Vice President holds discussions with delegation of Mizuho Bank

—Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Mr Nobuhide Hayashi, President and Chief Executive Officer of Mizuho Bank Ltd, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

They held discussions on cooperation to support the financial reforms of Myanmar, development of small and medium enterprises, financial services and development of financial services for the special economic zones.

Those present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein.

52 Myanmar nationals face prison sentence in Malaysia

—Malaysian immigration officers said that the trial date has been set for 19 August and that 20 pardoned Myanmar nationals will return home at the end of this month. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it will coordinate and negotiate with the Malaysian government to find ways through diplomatic channels to lessen the prison term passed to the Myanmar nationals.

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Farmers need modern agricultural technology and knowledge to ensure high yields

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, urged officials to distribute high-yield seeds to interested farmers, pointing out the importance of harvest-after-harvest visits to plantations of individual farmers in the Nay Pyi Taw council area.

Departmental officials briefed the union minister on arrangements for the distribution of quality seeds to farmers and plans for dissemination of agricultural knowledge to individual growers.

After hearing the briefings, U Myint Hlaing stressed the need to take far-sighted steps to ensure that food security meets the ever-growing population as his ministry is mainly responsible for ‘food security and nutrition’ for the public.

Efforts should be made to help farmers enjoy proper market prices for their agricultural produce, he noted.—MNA

Heroin and opium worth K 28 million seized in Sagaing Region

To conduct drug raids in Sagaing Region, 45 troop members participated in the so-called Chindwin Operation in Mawlauk Township and Hkamti Township in Sagaing Region from 25 May to 23 June 2014. They seized 95,244 grams of heroin in 33 cases, 11.72 kilos of opium in seven cases, 200 stimulant tablets, 1,389 kilos of raw opium in seven cases, 50.7 grams of opium oil in one case worth K28,850 million in total, arresting 78 people involved in 49 drug-related cases.

As part of the operation, the troops also gave talks on the dangers of narcotic drugs to more than 5,000 people in the area.

Ministry of National Planning, Administration and Infrastructure Supply Board is taking necessary measures to prevent electric accidents and to distribute electricity 24 hours.

As electric safety has been a concern in Myanmar, officials and engineers in Thingangyun Township checks power lines.

Yangon, 14 Aug — Officials and staff of Thingangyun Township from the Yangon City Electricity Supply Board introduced electric safety measures for the public on Thursday.

Township Officer U Tha Myint, Township Engineer U Saw Thura and linemen from the township erected billboards, educating the public about the dangers of electric accidents in front of the township general administration office and Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital.

They installed 400-volt spacer link ropes in three sections of the electricity line along Myay Ni Street and inspected power distribution of the new 200-KVA transformer at the corner of Shweye Street and 8th Street.

Yangon City Electricity Supply Board is taking necessary measures to prevent electric accidents and to distribute electricity 24 hours.

District Officer U San Htay and District Engineer U Myo Khin of the YESB inspected the work being carried out by the staff and engineers.

Myanmar youth sports team to take part in 2nd Youth Olympic Games

The Myanmar team comprised Min Thuya Kyaw, Hnin Yu Soe, Zin May Oo and Htet Naing Kyaw and six athletes who will participate in the Taolu event of the Wushu sport.

The sports team was seen off at the airport by Cultural Counsellor Mr Wang Ruqing of the Chinese Embassy and officials.

The Youth Olympic Games will be held from 16 to 28 August in Nanjing of China. A total of 3,008 youth athletes from 192 countries will take part in the games. —MNA
NATIONAL

Cooperative efforts ensure inclusive development in the country: Union Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug—On his tour of Mon State for undertaking regional development tasks, Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun met with locals and officials, including Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint, in Mawlamyine on Tuesday. In his speech at Aung San Hall of the Mon State government office, the Union minister pointed out that inclusive development in the country can be brought about by cooperative efforts by all people while elaborating on the steps the government has taken as part of the Third Wave process, which lays down a sustainable foundation for democracy and will fulfill the socio-economic needs of the people through collaboration and cooperation between the Union ministries and region and state governments.

Hong Kong students visit office of Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug—Under a youth leadership training project, a 21-member student delegation from Hong Kong visited the office of the Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday. Commander of the force Police Brig-Gen Win Naing Tun extended greetings. Police Lt-Col Khin Maung Hla explained efforts of Myanmar to prevent trafficking in persons, followed by a Q&A session. —MNA

Union Minister U Myat Hein discusses important role of e-government system in running departmental process at 5th workshop on the e-Government project.—MNA

In his concluding remarks, the Union minister stressed the need of cooperation between all parties concerned in promoting the education and health sectors. —MNA

U Min Thein Zan presents Credentials to Maldivian President

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Aug—U Min Thein Zan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Maldives, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom, President of the Republic of Maldives, on 5 August 2014 in Male.—MNA

Workshop on e-Government project held in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug—Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein urged ministries’ officials to cooperate in the implementation of an e-Government system under the guidelines of the President on Thursday at the 5th workshop on the e-Government project in Nay Pyi Taw. Officials at the President Office will make assessments during the implementation of the 20-month project and provide technical training, equipment, and software to meet the target goal. The Union Minister also heard reports on the progress of related projects and future plans by U Khun Oo, President of the Myanmar Computer Federation. —MNA

Myanmar prepares for border trade meeting with India

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Aug—A preliminary coordination meeting for the Third Border Trade Meeting between Myanmar and India was held at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

Korean doctors and KOICA’s volunteers provide medical services in Yangon and Toungoo

YANGON, 14 Aug—Medical teams, including eye specialists, from Seoul Namsan Lions Club of Korea led by Dr. Jin Hak Lee organized seminars and workshops on eye care and conducted eye operations and eye treatment at Yangon Eye Hospital on 13 August 2014 and Toungoo General Hospital from 11 to 15 August 2014.

World Friends KOICA-Volunteers and officials of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA Myanmar Office) assisted in providing medical services to the patients, sharing medical knowledge with local children in Toungoo. WFK-volunteers are Korea rean nationals dispatched by KOICA to offer expertise and contribute to the socio-economic development of Myanmar for two years in various fields. Currently, over 30 volunteers perform various tasks under eleven ministries.

The Pairs

Mind is the forerunner of all mental states; mind is their chief, they are mind-made. If, with an impure mind, one speaks or acts, then suffering follows one even as the wheel follows the hoof of the ox (that draws a cart).

Moe Thu
Mandalay Region donates cash and Waso robes to Sangha

Mandalay, 14 Aug—Mandalay Region government held its 24th donation and Waso robe offering ceremony at Maha Atula Waiyan Monastery in Aungmyethazan Township on Wednesday, attended by leading members of the Sangha, Myanmar’s main Buddhist organization, and Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint.

At the ceremony, the region government donated 7,880 bags of rice, 1,448 sets of robes, 63 sets of nun’s habit, traditional medicine and cash, worth over K171.9 million.

The offerings were donated to members of the Sangha with sharing of merits to the congregation.

Thiha Kyi Ko (Mandalay)

Traffic rules announced in Thabeikkyin Tsp

Thabeikkyin, 14 Aug—The local authorities carry out traffic rules enforcement in Mandalay to enable the local people to realize the rules and regulations issued by Mandalay Region Development Committee for their traffic safety.

