



Ferry survivors return to school amid tears, grief

ANSAN, South Korea (AP) — More than 70 teenagers who survived a ferry sinking that killed hundreds of their schoolmates walked in a somber procession last month to their first classes since the April disaster. Some of the 74 students, wearing white and black uniforms and carrying book bags, bowed their heads as they cried and walked slowly from a bus to the school entrance. Some stopped to hug the parents of their friends. Adults carried banners of encouragement. One read: "We pray the dead will rest in peace." Another simply said: "I love you." The anger, grief, and deep remorse at Danwon High School in Ansan, outside of Seoul, was a reflection of what many South Koreans have felt since the April 16 sinking that left more than 300 people dead or missing.

Pyeongchang gets first sponsor for 2018 Olympics

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — It may have taken some time, but the 2018 Winter Olympics finally have their first domestic sponsor. The Pyeongchang Organizing Committee said South Korean telecom giant KT Corp. has agreed to become the first Korean partner for the games. The announcement follows months of concerns that Pyeongchang had yet to secure a domestic sponsor, nearly three years after being awarded the 2018 Olympics. KT will provide telecommunications services for the games, including wireless communications and broadcasting facilities. The company is South Korea's largest fixed-line telecom service provider and the second-largest mobile service operator.

Indonesian Nazi-themed music video causes outrage

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A Nazi-themed music video supporting a candidate in this month's Indonesian presidential election is causing outrage at home and abroad. The video, "Indonesia Bangkit," or "Awakening Indonesia," is based on Queen's "We Will Rock You." It shows musician Ahmad Dhani wearing a fascist-style uniform and holding an Indonesian Garuda bird emblem that resembles the Nazis' imperial eagle. According to the German news magazine *Der Spiegel*, the military costume is similar to the uniform worn by SS commander Heinrich Himmler. The video was uploaded on YouTube on June 19 as a campaign song for Prabowo Subianto, a former general who has been accused of abducting pro-democracy activists in 1998. Brian May, Queen's lead guitarist, has waded into the controversy, saying "of course this is completely unauthorized by us."

Filipinos to receive disaster alerts on cellphones

MANILA, The Philippines (AP) — The Philippines has passed a law that requires cellphone companies to send warnings to millions of people in the path of deadly typhoons, volcanic eruptions, and earthquakes in an effort to reduce the high number of fatalities that occur almost every year. The measure was in response to one of the deadliest typhoons ever to make landfall — Typhoon Haiyan (also known as Typhoon Yolanda), which killed more than 6,300 people and displaced 4 million in the central Philippines last year. The Free Mobile Disaster Act, which was signed last month by President Benigno Aquino III, directs cellphone operators to send out alerts about storms, tsunamis, or other calamities whenever required by national disaster agencies. Similar early warning systems are in place in a number of other countries, including Japan. The Philippines, which sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where volcanic activity and earthquakes are common, is hit by about 20 typhoons a year. The new law says the alerts should include up-to-date information sent directly to subscribers in or near the area to be hit by a potential calamity. The messages should also include contact information for local governments and other agencies and possibly details such as evacuation or relief sites and pickup points for those fleeing their homes.

Rival nations mark 64th anniversary of Korean War

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP) — North and South Korea last month marked the 64th anniversary of the war between them that ended in a truce and left the nations bitterly divided. Thousands of North Koreans took part in a huge rally in Kim Il Sung Square in Pyongyang. Signs praising North Korea's leaders past and present, and highlighting North Korea's confrontation with America, decorated the square. The chairman of the Pyongyang City People's Committee spoke from a balcony, his speech punctuated by chants and raised fists from the crowd in the square. Speeches from representatives of workers, farmers, and young people followed his remarks. In South Korea, U.S. veterans of the war were among people attending a ceremony in Seoul. North Korea says America started the Korean War. Historians around the world agree the war began when North Korea invaded the South. The 1950-1953 conflict ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the peninsula still technically in a state of war.

