Japan Times Classifieds: atches made in career heaven The Japan Times http://jtimes.jp/classified

# The Japa



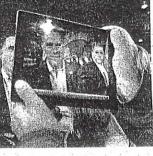
IASIA-PACIFIC

#### I for moving out

New British immigration ws unleash a stampede to ed and a frenzy of English ssons for Pakistanis desper-e to migrate as new restricons come into effect.

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#### WORLD



#### Online challenge

GOP challenger Mitt Romey steps up his digital camoaign, hoping to catch up with President Barack Obama in an rena he dominated in 2008.

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#### ferrorist heaven

Vast areas of Egypt's Sinai eninsula have descended into awlessness, providing fertile round for extremist militants.

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#### A step behind

Scientists are in a high-stakes ace to develop a test that will inmask anyone altering their enes in a desperate quest for Olympic gold.

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#### BUSINESS INSIGHTS

#### **furning Japanese?**

New York is asking develpers to build tiny apartment nits so cash-strapped houseolds can afford to live in the ig Apple.

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#### Brain drain

Japan faces a brain drain f highly experienced nuclear plant engineers as other counries offer bigger paychecks.

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# Dementia dire among elderly in quake zone

#### Collapse of communities accelerating mental malaise

Sendai

Dementia has become a serious problem among the elderly in the three prefectures ravaged by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami as the radical change in their living environments continues to take a toll.

In Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures, the severity of the disorder is rising in a number of elderly, and several others are showing symptoms.

Experts attribute the problem mainly to a less friendly residential environment and the collapse of local communities following the disasters. Adequate support is not readily available and some now live alone, away from families and friends.

According to a survey in May by a council of doctors in the heavily damaged coastal city of Ishinomaki in Miyagi, 45 people aged 65 or older said they leave their belongings in unknown places or have trouble finding objects at least three to four times a week, or sometimes every day, a sign of early-stage dementia.

The dementia of an 85-year old woman living in Ishinomaki worsened markedly after the tsunami devastated the city. The dressmaking school she used to run was closed by damage. Since her flooded house was renovated, she has been living alone since her husband died in February.

Her eldest son, 65, is struggling to deal with his mother's illness.

"She even cannot recognize that her husband died," he said.
Following the advice of the doctors' council, he applied to have his mother certified as a per-

son in need of nursing care. In devastated Minamisanriku, a local government official in charge of resident support said the situation started deteriorating after a year.

The number of dementia cases started increasing after a year had passed since the catas-

trophe," he said.

This is mainly because residents in each community were forced to live apart and in different temporary housing areas, making it difficult to support each. other, the official said.

A survey by Tohoku University said the disasters accelerated the deterioration of people's dementia by three or four years within a matter of just three months. One patient couldn't even tell what season it was.

This is an unusual phenomenon," said associate professor Katsutoshi Furukawa, 51.

The problem is just as serious in Iwate Prefecture. Yasuo Terayama, 58, a professor at Iwate Medical University, said the symptoms are expanding.

"A growing number of patients are suffering from insomnia and becoming violent at temporary housing," he said.

The number of consultations at the prefecture's medical center for dementia has soared about 2.5-fold since the disasters.

The patients are likely being affected by the stress felt by their family members, experts said.

Naoto Kobayashi, 38, a doctor specializing in dementia in the city of Fukushima, said support was crumbling.

"As younger people have left Fukushima due to the nuclear accident, the support system for the elderly has become fragile," he said.

Hiroshi Matsuda, 63, head of a hospital in Kashiwazaki, Niigata Prefecture, said paying attention to those with dementia is critical.

"Dementia patients are vulnerable to stress and it is important to be close to them and listen to what they have to say," he warned.

#### SHOULDERING A HEA



Men carrying a float run throu Festival in the city of Fukuoka seven groups of men from the high 1-ton floats. The fastest to

Japanese, Russian and .

## Hoshide

Baikonur Kazakhstan KYODO, JIJI

A Russian Soyuz spacecraft carrying Japanese astronaut Akihiko Hoshide and two associates lifted off Sunday from Kazakhstan on a flight to the International Space Station.

Hoshide, 43, Yuri Malenchenko of Russia, and Sunita Williams of the United States will stay on the ISS for about four

For Hoshide, this is his second space flight since riding space shuttle Discovery to the ISS in June 2008.

He stayed for around two weeks to install the Kibo research laboratory.

Following Koichi Wakata, Soichi Noguchi and Satoshi Furukawa, Hoshide will be the fourth Japanese to experience an extended stay on the ISS.

### Italy's Berlusconi maneuvers for a c

Rome

and spreading reports that business leaders are pushing him to has given Italy an air of respectability in European and interna-