Officials of Township bus-line control committee, staff of Development Affairs Committee and traffic police announced the traffic rules of the Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs and distributed helmets to the bikers.

Action will be taken against the offenders under the Township Development Committee Law.

Soe Naing Win (Thabeikkyin)

K127 million spent on development tasks in Haka

Haka, 14 Aug—With the aim of developing Haka Township in Chin State, whilst preserving its ethnic characteristics, the Chin State government spent K127 million on development tasks in 2014-15 fiscal year, according to officials.

The state government built the gravel-filled conduit, gravel-filled retaining walls and drain, expansion of the road and traffic blocks spending over K127 million, said Executive Officer U Aung Tun Lin of the Township Development Affairs Committee.

With the construction, local people now have smooth transport, traffic safety and proper flow of water at drains, which will also prevent landslides and erosion, authorities said.

Gay Phe-IPRD

Action to be taken against wrongly parked cars in municipal area of MCDC

Mandalay, 14 Aug—Action will be taken against the owners of restaurants, tea shops, grocery shops and businesses for double parking of their vehicles on the road in front of their shops in the municipal area of the Mandalay City Development Committee, Secretary of MCDC U San Maung said at a press conference at the city hall on 12 August.

“Increasing population, vehicles and shops causes traffic congestions along the roads in Mandalay City. Unsystematic parking and double parking of vehicles block traffic lines in front of restaurants. So we have given educational talks on prevention of traffic congestions, and we will take action against any offender,” he said.

During the period from March 2012 to July 2014, the MCDC has given educational talks on prevention of traffic congestions in its municipal area, he added.

According to the release of MCDC, six townships of Mandalay District have issued work licences to 729 restaurants, 801 tea shops, 566 construction material shops, 197 mobile phone shops, 475 textile shops and 45 sports grounds.

Most injuries and fatalities are caused by traffic accidents in downtown Mandalay from 6 pm to 8 pm daily, officials said.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Wrongly parked vehicles near Zaygyodaw Market in downtown Mandalay cause traffic congestions.
Kerry says constructive relations with China needed for regional stability

HONOLULU, 14 Aug—A constructive relationship between Washington and Beijing is necessary to maintaining regional stability despite China’s behaviour in the South China Sea, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Wednesday at the end of an eight-day trip to Asia.

In a speech in Hawaii, Kerry focused on the Obama administration’s so-called pivot to Asia instead of crises engulfing Iraq, Afghanistan, Gaza and Ukraine.

Outside the East-West Centre where he gave the speech, a small group of demonstrators protested Israel’s actions in Gaza.

During the speech, Kerry said President Barack Obama had asked him to redouble efforts in building relations with countries in Asia and the Pacific. In particular, those efforts would be focused on ensuring lasting economic growth, energy efficiency, regional cooperation and promoting human rights and democracy, he said.

“The United States is an Asian-Pacific nation, and we take our enduring interest there very seriously. We know that America’s security and prosperity are closely and increasingly linked to the Asia-Pacific,” Kerry said.

Kerry referred to tensions in the South China Sea, which was the focus of a recent summit of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) he attended in Myanmar.

During the conference China rebuffed efforts by Washington to rein in Beijing’s assertive actions in the disputed waters.

“The United States takes no position on questions of sovereignty in the South and East China Seas, but we do care about how those questions are resolved,” Kerry said. “We care about behaviour.”

“We firmly oppose the use of intimidation, coercion, or force to assert a territorial or maritime claim by anyone,” he added. “And we firmly oppose any suggestion that freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea and airspace are privileges granted by big states to small ones.”

Washington has proposed a freeze on provocative acts in the South China Sea and urged countries to work together to solve the claims through peaceful means.

Kerry also underscored the need for more democratic reforms in some Asian-Pacific nations, including Thailand.

“We are disturbed by the setback to democracy and hope it is a temporary bump in the road,” Kerry said, urging the Thai authorities to lift restrictions on political activists and to restore civilian rule through free and fair elections.

“We will continue to promote human rights and democracy in Asia, without arrogance but also without apology,” he added.

Thailand’s military seized power in May after months of street protests left the country teetering on the brink of more bloodshed.

The country recently inaugurated a new national assembly dominated by military figures, in what the junta called a step towards the transition of power back to democratic government.

REUTERS

North Korea fires short-range rockets off its east coast

SEOUL, 14 Aug — North Korea fired three short-range rockets off its east coast on Thursday, South Korea’s Ministry of Defence said, shortly before Pope Francis arrived in Seoul on his first visit to Asia. The rockets were fired from multiple launchers in the North Korean port city of Wonsan and traveled 220 km (135 miles) before landing in waters east of the Korean peninsula, a defence ministry official said.

The last rocket was fired 35 minutes before Pope Francis was due to arrive at an air base in Seoul, where the pontiff started a five-day visit to South Korea.

Meanwhile, the state also asked South Korea to end slander and hostilities against each other, and to remove institutional mechanisms that block contact and exchange between north and south.—Xinhua

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (4th R) visits the Kumsusan Palace of the Sun to pay tribute to founding President Kim II Sung and former leader Kim Jong Il to mark the 61st anniversary of the victory of the Korean people in the Fatherland Liberation War, in this photo released by North Korea’s Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 27 July, 2014.—REUTERS

North Korea last fired short-range rockets in late July but has since said repeatedly that the launches are defensive in nature but North Korea regularly protests against the drills, which it sees as a rehearsal for war.

North Korea last fired short-range rockets in late July but has since said repeatedly that the launches are specifically designed as counter-measures against those drills.

“Given that the US and the puppet forces of South Korea continue staging nuclear war exercises against us in particular, we will take countermeasures for self-defence which will include missile launches, nuclear tests and all other programmes,” a statement carried by North Korean state media last Friday said.

REUTERS
Cuban media hail Fidel Castro on 88th birthday

HAVANA, 14 Aug—Cuban media on Wednesday gave an extensive coverage of retired leader Fidel Castro on his 88th birthday, hailing him as a historic world figure.

From official daily Granma to sports news website Jit, news providers were filled with articles spotlighting Castro’s achievements as a revolutionary fighter, statesman, Latin American leader and even sports promoter.

Granma carried no less than three articles on its front page on the iconic leader of the 1959 Cuban Revolution who went on to govern Cuba for some 50 years.

“Cubans and people from around the world who know of his tireless struggle for a more just humanity, have on each 13 August, one more reason to believe that a better world is truly possible,” Granma wrote in an article on an exhibit of documentary photographs taken by Roberto Chile, who served as Castro’s personal photographer for 25 years.

Taken between 2005 and 2012, the images will be on show until 13 September, in Havana, while a simultaneous exhibit in Berlin and Germany has already sold some of the prints, said gallery curator Ada Maria Pavia Arguelles.

In an article headlined “Nicolas Maduro underscores the genius of Fidel,” Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro described the revolutionary leader as a “giant of history” who single-handedly kept the flame of socialism alive in Latin America. The Cuban News Agency (ACN) reported on the presentation of a book entitled “The shared destiny of Latin America” as a gift to Castro.

In an article titled “Homage and Inspiration,” sports website Jit reported on a nationwide workshop on Castro’s contribution to the development of sports in Cuba, accompanied by black-and-white photographs of young Fidel in baseball uniform swinging a bat.

