

THE NEWS QUIZ

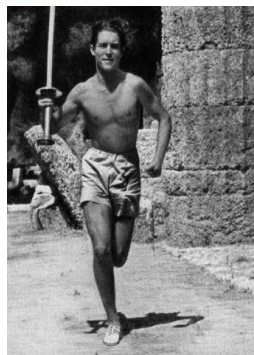
HEADLINES

Tenfold boost in overseas Japanese language centers planned

Daiwa fund will cater to 'green' investors

Japan family wins U.K. tea award

PICTURE



Which two pictures link to make the story, and what is the story?

What are the stories behind the other two pictures?

MISSING WORDS

Kanagawa eyes wide-reaching ban

% of nation lives in Tokyo

attacks five in Osaka, runs amok in kindergarten

Service puts into handsets

DoCoMo to change as market share drops

Service puts aroma into handsets

Cell phone users will test a new service that allows them to download fragrances, NTT Communications Corp. said. Twenty participants using Mobile Fragrance Communications can download files of specific scents accompanied by music or video clips, the company said. Scent playlists can be downloaded from the i-mode mobile Web site run by the company's affiliate, NTT DoCoMo. The service uses a handset's infrared port to transfer the "fragrance data" to a dedicated device similar to a plug-in air freshener that is loaded with a cartridge of base fragrances. The device mixes them to create the chosen smell, which then wafts out. The service is a cell phone version of an existing fragrance download service for homes and offices. Trials will run for 10 days beginning Thursday. The company is also testing a device that can be connected to the Internet so that a user can remotely program a scent from a mobile phone. The company launched a similar service for homes in 2005, allowing users to download different programs to emit smells from a ¥73,500 machine.

Boar attacks five in Osaka, runs amok in kindergarten

OSAKA (Kyodo) A wild boar attacked five people Tuesday in Kashiwara, Osaka Prefecture, briefly barging into a kindergarten before being later found dead in a river, police said. No children were hurt. The five attacked in the rampage are kindergarten employees and pedestrians, aged between 42 and 66, the police said. The roughly 130-cm-long boar apparently came from a nearby mountain. It first hit a 53-year-old woman on a bicycle on a street and then ran into the kindergarten. The next target was a 66-year-old kindergarten employee. The boar smashed into the glass door of a staff room, injuring two others with broken glass. "It was large and scared the hell out of me," Principal Koichi Kawahito said. After exiting the school, the boar charged a 55-year-old woman on a sidewalk, police said. Three hours later, police found the animal dead in a nearby river. It was not clear why it died, they said, noting such a rampage is rare because it occurred in a relatively crowded area with many homes and other structures.

Tokyo as of last Oct. 1 had 12.76 million residents, increasing 0.78 percent from a year earlier and — for the first time since 1979 — accounting for 10 percent of Japan's total population. The increased concentration in Tokyo stemmed in part from an influx of around 91,000 people who moved in for employment and other reasons in 2007, according to a prefecture-specific census estimate by the Internal Affairs and Communications Ministry released Tuesday. Such a rate of increase was last seen during the bubble economy of the late 1980s. "Businesses converged in Tokyo after land prices became lower than the bubble period and the economy rebounded," a ministry official said. The population of Tokyo — the largest among the nation's 47 prefectures — peaked at 11.1 percent of the total population in the late 1960s and dropped below 10 percent starting in 1980. The ministry's latest data also underscores population shifts to urban centers. Tokyo and nine other prefectures with large urban areas marked population increases, while the remaining 37 prefectures registered declines, with Akita marking the sharpest fall of 1.16 percent. The data underlines the graying of the population and declining births. Tokyo was the only prefecture that saw an increase in people aged 14 or younger, while all 47 prefectures posted rises in the population aged 65 or older. In six prefectures, people aged 75 or older outnumbered those aged 14 or younger. The national population was estimated at 127.77 million, almost unchanged from a year ago. But the population data marked for the first time a natural decrease since they began to be compiled in 1950. Deaths outstripped births by 2,000.