Myanmar monks go to court in property dispute

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — A court appearance by five Buddhist monks who refused to abandon their monastery in a property dispute has attracted hundreds of supporters. The monks, including one who holds British citizenship, were forced to change out of their robes for their appearance in Yangon's Tamwe township court, where they faced charges of disobeying the State Sangha board, which supervises organized Buddhist monks and their activities. The committee had issued an eviction notice to the abbot in charge of the temple, saying it had been given ownership of the temple by Myanmar's previous military government. A June 10 raid on the temple by police and Sangha officials outraged the public, because it appeared high-handed and was reminiscent of raids by the previous ruling junta on pro-democracy monks.



FUKUSHIMA FARMERS. Japanese farmer Masami Yoshizawa (holding rope) shows a black bull with speckles to the media as police officers block him from leading the bull off a truck he drove from Fukushima, northeastern Japan, to the Agriculture Ministry in Tokyo. Yoshizawa and fellow farmer Naoto Matsumura, whose livelihoods were wrecked by the March 2011 nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, staged a protest briefly at the ministry to appeal for help with the livestock, some of which have developed unexplained white spots on their hides. (AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

Fukushima farmers appeal to Tokyo with live bull

By Elaine Kurtenbach

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Two Japanese farmers whose livelihoods were wrecked by the 2011 nuclear disaster staged a protest at Tokyo's agriculture ministry, scuffling briefly with police as they unsuccessfully tried to unload a bull from a truck.

Masami Yoshizawa and fellow farmer Naoto Matsumura have remained at their farms to care for their own and others' abandoned livestock in areas where access has been restricted due to radiation fears since the March 2011 meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

The two drove down from Fukushima, bringing the black bull in the back of a truck, to appeal for help with the livestock, some of which have developed unexplained white spots on their hides.

"Stop, stop, stop, stop," shouted a policeman in a blue uniform who climbed into the back of the truck and blocked the farmers from leading the bull onto the pavement in front of the ministry. "It's dangerous. Absolutely not!"

Yoshizawa and Matsumura are among thousands of farmers who lost their livelihoods when their farms, produce, and livestock were declared off limits and unsafe after the nuclear plant, crippled by a massive earthquake and tsunami, spewed radiation into the countryside.

They want the farm ministry or other government agencies to help them figure out what is causing the spots on the animals' hides

and to stop culling abandoned livestock and burning radiation-contaminated vegetation they need to feed the animals.

"The ministry told us they don't know what is causing the spots. Well, they need to do more research and figure it out. They can't just run away, saying they don't know," Yoshizawa said.

Shouting through a megaphone, he urged the farm minister, Yoshimasa Hayashi, to come down and take a look for himself. Hayashi was not at the building, but at parliament, and no other officials responded to Yoshizawa's appeal, though the two were allowed to present a written appeal at the ministry's reception desk.

More than 100,000 "nuclear evacuees" have left areas near the nuclear plant, many resettling elsewhere, resigned to giving up their homes in areas that may remain hazardous for decades.

Though some areas are gradually being cleaned up and cleared for re-occupation, in many areas, feral cattle, pigs, dogs, and other animals wander the overgrown fields and streets of the nuclear ghost towns.

Rice farmer Matsumura defied evacuation orders to stay in Tomioka, once a town of 16,000, though other members of his family left. He is tending 40 cattle, while Yoshizawa says he has 360 on his "Hope Farm." Altogether, the two say they are trying to look after several hundred head of cattle.

"Discarded towns, discarded evacuees. The cattle and people are still living. We cannot remain silent," Yoshizawa said.

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Units per U.S. dollar as of 7/03

Bangladesh Taka	77.4
Cambodian Riel	4047.0
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Fijian Dollar	1.833
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7511
Indian Rupee	59.742
Indonesian Rupiah	11918
Iranian Rial	25480
Japanese Yen	102.15
Laos New Kip	8062.6
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1953
Nepal Rupee	95.828
Pakistani Rupee	98.581
Papua N.G. Kina	2.4444
Philippine Peso	43.6
Russian Ruble	34.269
Saudi Riyal	3.7504
Singapore Dollar	1.2478
South Korean Won	1008.5
Sri Lankan Rupee	130.26
Taiwan Dollar	29.907
Thai Baht	32.43
Vietnam Dong	21300