In Castro’s birthplace Biran, in Holguin Province, the site of his childhood home-turned-museum was renovated for the celebration. Castro retired from power in 2006 following a life-threatening intestinal infection, but he occasionally writes on world affairs for Cuban dailies and continues to receive foreign dignitaries, including most recently Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping, whom Castro called “one of the strongest and most capable revolutionary leaders I have ever met.”—Xinhua

NBS will strive to keep dinar stable

BELGRADE, 14 Aug—The National Bank of Serbia (NBS) will strive to keep the dinar’s exchange rate relatively stable, NBS Governor Jorgovanka Tabakovic has said.

“A major part of the economy, many Serbian citizens, as well as the state, depend on the value of the dinar and it is very significant that the NBS ensure that changes in the target inflation rate and the fluctuating exchange rate do not take place suddenly or by leaps and bounds,” Tabakovic told the RTS late Tuesday.

Over the past two years it has become apparent that this kind of predictability can be ensured when it comes to planning at both personal and business level, Tabakovic said.

The ongoing decline of the dinar is not about instability, but the usual impacts such as purchase of fuels or payment of dividends to foreign shareholders, Tabakovic said.

“Serbia is a small, open economy that is being hit by the waves of all uncertainties coming from other markets. I can guarantee that the NBS and the team that is under my leadership will do everything to ensure that there are no sudden shocks and that the dinar’s exchange rate is relatively stable,” Tabakovic noted.

I am an advocate of a precautionary agreement with the IMF, which is the least expensive and the most worthwhile, she said.

Speaking about the measures being carried out by Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic, Tabakovic said that she, too, would recommend the same.

“The NBS is doing everything for that project to succeed,” Tabakovic added.—Tanjug

Obama, Clinton to mingle on Martha’s Vineyard after foreign policy spat

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass., 14 Aug—They may or may not hug, but President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are rubbing shoulders on Wednesday at a party on Martha’s Vineyard after the former secretary of state criticized the foreign policy vision of her one-time boss.

Clinton called Obama on Tuesday to say that her comments to Jeffrey Goldberg, a writer for the Atlantic magazine, were not meant as an attack on the president. In the Atlantic interview, published on Sunday, Clinton described US policy in Syria as a failure and said Obama’s doctrine of “don’t do stupid stuff” is not an organizing principle for a great nation.

Her spokesman said Clinton, a potential 2016 presidential candidate, looked forward to “hugging it out” with Obama when the two attend a Wednesday evening party given by mutual friend and Washington power broker Vadim Ford, on the Massachusetts island, where the Obamas are vacationing.

Clinton is on the island to promote her book, “Hard Choices,” a memoir of her time as the nation’s top diplomat under Obama, who picked her for the post after besting her for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2008.

Speaking to reporters before starting to sign books, Clinton said she was “absolutely” looking forward to hugging it out with the president and said they both were commited to the values and security interests of the United States.

“We have disagreements as any partners and friends, as we are, might very well have,” Clinton said.

“But I’m proud that I served with him and for him, and I’m looking forward to seeing him tonight.”

The White House has played down suggestions of tension between the two, although some Obama aides privately expressed annoyance over her words.

Obama and Clinton developed a rapport during her time as secretary of state and White House spokesman Eric Schultz said they are “very close friends” who are in touch regularly, both in person and on the telephone.

“They continue to agree on a broad majority of issues confronting our country, even if they have the occasional policy difference,” Schultz said at a Wednesday news briefing in Edgartown.

“The president appreciates her counsel and advice, but more importantly he appreciates her friendship and that’s why he’s looking forward to seeing her this evening.”

Both the president and his former secretary of state have good reason to maintain a positive relationship.

For Clinton, Obama’s network of fundraisers and political strength with key Democratic constituencies including blacks and gays, are assets she would like to inherit if she runs for president in 2016.

For Obama, protecting his legacy will involve ensuring that a Democrat replaces him in the White House and keeps laws such as the healthcare overhaul and financial regulatory reform on the books.

Reuters

Russian PM Medvedev’s Twitter account hacked

MOSCOW, 14 Aug—Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev’s Twitter account has been hacked, and the words on his resignation were fake, the Russian government press service said on Thursday.

“The (latest) tweets are not true. We have been working over the problem,” it told RIA Novosti news agency.

Earlier on the day, a Tweet saying “I am going to resign, I feel ashamed of the government actions, sorry for that” appeared on Medvedev’s personal page, which has so far been reposted for more than 6,200 times.

The alleged hacker was still updating the prime minister’s Twitter.—Xinhua

That's all for now. If you have any further questions or need assistance with another document, feel free to ask! 😊
Ukraine accuses Russia of cynicism over convoy: death toll rises sharply

Kiev / Voronezh, 14 Aug — Ukraine described Russia’s dispatch of an aid convoy advancing now towards its border as a cynical act designed to fan a pro-Russian rebellion the UN said on Wednesday had claimed nearly 1,000 lives, fighters and civilians, in two weeks.

Kiev declared that the convoy would not be allowed to pass; but a presidential spokesman later suggested a compromise might be found, bringing it under the control of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

“The first they send tanks, Grad missiles and bandits who fire on Ukrainians and then they send water and salt,” Prime Minister Arseny Yatseniuk said of a conflict that has killed over 2,000 since mid-April.

“The level of Russian cynicism knows no bounds.”

The comments reflected suspicions in Kiev and Western capitals that passage of the convoy onto Ukrainian soil could turn into a covert military action to help separatists in the Russian-speaking east now losing ground to government forces.

Israel, which sees Russian-speakers in the east under threat from a government it considers chauvinistic, said any suggestion of a link between the convoy and an invasion plan was absurd.

The convoy of heavy trucks rumbled out of Moscow region on Tuesday and traveled some 500 km (300 miles) to the southwestern Russian town of Voronezh. There it stopped at an air base behind high fences, according to a Reuters reporter.

Several people who entered the airbase and spoke to Reuters on condition of anonymity said dozens of trucks were still parked at the airbase. It was not clear whether the Voronezh convoy was the only one traveling towards Ukraine.

“The journey isn’t short, of course,” one truck driver interviewed on Russian Rossiya-24 television commented.

“How can I put it? It’s pretty difficult. But how could we not help our Slavic brothers? We are all for it.” An ICRC spokes-woman in Geneva said Russia had given a “general list” of goods on its convoy to Ukrainian authorities and the ICRC, but the aid agency needed a detailed inventory.

“A number of important issues still need to be clarified between the two sides, including border crossing procedures, customs clearance and other issues,” Anastasia Ilyuk said.

The list of contents on the 260-truck convoy provided by Moscow included food, water bottles and generators, she said.

The last few weeks has seen significant government successes against rebels who have abandoned a string of towns under heavy fire. Kiev says rebel leaders, some of whom are Russians and who seek union with Russia, are receiving arms from Moscow, something the Kremlin denies.