Torch Relay is a non-competitive replication of the ancient Flame relay and a symbolic celebration of the Olympic Games. In a prophetic speech at the end of the Stockholm Games, on June 27, 1912, Baron Pierre de Coubertin said: "And now... great people have received the Torch... and have thereby undertaken to preserve and... quicken its precious Flame. Lest our youth temporarily... let the Olympic Torch fall from their hands... other young people on the other side of the world are prepared to pick it up again." The Torch Relay, as the opening of the Olympic celebration, was revived in the Berlin Olympiad in 1936 and since then the Torch Relay has preceded every Olympic Summer Games. Starting from Olympia and carried by the first runner, the young athlete Konstantinos Kondylis, the Flame traveled for the first time hand to hand until it reached the Berlin Olympic Stadium. Since, the Flame's magic has marked and has been identified with the beginning of the Games. Konstantinos Kondylis during the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin when the whole Olympic Torch Relay was first instituted.

Launching ceremony held for new icebreaker

KYOTO (Kyodo) A launching ceremony took place Wednesday in Maizuru, Kyoto Prefecture, for the Shirase, Japan's newest icebreaker for Antarctic expeditions. Taking the name of its predecessor, the Shirase is Japan's fourth icebreaker and is scheduled to go on its first voyage in November 2009 after interior work on it is completed next May. The new Shirase was built at a cost of ¥37.6 billion. The 12,500-ton ship, which is 138 meters long and 28 meters wide, is slightly larger than its predecessor and has top-level ice-breaking capabilities. It can move at 3 knots, breaking up ice 1.5 meters thick. The new ship uses seawater to clear the snow on the ice, allowing it to move smoothly for better fuel-efficiency, and has a double-walled fuel tank to prevent leaks. The participants in the launching ceremony included Maizuru citizens, members of the Maritime Self-Defense Force, which owns the ship, and those related to Antarctic expeditions. The previous Shirase, which became Japan's third icebreaker after the Soya and Fuji, returned to Tokyo on April 12 from its last mission, completing 25 years of service. Until the new Shirase begins service, an Australian ship will be chartered for Japanese expeditions in the Antarctic.

The government will expand the number of official Japanese-language education facilities overseas to about 100 from 10 in the next three years to cope with rising demand for courses and to counter the spread of Chinese language and culture abroad. According to a survey by the Japan Foundation, 2.98 million people studied Japanese overseas in 2006, compared with 730,000 in 1988, 2.1 million in 1998 and 2.36 million in 2003. The number of young people interested in Japanese is rising globally because of the growing popularity of "manga" (comics) and pop culture, and the number of people seeking jobs at Japanese companies abroad is rising, foundation officials said.

The foundation is an independent administrative corporation overseen by the Foreign Ministry. South Korea has the largest number of Japanese-language learners, with 910,000, followed by China with 680,000 and Australia with 370,000. Next on the list come Indonesia, Taiwan and other countries and territories in the Asia-Pacific region. But some fear that interest in learning Japanese will slow in the future. "Junior high and high schools in the United States are increasingly switching foreign-language classes from Japanese to Chinese," a senior Foreign Ministry official said. France is the most enthusiastic promoter of its language overseas. There were as many as 950 educational facilities affiliated with the French government in 2007. By comparison, the Confucius Institute, which China inaugurated in 2004, has established more than 200 locations worldwide. Also famous are the British Council, which has facilities in 126 locations around the world, and Germany's Goethe Institute, which has facilities in 101 locations. On the other hand, there are only 10 locations where the Japan Foundation maintains facilities. "Compared with other countries, Japan has not been positive about language education, which is fundamental for international understanding," the Foreign Ministry official said. Instead of establishing new schools, the Foreign Ministry is trying to use a franchise formula in which teaching materials are provided and Japanese-language teachers sent to overseas universities and private language schools offering Japanese-language classes.

