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# The Japan News

by The Yomiuri Shimbun



## Smelly feet? Ask the dog

Hana-chan, a cute robot dog developed by start-up Next Technology and costing between ¥100,000 and ¥200,000, tells people how badly their feet stink — if she doesn't faint, that is.

#tech, Page 9

## Merkel awaits election results

Angela Merkel is poised to continue as chancellor of Germany, but questions remain over which party the coalition will be formed with.

Page 2



Reuters

the-japan-news.com

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

## Singaporean becomes 1st foreign oiran festival star

By Etsuo Kono  
Japan News Staff Writer

The Shinagawa Shukuba Matsuri festival kicked off on Saturday around the Kyu-Tokaido street in Shinagawa Ward. The festival is held annually to re-create the din and bustle of the Shinagawa-juku rest stop during the Edo period.

The "Oiran Dochu" is one of the festival's main attractions and features kimono-clad women parading down the street. Rachel Leng, a 27-year-old Singaporean selected to be the first ever foreign oiran, caught the attention of many visitors during the festival.

Leng, wearing an extravagant kimono and "takageta" elevated wooden clogs, occasionally walked in the distinctive "soto hachimonji" style, in which the walker's feet trace a sideways arc on the ground. This year, 45 women, including Leng, applied for the role of oiran. The festival executive committee selected Leng as one of five oiran in a bid to attract interest from foreigners ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Continued on Page 3

The Yomiuri Shimbun  
Singaporean Rachel Leng, selected to be the first ever foreign oiran at an annual festival, parades down the street in Shinagawa Ward, Tokyo, on Saturday.



## May sets out Brexit transition

### Barnier hails speech, but asks for details

FLORENCE (Reuters) — British Prime Minister Theresa May set out a plan on Friday to retain full access to the European Union's single market for two years after Brexit to try to reassure business and reset the tone of stalled negotiations with Brussels.

But her proposals for such a transition, for meeting Britain's financial obligations and for protecting EU citizens' rights, fell short of what the EU wanted.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier praised the speech for its "constructive spirit" but asked for more detail. Another official said it had left him "even more concerned."

In a speech at a 14th-century church in Florence, Italy, May appealed directly to EU leaders to unlock the talks, which have stalled over a series of issues, including the size of the bill Britain should pay as part of its divorce settlement.

"Clearly people, businesses and public services should only have to plan for one set of changes in the relation-



ship between the U.K. and May told an audience of Italian leaders and diplomats.

"So during the implementation period, access to one another should continue on current terms. Britain also should continue to protect EU citizens' rights as part in existing security measures."

Beyond her vision for a transition involving around two years of the same terms, but no payment to the EU single market, May said she would continue to protect EU citizens' rights after Brexit, saying that decisions would be made by the European Court of Justice without input from British courts.

On the financial settlement, May said Britain would "honor our commitments we have made during our membership."

May has long said Britain has no financial obligations, but

## Abe, Kishida discuss LDP election pledges

TOKYO (Jiji Press) — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met with Fumio Kishida, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's Policy Research Council, on Saturday to discuss the LDP's campaign pledges for an expected general election next month, sources said.

The meeting was held at Abe's private house in Tokyo's Shibuya Ward.

The ruling party aims to make public on Oct. 3 its policy pledges for the election for the House of Representatives.

Related stories on Page 3

## China: Quake detected near N. Korea

BEIJING/SEOUL (Reuters) — China's earthquake administration said on Saturday it had detected a magnitude 3.4 earthquake in North Korea that was a "suspected explosion," raising fears the isolated state had conducted another nuclear bomb test weeks after its last one.

An official at South Korea's meteorological agency said they were analyzing the tremor, which they put at magnitude 3.0, but the initial view

was that it was a natural quake.

"We use several methods to tell whether earthquakes are natural or manmade," said the official, who asked for anonymity. The earthquake was detected in Kilju county in North Hamgyong Province, where North Korea's known Punggyeri nuclear site is located, the official said.

The Chinese administration said in a statement on its website that the

quake, which occurred around 10:00 GMT, was recorded at a depth of 10 kilometers.

All of North Korea's previous nuclear tests registered as earthquakes of magnitude 4.3 or above. The Sept. 3 registered as a 6.3 magnitude quake.

Focus 50 km from previous

ZURICH (Reuters) — The

## Koike's intent seen in name of soon-to-form party, 'Kibo'