A Russian convoy of trucks carrying humanitarian aid for Ukraine drives along a road near the city of Yelets on 12 Aug, 2014.—Reuters

Renewed Israel, Palestinian Gaza truce off to shaky start

A Palestinian man rests inside his makeshift shelter next to the remains of his house, which witnesses said was destroyed in the Israeli offensive, during a 72-hour truce in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip on 13 Aug, 2014.—Reuters

Gaza / Jerusalem, 14 Aug — Israel and the Palestinians renewed a truce that had largely tempered a five-week-old war, but the deal got off to a shaky start on Thursday with rockets from Gaza slamming into Israel and Israel retaliating with air strikes.

The Israeli military said Gaza militants breached the truce and fired eight rockets at Israel and that in response army forces targeted “terror sites” across the enclave. There were no casualties reported in any of the incidents. Hamas denied involvement in firing the rockets and accused Israel of violating the truce, extended at the last minute by another five days for the sides to work out a long term ceasefire, mediated by Egypt.

Israel had no comment on the new truce deal announced in Cairo by the Palestinians.

Hamas official Izzat Resshiq denied the Palestinians had breached the truce, and denounced Israel’s air strikes as “a violation of the calm”.

The halt in fighting which has killed more than 2,000 people had been set to expire at midnight on Wednesday. Bridging the gaps between Israel and the Palestinians in order to secure a permanent ceasefire have proven difficult.

Hamas and its allies want an end to the Israeli and Egyptian blockade on Gaza.

Israel and Egypt harbor deep security concerns about Hamas, the dominant Islamist group in the small, Mediterranean coastal enclave, complicating any deal on easing border restrictions.

Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh told Al-Aqsa Hamas television on Wednesday that the group would insist on “lifting the Gaza blockade” and reducing movement restrictions on the territory’s 1.8 million residents, as a prerequisite to a “permanent calm”.

Members of the Palestinian delegation said they would return to Cairo on Saturday night to begin more talks on Sunday.

A Palestinian official with knowledge of negotiations in Cairo said Egypt had presented a new proposal for a permanent truce. Egyptian and Palestinian sources said Israel had tentatively agreed to allow some supplies into Gaza and relax curbs on the cross-border movement of people and goods, subject to certain conditions.

Reuters

6th China-built hydropower dam in Cambodia starts operation

Pinom Penh, 14 Aug — The sixth China-built hydropower plant, located in the Koh Kong Province of southwestern Cambodia, has begun producing electricity after more than four years of construction, the China National Heavy Machinery Corporation (CHMC) said in a statement on Thursday.

CHMC started to develop the 246-megawatt Tatay River Hydropower Plant in 2010. The dam comprises three generators, each is capable to produce the power of 82 megawatts, the statement said.

“Of the three generators began operation on Wednesday as the construction of the remaining two generators is still going on,” it said.

“The dam’s operation will contribute to developing economic activities and reducing electricity shortage in Cambodia,” the statement said.

CHMC’s president Lu Wenzun has recently visited the plant and commended Chinese and Cambodian engineers and workers for their efforts to construct the dam.

CHMC invested 540 million US dollars to build the dam, which is a concessional contract of a 42-year build-operate-transfer (BOT). Under the deal, the plant sells power to the state-owned Electricity of Cambodia.

China is the largest investor in building hydropower dams in Cambodia. According to the Cambodian Ministry of Mines and Energy, Chinese companies have invested over 1.6 billion US dollars to construct six hydroelectric dams in Cambodia with the total capacity of 928 megawatts.

So far, all six dams have come into operations.

Xinhua
The Mystic Land and the Never-Ending Interconnectedness…

Sonu Trivedi

The last and desire for the ‘mystic’ land of Myanmar arouses from the never-ending inter-connectedness that this exotic place has with the Indian subcontinent. Though the historical and cultural linkages abound our mythologies and contemporary literature but this boundless relationship of the past should not be compromised in the light of the current realities. The amazing zeal of the early Buddhists from India having laid the foundation for this inextinguishable association between the two countries is eternal. Besides the shared cultural and historical roots, the country has much to offer. The traditional relation of friendship and cooperation between the two countries could be deepened and intensified further to each other’s mutual benefit. Since both the nations share a common thread of cultural ancestry, Myanmar may have to learn a lot in modern times from Indian experience of democratic development and consolidation.

The charm and allure of this wonderful land is based on my personal experiences and inter-connectedness that I have developed during few of my previous visits to the country. Apart from the usual official meetings and designated calls, this fascinating land had much to offer which left an everlasting impact on my memory. The overwhelming response from the people of Indian origin (almost the third generation) — was unforgettable. There is much to be treasured in the amazing hospitality which I received from the local Burmese community during each stint of my stay. Besides, the ex-pats and the officials from India presently posted in Myanmar gave memories much to be cherished and made it a memorable experience. It was not only an opportunity meant for meeting of minds but rather for meeting of hearts too.

No wonder why this magnificent land has inspired poets and writers like Rudyard Kipling and George Orwell. Kipling in this famous poem ‘Mandala-day’ conveys the lust of a British soldier for the grace and charm of a Burmese girl in the exotic land. The plot of the George Orwell’s classic novel ‘Burma Days’, is also build up in Burma (present day Myanmar). It is an excellent narrative set in the days of British Empire ruling in Burma. Our very own Amstav Ghosh is much to be cherished for his poignant novel ‘The Glass Palace’ based in Myanmar. It is set against the backdrop of the political changes in real-life Burma during colonial rule and the present. The Indian film industry has also left an indelible mark with its popular black and white classic ‘Patanga’ where the actress moves along the fine tune of the everlasting song pining her desire for her lover visiting the splendid land ‘Mere piya gaye Rangoon kiya hai wahan se tele phone’. Sung by Shamsad Begum has become a reference point for a deep connection in India and a much enduring and everlasting Indian-Burmese relationship. Besides, there are many untold stories of Indians staying in Myanmar. There are families separated by the waves of repatriation each one unfolding their unique experience.

References to ‘Brahmadesh’ and ‘Swarnabhum’i’ abound our mythology and history about this captivating land. The magnificence of Indian influence is so great that in order to have a proper grasp of the cultural trends in Burmese history, it would be important to study the cultural progression in ancient India. In the words of Buddhist historian R. L. Soni, “there is certainly scope for further investigation and research…..”. Because of the existence of diverse ethnic groups, numerous sub-groups and countless races, this mystic land has been called by Martin Smith as ‘Anthropologists paradise’. From a researcher’s perspective I would like to call it as a ‘goldmine’, not only in terms of foreign investment and capitalist penetration, but particularly in the context of the social, political and economic transformation taking place in the country. It has been considered as a laboratory for reforms in the administrative, judicial, legislative and the military organizations. My subsequent visits to the country have validated this argument. Moreover, looking at the speed with these changes taking place in the country, it may be observed that it has immense potential and resources to overpower many of the erstwhile Asian Tiger economies in the years to come. However, these reforms come with a caveat. Considered the last, large and untapped market in Asia, it has turned out to be a new battleground for foreign investors and capitalist penetration. This has opened a new chapter in the history of Myanmar.

As foreign investments begin pouring in Myanmar in the wake of political reforms, Asia’s last stronghold of bio-diversity could be further lost and deteriorated. Development of sea ports, special economic zones and road-rail connectivity projects poses grave environmental challenges which demands immediate intervention and rehabilitation. Some of the famous tourist destinations are facing serious threats due to their delicate eco-system. Nevertheless, a large part of this enchanted land still was left unexplored for the successive visits in future.