Daiwa Securities Co. is set to begin selling environment-linked investment trusts from Thursday that are partly administered by an investment management firm established by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, company officials said. The Russell Global Environmental Technology Fund will invest in companies renowned for environmentally friendly technology, with the initial fund aimed at totaling ¥105 billion. Investors can buy into the investment trusts at a minimum price of ¥100,000, the Japanese brokerage said. The fund is managed by four firms, including London-based Generation Investment Management LLP, which was established in 2004 by Gore, a strong advocate of fighting global warming. The fund as a whole will be managed mainly by Russell Investment Management Ltd., an Australian investment services firm. Gore's Generation Investment Management will carry out long-term investments in 30 to 50 firms selected by an advisory committee composed of experts in environmental business. The other three investment management firms are Impax Asset Management Ltd., Arrowstreet Capital L.P. and Global Currents Investment Management LLC.

LONDON — A teahouse run by a Japanese family in the Cotswolds area in west-central England has won the Top Tea Place 2008 Award by The Tea Guild. Juri's Olde Bakery Tea Shoppe in Winchcombe, Gloucestershire, is owned by the family of Iwao Miyawaki, 63, from Sapporo. It is the first time a Japanese has won the top prize in the 23-year history of the prestigious award. According to The Tea Guild, inspectors who examined tea served at tearooms and hotels across Britain gave high marks to the choice and quality of the teas served, the ambience of the house as well as efficiency and knowledge of service at Juri's. The family of Miyawaki, a former real estate company employee, used to travel the world but settled in Winchcombe and opened the teahouse in 2003 to realize their dream of living in the Cotswolds. The service at the teahouse is "strongly influenced by the Miyawaki family's Japanese heritage and love of tea," says the U.K. Tea Council — the creator of the Tea Guild — on its Web site. "The perfectly brewed teas are complemented by the exquisite homemade cakes and scones" made by Miyawaki's daughter, Juri, 32, after whom the teahouse is named, it said.

Toho sues Subway over unauthorized Godzilla ads

LOS ANGELES (Bloomberg) The Subway sandwich chain is being sued by Toho Co., the maker of Godzilla movies, for allegedly using the prehistoric monster without permission in TV commercials. Subway "not only intentionally created a character that closely resembles Godzilla in its physical appearance, but placed the character in a setting, a Japanese city under attack, that is widely associated with Toho's Godzilla films," the movie maker said in a complaint filed Wednesday in Los Angeles. Subway never asked for Toho's permission to use Godzilla in the commercials for its Five Dollar Footlong sandwich promotion, according to the complaint. The commercials were shown during the NCAA basketball tournament and on programs such as "American Idol," the most popular entertainment show on television, Toho said. The company seeks up to \$150,000 in statutory damages for willful infringement or disgorgement of Subway's profits from the commercials, as well as other unspecified damages. A Subway spokesman didn't return a call to his office.

NTT DoCoMo Inc., Japan's largest but slowest-growing mobile-phone operator by customer, said Friday it plans to spend about ¥10 billion to promote a new corporate logo as it seeks to stem a decline in its market share. "We need to polish the brand and strengthen our connection with users," DoCoMo President Masao Nakamura said at briefing in Tokyo. "We need to listen and respond to customer needs." Call discounts have failed to help DoCoMo, which has about 50 percent of the nation's mobile-phone market, win more users than KDDI Corp. and Softbank Corp. DoCoMo added roughly 237,000 customers in the first quarter, fewer than half the gains at either of the two smaller carriers. DoCoMo, which plans to begin using the new logo in July, said it will give extra battery packs to customers of its faster network who have signed up for at least one year. Disabled customers and subscribers seeking to buy a second phone will get bigger discounts, DoCoMo said.

Separately, DoCoMo is continuing its negotiations with Apple Inc. to offer the iPhone in Japan, Nakamura said.