-KIM KWANG HYON∠AP

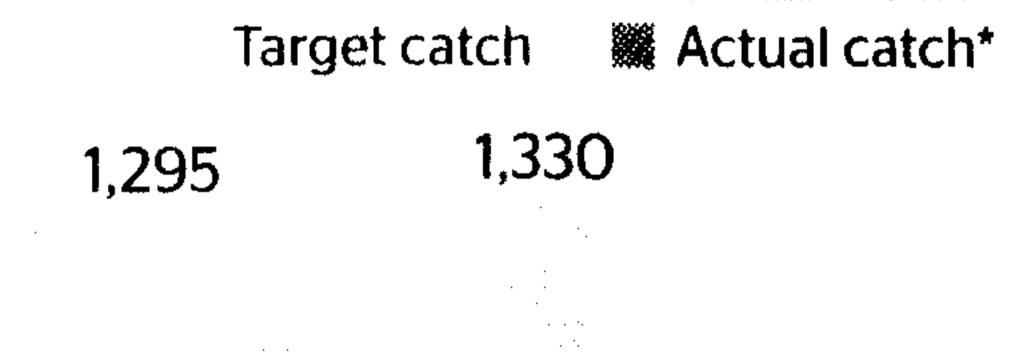
# 'Medieval' Japanese killed whales in safe zone, activists claim

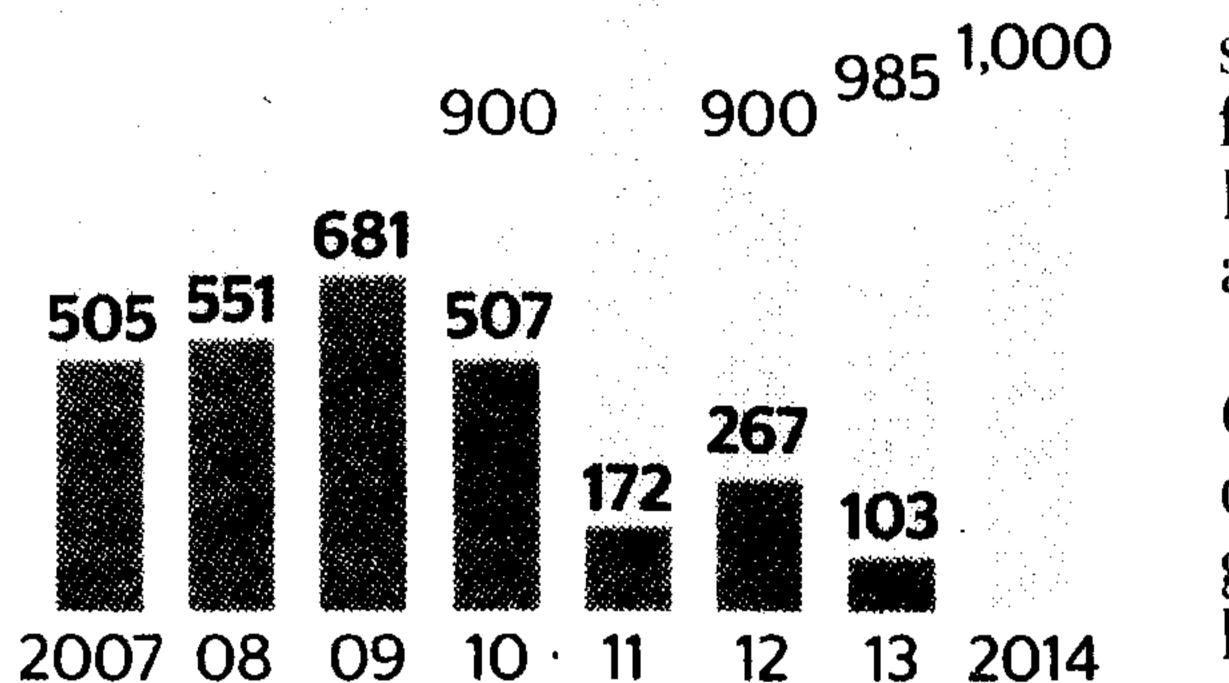
#### Richard Lloyd Parry Tokyo

A Japanese fleet in the Southern Ocean has killed four whales in an international sanctuary, according to environmental activists shadowing them.

Sea Shepherd, the group which in the past has had violent clashes with Japanese whalers, released photographs of three dead minke whales being butchered on the deck of the Nisshin Maru, a factory ship. It said that the whales were hunted inside an internationally designated whale sanctuary. "There are three carcasses on the ship. A fourth carcass has been cut up," said Bob

#### Japanese whale hunt





Brown, a former Australian senator, and the head of Sea Shepherd Australia. "There's blood all over the place, meat being carted around on deck, offal and innards being dumped in the ocean. That's just a gruesome, bloody, medieval scene which has no place in this modern world."

Sources: IWC, NOAA, Japan Fisheries Agency\*\*

The hunt was also condemned by Murray McCully, the Foreign Minister of New Zealand, which with Australia has taken Japan to the International Court of Justice over its annual hunt. Whaling has been banned under an international moratorium

since 1986, but the Japanese fleet continues in the name of scientific research, which anti-whaling activists and many governments dismiss as a cynical pretext.