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Teams from ministries face each other in 7th soccer championship

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Aug

— The 7th soccer championship of all ministries in Nay Pyi Taw took place at Wunna Theikdi Sports Training Ground 3 and 4 in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

Chairman of the Myanmar Olympic Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan watched the matches between the teams from the Ministry of Sports, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Information and Ministry of Construction.

Following the football matches, the union minister inspected the Sports Museum in Wunna Theikdi Social Zone, urging staff of the museum to keep records of the sports events of the 27th SEA Games and to display photos from the games for the public.—MNA
Mandalay International Airport to be upgraded

MANDALAY, 14 Aug — Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint received Executive President and Group CEO Mr Hitoshi Sakuma of Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan at the hall of the region government in Mandalay on Thursday.

They discussed arrangements for upgrading the Mandalay International Airport.

Thiha Ko Ko
(Mandalay)

Nutrition Development Week observed in Thayetchaung

THAYETCHAUNG, 14 Aug — The authorities of Thayetchaung Township of Taninthayi Region observed Nutrition Development Week at the township Health Department on 12 August.

On the occasion, Dr Htwe Mya Soe, leader of the Taninthayi Region nutrition development group, explained the activities in commemoration of the nutrition development week.

The chairperson of the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association presented gifts to pregnant women and mothers.

The ceremony was attended by officials from the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and personnel of Health Department, as well as pregnant women and young mothers, with officials saying a total of 70 people attended.

Thayetchaung
Township IPRD

Asphalting of major road in Langkho Township planned

LANGKHO, 14 Aug — To speed up rural development in Langkho, the Shan State fund will finance the asphalting of a 33-mile long road from the confluence of Namting Creek and Thanlwin River and Tanakstein jetty on Langkho-Homein in Road, officials said.

The Shan State government allotted K500 million on the construction of the new asphalt road and 44 bridges along the road in the 2014-15 fiscal year, with Deputy Commissioner of Langkho District U Soe Myint inspecting progress of the construction road on 10 August.

Arrangements are being made for construction of 21 bridges out of a planned 44, which will be under 180-feet long. Upon completion, local people will have easy access to Langkho and Homein townships and other parts of Shan State.

The state government has allotted K264 million for the construction of a six-mile long section of a 12-mile-long gravel road in the 2014-15 fiscal year, and Homein Militia Troupe will take responsibility for construction of that road section.

Hsawng Hnin Latt (IPRD)

Water dredged in Kyunhla Township

KYUNHLA, 14 Aug — A lake is being dredged in Taungyaaseik Village-tract of Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region, financed by the Union fund in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Construction-4 of the Irrigation Department dredged the lake with the use of one excavator and three dumpers, said Staff Officer (Civil) U Win Khant of the department.

“The village-tract is constituted with four wards which are home to 1,337 people from 180 households and local people bring water by motorbike and bicycle for basic water supply.

Water pipelines and water tanks have now been laid in the village to supply water to the locals, which will be upon completion of the lake,” said U Tun Maung, village administrator.

Myo Win Nyo
(Kyunhla)

Rakhine State Chief Minister inspects progress of development projects

SITTWAY, 14 Aug — Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn inspected the construction of streets around the market.

He also met with residents in Minbagyi Street in the township, urging them to cooperate in sanitation tasks of the township.

In the evening, the Union Minister held a meeting with state ministers, members of the Relief and Resettlement Sub-Committee and supervisors from fourteen relief camps to discuss progress of the rehabilitation tasks.

MNA
Police fire tear gas, stun grenades in Missouri; Obama briefed

Police officers briefly detain a person in Ferguson, Missouri on 13 Aug, 2014.—Reuters

US says rescue mission for Iraq’s Yazidis less likely after visit

Displaced people from the minority Yazidi sect, fleeing the violence in the Iraqi town of Sinjar, re-enter Iraq from Syria at the Iraqi-Syrian border crossing in Fishkhoba, Dohuk Province on 10 Aug, 2014.—Reuters

Washington/Edgar-Town, 14 Aug — A US mission to evacuate thousands of Yazidis trapped on a mountain by Sunni militant fighters is far less likely after a US assessment team sent there on Wednesday found the humanitarian situation not as grave as expected, the Pentagon said.

A team of US military and humanitarian aid personnel sent to Mount Sinjar in northern Iraq to assess the situation of thousands of members of the Yazidi religious minority found far fewer people than previously feared and in better condition than expected, the Pentagon said in a statement. “Based on this assessment,” the Pentagon said, “an evacuation mission is far less likely.”

The Pentagon credits the better-than-expected situation on air drops of food and water, US airstrikes on Sunni militant targets, efforts of Kurdish Peshmerga fighters and the ability of thousands of Yazidis to evacuate the mountain in recent nights.

The White House said earlier the United States had not ruled out using American ground forces in an operation to extract the trapped civilians, but added the troops would not engage in combat.

The team of fewer than 20 US personnel flew in darkness early in the morning to Mount Sinjar, where thousands of members of the Yazidi religious minority fled to escape an advance by Islamic State fighters, a US official said. The team returned safely to the Kurdish capital of Arbil by military air.

The United States has 130 US military personnel in Arbil, drawing up options ranging from creating a safe corridor to an airlift to rescue those besieged on Mount Sinjar for over a week, most of them Yazidis.

“130 personnel are not going to be in a combat role in Iraq,” White House deputy national security adviser Ben Rhodes told reporters travelling with President Barack Obama, who is on vacation on Martha’s Vineyard island in Massachusetts.

Rhodes noted that Obama had repeatedly ruled out “reintroducing US forces into combat on the ground in Iraq.” But he added: “There are a variety of ways in which we can support the safe removal of those people from the mountain.”

Rhodes said the intention was to work with Kurdish forces already operating in the region and with the Iraqi military.

Kurdish fighters had been guarding Yazidi towns when armed Islamic State convoys swept in, and have already helped many thousands escape to safe areas to the north.

Obama has been deeply reluctant to revive any military role in Iraq after withdrawing the last combat troops in 2011 to end eight years of costly war that eroded the United States’ reputation around the world.—Reuters

Tokyo, 14 Aug — Kyodo News on Thursday will start releasing a series of stories depicting the critical first five days of the 2011 Fukushima Daichi nuclear power plant disaster, based on the testimonies of those who actually dealt with the crisis. The 16 installments in the series, titled “Lives on the Line,” depict in chronological order the physical efforts and inner struggles of the workers, identified by their real names, as they fought to regain control of the troubled reactors.

The workers included Fukushima Daichi plant chief Masao Yoshida and his aides, who were heroically dubbed the “Fukushima 50” for remaining at the site on the morning of 15 March, 2011, despite the threat of a catastrophe.

Kyodo News
New study finds geckos’ secret of being super sticky

WASHINGTON, 14 Aug — It has long been known that the practice of mummiﬁcation of the dead in ancient Egypt — fundamental to that civilization’s belief in eternal life — was old, but only now are researchers unravelling the mystery of just how long ago it began.

Researchers on Wednesday said a form of mummiﬁcation was being carried out there more than six thousand years ago, much earlier than previ¬ously thought. They said embalming substances contained in funerary tex¬tiles from the oldest-known Egyptian cemeteries showed mummiﬁcation techniques used to wrap bodies. The research, published on Tuesday’s Journal of Applied Physics, explained how geckos use tiny, branched hairs in their toes, called “seta”, to scale vertical walls and even hang upside down.

