dangerously in deficit. Humanitarians can help as a palliative, but political solutions are vitally needed. Without this, the alarming levels of conflict and the mass suffering that is reflected in these figures will continue."

This is the highest number for the first time in the post-World War II era, with an estimated 10.7 million individuals of newly displaced people due to conflicts or persecution in 2013.

In the report, the Asia and Pacific, by region, had the largest refugee population overall at 3.5 million people. Sub-Saharan Africa had 2.9 million people, while the Middle East and North Africa had 2.6 million. A record 25,300 asylum applications were from children who were separated from or unaccompanied by parents.

Experts analyse that there are three reasons

for increasing number of displaced people or refugees: first is protracted conflicts, some of which are dragging on for decades, second is what the UN calls "the shrinking of humanitarian space" resulting from conflicts waged by militias, insurgent groups and bands of religious fanatics and bandits, and third is asylum-seekers, including economic migrants and refugees.

However, displaced people may pose burdens for the respective countries in terms of health problems, lack of education and economic decline. The dutiful governments and the groups concerned should solve this problem without the slightest hesitation. Power struggles should be set aside on humanitarian grounds. Life is not cheap, and war is not sweet.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Documentary film crew make documentary about elephants

YEDASHE, 21 June—Myanma Hotels and Tourism Services is planning to promote the tourism industry to attract more visitors to Myanmar by showing a documentary about elephants.

Under the arrangement of the Golden Trip Travel and Tours Co Ltd, a documentary film crew of Belgium-based Eccho Line Bvba arrived at Po Kyar 10th-mile elephant camp in Yedashe Township of Bago Region on Thursday.

Altogether 22 members from the 96-crew squad covered the documentary film on the lives of elephants, panoramic views of forests and life-



style of local people.

The documentary film crew set a schedule to cover the documentary films

on lifestyles of local people in Mandalay, Bagan, Meiktila, Panlon village, Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe, Nant-

pan, Yamethin, Po Kyar elephant camp, Bago and Yangon from 9 to 21 June.

Ko Lwin (Swa)

DHF preventive measures taken in Thandwe

GWA, 21 June—The activities of preventing against dengue haemorrhagic fever were carried out in the township on Friday.

Officials of the Township Health Department and the Township Development Affairs Committee urged the local people to do preventive

measures against DHF by systematically using the water in water tanks and containers, spraying the buildings and using fly-proof

latrines, dredging drains for proper flow of water and receiving medical treatment for DHF from the hospital in time.—District IPRD

Youths join tests for Diploma in Teacher Education Competency



THANDWE, 21 June—The entrance test for Diploma in Teacher Education Competency-DTEC No 10/14 for 2014-15 academic year was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Thandwe of Rakhine State on Friday.

A total of 87 graduated in BSc degree and 316 BA degrees, totalling 403 from Thandwe District set for the tests, according to the Thandwe District Education Office.

District IPRD

Agricultural loans disbursed to over 1,100 farmers in Natogyi Tsp

NATOGYI, 21 June—Township Agricultural Development Bank started disbursement of agricultural loans to the farmers for 2014 on 5 June in Natogyi of Mandalay Region.

Up to 19 June, the

bank has delivered K171.5 million to 1,104 farmers from nine village-tracts. The bank plans to disburse the loans to the local farmers from remaining village-tracts in July.

Than Aung Zaw (Natogyi)

Truck dives as bridge breaks in South Dagon Tsp

YANGON, 21 June—A bridge was broken in Dagon Myothit (South) Township of Yangon on Thursday night due to a truck overloaded with cement bags passing over it, with a witness saying that the concrete bridge could

not bear the combined weight of the truck and the bags. The twelve-wheel truck en route for Dagon Park ended up in the ditch, and the cement bags were manually removed from the truck.

Myint Than (Oxygen)



GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (21-6-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K671,500 per tical: Selling K672,500

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K671,500 per tical: Selling K672,500

FE RATE

USD Buying K974 - Selling K980

SGD Buying K777 - Selling K785

Euro Buying K1325 - Selling K1340

LOCAL NEWS

Hsipaw, 21 June—Members of the Sangha recited Parittas along the route of Lashio-Hsipaw road on Friday under the arrangement of Lashio All Bus-Line Control Committee of northern Shan State and with the assistance of bus line owners.

A total of 11 members of the Sangha volunteered by the chairman of the bus line control committee and party recited Parittas by car along the road.

At the top of Dokht-awady Bridge in Hsipaw, officials welcomed the Buddhist monks and offered alms. At 4 pm, the members of the Sangha went back to Lashio.

Hsipaw Ko Latt

Buddhist monks recite Parittas along Lashio-Hsipaw road



Holding Chinlone contests discussed in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 21 June—A coordination meeting on holding the Mandalay

Region Chief Minister's Trophy Monsoon Chinlone Contest and Skills

Demonstration Contest for 2014 was held at the Bahtoo Gymnasium in

Mandalay on Thursday afternoon.

President of Myanmar Chinlone Federation President of Asian Chinlone Federation U Soe Naing made a speech. The participants discussed achievements for the Myanmar team in the international Chinlone contests, propagation of Chinlone sport event to the world, preparations for formation of the national team that will bring honour to the State in the XXVIII SEA Games.

The contests in Mandalay will be organized by Ministry of Sports, Mandalay Region government and MCF.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Local youths waiting for result of daily wage PATs

YANGON, 21 June—Local youths who have already passed the daily wage assistant primary teachers test held on 15 May at Basic Education High School No 1 in Dagon Myothit (North)

Township of Yangon are waiting for the announcement of the result up to now.

South Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (East), Hline and Dagon Myothit (South) townships have appointed

the new generation teachers and they are now discharging duties at respective schools.

About 80 candidates who have finished the viva test are still waiting for the

result. They are eager to take out the duties of teachers at primary schools. If not, they want to choose options for their life depending on the result.

