



7月18日、昨年より9日遅く、例年より6日早く石川県も梅雨明けしました。九州等の豪雨を余所に、県内は雨が少なかった梅雨でしたが、梅雨明け後、一気に35℃前後まで上がった気温もさることながら、今年の夏は、ロンドンで夏季オリンピックもありますね。省エネモードの中、「熱い」夏になりそうです。

さて、7月1日と言えば氷室饅頭。江戸時代に加賀藩は毎年幕府へ雪氷を献上していたのですが、5代目藩主前田綱紀の頃、金沢の菓子屋の道順屋彦兵衛の考案で饅頭が作られ、道中の無事を祈り神社に供えられたのが起源と伝えられ、今でも金沢を中心にこの饅頭が食されています。金沢ゆかりの方には、この饅頭を食べると夏の始まりを感じる方も多いのではないのでしょうか。こういった伝統は素敵ですね。

伝統と言えば金沢城「三御門」復活に向け、橋爪門が起工しました。完成は、北陸新幹線の開業と同時期を予定しています。真新しい新幹線に乗って、新たな石川県の観光名所を訪れる観光客が増えるように、本県も引き続き観光PRに力を入れていく所存です。

冒頭でも触れましたロンドンオリンピックに、柔道の松本選手を始め、多くの石川県出身の方が出場します。「オリンピックは出場することに意義がある」という名言もありますが、ここはひとつ、世界各地にいらっしゃる本県ゆかりの皆様にも、本県関係の出場選手へのご声援、よろしくお願ひします。

### 今回の新聞情報

(1)北陸地方梅雨明け

<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/TR20120719701.htm>

(2)夏の雪、ひんやり 金沢・湯涌温泉で氷室開き

<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/TR20120625701.htm>

(3)金沢城「三御門」復活へ 橋爪門が起工

[http://www.47news.jp/localnews/ishikawa/2012/07/post\\_20120701191701.html](http://www.47news.jp/localnews/ishikawa/2012/07/post_20120701191701.html)

(4)五輪4選手「金メダルを」 石川県体協が激励会

<http://www.hokkoku.co.jp/subpage/H20120618103.htm>

(5)招龍道PRで県など誘致 輪島塗や千枚田見学

[www.47news.jp/CI/201206/CI-20120626-00387.html](http://www.47news.jp/CI/201206/CI-20120626-00387.html)

※次回は8月末にお届けする予定です。

\* The next edition is scheduled to be issued at the end of August.

The rainy season has come to an end on July 18th, 9 days later than the last year and 6 days earlier than in a typical year. Despite severe rainstorms in Kyushu and other regions, precipitation in Ishikawa stayed at a low level. Immediately after the rainy season the temperatures jumped to about 35°C. Together with the London Olympics and energy-saving policies (which means you can't use your air conditioning to the full), this promises us a hot-hot summer. Himuro manju (steamed bean-jam bun) is a traditional sweet for July. During the Edo period the clan of Kaga was annually sending ice from ice rooms (or himuro) as a present to Shogunate. In the reign of the fifth domain lord Maeda Tsunanori, a local confectioner Doganya Hikobei proposed to make manjus and offer them to Shinto shrines in a prayer for the safe trip of the presents. Even nowadays people in Kanazawa and other cities keep up the tradition of eating himuro manju. For many of those who are associated with Kanazawa those sweets symbolize the beginning of summer, which we think is a splendid tradition. Speaking of traditions, the construction of Hashizume gate has started as a part of the ongoing reconstruction of "the three noble gates" of Kanazawa Castle. The reconstruction is due to finish at the same time with the start of the Hokuriku Shinkansen line service. Prefectural administration is ready to continue its tourism promotion efforts, so that more visitors would travel to the new tourist attractions on the brand-new Shinkansen trains. Judo wrestler Matsumoto with many other sportsmen from Ishikawa prefecture will head to the London Olympic Games. Some people say just participating in the Olympics is enough by itself. Anyways we hope that people all over the world that are associated with our prefecture will give their cheers to Ishikawa sportsmen.

### Recent News

(1)The end of the rainy season in Hokuriku region

Niigata regional meteorological observatory has announced that the rainy season in Hokuriku region has come to an end on July 18th, 9 days later than the last year and 6 days earlier than in a typical year. Now the summer is at height in Ishikawa as 4 observation points have recorded the highest temperatures since the beginning of the year, including Kaga city, Kayano (34.7°C) and Nanao (33.8°C). Precipitation during the rainy season in Ishikawa (June 9 - July 17) has amounted to 286 mm in Kanazawa (average 322.2 mm) and 240.5 mm in Wajima (average 294.8), both cities reporting below average rainfall. Kanazawa regional meteorological observatory says the small figures are due to the short rainy season as well as the rain front staying a long time over Kyushu region.