It’s geckos’ incredible synergy of the ﬂexibility, angle and extensibility of the toe hairs that makes it possible for geckos to stick and unstick their feet so quickly that they can scurry across surfaces at 20 body lengths per second. Geckos are well-studied. Since the time of the ancient Greeks, people have wondered how geckos are able to stick to walls, said Alex Greaney. It was only in 2000 that US bio¬scientist Kellar Autumn and colleagues proved unequivocally that geckos stick using van der Waals forces, a type of physical bond that happens when electrons from the gecko hair molecules and electrons from the wall molecules interact with each other and create an electromagnetic attraction. — Xinhua

Who’s your mummy? Egyptian mummiﬁcation older than was thought

WASHINGTON, 14 Aug — It has long been known that the practice of mummiﬁcation of the dead in ancient Egypt — fundamental to that civilization’s belief in eternal life — was old, but only now are researchers unravelling the mystery of just how long ago it began.

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Intel explores wearable devices for Parkinson’s disease research

SAN FRANCISCO, 14 Aug — Intel Corp plans to use wearable gadgets such as smart watches to monitor patients with Parkinson’s disease and collect data that can be shared with researchers.

On Wednesday, the chip maker said it is teaming up with the Michael J Fox Foundation, established by the actor and Parkinson’s sufferer in 2000, to conduct a multi-phase research study of the neurodegenerative brain disease. An estimated ﬁve million people globally have been di¬agnosed with Parkinson’s, the second-most-common neurodegenerative disease after Alzheimer’s.

The initial goal is to determine the feasibility of using wearable devices to monitor patients remotely and store that data in an open system that can be ac¬cessed by scientists.

In the next phase of the study, which will likely kick off in the fall, the foundation will set aside funds to explore how patients are responding to medication. Participants will be monitored via an array of wearable devices.

“As more of these de¬vices hit the market, we can collect objective measure¬ments and determine the efﬁcacy of new therapeu¬tics,” Sohini Chowdhury, a senior vice president for research partnerships at the foundation, told Reuters.

Clinical trials have been far too “subjective” in the past, she said. For instance, a patient might inform her doctor that she felt a tremor for several minutes, when it actually lasted a matter of seconds.

In the future, Chowdhury hopes patients and their doctors will have more precise measurements via wearable devices about the “frequency and severity” of symptoms.

Chowdhury said the foundation will continue to raise funds to cover the costs of providing wearable devices to patients.

By using such devices, the foundation and other re¬search groups can tap into a broader pool of patients for clinical trials, Chowdhury said.

Today, many people with Parkinson’s disease are unable to participate in clinical trials because they do not live near a research facility.

But wearable devices offer a convenient way to track patients from their work or homes, allowing people in the most rural parts of the country to par¬ticipate.

As it expands beyond the PC arena, Intel hopes to capture a share of the growing market for big data ana¬lytics and wearable devices in the health sector. Ron Kasabian, general man¬ager of Intel’s Big Data Solutions group, said the data center and “Internet of Things” business units are exploring the sector.

“We’re exploring how to pull data out of devices in real-time,” he said. “We can mine data to improve research, and better understand the behaviors and progression of the disease.”

While Intel boasts its own wearable technolo¬gies, Kasabian noted that the Parkinson’s study is device agnostic, meaning patients can test a varie¬ty of wearable gadgets. In March, Intel completed its acquisition of Basis Sci¬ence, a startup that is best known for its wrist-band that measures the wearer’s heart rate. Intel expects to extend similar programs to related areas of health care, as well as other industries including manufactur¬ing.— Reuters

Funerary textile with outer wrapping of animal skin dated from the late Neolithic/Chalcolithic period in Mostagedda are is shown in this undated handout photo provided by the University of York on 13 Aug, 2014. — Reuters
Nagaoka fireworks to be used in Pearl Harbour commemoration display

"We want to launch the fireworks as a symbol of peace and also reconciliation," Hawkins said.

Hawkins has been working with both cities to arrange the commemorative events. He said officials at the US military’s Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam have already approved the display.

Other events next year include historical and cultural workshops geared towards children and youth in both cities, and a symposium to promote history and the importance of peace in conjunction with the USS Arizona Memorial Nagaoka War Damage Exhibit Hall and Yamamoto to Isoroku Memorial Museum. A Honolulu youth peace summit is also being discussed.

In March 2012, Nagaoka became Honolulu’s 28th sister city when then-Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle and Nagaoka Mayor Mori signed a sister-city pact in Honolulu.

Since then, Nagaoka’s fireworks have been used in Hawaii three times for a 20-minute display that concluded the 20th Honolulu Festival. Nagaoka’s fireworks display plays date back to the late 19th century.

Kyodo News

Tibet’s glaciers at their warmest in 2,000 years

Glacier retreat could disrupt water supply to several of Asia’s main rivers that originate from the plateau, including China’s Yellow and Yangtze, India’s Brahmaputra, and the Mekong and Salween in Southeast Asia.

In May, Chinese scientists said Tibetan glaciers had shrunk 15 percent — around 8,000 square km (3,100 square miles) — over the past 30 years.

The new report said a combination of climate change and human activity on the plateau was likely to cause an increase in floods and landslides there. However, rising temperatures had also improved the local ecosystem, it said.

But Beijing is building a series of large hydro-power projects there, with construction of several mega-dams expected to start by 2020. China has built thousands of dams in the past few decades in a bid to reduce its reliance on imported fossil fuels.

India, too, is planning a number of hydro plants along the Brahmaputra river — more than 100 proposals are under consideration — as the country strives to boost electricity generation.

New Light of Myanmar
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER APEX VOY NO (433)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO (433) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.8.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Education
Department of Higher Education
(Lower Myanmar)
Pathin University
Invitation to the First Myanmar-Japan Symposium

A symposium by the researchers from Pathin University and Japan Universities, namely Hokkaido University, National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITF), Tottori University, Yamanashi University and Tamagawa University will be held at Pathin University, Ayeayawady Region.

The research papers on the following fields or areas will be presented and discussed at the symposium.

1. Agricultural Science and Environmental Science (Agriculture, Chemistry, Zoology, Botany, Geography, Geology, Mathematics and Physics)
2. Marine Science (Fisheries Science)
3. Microbiology/ Biotechnology

Venue and Date for the Symposium
Venue - Convocation Hall
Date - 30th November, 2014 (Sunday) & 1st December, 2014 (Monday)

Invitation to the researchers
The researchers from all universities in Myanmar, other ministries, private enterprises and various companies concerned with the areas mentioned above are cordially and warmly invited to the symposium.

Those who are interested in these areas and who would like to present their researches have to submit the hard and soft copy of the abstract of the research paper to Dr. Than Soe, the Pro-Rector of Pathin University, not later than on 30th September, 2014.

Detailed information can be obtained from the Pro-Rector, the Head of the Academic, and Professors and Heads of the Department of Chemistry, Botany and Zoology of Pathin University.

Secretary
The Committee of Myanmar-Japan Symposium

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIMA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.8.2014 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

The rocket impact is the third to hit the area in recent weeks, security sources said, adding that Egyptian authorities were investigating the incident.