Nay Win Tun

Passenger buses under checking for traffic safety in Bhamo

BHAMO, 21 June—The officials checked the buses for traffic safety at the exit of the bus terminal in Phankhagon ward of Bhamo in Kachin State on Thursday.

The combined team comprises Head of District Transport Department U San Lwin Oo and Head of District Directorate of Road Administration U Maung Maung Han and officials.

They inspected the passenger buses in line with the traffic rules and maintenance of the vehicles.

Bhamo District IPRD



Refreshments fed to school children in Indawgyi region



MOHNYIN, 21 June—School officials supervised refreshments to school children at Basic Education Primary School in Intha Village of Indawgyi region in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State on Friday.

Wellwisher U Ni Toe-teacher Daw May Zun Oo provided 103 children with refreshments with the assistance of headmaster U Hset Kyi, teachers and members of the School Board of Trustees.

Ni Toe (Mawlu)

Unlicensed motorcycles legalized in Natogyi

NATOGYI, 21 June—Staff Officer U Lay Naing and staff of Myingyan Township Directorate of Road Administration issue licences to motorcycle owners through one-stop service at the gymnasium of Natogyi, Mandalay Region.

The motorbike owners are to carry put necessary tasks at the respective sections displayed at the gymnasium for receiving the licences.

So far, over 500 motorcycles have be legalized in Natogyi.

Than Aung Zaw (Natogyi)

Foreign investors extending bets on pure India plays



Brokers trade on their computer terminals at a stock brokerage firm in Mumbai on 13 May, 2014.—REUTERS

MUMBAI, 21 June — Foreign investors in India are changing investment strategies to favour domestic-oriented companies, mid-cap stocks and state-owned enterprises, based on hopes that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's new government will revive Asia's third-largest economy.

These sectors have underperformed the wider market over the past year and are seen having far more upside potential if the economy picks up thanks to Modi's reformist agenda.

"There is a positive structural change underway in the Indian economy. Indian financials and cyclical stocks look attractive," said Gaurav Patankar, a fund manager in New York at The Boston Company Asset Management, which oversees \$50 billion in assets.

Patankar, whose firm is overweight Indian stocks, was optimistic that the strong mandate given by voters to Modi would lead to better governance, and more focus on how state-owned companies are run, shrinking the

valuation gap with private sector rivals.

Reflecting the gap in valuations, the Bombay Stock Exchange public sector unit index. BSEPSU for state-run firms is trading at a price to earnings ratio of 11.9 times compared to 15.5 times for the benchmark BSE Sensex.

Investors' rebalancing has moved funds away from exporters, large cap companies and firms that compete with state-owned companies.

Since Modi's landslide victory on 16 May, the BSE midcap index .BSEMC has surged 15.9 percent, and the BSE public sector index .BSEPSU has added 11 percent, outperforming a Sensex that has gained 4.5 percent.

Fund managers think the economy has bottomed out after two disappointing years of below 5 percent growth — the worst slowdown in more than a quarter of a century.

And while the Sensex hit record highs on 11 June, its valuations at around

15.5 times forward earnings are still at par with its 10-year average.

India has received net foreign portfolio flows of \$10 billion so far this year, more than other emerging markets in Asia, such as South Korea, which received \$1.8 billion and Taiwan, which received \$8.56 billion, according to Thomson Reuters data.

Foreign investors such as Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, and US-based GMO increased exposure to domestic-oriented stocks last month, even when the stocks they bought were trading near their record high levels.

Despite the heavy influx of overseas flows, Credit Suisse said last month India is "still not a crowded play."

The investment bank estimated that net foreign buying of Indian shares on a rolling 12-month basis as a percentage of market cap was running at 0.9 percent compared to its historical average of 1.2 percent.

Reuters

Shorter time between pregnancies linked to earlier delivery

NEW YORK, 21 June — Women who become pregnant again within 18 months after having a baby are more likely to deliver early, according to a new study. Past reports have also linked having a short interpregnancy interval with a greater risk of premature birth.

The new study "brings up the importance of adequate birth spacing as a potential modifiable way that women, especially high-risk women, can decrease their chance of having a preterm baby," Emily DeFranco told Reuters Health.

She worked on the study at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Centre in Ohio. "Women who are at the highest risk for preterm birth are those who have had a previous premature birth so (for those women it is) especially important to try to optimize their pregnancy timing," DeFranco said.

The findings suggest a short interpregnancy interval is also linked to the

risk of a baby being born a week or two early, though not technically premature. These early term births at 37 and 38 weeks of gestation (full term is 39 to 40 weeks) can have a negative impact on a newborn's health, say the authors.

For their study, DeFranco and her colleagues analyzed information from Ohio birth records from 2006 to 2011. They were able to find the interpregnancy interval for about 450,000 babies born to mothers who had given birth previously. About 11% of the births occurred after an interpregnancy interval of 12 to 18 months and about 2% followed an interpregnancy interval of less than 12 months.

The researchers found that 53% of women with interpregnancy intervals of less than 12 months gave birth before the 39th week of pregnancy, compared with about 38% of women who had normal interpregnancy intervals of at least 18 months.—Reuters

Standing meetings may improve group productivity

NEW YORK, 21 June — Walking while working, usually on a treadmill, has been gaining popularity in recent years, but the next office innovation should be standing while meeting, according to a new study.

Researchers at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri, report that groups working together on a project while standing are measurably more engaged and less territorial than while seated.

"A workspace that encourages people to stand up is going to lead to more collaborative and more creative outputs," Andrew Knight told Reuters Health in an email.

The research was initially motivated by new building construction that resulted in meetings and conversations about new furniture design and layout at the university said Knight, who along with his coauthor Markus Baer, studies organizational behaviour at the Olin Business School. "I had read some of the research on non-sedentary work and standing desks that was focused on individual physiological benefits, but we were really intrigued and excited to see how the physical space might alter literally how people are interacting with and relating to one another over the course of the meeting," Knight said.

