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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, March 31, 2017

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## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports that police searched Otawara High School this morning as part of their investigation into the fatal accident in which a group of students were hit by an avalanche in Tochigi Prefecture.

## ECONOMY

### Aso says rebuilding Toshiba is imperative

NHK reported on its website that Finance Minister Aso told reporters that it was necessary for Westinghouse to file for bankruptcy protection in order to rebuild Toshiba and expressed the view that the company needs to swiftly sell its semiconductor operation and rebuild its business. Aso reportedly mentioned that past CEOs of Toshiba have led the Japanese business community by serving as the heads of Keidanren and other organizations, saying: "It was the kind of company whose leaders served as chairpersons of Keidanren or the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, but I never expected it to fall into such a state in just a few years. What is happening?" He also said: "It is unclear who is making the final decisions. It is good to have everyone discuss and make decisions in ordinary times but not in times of crisis."

### Trade Minister Seko comments on Westinghouse

NHK reported that Minister for Economy, Trade, and Industry Seko said discussions on Westinghouse should be held without affecting the ongoing construction of four nuclear reactors in the U.S. Seko reportedly told reporters after a cabinet meeting today: "I hope that Westinghouse, Toshiba, and the U.S. electric utilities that ordered the construction of nuclear reactors will hold

cooperative discussions and produce constructive results." On Toshiba's semiconductor business, which the company is trying to sell, Seko reportedly said: "Foreign investment in Japanese companies that manufacture sensitive products will be subject to rigorous screening based on the Foreign Exchange Law. If deemed necessary, we will be able to recommend or mandate that the investment be altered or suspended." He also reportedly said the GOJ will take strict measures to prevent the transfer of technology to other countries from a security standpoint, saying: "If the bill to revise the Foreign Exchange Law is passed by the Diet, we will be able to retroactively order the sale of stocks obtained through illegal investment."

### **Southern Company CEO says Toshiba has commitment to complete reactor construction**

NHK's "News 7" aired a taped interview with Southern Company CEO Thomas Fanning concerning Westinghouse's recent filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. Southern Company has a contract with Westinghouse for the construction of two nuclear reactors. Fanning said that he is visiting Tokyo this week to discuss with the CEO of Toshiba how to complete the project. He expressed hope that Toshiba will fulfill its financial and moral commitment to complete the construction of the reactors. The businessman added that Westinghouse has an important role to play not only in energy infrastructure but also in national defense, and that nuclear energy should be promoted from the economic, energy, and national security standpoints.

- [Toshiba bears moral responsibility to complete nuclear power plant: Southern Company CEO](#) (TV / Social media)
- [U.S. to study causes of trade deficits by country, product](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Close loopholes in restrictions on overtime amid work reforms](#) (The Mainichi)
- [JAEA applies to NRA for safety assessment of Joyo reactor](#) (Asahi)
- [JETRO to support tourism and export of local products](#) (Mainichi)
- [The truth behind Japan's public-private innovation fund](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [Japan gov't, firms struggling to assess Brexit impact](#) (Kyodo News)

## **SECURITY**

### **Ambassador to Okinawa says ending Futenma operations by February 2019 to be difficult**

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on a meeting on Thursday between Ambassador to Okinawa Kawata and a group of prefectural assembly members. In response to the local legislators'

request for the suspension of operations at MCAS Futenma by February 2019, the deadline requested by former Governor Nakaima when he granted permission for the landfill work in 2013, Kawata stated that the commitment will be fulfilled only when the prefectural government cooperates with Tokyo in moving forward with the FRF construction at Henoko. Referring to Prime Minister Abe's Diet remarks last month that it will be difficult to achieve the plan to end operations at MCAS Futenma by February 2019 because Okinawa Governor Onaga has not been cooperative, the ambassador stated that progress on the Henoko project is a prerequisite for ending Futenma operations. However, the assembly members reacted strongly by saying that no precondition was attached to the plan to end operations at Futenma.

### **Okinawa Marine arrested for possession of live bullets at Naha airport**

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that a staff sergeant belonging to Camp Courtney in Okinawa was arrested by the local police at the security checkpoint at Naha Airport on Thursday morning on suspicion of violating the Swords and Firearms Control Law by carrying 13 live bullets with him in a golf bag. According to the paper, the suspect told the police that although the bullets in question belonged to him, he was not aware that they were in the bag. The sergeant was planning to board a plane bound for Haneda.

- **GOJ hopes security laws will ensure U.S. commitment to defense of Senkakus** (Yomiuri)
- **Editorial: Concerns over security laws have increased in first year** (The Asahi Shimbun)
- **LDP study panel to recommend acquiring enemy base attack capability** (Asahi)

## **INTERNATIONAL**

- **"Leaders on the podium" column: The weak presence of Secretary Tillerson** (The Japan News)
- **Hagiuda instructs gov't offices to collect information on Brexit** (Mainichi)
- **Toyota Tsusho to build power substations in Iraq for 60 bil. yen** (Kyodo News)
- **Japan's BTMU plans international fund transfers via blockchain in 2018** (Nikkei Asian Review)
- **Environmental financing extended to Mongolia** (Mainichi)
- **King Tut's burial trove to be transferred to new museum in Giza** (Nikkei Evening edition)

- [Japanese Communist Party Leader Shii speaks at UN conference on nuclear weapons convention](#) (Akahata)

## POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on March 30](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe, Yamaguchi reaffirm ties at their cherry-blossom viewing gathering](#) (Mainichi)
- [Abe sees need to invest in human resources, education reform in focus](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Lower House Commission on the Constitution to meet on April 13, 20](#) (Asahi)
- [DP Deputy President Hosono reveals own proposal for constitutional revision](#) (Yomiuri)

## SCIENCE

- [Japanese whalers return from Antarctic with catch of 333 minke whales](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Japan should review CO2 reduction target](#) (Sankei)

## EDUCATION

- [Times Higher Education and Benesse have announced Japan university rankings](#) (Mainichi)

## SOCIETY

- [About 40% of foreigners seeking housing in Japan turned away: survey](#) (Kyodo News)

