
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, January 30, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK led with a report that five people were killed in a shooting incident at a mosque in Quebec City, Canada, on Sunday. All commercial broadcasters gave top play to reports on rallies held across the U.S. against President Trump's executive order on immigration.

INTERNATIONAL

Japan not to take any specific measures in response to immigration order

NHK reported this morning that according to the Immigration Bureau, the Japanese government is not taking any special measures in response to President Trump's executive order suspending entry of travelers from seven Muslim-majority nations. The network said that based on Japan's Immigration Control Law, immigration inspectors confirm the departure of foreigners from Japan, and unless an arrest warrant is issued for the foreigner or the foreigner is staying in Japan illegally, inspectors will not be able to stop them from departing the country. The network said that at this point the Immigration Bureau is not considering taking any concrete measures, such as revising the law, although it will continue to monitor measures other nations may take.

The network quoted Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga as saying at a press briefing this morning: "The Japanese government will monitor how the immigration order will be implemented with great interest....As the government, we have not yet received any report that Japanese airlines have had to deal with people subject to the executive order. We have been briefed that the airlines are

studying how to respond given that if foreigners who depart Japan are banned from entry into the U.S., they have to be deported back to the place of departure."

- [Gist of Abe-Trump teleconference on Jan. 28](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Gist of Abe's remarks to reporters after teleconference with Trump](#) (Nikkei)
- [In-depth look at Abe, Trump telephone conversation](#) (Sankei)
- [Marubeni to build 1.18GW solar plant](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Keidanren to form "Trump analysis team"](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan to accept U.S. request for bilateral trade negotiations](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan alarmed by U.S. trade pressure, fearing a "deal" in return for national security](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Lack of a 'Trump-phone' spells trouble for Abe](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Joint staff chief tours Middle East from Jan. 28](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Trump should know international order cannot be kept with threats](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: S. Korea must act with common sense to resolve issue over Buddhist statue](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Trump's Mexico border wall promotes division and exclusionism](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Japanese freelancer feels Tokyo gave short shrift to Mideast hostages in 2015](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Foreign Minister Kishida considering meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIAL MEDIA

President Trump's executive order on immigration resonates in social media

Social media users in Japan are apparently keenly interested in President Trump's executive order on immigration, as several thousand Japanese-language tweets have been posted in response to his signing of an executive order on Friday banning the entry of refugees and other foreign

nationals from certain Muslim-majority countries. Many of them voiced dismay at the confusion and strong reactions that reverberated across the United States and the world.

Several tweets have been shared widely, including this one (retweeted 1,120 times) that appeared to be supporting the President by saying: "Mr. Trump takes issue with 'illegal immigrants.' He has never said he would 'restrict all immigrants.' Nevertheless, many media outlets around the world, including those in Japan, are trying to give their audience the false impression that he is a 'racist.'"

On the other hand, more than 4,000 Twitter users have retweeted a Japanese message on a [report](#) by a San Francisco TV station that California is studying ways to suspend financial transfers to Washington after the Trump administration threatened to withhold federal money from sanctuary cities.

By far the most widely shared tweet (more than 18,000 times) is one showing a native American responding to President Trump's statement that "illegal immigrants MUST go back home" by saying, "ohh! Serious?? So when are you going?"

Meanwhile, a tweet by former Osaka Mayor Hashimoto praising how "separation of powers works in the U.S.," as evidenced by a federal judge in New York blocking part of President Trump's executive order on immigration, has been "liked" by over 1,000 people.

SECURITY

“Designated driver” service to be allowed on bases in Okinawa

Sunday's Okinawa Times wrote in its lead item that six "designated driver" service providers in Okinawa will be allowed to operate on all U.S. bases in the island prefecture starting on Feb. 1, explaining that the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) has decided to utilize the service in order to reduce drinking and driving by military personnel. The service will dispatch professional drivers to drive home in their own vehicles service members who had been drinking alcohol. Similar services will probably be launched on U.S. installations on the mainland, including facilities in Kanagawa Prefecture.

GOJ decides Okinawa's permission not necessary to demolish rock reefs

Saturday morning's Okinawa Times front-paged the disclosure by several GOJ sources that the central government has concluded that the ongoing FRF construction work off Camp Schwab can continue even if the current permit issued by the then Okinawa governor in 2013 for destroying rock reefs expires on Mar. 31 this year on the grounds that no fishing rights exist in the given area. Pointing out that Okinawa Governor Onaga might refuse to renew the permit with the goal of derailing the FRF project, the daily said the GOJ is poised to "neutralize" the governor's authority so as to prevent additional delays in the construction.

Okinawa civilian base worker to plead not guilty to murder charge

Saturday morning's Okinawa Times led with a prominent report claiming that Kenneth Franklin Shinzato, a former civilian employee of Kadena Air Base, who was indicted on multiple charges in connection with the death of an Okinawa woman in Uruma City in April last year, is likely to plead not guilty to the murder charge on the grounds that he had no intention to kill the victim when he raped her. The defendant, however, is expected to admit to other charges, such as rape resulting in death and abandoning the victim's body. The Naha District Court plans to convene a pretrial conference on Mar. 10.