The findings were published in Social Psychological and Personality Science.

For the study, the researchers recruited 214 students, who were asked to work together in small groups for 30 minutes to produce a university recruitment video that was recorded by a research assistant.

A total of 54 groups of three to five

students worked in a room that had a white board, two easels and a rectangular table and either had chairs arranged around the table or no chairs at all.

In a solitary session before the "meeting" and then during the group activity, the participants wore small sensors around their wrists designed to measure physiological arousal by detecting electrical activity in the skin.

"A primary function of arousal is to signal the importance or significance of environmental stimuli and prepare the body for action," Knight and Baer write. "In social situations, joint experiences of arousal promote affiliation and collective sensemaking, both of which are essential for motivating collective action."

Research assistants rated how the team members worked together and the quality of the resulting videos, while the participants themselves rated how territorial their team members had been during the session.

The researchers found that working in the room without the chairs increased group arousal, decreased territorial behavior and increased sharing of information and ideas to statistically significant degrees.

"Typically when people are seated at a conference room, they own their own space in the room, they probably have their own paper, their own notebooks that they're working on and these things create a very individually-oriented mindset," Knight said.

Reuters

Barclays bond index unit hits market; may fetch \$400 million

NEW YORK, 21 June — Barclays Plc (BARC.L) has launched a long-anticipated sale process for its Index, Portfolio and Risk Solutions (IPRS) business, which could yield around \$400 million (235.12 million pounds) for the UK bank, according to people familiar with the matter.

A process for the unit kicked off in early June with indications of interest from prospective bidders due later this month, the people said this week, asking not to be named because the matter is not public.

The business has attracted preliminary interest from several parties, including MSCI Inc (MSCI.N), Standard & Poor's (MHFI.N), FTSE, Markit Ltd (MRKT.O), Bloomberg LP and Thomson Reuters Corp (TRI.TO), Interactive Data Corp [IG-LHOT.UL] the people added.

Reuters first reported in November that Barclays began exploring options for the index business following an approach from MSCI, another index business.



A man shelters under umbrellas as he walks past a Barclays branch in central London on 8 May, 2014. REUTERS

A Barclays spokesman declined to comment. Representatives for MSCI, Markit, Bloomberg and Thomson Reuters did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Representatives from FTSE, Standard & Poor's and Bloomberg declined to comment.

The index business Barclays intends to sell includes a basket of over 98 major indexes, according to its website. The US Aggregate Bond Index, which Barclays bought as part of the Lehman Brothers acquisition during the financial crisis, is among

the platform's best-known offerings.

The index business, known as a market leader, would attract a wide range of buyers such as equity indexes, and investment houses with distribution platforms, people familiar with the matter have said.

But other index providers are also looking to ramp up their offerings. FTSE, which is owned by the London Stock Exchange Group Plc (LSE.L) and is one of the dominant index providers in Europe, has said it wants to increase its US presence substantially.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Great white shark baffles scientists tracking it off US coast

MIAMI, 21 June — A great white shark being tracked by marine researchers and weighing more than a ton is keeping scientists guessing after it has made its way from Massachusetts' Cape Cod to the northeast Gulf of Mexico this week.

Tagged in 2013 with a satellite tracking device, the great white known as Katharine is charting a groundbreaking map of the shark highway as scientists seek to discover its seasonal feeding grounds. Katherine, was most recently spotted on Wednesday morning about 52 miles (84 kilometers) south of Cape San Blas in the Florida Panhandle.

But where it is headed next is unclear, according to the team of scientists tracking her. "We just don't know. She could either turn west towards Texas or she could turn back and go out into deeper water," said Bob Hueter, part of the scientific team monitoring the movements of Katherine, as well as Betsy, another great white who was last spotted in the Gulf about 140 miles (225 kilometers) west of Sanibel island, south Florida on 5 June.

The sharks already have defied expectations by staying in the warming summer waters of the Gulf, rather than heading back to the cooler seas off Cape Cod to feed on seals, said Hueter, director of the Center for Shark Research at Mote Marine Laboratory in Sarasota, on Florida's southwest coast. Scientists have tracked the great white before in the Pacific and off Australia and South Africa, but never off the US Atlantic coast, Hueter said. Scientists knew that great whites came to Florida and frequented the Gulf of Mexico. But exactly how they got there was a mystery until Katharine, a young 14.5-foot (4.4-meter) and 2,300-pound (1,040-kilograms) shark, showed the way. She can be tracked when she comes to the surface so that the device on her dorsal fin pings data points to the researchers, though those moments are unpredictable as sharks spend most of the time underwater. —Reuters

Twitter splits former COO's duties between two execs

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 June — Twitter Inc split the roles of recently departed chief operating officer, Ali Rowghani, at a time when the microblogging site is seeking to revive slowing user growth.

Adam Bain is in charge of revenue and partnerships while Gabriel Stricker is responsible for marketing and media, according to their latest Twitter profiles.

The social media company's web site shows Bain's role as president of global revenue, while Stricker is vice president of marketing and communica-

tions.

Technology news website Re/code earlier reported about the management changes on Thursday.

