
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, March 27, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters gave top play to reports that a group of high school students were hit by an avalanche in the mountains in Tochigi Prefecture today, saying that six of them are in a state of cardiopulmonary arrest and three others are missing.

SECURITY

LDP Okinawa chapter to express support for Henoko plan in policy platform

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times wrote that the LDP Okinawa chapter has decided to change its policy platform to state that it approves of the plan to relocate the Futenma base to Henoko and seeks the return of the base at an early date. The existing platform states that the chapter will pursue all possibilities, including Henoko. The LDP chapter will officially adopt the new policy at its general meeting on April 8. An LDP official in Okinawa said that the local chapter will explicitly state that it approves of the Henoko plan because the GOJ has already begun construction work at Henoko and the prefectural government has lost its legal battle against the central government at the Supreme Court.

Kadena airman arrested for DUI

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that the Okinawa police arrested a technical sergeant belonging to Kadena AB on suspicion of violating the Road Traffic Law by driving under the influence of alcohol at around 3:24 am in Naha on Sunday. According to the paper, the suspect denied the allegation when he was arrested, but later admitted it. The paper wrote that the suspect violated the 1 a.m. to 5 a.m. curfew under the U.S. military's liberty policy.

- [Gov't may seek damages from Okinawa governor if relocation blocked](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Think tank claims Marine rotation proposal to benefit U.S. forces, Japan](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [MV-22 Ospreys stationed at Yokota Air Base for record 18 days](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [GSDF and U.S. Marine Corps conduct large-scale joint exercise](#) (Akahata)
- [Science Council of Japan officially rejects research for military purposes](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Corporate Japan learning self-defense against cybercrooks](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

INTERNATIONAL

- [AIIB to have '85 to 90 members' by year end](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Two trainer aircraft on lease from Japan delivered to Philippines](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe tells May of Japan's solidarity after London terror attack](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan should raise issues on future concept of Japan-U.S. Security Treaty](#) (Bungeishunju)
- [Column: Japan needs to bolster 'maritime coalition'](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Use U.S.-led coalition's unity to aim for destruction of ISIL militant group](#) (The Japan News)

POLITICS

Ruling, opposition lawmakers discuss Moritomo Gakuen scandal, anti-conspiracy bill

NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show aired a discussion by senior lawmakers from the ruling and opposition blocs. The opposition discussants insisted that Prime Minister Abe's wife Akie should provide sworn testimony at the Diet based on the allegation that she "exercised her influence" over Moritomo Gakuen's land deal with the government. However, LDP Deputy Secretary General Shimomura and Komeito Deputy Secretary General Saito rejected the call. Concerning the GOJ-sponsored bill to amend the organized crime law to punish acts of preparation to commit terrorism

and other serious crimes, the opposition parties expressed disapproval, arguing that the legislation may affect the lives of ordinary citizens if applied arbitrarily because it is not clear what “acts of preparation” entail.

- [Prime minister's schedule on March 26](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on March 25](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on March 24](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of interpellations at Upper House Budget Committee, March 24](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Nippon Ishin sets sights on Tokyo polls](#) (The Japan News)
- [Moritomo Gakuen scandal to drag on through entire Diet session](#) (Yomiuri)
- [IR promotion HQ set up](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: More questions over Akie Abe's relations with scandal-hit school operator](#) (The Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [74% dissatisfied with gov't explanations of Moritomo Gakuen scandal, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei)
- [62% unconvinced by Abe's explanation of Moritomo Gakuen scandal, Kyodo News spot poll](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Kyodo News \[spot\] opinion poll & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

ECONOMY

- [Former US official: China will fill Asia Pacific trade void](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [TEPCO to reshuffle top management, promote Kobayakawa to president](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's Abe eyes workaround for addressing labor shortage](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Infographic: Breakdown of foreign workers by type](#) (Nikkei)

- [Japan's increasing plutonium stockpile feared to cause race to produce fuel for nuclear weapons](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)

EDUCATION

- [English skills help teaching applicants](#) (The Japan News)

SOCIETY

[Increase in dementia patients to cause problems in future](#)

"NHK Special" reported on dementia, saying that the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare estimates that the number of elderly people suffering from dementia will exceed 7 million in Japan by the year 2025. The program said many people who are unmarried or don't have full-time jobs are worried about whether they will be able to support their parents in the future. Many experts warn that Japan will enter a new era in which problems and accidents stemming from dementia occur frequently. The program reported on measures that can be taken to avoid such problems, and introduced a successful system implemented in the Netherlands to support dementia patients.

- [5,805 foreigners refused entry to Japan in 2016](#) (Jiji Press)