The Japanese Government makes no secret of the fact that the flesh of the 1,000 animals targeted this year will end up on the commercial market. "The practice of whaling in the oceans south of New Zealand is pointless and offensive to a great many New Zealanders," Mr McCully said in a statement. "The New Zealand Government has repeatedly called on Japan to end its whaling programme." The confrontations between Sea Shepherd and the Japanese whalers, usually in freezing, rough and foggy seas, have become an annual event, and pose a constant risk of injury and mishap.

Australian environmentalists are furious that the Government of their new Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, has retreated from an election promise to send a ship to monitor the Japanese fleet. Instead, Greg Hunt, Australia's Environment Minister, has said that aircraft will fly over the whalers.

Mr Brown has demanded that the Government should enforce a judge's decision that whaling is illegal. "We've got a court ruling that this whaling is illegal and an injunction to stop it," he said. "I don't know of any other entity or person in Australia who could simply thumb its nose at the Australian federal court with an Australian Government

Despite the fact that much of the whale meat caught by the Japanese is sold, demand for the flesh in Japan continues to fall. In 2009, shops in Japan were forced to cut the price of whale meat by half, and thousands of tonnes of whale meat were still in frozen storage at the end of the year. The meat is often given to rural communities and for use in school lunches. Australia started legal proceedings

Minke whale meat was allegedly seen aboard a factory ship

in The Hague against Japan in June

2010 for its whaling activities.



The North Korean dictator is "a nice guy", his closest American friend said yesterday

Pyongyang for a match celebrating the leader's birthday (Richard Lloyd Parry writes). The retired basketball star Dennis Rodman was welcomed at the airport by Son Kwang Ho, the deputy Sports

Minister, above. His trip came amid reports that Kim Jong Un's aunt, whose husband was put to death last month, has died. A dissident newspaper based in Japan said that Kim Kyong Hui may have committed suicide.

# Bangladesh Prime Minister insists win was legitimate

Dhaka The Prime Minister of Bangladesh insisted last night that her re-election was legitimate, raising the stakes in a bloody showdown with opposition groups after a disputed poll that was the most violent in the impoverished nation's troubled 42-year history (Robin Pagnamenta writes).

Speaking as opposition activists clashed again with armed troops on the streets of Dhaka, leaving several dead, Sheikh Hasina insisted that a boycott of Sunday's poll by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) "should not mean there is a question of legitimacy" over the result.

Although the Awami League's victory was not in doubt because of the BNP's boycott, the party took 232 of the 300 seats in an election in which barely 30 per cent voted. Polls suggested that the BNP would have won a properly contested election.

# 'Jihad Jane' gets ten years for failed murder plot

Philadelphia A woman who calls herself Jihad Jane was jailed for ten years for her role in a failed plot to kill a Swedish artist who put the head of the Prophet Muhammad on a dog. Colleen R. LaRose, 50, who pleaded guilty, saying that she was following the orders of an al-Qaeda agent, converted to Islam online. She had already served four years. (Reuters)

### Nicaragua canal delayed by fears for wildlife

São Paulo Work on a canal across Nicaragua linking the Atlantic and Pacific oceans will be delayed until at least 2015 because the route has not yet been determined (James Hider writes). Campaigners have warned that wildlife on Lake Nicaragua could be harmed by the transit of massive cargo ships on a waterway three times as long as the Panama Canal.

### Virus blamed for death of Knut, the polar bear

Berlin The most extensive animal post-mortem ever carried out has concluded that Knut, the polar bear that became a global star at Berlin's zoo, suffered a virus leading to inflammation of the brain before he collapsed and drowned. However, the first publication of the full autopsy does not pinpoint which virus led to his death in March 2011.

## China destroys £7m ivory haul

China

Leo Lewis Beijing

China destroyed more than six tonnes of ivory ornaments and tusks worth an estimated £7 million yesterday—taking an unexpected stand against the global web of poachers, smugglers and underground sales networks that kills more than 30,000 elephants every year.

The gesture, which echoes similar moves by the US and the Philippines last year, is an admission by Beijing that it is the country's hunger for ivory that is fuelling the poaching frenzy across

Africa. Chinese demand was ignited in 2008 when the Government released material from its stockpiles on to the open market. With a legal trade established, a much larger illegal trade was able to flourish in its shadow.

Yesterday's symbolic move, described by Chinese officials as the country's first large-scale destruction of "white gold", took place in the notorious ivory trading hub of Dongguan.

Iain Douglas-Hamilton, the founder of Save the Elephants, said: "With measures like this we can still save elephants from being driven towards extinction."

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Parry, Richard Lloyd. "'Medieval' Japanese killed whales in safe zone, activists claim." Times, 7 Jan. 2014, p. 28. The Times Digital Archive, https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/MSXBFN024215859/TTDA?u=west85252&sid=TTDA&xid=76156f4f. Accessed 5 Aug. 2020.