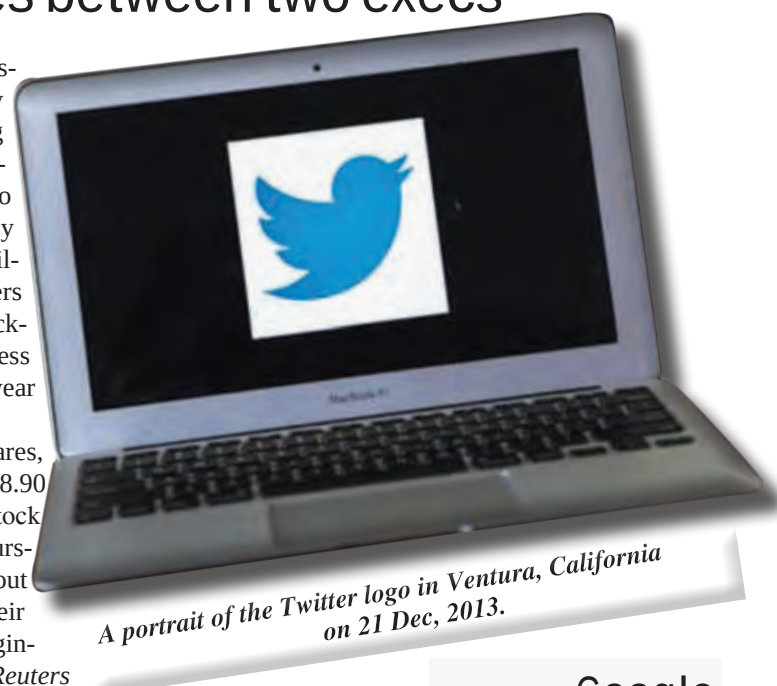
Twitter could not be immediately reached for comment outside of regular US business hours.

Rowghani, once seen as an influential No 2 who oversaw Twitter's product development, finances and deal making, departed after clashing with Chief Executive Dick Costolo over whether he should continue to oversee product innovation.

A second consecutive

quarter of lackluster user growth by Twitter is testing the patience of investors. Twitter also raised concerns by saying its 255 million monthly users appeared to be checking the service less frequently than a year ago.

Twitter shares, which closed at \$38.90 on the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday, have lost about 42 percent of their value since the beginning of the year.—Reuters



A portrait of the Twitter logo in Ventura, California on 21 Dec, 2013.

Apple's iWatch may sport multiple designs



The leaf on the Apple symbol is tinted green at the Apple flagship store on 5th Ave in New York on 22 April, 2014.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 June — Apple Inc plans to launch smartwatches with multiple screen sizes and designs this fall, the Wall Street Journal on Friday cited a person familiar with the matter as saying.

Taiwan's Quanta will begin mass production of Apple's first smartwatches from July, in time for an October launch, several sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Thursday.

The Wall Street Journal on Friday also cited sources saying Quanta would manufacture the device.

One of the sources told Reuters on Thursday that Apple expects to ship 50 million units of the so-called iWatch within the first year of the product's release, although these types of initial estimates can be subject to change.

The smartwatch will come with a slightly rectangular display that likely measures 2.5 inches diagonally, the source added. The watch-face will protrude slightly from the band, creating an arched shape, and feature a touch interface and wireless charging capabilities,

according to the source.

Another source told Reuters that LG Display Co Ltd is the exclusive supplier of the screen for the gadget's initial batch of production.

The iWatch will also contain a sensor that monitors a user's pulse. Singapore-based imaging and sensor maker Heptagon is on the supplier list for that feature, two sources said on Thursday.

Apple's smartwatch will follow similar devices by Samsung, Sony Corp, Motorola and LG Electronics Inc — gadgets that tech watchers say have not been appealing or user-friendly enough for mass adoption.

Reuters

SpaceX postpones rocket launch due to technical glitch

CAPE CANAVERAL, 21 June — Space Exploration Technologies postponed on Friday's planned launch of a Falcon 9 rocket, which is slated to put six small satellites into orbit for Orbcomm Inc, which provides machine-to-machine communication services.

The rocket was on track for a 6:08 pm EDT (2208 GMT) liftoff from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida when engineers detected a possible problem with its upper-stage engine, Falcon 9 product director John Insprucker said during a launch webcast.

Flight directors reset countdown clocks to the end of a 53-minute launch opportunity, but ran out of time to assess the problem. The next launch window opens



File photo shows an unmanned Falcon 9 rocket blasts off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in this handout photo provided by NASA in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 18 April, 2014. REUTERS

at 5:46 p.m. EDT (2146 GMT) on Saturday.

"Clock just running out of time to give the team enough minutes to evaluate the data we've been looking at for the last hour," Insprucker said. The launch,

which would be SpaceX's 10th Falcon 9 mission, is intended to put six of Orbcomm's 17 next-generation satellites into orbits about 500 miles (800 km) above Earth. The new satellites, built by privately owned

Sierra Nevada Corp and Boeing Co, will join Orbcomm's existing 25-member network. "We help commercial companies monitor their assets," Orbcomm Chief Executive Marc Eisenberg said in an interview.—Reuters

Google considering investment in new subsea cable

SAN FRANCISCO, 21 June — Google Inc is considering an investment in a new cable across the Pacific Ocean, the Wall Street Journal reported citing people familiar with the matter.

The move comes as technology companies send an increasing amount of traffic across private networks, the report said.



A Google logo is reflected on the screen of a Samsung Galaxy S4 smartphone in this photo illustration taken in Prague on 31 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

Google took a stake in a similar \$300 million cable in 2010, according to the report. The Internet search company would use the new subsea cable to connect data centers in Oregon and Japan, the report said. Private networks are commonly used for home, office and businesses, as they provide security for vital information and cannot be accessed by devices outside the network.

A public network is a type of network where anyone can access and connect to other networks or the Internet through it. A lot of Google's bandwidth is reserved for its private 'B4' network, which transmits emails, YouTube videos among other data, the report said.—Reuters

Benghazi suspect faces US criminal, not military, court

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, 21 June — A suspected leader of the attack on the US compound in Benghazi, Libya, captured by US forces and spirited out of the country, can expect to move quickly through the initial steps of the criminal justice system within hours of arriving on American soil.

Seized in a raid last Sunday, Libyan militant Ahmed Abu Khatallah is the suspected leader of a group implicated in the 2012 attack on a US diplomatic compound and CIA base in Benghazi. A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Abu Khatallah was aboard the *USS New York*, an amphibious transport ship travelling toward the United States at normal speed.

Along the way he can expect to be questioned by intelligence experts and criminal investigators, and then delivered for arraignment to enter a plea and face questions about bond and the possible appointment of a public defender.