Okinawa leader to depart for U.S. today

Today's Okinawa Times wrote in a front-page article that Okinawa Governor Onaga plans to leave for Washington today to meet with U.S. congressional members and think tank analysts with the goal of pressing the Trump administration to conduct a review of the present plan to build the FRF off Camp Schwab. Nago Mayor Inamine will accompany the governor, who will stay in the U.S. capital through Feb. 4.

U.S. to build new base in Japan?

Monday's Ryukyu Shimpo reported from Washington on remarks made to the [Reuters](#) by a Trump transition adviser that the transition team is considering expanding or adding new bases in Japan and Australia in response to China's rapid military rise. The Okinawa daily said if a new installation were built in Okinawa, the local people would react very strongly.

- [Pentagon has strong interest in Japan's technologies](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Revision of National Defense Program Guidelines to be moved forward](#) (Sankei)
- [Osprey's danger mentioned in 1996 SACO report draft but later omitted](#) (Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

Abe's support rises in polls

TV Asahi reported at noon on the results of its weekend survey, which found that 55.3% of respondents, up 3.7 points from last month, expressed support for the Abe cabinet, while 27.5% expressed disapproval. Asked about their image of President Trump, 81% said it is "bad," while 4% said it is "good." On the U.S.-Japan relationship, 55% said it will get worse, 33% said it will remain unchanged, while 3% said it will get better.

Fuji TV also reported on the results of its opinion poll conducted over the weekend, which showed that public approval for the Abe cabinet exceeded 60% for the first time in three years and four

months at 60.7%, up 5.1 points from last month. Nonsupport was 30.7%, down 0.2 points. When asked whether the world will move in a better direction with the inauguration of President Trump, 84% said "no," and 7.3% said "yes." 72.7% of respondents said the inauguration will have a negative impact on the Japanese economy.

- [70% are “anxious” about Japan-U.S. relationship, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)
- [83% of Japanese concerned about Trump’s “America first” stance, Kyodo News poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [53% of Japanese anticipate worsening of relations with U.S., Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [Some 72% approve temporary recall of Japan’s ambassador to South Korea, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on Jan. 29](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on Jan. 28–29](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister’s schedule on Jan. 27](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Lower House Budget Committee, Jan. 27](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [DP leader Renho facing intraparty dissent](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan’s lower house OKs extra budget for FY 2016](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Komura becomes longest-serving LDP vice president](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Ex-Minister Amari plans to join LDP Aso faction](#) (Yomiuri)

ECONOMY

- [Japan aims to cap overtime at 60 hours a month](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan needs pathway for foreign labor, data shows](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [Trump calls for Japanese carmakers to create more jobs in US](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Marubeni to build 1.18GW solar plant](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Toshiba pulling out of overseas nuclear reactor construction](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Toshiba to spin off flash memory unit to offset US nuke loss](#) (The Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [Japan planning 5th scientific research base at Antarctica](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

EDUCATION

- [U.S. Embassy supports English teachers through training programs](#) (Nihon Kyoiku Shimbun)

TV PROGRAMS

[**Planet Earth II – Part 2: Living in changing environments**](#)

Sunday evening's "NHK Special" aired the second part of its series "Planet Earth II," which focused on animals living in areas where the environment changes drastically and constantly due to natural phenomena, such as major flooding, wildfires, snowfall, and sandstorms. The program showed footage of animals such as lions in southern Africa, where green fields turn into wetlands due to heavy rain every year; bison in prairies in America, where the temperature drops to minus 40 degrees Celsius in winter; and locusts that drastically increase in number after heavy rainfalls that occur once every few years.

[**Senior party officials discuss upcoming U.S.-Japan summit**](#)

NHK's Sunday talk show featured a live debate among policy affairs chiefs of ruling and opposition parties on the FY2017 budget, the inauguration of the Trump administration, and the upcoming summit on Feb. 10 between President Trump and Prime Minister Abe. Opposition representatives, including DP Policy Research Committee Chairman Ogushi, expressed concern that the premier will be pressured by the U.S. leader to hold bilateral trade negotiations. They argued that the prime minister must rebut the President's statements that Japan has engaged in unfair trade practices, including in the auto sector. LDP Policy Research Council Chairman Motegi noted that the planned summit will be the "starting line" for reaffirming and deepening the bonds of the trans-Pacific alliance. While saying that Japan will not necessarily rule out holding bilateral talks, the ruling official stressed that such discussions should not be limited to trade and economy and instead address a broad-range of topics, such as bilateral cooperation on new technologies, Japan's investment in U.S.

infrastructure projects, and energy development. The LDP politician also underscored that the prime minister will explain to the President the considerable contributions made to the U.S. economy by Japanese enterprises, citing the fact that Japanese automakers assemble almost 4 million cars per year in the U.S.

AMBASSADOR

- [Caroline Kennedy's legacy in Japan will be her message of equality and reconciliation](#) (The Japan Times)
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