(2)Ice in the summer: ice rooms open at Kanazawa, Yuwaku hot springs

The cold ice rooms (or himuro) at Yuwaku hot springs opened their doors for about 800 local residents and tourists, allowing them to enjoy the cool touch of ice in the midsummer. The ice from the ice room on Gyokusen lakeshore was dedicated to Yakushiji temple that is about 800 meters away.

Only 40% of the snow placed into the ice room in the end of January remained till now. The ice is also to be sent to Kanazawa on July 2nd as well as to the former location of Kaga clan residence in Tokyo, Itabashi ward on July 4th.

(3)Toward the recovery of the Three Great Gates of Kanazawa Castle (Sangomon), beginning of the reconstruction of Hashizumemon (last of the 3 gates)

A Shintoist religious construction ceremony (kikoushiki) of one of the three great gates of the castle (Kanazawa Jou) was held at Kanazawa Castle Park on the 30th. The constructed gate's name is Hashizumemon and it had an important function in the past, though, the gate was completely burned down later. But now, after more than 130 years, it is finally possible to recall the classical original panorama in its original form. The end of the reconstruction is planned to be around 2015 spring.

The Hashizumemon with the Ishikawamon and the Kahokumon that was rebuilt 10 years ago form the "Sangomon", the 3 great gates. In the Shintoist ceremony of construction the Governor of Ishikawa Tanimoto Masanori also spoke about the opening of the Shinkansen (new bullet train line) which is scheduled to be completed at the same time. Tanimoto expressed the following throughout: "I would like people to come here from all over the country and see the imposing image of the new gate of Kanazawa".

(4)Four Olympic athletes - A meeting of encouragement rally for the gold medal Ishikawa Sports Association's Olympic delegation held a meeting on the 17th at hotel Nikko Kanazawa. The Olympic delegation members will participate in the Olympic games in London including Kobori Yuuki (swimming - Nihon University), Yagi Kanae (weight lifting - Kanazawa Gakuin University), Shimamoto Mami (Kanazawa Gakuin University) and Matsumoto Kaori (Judo - Four Leaf Japan). At the meeting, they talked about their strong motivations and their determination for winning. As Kobori Yuuki said, "I will show my best performance on the stage at the highest level". Yagi Kanae expressed herself as "I will try my best to show a performance that convince myself". While Shimamoto Mami added "I will turn all of the cheering feelings into my energy source to do my best". Finally, Matsumoto Kaori said "My target is nothing but the gold medal". Other athletes like Suzuki Yuusuke (walking race - Fujitsu), Tani Takayuki (Sagawa Express), Matsushita Momotarou (canoeing - Ishikawa Sports Association), Itou Masaki (Springboard - Kanazawa Gakuin University), Kishi Ayano (Kanazawa Gakuin University), Nakagawa Mai (diving - Kanazawa Gakuin University), sent video messages expressing their goals for this Olympics.

(5)Tourism Campaign "Shouryudou" attracts visitors from several places. Interest in Wajimanuri (wajima lacquering) and tourist visits to rice terrace (senmaida). After 5 days of stay, the six visitors from China (City of Shian - staff related to the information service) returned to their country on 25th by the airport of Komatsu. They came to collect material about the tourist route that runs from the international airport of Chubu in Aichi-ken province to peninsula of Noto, the "Dragon Route (shouryudou). The producer of an 8 minutes tourism television program Mister Gaohui who visited Noto and other parts of Ishikawa to gather information expressed his admiration for the rich nature of the places he visited and also the Wajima style painted porcelain that he liked a lot. He said "Due to rapid economic growth China has been forgetting its tradition to a certain extent. Chinese people tend to feel attraction for places of traditional culture that preserve their nature and habits passed through generations as the Dragon Route (shouryudou)". The travelers were attracted by the tourist sites and the Dragon Route campaign.

詳しい情報のアクセス先 For more information, please access the following links:

- (1)財団法人石川県国際交流協会 IFIE (Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange) <http://www.ifie.or.jp/index.php>
- (2)ほっと石川旅ねっと Hot Ishikawa Tabi-Net (Ishikawa Prefecture Tourism Guide) <http://www.hot-ishikawa.jp/>
- (3)石川県 Ishikawa Prefectural Government Official Website <http://www.pref.ishikawa.lg.jp/>
- (4)首相官邸 Prime Minister of JAPAN (Countermeasures for the Great East Japan Earthquake) <http://www.kantei.go.jp/>

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