File photo shows an exterior view of the US consulate, which was attacked and set on fire by gunmen on 11 Sept, 2012 in Benghazi on 12 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

ment to enter a plea and face questions about bond and the possible appointment of a public defender.

“This is the way it’s going to be. When the US decides they’re going to indict someone abroad, they’re going to bring them to the criminal justice system,” not to military pris-

ons as during the George W Bush administration, said Karen Greenberg, the director of Fordham University’s Centre on National Security. “He’s going to be tried quickly.”

US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans died in the Benghazi attack.

Abu Khatallah is charged with killing a person on US property, a firearms violation and providing material support to terrorism.

The charges were filed in July 2013 but kept under a court seal until Tuesday. He is expected to be formally indicted by a US grand jury.

The US Justice Department filed the charges against Abu Khatallah in US District Court in Washington, DC, a venue that prosecutors have only rarely used for criminal cases involving those suspected of terrorism.

The courthouse is three blocks from where Congress meets. The White House is 12 blocks in the opposite direction. The US Attorney’s Office in Washington has handled the Abu Khatallah investigation and the case will stay in the US capital, a spokesman said.

Common venues for US terrorism cases have been the federal courts in New York and in Alexandria, Virginia. President Barack Obama’s administration once thought about using Washington as a venue to try detainees held at the US prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. In the face of public and political objections to bringing terror-

ism suspects onto the US mainland, Obama ordered that the detainees be tried before military commissions in Guantanamo.

Judge Royce Lamberth, who in 2009 was chief judge of the US District Court in Washington, said at the time that the court was prepared to handle the trials. In a speech to a group of lawyers, he said domestic US street gangs could be more dangerous than Guantanamo detainees. US prosecutors followed a similar pattern in October after capturing another accused militant in Libya, Abu Anas al-Liby, and taking him to New York for trial.

Also in October, a Tunisian man, Nizar Trabelsi, was extradited to the United States from Belgium on charges of planning to attack a NATO air base in 2001 on behalf of al-Qaeda. His case is pending in Washington.—Reuters

Wrongly jailed US man to get \$1.2 million, 21 years after his release

TALLAHASSEE, (Fla), 21 June — A man who was released in 1989 after he was wrongly convicted of fatally poisoning his seven children will be paid \$1.2 million for the 21 years he spent in prison under legislation signed into law on Friday by Governor Rick Scott.

A bill unanimously passed by the state legislature in its 2014 session will compensate James Richardson for the time he served, including four years on death row. Richardson, now 78 and living in Kansas, was sentenced in 1968 after his conviction

for the deaths of his children in Arcadia, near Florida’s southwest coast.

A former babysitter later admitted that she had laced the children’s food with an insecticide called parathion. Richardson had been sentenced to death, but that punishment was commuted to life in prison when the US Supreme Court threw out capital punishment nationwide in 1972.

He was released in 1989 but was not eligible for the state’s standard wrongful-incarceration compensation law, which did not pass until 2008. In

this year’s session, legislators approved a narrowly tailored bill that applies only to Richardson.

Former Governor Bob Martinez ordered a review of the case after the babysitter admitted the poisoning in 1988.

Janet Reno, who was then Miami-Dade County’s state attorney and later rose to US Attorney General, concluded that Richardson was wrongly convicted and that the state had relied on perjury at Richardson’s trial and failed to investigate evidence implicating the babysitter.

Reuters



Pakistani civilians left North Waziristan tribal region for Bannu on June 20, 2014. Pakistan army said on Friday that 200,000 people have left homes in North Waziristan tribal region as the security forces have continued operation against the local and foreign militants.—XINHUA

Africa’s major new displacement in CAR, South Sudan: UNHCR

ADDIS ABABA, 21 June — In Africa, major new displacement is seen in the Central African Republic (CAR) and South Sudan as the number of refugees, asylum-seekers, and internally displaced people worldwide tops 50 million for the first time since World War II.

UNHCR said in a statement that its annual Global Trends report shows 51.2 million people were forcibly displaced at the end of 2013, fully 6 million more than the 45.2 million reported in 2012.

The massive increase

was driven mainly by the war in Syria, which at the end of last year had forced 2.5 million people into becoming refugees and made 6.5 million internally displaced, according to the report. Major new displacement was also seen in Africa, notably in Central African Republic, and towards the end of 2013 in South Sudan too.

Speaking on Friday at the celebrations of the World Refugee Day in Ethiopia’s capital Addis Ababa, Ayalew Aweke, Deputy Director of Administration for Refugee and

Returnee Affairs (ARRA), noted that out of the total forcibly displaced people globally, 16.7 million are refugees and 33.3 million are internally displaced people.

“In our continent major new displacement is seen in Central African Republic and South Sudan,” said the Deputy Director.

Ayalew stated that Ethiopia is currently hosting 565,000 refugees mainly from Somalia, South Sudan, Eritrea, and Sudan in 22 camps.

“Last year, we hosted only 37,000 South

Sudanese refugees, today we host more than 180,000 South Sudanese refugees. As a result, we have opened 4 additional new refugee camps,” he said.

This year’s World Refugee Day is celebrated under the theme, “One family torn apart by war is too many.”

This is to show the plights of refugees and the extent of support needed to sustain the lives of each and every refugee since “one refugee without the proper assistance is too many,” noted the Deputy Director.—Xinhua

Rainstorms, floods plunge China into emergency response

BEIJING, 21 June — Rainstorms and floods have continued to ravage the eastern province of Jiangxi and central Hunan Province, forcing authorities to initiate a grade IV emergency response on Saturday.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs and the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction have dispatched emergency response teams to the regions.

Jiangxi’s local bureau of civil affairs reported that at least five people had died across eight cities and 43 counties in the province as of 10 am on Saturday. Downpours have swept the province since Wednesday. About 789,000 people were affected and 123,000 have been relocated.

