News around the World

The news update this issue concentrates on population news

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Apr 18, 2012  Another 100,000 people may have to move away from China's Three Gorges Dam due to the risk of disastrous landslides and bank collapses around the reservoir of the world's biggest hydroelectric facility.  The Ministry of Land Resources in China says the number of landslides and other disasters has increased 70 per cent since the water level in the $23 billion project rose to its maximum level in 2010.  Some 1.4 million people already have been resettled due to the huge project on the Yangtze River. Authorities may have to move another 100,000 people in the next three to five years to minimize the risk of casualties from such threats. |  |
| 18 April 2012  Japan's population fell by a record last year, highlighting the challenges faced by the country in terms of maintaining economic growth and controlling rising welfare spending.  According to official statistics, Japan's population fell by 0.2% to 127.8 million in 2011. The number of people aged over 65 has risen too, to 23.3% up from 23% in 2010. The government is now reviewing their policies to overcome this. |  |
| 4 April 2012  Roma face persecution in Europe, says Amnesty  Roma, or Gypsy, communities across Europe are facing widespread persecution, says Amnesty International. In a new report, the human rights group says not enough is being done to tackle "shocking" discrimination. The survey of Roma communities across Europe found they tend to be poorer than the rest of the population, with worse health and lower literacy levels.  It is estimated up to 12 million Roma, Travellers and Gypsies live in Europe.  "Discrimination is one of Europe's most pressing human rights concerns," said Kate Allen, Amnesty's UK director. She said millions of people were faced exclusion, poverty, ill-treatment or violence, "because of who they are, what they are presumed to be or what they believe", and that the Roma and Traveller populations of Europe "suffer more than most". |  |
| 3 April 2012  Around 50,000 young people cannot get onto the jobs ladder. Young people can apply for work through a £75m Growth Wales project to create 12,000 temporary jobs.  Unemployed 16 to 24-year-olds will be offered six months being paid for at least 25 hours per week. The Welsh government will cover the cost of a minimum wage salary and the employer's National Insurance contribution. It said it would "encourage and support" employers to make the jobs permanent after six months including Wales. |  |
| February 2012  The number of fluent Welsh speakers is in steady decline, according to the organisation set up to promote the language.  The Welsh Language Board is preparing to hand over its duties to the Welsh government.  Its final report says there are 3,000 fewer Welsh speakers every year.  As well as people dying, migration is seen a key factor, with about 55,000 people moving into Wales annually. More than 5,000 Welsh speakers leave Wales each year, with a third moving permanently. |  |
| 18 April 2012  Unemployment rose slightly in Wales by 1,000 in the three months to the end of February, with women bearing the brunt of the increase, according to official figures.  The number of women out of work during the period rose by 4,000. The number of unemployed men fell by 3,000 in the same quarter, the Office for National Statistics (ONS) said.  The ONS said 131,000 people (8.9%) were unemployed - an increase of 5.3% on the same time the previous year. Unemployment has gone up by 7,000 over the year. |  |
| 26 March 2012  British aid agencies working in Niger are warning of a food crisis after severe crop failures across the impoverished country.  The West African nation is the seventh poorest in the world.  More than one in five children already die before the age of five, and as the desert spreads further south, even more land is lost to agriculture. |  |