



Classical goes heavy metal

A cellist goes through her paces on an instrument made of aluminum by Yamashita Kogyosho Co. in Kudamatsu, Yamaguchi Prefecture. Craftsmen at the metal processing company spent 10 days to produce the cello. Weighing about 10 kilograms, it is three times heavier than an ordinary wooden cello. Its delicate curves were achieved by hammering aluminum sheets. The cello is based on the blueprint of the oldest existing instrument, kept in a U.S. museum. The company created the cello after Tatsuto Yamashita, a senior managing director, suggested it would be a good way to demonstrate the skills of the company's craftsmen. The instrument is to go on display at the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Tokyo's Koto Ward from Saturday. The company has produced about 330 front cars of Shinkansen bullet trains since it was founded in 1963.