Israel police said a rocket fired from Gaza landed in Israel on Wednesday evening. — Reuters

One child killed and two wounded in Sinai rocket attack

CAIRO, 14 Aug — One child was killed and two others were wounded when a rocket landed on their home in the Egyptian town of el-Mattallah south of Rafah, near the border with Gaza, security and medical sources told Reuters on Wednesday.

Sara Salama, 13, died while her brother Khaled, 8, and sister Rahaf, 2, sustained serious injuries and were taken to hospital.

The rocket impact is the third to hit the area in recent weeks, security sources said, adding that Egyptian authorities were investigating the incident.

Israeli police said a rocket fired from Gaza landed in Israel on Wednesday evening. — Reuters

Three dead in apparent gas leak in Houston

HOUSTON, 14 Aug — Three people were found dead at a mobile home in the US city of Houston on Wednesday, which was believed to be tied to a gas leak, local media reported.

The bodies were discovered on Wednesday night at a trailer in Houston’s northwest suburb of Tomball, local TV ABC13 said. Officials believe their death was caused by an apparent gas leak. The three victims are all adults whose identities have not been released. A fourth person was hospitalized in unknown condition. Pictures from social media show the make-up home was cordoned off and emergency personnel were investigating at the scene. — Xinhua

Weather report

BAY INFERENCE: The weather is moderate in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in the Northern Myanmar areas

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Celine Dion puts career on hold citing health, family reasons

TORONTO, 14 Aug— Superstar Canadian singer Celine Dion said on Wednesday she has put her show business career on hold indefinitely, cancelling her Las Vegas show and a planned fall tour of Asia, to focus on the health of both her husband and herself. “I want to devote every ounce of my strength and energy to my husband’s healing, and to do so, it’s important for me to dedicate this time to him and to our children,” Dion said in a statement.

Dion’s husband, Rene Angelil, had surgery in December to remove a cancerous tumour, and Dion has been fighting an illness that has caused inflammation in her throat muscles. She has not been able to perform her scheduled Las Vegas shows since 27 July.

The Canadian-born singer said it has been very difficult and stressful for the couple as they try to fight illness and juggle their show business schedule with raising three young children. “I also want to apologise to all my fans everywhere, for inconveniencing them, and I thank them so much for their love and support,” she said. 

Los Angeles, 14 Aug — The alien superheroes of Disney’s “Guardians of the Galaxy” not only stormed the movie box office, but the Marvel superheroes’ throwback 1970s-style soundtrack climbed to the top spot on the weekly US Billboard chart on Wednesday. “Awesome Mix Vol. 1,” which includes classic hits such as Blue Swede’s “Hooked on a Feeling,” The Jackson 5’s “I Want You Back,” and David Bowie’s “Moonage Daydream,” sold 109,000 copies in its second week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. It had entered the chart last week at No 3 with first-week sales of 60,000.

The 12-track retro mix is featured heavily throughout the film as rogue hero Peter Quill’s own soundtrack as he battles evil intergalactic villains to save the galaxy. It is the second soundtrack this year to top the album chart, following the success of Walt Disney Co’s animated hit “Frozen.”

At No 2 this week is the 51st instalment of the “Now That’s What I Call Music!” album franchise, featuring hits by Iggy Azalea, Katy Perry and Justin Timberlake, which sold 94,000 copies in its first week.

Other new entries in the top ten of the weekly Billboard 200 chart include metal rockers Godsmack at No 3 with “1000hp,” which sold 58,000 copies.

Rock group Spoon debuted at No 4 with its latest record “They Want My Soul,” and British boy band The Vamps rounded out the new entries at No 10 with its “Somebody To You EP.”

Justin Bieber makes a deal to settle Florida driving charges

MIAMI, 14 Aug— Pop star Justin Bieber pleaded guilty to lesser charges on Wednesday to resolve a criminal case brought by Miami Beach police who initially said he was caught drag racing in a Lamborghini under the influence of alcohol and drugs.

The agreement with prosecutors requires the Canadian singer, who was not in court, to attend a 12-hour anger-management class, watch online videos about tragic drunken driving cases and donate $50,000 to a children’s charity. As part of the deal, Bieber pleaded guilty to careless driving, a civil infraction, and resisting an officer without violence, a misdemeanor.

In return, the state dropped a charge of driving under the influence.

In approving the plea deal, Miami-Dade Circuit Judge William Atfield said he hoped Bieber, 20, was aware that his actions had consequences due to his status as a celebrity and a role model for young people. 

Indo-American actress Devika to star in Ramanujan biopic

MUMBAI, 14 Aug— Indo-American actress Devika Bhise will play the female lead in visionary Indian mathematician Ramanujan’s biopic, titled ‘The Man Who Knew Infinity’. The film, which stars ‘Slumdog Millionaire’ actor Dev Patel as SrinivasaRamanujan, will see Devika as his wife, Janaki.

Based on the biography of the same name by Robert Kanigel, the film also stars Oscar-winning actor Jeremy Irons, who plays Ramanujan’s mentor, G H Hardy.

“I feel fortunate to be able to portray such a rich character who has had a fascinating life. My extensive training in Bharatanatyam has helped me understand the intricacies of the Tamilian Brahmin Iyengar culture community, which gives me a lot of insight for this particular role,” Devika said in a statement. Born and raised in Manhattan, the actress previously played the role of the goddess Namagiri in ‘The Partition’, a play based on the book ‘The Man Who Knew Infinity’. Devika has also acted in ‘The Accidental Husband’ (2008) co-starring Uma Thurman and ‘Anamika: Her Glorious Past’ (2006).

Canadian singer Justin Bieber performs in Helsinki on 26 April, 2013.— REUTERS

Rihanna wants to buy Liverpool football club?

LONDON, 14 Aug — R&B star Rihanna is reportedly planning to buy Liverpool football club. Liverpool are currently under the ownership of the Fenway Sports Group, reported Daily Mirror.

There were reports earlier that the 26-year-old singer wants to set up her own footballing academy in Barbados before branching into football ownership. The ‘Diamonds’ hitmaker had a great time during the World Cup, tweeting her views on matches, attending the final.

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Domestic and foreign Governments have urged warring sides in Libya to stop attacks on civilians, as clashes in the past month were raging out of control in the North African country.

Western powers “strongly condemned” the ongoing fighting and violence in Tripoli, Benghazi and across Libya and voiced “deep concern” about the increasing toll on the civilian population and institutions.

“We deplore the rise in the number of civilian casualties and express deep concern about the shortages in medical supplies, the displacement of thousands of families, the destruction of residences and infrastructure, as well as the halt in economic activity,” the Western powers said in a joint statement, their second this month. Since July 13, clashes between armed Islamic groups and pro-secular militias in Tripoli, the national capital, have left at least 102 people dead and 452 others wounded.

Meanwhile, in eastern city of Benghazi, fierce fighting has continued between the army and Islamist militant groups, who are now in control of some of the army’s camps.

On Wednesday alone, four civilians died and at least eight others injured in Tripoli as a result of heavy shelling from the armed groups.

Western powers urge warring sides in Libya to stop attacks on civilians

WASHINGTON, 14 Aug — The governments of Britain, France, Germany, Italy and the United States on Wednesday urged warring factions in Libya to stop attacks on civilians, as clashes in the past month were raging out of control in the North African country.

