

the deepening of the security relationship with the United States.

According to the Iranian

devoted every effort to earn the trust of the international community for more than 50 years" to prove its resolve not to possess

again at the next round of talks with the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council plus Germany.

restaurants were awarded one star.

The new guide covers Hokkaido specialties, including "butadon" pork on rice and a mutton barbecue dish known as "jingsukan."

## Emperor may visit Britain in May

KYODO

The government is considering a plan for Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko to visit Britain next month, Chief Cabinet Secretary Osamu Fujimura said Tuesday.

The revelation came after the Cabinet approved the Emperor's resumption of official duties after health checks showed that he is steadily recuperating after his heart bypass surgery in February.

The Imperial Household Agency is looking into the possibility of the Emperor and Empress traveling to Britain to attend a ceremony May 18 in celebration of the 60th anniversary of Queen Elizabeth's accession to the throne, Fujimura said.

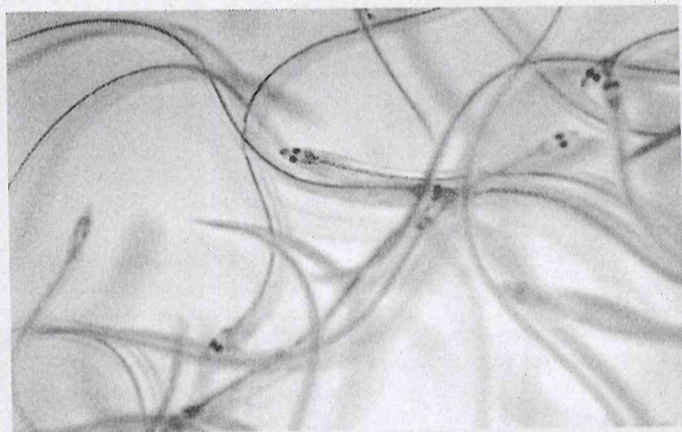
The Emperor delegated performance of his state duties to Crown Prince Naruhito on Feb. 17, the day before his surgery.

Since being discharged from the hospital on March 4, the Emperor has mostly spent time in rehabilitation. He has attended a few activities, including a memorial ceremony on March 11 to mark the anniversary of last year's disasters.

mochi pointed out that such families could fall apart, with children having the last names of their fathers while their parents have none. Furthermore, only the children would have a family registry, as all Japanese citizens do, but members of the Imperial

family would not be included.

"To separate the parents and children is impossible. And to begin with, it is unfortunate for both the parents and the children to separate their social status and treat them differently," Sakurai said.



**Homegrown:** Immature Japanese eels are seen in a file photo released by Aichi Prefectural Fisheries Experiment Station. They are difficult to distinguish from young eels from overseas. KYODO

European eels have previously been let go in streams to maintain the fish's

population in Japan and have since been found establishing a habitat near the country.

## Corea, Iran, global issues at G-8 meet

the birth of state founder Kim Il Sung appears increasingly inevitable, their discussions may focus on how to deal with Pyongyang in the coming weeks.

In addition to North Korea, other major global and regional issues the G-8 ministers are expected to discuss include Iran's nuclear program and the escalating violence in Syria, the officials said.

After the G-8 meeting, Genba is planning to meet with U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta to discuss how to move some of the U.S. Marines in Okinawa to Guam amid the changing security environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

Genba is scheduled to return to Tokyo on Saturday morning.

### General's visit is delayed

Beijing KYODO

Beijing and Tokyo have postponed until the summer an official visit to Japan by Gen.

Guo Boxiong, China's most senior uniformed military officer, which had been planned for this month, sources familiar with the bilateral relationship said Tuesday.

The rescheduling was linked to North Korea's controversial plan to launch a rocket-mounted satellite into space between Thursday and Monday, which Japan and many other nations believe is actually a long-range ballistic missile test in violation of U.N. Security Council resolutions.

The sources said it was deemed inappropriate for Guo's visit to take place as scheduled during a time of heightened tensions in the region, with Japan now taking various military measures in case the North Korean rocket veers from its projected trajectory.

Guo, 69, was due to visit as part of high-level military exchanges between the two countries.

## DPJ official decries lack of change in regulations on reactor safety

JJI

It's too early to give the OK to resume operations of idled nuclear reactors, according to a top official in the Democratic Party of Japan who cited few changes in safety standards since last year's disaster at the Fukushima No. 1 power plant.