The rainstorms, which have caused the collapse of or substantial damage to 4,000 houses and affected 63,100 hectares of crops, have led to direct economic losses of 530 million yuan (84.85 million US dollars) in Jiangxi.

According to the civil affairs authority in Hunan Province, flooding had left seven people dead and four missing across ten cities and 47 counties. About 2.08 million people in Hunan were affected and 171,000 have been relocated.—Xinhua

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MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (047)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (047) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.6.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MARATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ()

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MALTE RAMBOW VOY NO ()

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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(13/2014)**

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars/Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -043(14-15)	1500 Series Well head Equipment & Accessories (5) Sets	US\$
(2)	IFB -044(14-15)	2900 Series Well head Equipment & Accessories (4) Sets	US\$
(3)	IFB -045(14-15)	900 Series Well head Equipment & Accessories (11) Sets	US\$
(4)	IFB -046(14-15)	55 Ton Hydraulic Crawler Crane (1) Unit	US\$
(5)	IFB -047(14-15)	Spare Parts for Mud Pump Engine ydraulic Power Pack Ex HDD Rig (11) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB -048(14-15)	Spare Parts for Drilling Trailer Hydraulic System Ex HDD Rig (16) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB -049(14-15)	Spare Parts for Main Engine Hydraulic Power Pack Ex HDD Rig (7) Items	US\$
(8)	IFB -050(14-15)	Roller Chains for EMSCO Drilling Rig (4) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB -051(14-15)	Mast Raising Line for ZJ50D Sr-I Rig (2) Nos	US\$
(10)	IFB -052(14-15)	Oil & Gas Production Accessories (27) Items	US\$
(11)	IFB -053(14-15)	2 7/8" & 2 3/8" Tubing (2) Items	US\$
(12)	IFB -054(14-15)	Valves & Fitting (7) Items	US\$
(13)	DMP/L-009(14-15)	Telephone Cable (No. 24 AWG 100 Pair, 50 Pair, 20 Pair & 10 Pair) (4) Items	KS
(14)	DMP/L-010(14-15)	Dell Server & Accessories, Laser Jet Printer, Scanner, Fax Machine & Copier (1) Lot	KS
(15)	DMP/L-011(14-15)	Motor for CNG Compressor (3) Items	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-7-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 18th June, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph: +95 67 - 411097/411206

Cuba authorizes Internet access for emerging private companies

HAVANA, 21 June — The Cuban government has authorized the state telecom company to provide Internet access to the country's budding private cooperatives, the *Cuban News Agency* on reported Friday.

Communications Minister Maimir Mesa Ramos instructed Etecsa to start the service on 29 June, according to the news agency.

Internet access will be provided via modems and only to the cooperative's location, to avoid service being transferred to third parties.

Internet services has been available in Cuba since 1996, but only via

satellite as the country was banned from using under-sea cables under the US-trade embargo.

Since 2011, the island has been connected to an optical fiber cable laid from Venezuela, its main political and economic ally.

In 2013, Etecsa inaugurated Cuba's first cyber cafes though Cubans have complained about the high rate per hour of 4.5 Cuban convertible pesos, almost a quarter of the average monthly salaries.

Home Internet access is so far only available to certain professionals, such as officials, doctors and journalists. The authorities claimed that the restriction

was due to infrastructure deficiencies, and service would be gradually expanded to the general public.—*Xinhua*



Rescuers clean tree branches from the railway in southeast China's Fujian Province, on 20 June, 2014. A total of three sections of the railway linking Shaowu and Shunchang in Fujian Province were blocked by landslides, two of which have been resumed to service.—XINHUA

Father charged with murder after toddler left in car for hours

ATLANTA, 21 June — A suburban Atlanta man has been charged with felony murder and child cruelty after his 22-month-old son died after being left unattended in a car for seven hours in the heat, police said on Thursday.

Justin Ross Harris, 33, of Marietta, was supposed to drop his son at a day care centre on Wednesday morning on his way to work, Cobb County Police

spokesman Dana Pierce said. Harris instead went to his office and the child spent the day in his car seat, the spokesman said.

Temperatures in the Atlanta area reached 92 degrees F (33 C) on Wednesday, according to the National Weather Service.

The child was discovered in a shopping centre parking lot, where Harris had gone after leaving work, authorities said.

Police patrolling the area on Wednesday afternoon approached a crowd gathered around Harris' car and discovered the child, police said in a statement.

"As officers began to render medical treatment to the 22-month old male child, it was discovered that he was deceased after apparently being left unattended in his car seat inside the vehicle," the statement said.—*Reuters*

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Lindsay Lohan: It's the first time I've done a stage play or anything like that.—REUTERS

GENERAL

World Cup television coverage breaks viewing records: FIFA

SAO PAULO, 21 June — Japan's clash against Ivory Coast was one of the most viewed games of the 2014 World Cup so far as television coverage shattered a host of records during the first round of group matches, FIFA said on Friday.

As many as 34.1 million viewers in Japan watched the team's 2-1 defeat by the Ivorians on the NHK channel at 10 am local time, while 42.9 million in Brazil saw the hosts beat Croatia 3-1 in the tournament's opener on TV Globo. The match between the US and Ghana was watched by 11.1 million on ESPN in the United States, setting a new record for ESPN coverage of a men's World Cup match.

"These record-breaking figures show just how popular football and the FIFA World Cup is across the world, from Japan to



A shopper (L) looks at Sony Corp's Bravia television sets screening a soccer match at an electronics retail store in Tokyo on 10 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Argentina," said FIFA TV director Niclas Ericson.

"We are seeing highly encouraging growth in interest in markets such as the United States and Aus-

tralia."

England's 2-1 defeat by Italy in the Amazon city of Manaus attracted 14.2 million on BBC 1 in the UK and 12.8 million on RAI 1,

the highest TV audiences in both countries in 2014.

