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.

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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.

May sets out to Brexit transition

Barri 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.

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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 Shinjuku Ward.

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

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Koike’s intent seen in name of soon-to-form party, ‘Kibo’

Tokyo (Jiji Press) — The word “Kibo” has been incorporated into the name of a new political party being formed by former Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike.

The name is “Kibo to iku” — the party’s name is “Kibo” and the slogan is “Let’s go Kibo”.

China: Quake detected near N. Korea

BEIJING/SEOUL (Reuters) — China’s earthquake administration said on Saturday it had detected a magnitude 4.4 earthquake in North Korea that was a “suspected explosion,” raising fears the isolated state had conducted another nuclear bomb test 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 Riiju 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 8 p.m. GMT, was recorded at a depth of 10 kilometers.

All of North Korea’s previous tests registered as earthquakes, with magnitudes 4.3 or above. The last one was on Sept. 3 registered as a 6.3 magnitude.

Focus 50 km from previous test

ZURICH (Reuters) — The