
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, March 10, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All networks led with reports that South Korea's Constitutional Court ruled this morning to uphold a parliamentary motion to impeach President Park for influence-peddling, saying that South Koreans will vote on a new president within 60 days.

SECURITY

U.S. military continues external lift training despite tire incident

Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged a report saying that concerning the incident in which tires fell from a UH-1 helicopter during external lift training at Camp Hansen on Wednesday, the U.S. Marines in Okinawa told the Defense Ministry's Okinawa Bureau on the same day that the training is absolutely necessary for pilots to fulfill their responsibility to conduct humanitarian and disaster relief operations. The paper wrote that although the municipal governments of Ginoza and Kin are calling for the suspension of the training, the U.S. military said the training will continue. Okinawa Times wrote that the mayors of Kin and Ginoza called the incident outrageous on Thursday.

Ryukyu Shimpo also wrote that Defense Minister Inada told an Upper House committee session on Thursday that the GOJ has called on the U.S. side to exercise maximum attention to safety during the training. However, Inada did not disclose whether Tokyo has lodged a protest with the U.S. military or requested a halt to the training. The paper also reported on local residents' anger and concern over the incident.

- **Increasing pressure to smash 1% defense budget ceiling** (Sankei)

- [Japan eyes stronger defenses against Pyongyang's missiles](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

INTERNATIONAL

[Japan to continue to ask South Korea to implement comfort women agreement](#)

Following the court decision to uphold the impeachment motion against ROK President Park, NHK quoted FM Kishida as telling reporters this morning: "Cooperation between Japan and South Korea is essential in light of the North Korea issue and essential for regional peace and stability. I would like to refrain from commenting on South Korea's domestic politics. We must facilitate cooperation with the new government in various sectors. As for the bilateral agreement, the two governments need to continue to make efforts to implement the agreement in a sincere manner. Japan will, of course, do so, and we will continue to urge South Korea to do likewise."

- [Editorial: N. Korea's response to killing shows it's a lawless state](#) (The Mainichi)

ECONOMY

[Trump administration calls on Japan to take "bold" measures on autos, agriculture](#)

NHK reported this morning that the Trump administration presented to the WTO on Wednesday a statement expressing serious concern about the U.S. trade deficit with Japan that reached \$68.9 billion last year. According to the network, the administration called on Japan to take bold measures to enhance trade transparency, reduce unnecessary regulations, and remove non-tariff barriers. It pointed out that American firms have been excluded from the Japanese automobile market due to non-tariff barriers, and also claimed that while agricultural reform is being carried out to enhance competition, some farm products are protected by high tariffs. The network said the Trump administration is expected to point out these things and call for measures to reduce the U.S. trade deficit during the new economic dialogue slated for mid-April.

- [Reconstruction Agency fails to lead due to Kasumigaseki turf war](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan stresses trade dialogue framework after U.S. statement to WTO](#) (Kyodo News)
- [U.S. urges Japan to further open auto, farm markets](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Troubled Westinghouse may need to file for Chapter 11: Aso](#) (Kyodo News)

- [40% of municipal mayors say reconstruction will not be completed by fiscal 2020, Mainichi Shimbun poll](#) (Mainichi)
- [Kindai University's research reactor to restart as early as next month](#) (Mainichi)
- [Draft stipulates corporations endeavor to introduce worktime interval](#) (Nikkei)
- [Honda to increase its presence in EV and PHV markets in U.S.](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan petitions WTO to settle Indian steel tariff dispute](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on March 9](#) (Nikkei)
- [LH unanimously adopts resolution condemning DPRK missile launch](#) (Mainichi)
- [Hundreds rally over Moritomo scandal](#) (Mainichi)
- [Authorities receive accusation of fraud against MIC Minister Takaichi](#) (Mainichi)
- [Emergency provision causes schism inside Komeito](#) (Mainichi)

SCIENCE

- [Kyoto Univ. creates iPS cells for 231 intractable diseases](#) (Yomiuri)

EDUCATION

Public, private support necessary to increase Japanese students studying abroad

“News 23,” TBS’s weekday evening news show, aired an eight-minute report on the decline in the number of Japanese students studying abroad. According to Education Ministry statistics, the number had dropped to 55,350 in 2013 from 82,945 in 2004. The network said that the Japanese government is concerned that young Japanese are becoming inward-looking. The government has set a goal of increasing the number of schools adopting the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program to 200 in 2020 from the current 42 to bolster English education in Japan to increase the number of Japanese who can play active roles globally. The program highlighted Tamagawa Academy in Tokyo, one of the IB schools, quoting one of its students as saying that the IB program is challenging but beneficial for him.

The program delved into the reasons behind the declining number of Japanese students studying abroad. Tokyo University of Foreign Studies Professor Akito Okada commented that steep tuition and living costs are the major obstacles preventing Japanese students from studying abroad. The broadcaster commented that deteriorating public security and racial discrimination in foreign nations are another sources of concern for Japanese students. Okada stressed the need for additional support from both the public and private sectors in the form of scholarships, for example, to increase the number of Japanese students studying abroad. Pointing out that the number of Chinese students studying in the U.S. increased to 328,547 in 2015 from 62,582 in 2005 while that of Japanese students had dropped to 19,060 from 38,712, the network expressed agreement with the scholar's view.

SOCIETY

Man still searching for his daughter six years after triple disaster

NHK's "Close-up Gendai Plus" reported on a Fukushima man who lost his wife, parents, and one of his daughters in the tsunami in 2011. Although the bodies of his wife and parents were soon found, his daughter remains missing nearly six years after the natural disaster. His house is located in an area that has been off limits ever since because of its proximity to the Fukushima Daiichi NPP. The program said the man searched for his daughter whenever former residents were allowed access to the area, adding that with the help of the government, some body parts belonging to his daughter were found late last year. The program has reported on him for nearly six years, saying that his search has become a healing process for him.

- **American arrested for distributing sex videos** (Sankei)
- **Child abuse and pornography cases mark record high** (Mainichi Evening edition)

OPINION POLLS

- **34% say President Trump's actions and statements are "dangerous," Genron NPO survey** (Mainichi)