Germany's ARD channel had 26.4 million watching the country's 4-0 win over Portugal.—Reuters

Police smash major World Cup betting ring in Macau

HONG KONG, 21 June — Macau police have busted a bookmaking racket that allegedly took HK\$5 billion (\$645 million) in illegal bets — including a single HK\$40 million bet — on World Cup football matches in a week, the South China Morning Post reported on Saturday.

Police have arrested 22 suspects from what they say is the biggest illicit soccer-betting ring uncovered in the gambling haven following a raid of a hotel on Thursday, the newspaper

said. The syndicate, operating out of three rooms in the hotel, took online bets and telephone orders from around the world, the report said.

Initial investigations showed that about HK\$5 billion in World Cup bets had been taken and officers had found evidence of a single HK\$40 million bet on one match, it cited Macau police spokesman Suen Kam-fai as saying.

Investigators seized more than HK\$2 million in cash, along with 17 com-

puters as well as more than 10 mobile phones and betting slips from the rooms, the paper said.

Authorities in Macau, the world's largest casino market, Hong Kong and the neighbouring province of Guangdong have been collaborating to crack down on illegal soccer betting in southern China since the World Cup kicked off in Brazil last week.

Hong Kong police have set up a task force with Macau and Guangdong authorities and are

also working with Interpol across eight Asian countries to fight illegal betting during the World Cup, it said.

Over the past week, Hong Kong police have arrested 39 suspected illegal bookmakers and confiscated betting slips worth nearly HK\$85 million, the report said. In the first four months of the year, records seized during raids on illegal bookies showed they had taken HK\$54.2 million worth of bets on soccer.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(22-6-2014, Sunday)

- 6:00 am
 - * Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:25 am
 - * Physical Exercises
- 7:00 am
 - * News / Weather Report
- 7:20 am
 - * MRTV's Youth Programme
- 8:00 am
 - * News/ International News
- 8:30 am
 - * Amazing World
- 9:00 am
 - * News/ International News
- 9:30 am
 - * Beautiful ASEAN
- 10:00 am
 - * News
- 10:45 am
 - * Teleplay (Health)
- 12:00 pm
 - * News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:35 pm
 - * Myanmar Movie
- 2:30 pm
 - * Documentary
- 3:00 pm
 - * News
- 3:30 pm
 - * FIFA World Cup (2014) (Nigeria & Bosnia)
- 5:15 pm
 - * Sing & Enjoy
- 6:00 pm
 - * News / Weather Report
- 6:35 pm
 - * Cartoon Series
- 7:00 pm
 - * News
- 8:35 pm
 - * Documentary
- 9:00 pm
 - * News
 - * Tamyethnar Takwetsar
 - * New Melody

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-6-14 07:00am~ 23-6-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Tapestry-A Unique Combination Of Painting and Craftsmanship
- * World News
- * A Traditional Doctor
- * Local News
- * The Man and The Elephant
- * World News
- * The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
- * Local News
- * A Dream A Destination (Hpa An)
- * World News
- * Graffiti: Character Art
- * Local News
- * A Person with Faith
- * World News
- * Exquisite Myanmar Silk
- * Local News
- * The Prayer Halls And Buddha Images
- * World News
- * Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)
- * Local News
- * A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township -1
- * World News
- * A Girl Guide
- * Local News
- * Hair Designer
- * World News
- * Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
- * Local News
- * Enchanting Rakhine Land
- * World News
- * Creations of a Designer: Fashion

Wie surges three clear after second straight 68



Michelle Wie lines up a putt during the second round of the US Women's Open at the Pinehurst Resort and Country Club-#2 Course.—REUTERS

PINEHURST, (N Carolina), 21 June — Michelle Wie stamped her authority on the US Women's Open at the halfway stage when she raced into a three-shot lead over fellow American

Lexi Thompson after the second round in Pinehurst, North Carolina on Friday.

On a day when 11-year-old Lucy Li played respectably but missed the cut, former child prodigy

Wie birdied her final two holes, rolling in a curling 15-footer at the last with her stooped cross-handed putting style for a second consecutive two-under-par 68 at Pinehurst No. 2 Course.

She posted a four-under 136 total, while Thompson also shot 68 to end the day the only other player under par, setting the stage for a possible battle with Wie for the second successive major.

Thompson won the Kraft Nabisco Championship in April, while Wie finished second after the pair started the final round tied for the lead.

First round leader, American Stacy Lewis, carded 73 to slip four

strokes behind with South Korean Yang Amy (69) and Australian amateur Minjee Lee (71).

"Yesterday I was thinking if I just did this again, that would be nice," Wie told reporters.

"It's a grind out there. (I'm) really grateful for the par putts that I made and some of the birdie putts that I made."

Wie, 24, has been playing in the US Open since 2003, so she understands that the halfway lead does guarantee anything.

"Being in contention, having the clubhouse lead for now, I'm just really excited for the weekend," she continued.

"I think the US Open as an American is one of

the most important tournaments, but at the same time Sunday is a very, very long time, far away."

Wie has been in the public eye for more than a decade. In 2004, she came within one stroke of making the cut against the men on the PGA Tour at the Sony Open in Hawaii.

Her career stalled for a few years, but this season she is second behind Lewis on the LPGA money list thanks to a victory and a bunch of top 10 finishes.

Long-hitting Thompson reeled off three successive birdies on her back nine to vault up the leaderboard.

"Today went very well for me," Thompson said. "I didn't really get stressed

out about the bad shots, just went to the next one."

Li, meanwhile, was far from overawed on the biggest stage of her young life as she carded a second straight 78 that included a triple and a double bogey.

"I'm really happy that how I bounced back from those big numbers," said Li, the second youngest player ever to compete in a US Women's Open.

"I learned you have to be patient. It's been a great week. I did a good job staying patient and going to the next shot and not caring about what happens." The cut fell at nine-over 149. Former champion Cristie Kerr was among those to bow out.

Reuters

Costa Rica stun Italy, France crush Switzerland

SAO PAULO, 21 June — Another European soccer heavyweight fell to Latin American opposition on Friday as Costa Rica shocked Italy 1-0, putting the four-times champions' qualification in doubt, but France thumped Switzerland 5-2 in an imperious World Cup display.

