

# THE DAILY YOMIURI



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## 'Racism' in Florida

A Miami detective says racism is why no charges have been filed over the killing of African-American teenager Trayvon Martin by a white man. **World, Page 4**

## The road to fluency

Racing car driver Keiko Ihara explains how she overcame some twists and turns on her road to English fluency. **Language Connection, Page 14**



## Staggering sale

A group that includes former NBA star Magic Johnson reaches a deal to buy the Los Angeles Dodgers for a record \$2 billion. **Sports, Page 20**

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From left, Andy Anderson, Jean Anderson, Naho Hozumi and Shinji Takai take part in the first-pitch ceremony before the Seattle Mariners and Oakland Athletics opened their regular seasons at Tokyo Dome on Wednesday night.

## MLB starts 2012 season in Tokyo

By Jim Allen

Daily Yomiuri Sportswriter

Major League Baseball was once again the focus Wednesday, when the Seattle Mariners and Oakland Athletics opened their regular seasons at Tokyo Dome in the 2012 gloops Opening Series Japan.

Yet, this year's event has been about

more than baseball. One of the goals of the series has been to focus attention on the rebuilding efforts in the Tohoku region a year after the Great East Japan Earthquake. Three individuals involved in the efforts since March 11, 2011, took part in the first-pitch ceremony before Wednesday night's game.

Andy Anderson, whose daughter Tay-

lor died in the tsunami after shepherding children to safety, has established a fund and a reading corner in Ishinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture.

He was joined by Shinji Takai, a strawberry farmer from Kesenuma, Miyagi Prefecture, who has used his computer skills to restore more than 1 million photos damaged in the disaster, and Naho

Hozumi, a stay-at-home mother who became Hands On Tokyo's disaster relief program manager.

The three were joined at the ceremony by youth baseball players from Ishinomaki.

■ Ishinomaki youth prove hit with Mariners skipper. **Page 20**

# DPJ OK's tax hike amid opposition

## Party partners threaten to leave coalition

Kyodo News

Leaders of the ruling Democratic Party of Japan formally agreed Wednesday on a bill to raise the consumption tax, after abruptly ending intraparty talks on the issue amid lingering opposition.

The agreement could pave the way for Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's Cabinet to approve the bill and submit it to the Diet on Friday, helping him fulfill a pledge to raise the tax made at last year's Group of 20 summit meeting.

The DPJ was to hold talks late Wednesday with its junior coalition partner, the People's New Party, to gain their cooperation in getting Cabinet approval. But PNP head Shizuka Kamei is strongly opposed to the hike, making the bill's fate uncer-



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Democratic Party of Japan Policy Research Committee Chairman Seiji Maehara after intraparty talks over a bill to