In a recent interview, Satoshi Arai, head of a DPJ project team studying the Fukushima crisis, said the safety of reactors has not been confirmed because a government and Diet investigation into the accident has yet to be completed.

The planned creation of a new nuclear safety agency through the integration of the Nuclear Safety Commission and the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency has also been delayed, noted Arai, a former national policy minister.

The legal framework for nuclear power, which includes guidelines on quake resistance standards, disaster prevention and evacuation, has changed very little since Fukushima, he said.

Arai's DPJ group studying the accident said in a March report that it is premature for the government to approve the restart of halted reactors.

He said the decision by then Prime Minister Naoto Kan to order Tokyo Electric Power Co. not to withdraw its workers shortly after the accident was against the rules of maximum radiation exposure in emergencies.

"But Tokyo would have been in danger if the workers had left the plant," he said.

Legislation, rules and inspection procedures have been established based on "the myth of nuclear safety" that suggested an accident could never happen, Arai said. The nation is still not prepared to deal with a serious accident, he added.

"An accident could occur due to unexpected causes. It is a myth to believe that measures against tsunami are enough simply because the Fukushima accident was caused by a tsunami," Arai said. "Accidents will occur as long as such thinking persists."

He said that in light of the government leaning toward re-



Satoshi Arai

starting the No. 3 and No. 4 reactors at Kansai Electric Power Co.'s Oi nuclear plant in Fukui

## Fukushima iodine-131 found in California kelp

Los Angeles

AFP-JJI

Radioactive iodine was found in kelp off the U.S. West Coast following last year's meltdowns at the Fukushima No. 1 power plant, according to a new study.

It was already known that radioactive iodine-131, carried in the atmosphere, made it across the Pacific within days of the March 11, 2011, tsunami disaster, albeit in minuscule amounts.

But marine biologists at California State University, Long Beach discovered the radioactive isotope in ocean kelp, which is "one of the strongest plant accumulators of iodine," within a month of the accident.

"We measured significant, although most likely nonharmful, levels of radioactive iodine in tissue of the giant kelp *Macrocystis pyrifera*," said Steven L. Manley, author of the study with Christopher G. Lowe.

"Although it is probably not

Prefecture, his team has concluded that it is too early for the resumption of any nuclear plants.

The DPJ, he added, should speak with one voice since another project team studying energy issues is in favor of restarting idled reactors.

It is doubtful whether the public can be won over even if the existing nuclear administrative organization ensures the safety of the country's nuclear plants, Arai said.

The DPJ leadership intends to support the government's decision on whether to restart the reactors, but public confidence in nuclear power has drastically changed, he said.

"This is a matter of human life. If the resumption is determined, DPJ lawmakers will be held accountable for explaining to their constituencies," he said, adding that he will continue to demand that talks on the issue continue within the ruling party.

harmful to humans because it was relatively low levels, it may have affected certain fish that graze on the tissue because fish have a thyroid system that utilizes iodine."

The study, "Canopy-Forming Kelps as California's Coastal Dosimeter: 131I from Damaged Japanese Reactor Measured in *Macrocystis pyrifera*," appears in the online edition of the journal *Environmental Science & Technology*.

Radiation was scattered over a large area and made its way into the sea, air and food chain in the weeks and months after the Fukushima No. 1 plant was crippled by meltdowns.

Tens of thousands of people were evacuated from their homes around the plant and swaths of this zone remain badly polluted. The cleanup is proceeding slowly, amid warnings that some towns could be uninhabitable for three decades.

## Four-year term sought for Chinese prison escapee

Hiroshima

KYODO

Prosecutors sought a four-year prison term Tuesday for Chinese convict Li Guolin, who is charged with escaping from Hiroshima Prison in January and theft.

A prosecutor said in during closing arguments at the Hiroshima District Court that the actions of Li, 40, "caused great worries and shock to the public."

The court will hand down a verdict May 22.

During the session, Li apologized for his escape and his failure to quickly turn himself in.

"I wanted to breathe the outside air as long as possible and see the sky," he said.

Li is charged with escaping from the prison on Jan. 11 and breaking into two locations, where he stole 93 items, including clothes and food, in the following two days.

He was sentenced to 23 years in prison in 2006 for crimes including attempted murder.

### Correction

A Page 2 story in the April 8 edition about printer and rubber makers in the Fukushima no-go zone should have said that kitchen-systems maker Tanico plans to restart a production base in the Odaka district, not two facilities as stated.