After yet another upset in Brazil, Costa Rica's win put them top of Group D and eliminated England, while Italy and Uruguay must now fight it out for the other qualification spot when they meet in Natal on Tuesday.

In the Friday's third game, goals in each half from striker Enner Valencia gave Ecuador a 2-1 win over Honduras in World Cup Group E to boost their hopes of making the last 16.

France top the group with six points, while Ecuador and Switzerland each have three. Honduras have now lost twice and are facing likely elimination.

Uruguay received a boost on Friday, after it was confirmed that Luis Suarez

would be fit to face Italy in a game the South Americans must win to qualify. The forward scored both goals in the 2-1 victory over England on Thursday.

That will add to concerns for Italy after they were humbled by Costa

second successive win.

"We kept our heads. It was a beautiful match... The people of Costa Rica deserve this. They supported the team and me. This was for them," said ecstatic coach Jorge Luis Pinto.

Italy coach Cesare

Prandelli sought to stay positive ahead of the Uruguay clash, with his side needing a draw to qualify due to superior goal difference.

"Right now I don't think we need to be negative, we need to think about recovering our energies because we have another game in a few days' time, we play against Uruguay and whether we qualify depends on that," Prandelli told reporters.

He also refused to blame the midday tropical heat in Recife for the defeat.

"We know about the calendar, we've known it for some time," Prandelli said. "It's useless to try and find excuses, we're not looking for excuses,



France's Mathieu Valbuena scores a goal during their 2014 World Cup Group E soccer match against Switzerland at the Fonte Nova arena in Salvador on 20 June, 2014.—REUTERS



Costa Rica's players celebrate at the end of their 2014 World Cup Group D soccer match against Italy at the Pernambuco arena in Recife on 20 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Rica with the central Americans putting in another impressive performance after earlier defeating Uruguay 3-1.

Bryan Ruiz's header in the first half separated the sides, leaving delirious Costa Rica fans dancing in the sunshine at Recife's Pernambuco arena after a

we have to be ready at the kickoff."

A Brazilian judge on Friday ordered FIFA to follow its own guidelines and stop play at all World Cup games every 30 minutes for a water break if the temperature is 32 degrees Celsius (90 Fahrenheit) or higher.

FIFA played down the significance of the decision.

"We did not reach or exceed 32 degrees at any

moment in any game so far," FIFA spokeswoman Delia Fischer said.

"The court is only ordering us to follow our own procedures which we have always planned to do."

There was no upset in the second match, with France beating Switzerland 5-2 in Salvador in an entertaining, end-to-end game full of chances that made great viewing for the neutral.—Reuters

Ronaldo key to Portugal recovery as US challenge looms

MANAUS, (Brazil), 21 June — A wounded Portugal, still smarting from a 4-0 defeat by Germany, are fervently hoping that talismanic forward Cristiano Ronaldo is fit when they take on the United States in their second World Cup Group G game on Sunday.

The thrashing was the biggest ever loss the Portuguese have suffered at a World Cup and their misery deepened as central defender Pepe was sent off while Ronaldo struggled for form as he battled a knee injury.

The world player of the year will need to be back to his best for the clash with the Americans, who surprisingly beat Ghana 2-1 in their opening game.

Rumours about Ronaldo's condition have been swirling across the internet and officials were forced to deny reports that his personal doctor had advised him to quit the tournament.

A few days' rest seem to have helped and his team mate Miguel Veloso said the player appeared to be in good shape.

"I'm not a doctor but from what I see, Ronaldo is fine," Veloso told reporters after a training session in Campinas.

"He is training, he is jumping and he is shooting. There is not much else to say."—Reuters



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo runs during a training session in preparation for their next soccer match of the 2014 World Cup in Campinas, on 19 June, 2014. REUTERS

2014 FIFA World Cup Groupstage Standing

Teams	P	W	D	L	F	A	+/-	Pts
Group A								
1) Brazil	2	1	1	0	3	1	2	4
2) Mexico	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	4
3) Croatia	2	1	0	1	5	3	2	3
4) Cameroon	2	0	0	2	0	5	-5	0
Group B								
1) Netherlands	2	2	0	0	8	3	5	6
2) Chile	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6
3) Australia	2	0	0	2	3	6	-3	0
4) Spain	2	0	0	2	1	7	-6	0
Group C								
1) Colombia	2	2	0	0	5	1	4	6
2) Côte d'Ivoire	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
3) Japan	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1
4) Greece	2	0	1	1	0	3	-3	1
Group D								
1) Costa Rica	2	2	0	0	4	1	3	6
2) Italy	2	1	0	1	2	2	0	3
3) Uruguay	2	1	0	1	3	4	-1	3
4) England	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0
Group E								
1) France	2	2	0	0	8	2	6	6
2) Switzerland	2	1	0	1	4	6	-2	3
3) Ecuador	2	1	0	1	3	3	0	3
4) Honduras	2	0	0	2	1	5	-4	0
Group F								
1) Argentina	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
2) Iran	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
3) Nigeria	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
4) Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
Group G								
1) Germany	1	1	0	0	4	0	4	3
2) USA	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
3) Ghana	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
4) Portugal	1	0	0	1	0	4	-4	0
Group H								
1) Belgium	1	1	0	0	2	1	1	3
2) Korea Republic	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
3) Russia	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
4) Algeria	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0

World Cup 2014 Brazil			
 Match-30 Match-31 Match-32	 Belgium	22:30 MST (22.6.2014)	 Russia
	 Korea Republic	01:30 MST (23.6.2014)	 Algeria
	 USA	04:30 MST (23.6.2014)	 Portugal
World Cup 2014 Results			
Match 24	Italy	0-1	Costa Rica
Match 25	Switzerland	2-5	France
Match 26	Honduras	1-2	Ecuador