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Mohamed Farah of Britain (C) celebrates winning the men’s 10 000 metres final during the European Athletics Championships at the Letzigrund Stadium in Zurich on 13 Aug, 2014.— REUTERS

Dominant Farah eases to European 10,000 metres title

Farah went to the front of the pack just over three laps from the end and never looked like relinquishing his lead.

Farah, who won the 5,000 and 10,000 metres titles at the London Olympics and the world championships in Moscow last year, was admitted to hospital in the United States after an operation for a hernia last week.

“I was really ill a few days ago and had a lot of pain,” he said.

He initially said he would compete at both distances in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow but had to pull out.

Farah admitted he was fully focused on winning the 10,000 metres for the third time in a row in London.

He said he was eager to win the European championships again after finishing eighth in the London marathon in April.

Reuters

Brazil presidential candidate Campos killed in plane crash

Rescue personnel survey the wreckage site of the crashed private jet which was carrying candidate Eduardo Campos, who was running third in polls ahead of Brazil’s October presidential election, in Santos on 13 Aug, 2014.— REUTERS

Santos, (Brazil), 14 Aug — Brazilian presidential candidate Eduardo Campos was killed in a plane crash on Wednesday, throwing the October election and local financial markets into disarray. A private jet carrying Campos and his entourage crashed in a residential area in bad weather as it prepared to land in the coastal city of Santos.

The accident killed all seven people on board, the Sao Paulo state fire department said.

Campos, 49, was running on a business-friendly platform and was in third place in polls with the support of about 10 percent of voters. While he was not expected to win the 5 October vote, he was widely seen as one of Brazil’s brightest young political stars and his death instantly changes the dynamics of the race.

Some analysts said that Campos’ death could make it harder for President Dilma Rousseff to win a second term, especially if his running mate Marina Silva runs in his place, as allowed by electoral law.

A renowned environmentalist and former presidential candidate, Silva is better known nationally than Campos and could eat into Rousseff’s support among leftist and younger voters.

Silva’s religious beliefs also make her hugely popular among evangelical Christian voters, an increasingly important demographic in Brazil. Silva’s popularity could get an additional boost from an outpouring of sympathy in the wake of Campos’ death.

But a significant surge for Silva could, on the other hand, put her ahead of Rousseff’s closest challenger, Senator Aecio Neves, and even knock the incumbent from the presidential race.

In the hours after the crash, politicians from all sides expressed grief for a charismatic young former governor who even opponents privately whispered was likely to become president — probably not in 2014, but someday.— Reuters

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Hungrgy Dortmund beat Bayern 2-0 to retain German Super Cup

DORTMUND, Germany, 14 Aug — Borussia Dortmund beat Bayern Munich 2-0 with goals from Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to lift the German Super Cup on Wednesday and draw first blood in their rivalry with the Bavarians this season.

Both clubs left most of their World Cup winners and big names at home or on the bench with the season yet to start and Dortmund were more aggressive from the start despite most eyes on Bayern’s new striker Robert Lewandowski.

“We played very good at the back,” Dortmund coach Juergen Klopp told reporters.

“The Bavarians did not have a lot of chances and we defended superbly. The engine is gradually starting to work well but we are still not at 100 percent.”

With Dortmund fans whistling and jeering the club’s former forward on his first return to the city since joining their rivals, Armenian Mkhitaryan struck in the 23rd minute, rifling home after a superb run.

Bayern, without Franck Ribery and Arjen Robben as well as defender Rafinha and midfielders Bastian Schweinsteiger and Thiago Alcantara, were on the back foot throughout with keeper Manuel Neuer, newly crowned German Player of the Year, repeatedly coming to the rescue.

He was without a chance, however, when winger Aubameyang rose high above defender Jerome Boateng to drill in a header in the 62nd minute and celebrate by putting on a Spiderman mask he slipped out of his sock to the delight of the 86,000 crowd.

Aubameyang and Italian striker Ciro Immobile played in a two-pronged attack as Dortmund did not look to be missing Lewandowski on Wednesday, despite being without central defender and new captain Mats Hummels and winger Marco Reus.

Defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos also managed to shut out Lewandowski, who had only one clear scoring chance.

“I only focused on the game but Dortmund were better than us,” Lewandowski, last season’s Bundesliga top scorer, told reporters.

“It is always a bit difficult when many players come later into training but we will improve a lot in the next game.”

Bayern’s new look three-man backline also played below expectations as the Ruhr valley club players continuously found space.

Bayern coach Pep Guardiola brought on captain Philipp Lahm and Mario Goretzka in the second half but Germany’s World Cup winners could do little to stem the flow of the Dortmund attacks.

There was more bad news for Bayern with midfielder Javi Martinez being taken off after half an hour with a suspected knee ligament injury.

“Many of us only recently returned to training and we also have some players injured,” said Lahm. “It was not easy. We did not have that many chances but we are still in the middle of our pre-season preparations.”

In evening matches, after last week’s loss to sister Venus in the Montreal hard courts than she much harder on the Cincinnati.

Williams needed nearly two days to pound Stosur where she came to Cincinnati hard courts than she much harder on the Cincinnati.

She was up in both of Serena Williams’ 2011 US Open final.

Williams has won all four meetings against the Australian since but the 17-times grand slam winner was made to work much harder on the Cincinnati hard courts than she did in Montreal last week where she pounded Stosur 6-0, 6-2.

In a tight contest that did not feature a single break by either player, Williams needed nearly two hours to advance to the last 16.

“Serena is very good at both of the (tie)breakers, I think it was just a great match, to be honest,” said Williams, who has won 61 career titles but has never lifted the championship.

“I have to say number one I’m disappointed how I played today, for sure,” said Kvitova.

“From the beginning I didn’t feel very comfortable out there and I was trying to really fight. I just wasn’t able to do that today. I’m not pretty sure why.”

Roger Federer survives Pospisil scare in Cincinnati

CINCINNATI, 14 Aug — Roger Federer survived an opening-match fright by outlasting Canada’s Vasek Pospisil 7-6(4), 5-7, 6-2 on Wednesday to claim his 300th Masters Series win and reach the third round of the Western and Southern Open in Cincinnati.

Back in action after losing to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the final of the Rogers Cup in Toronto on Sunday, third-ranked Federer appeared sluggish at times as he struggled to tame the 46th-ranked Canadian.

With the victory, the second seeded Swiss, a five-time champion on the Cincinnati hard courts, becomes the first player to reach 300 wins in the ATP Tour’s elite Masters 1000 events.

Neither player was able to capitalise on early break chances before Federer eventually won the first set tiebreak on a forehand error by the Canadian.

Pospisil, Wimbledon doubles champion with American Jack Sock, battled back to take the second set but a focussed Federer wasted no time taking charge in the third with an early break putting him on the way to clinching the milestone win.

The day featured a pair of early upsets with Taiwan’s Lu Yen-Hsun shocking fourth seeded Czech Tomas Berdych 6-3, 6-3, 6-4 while Poland’s Jerzy Janowicz knocked off Bulgarian seventh seed Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 3-6, 6-3.

In evening matches, American Gael Monfils found space to stem the flow of the Dortmund attacks.

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