

---

 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, September 27, 2017

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact [TokyoMATT@state.gov](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

Most broadcasters gave top play to reports that Tokyo Governor Koike held a press conference at a Tokyo hotel this morning to announce the launch of her new party, the Party of Hope. Koike said she would like to "reset" Japan and seek "politics without any constraints." Koike also said she will not run in the upcoming general election, stressing that she will continue to serve as the governor of Tokyo. TV Asahi led with a report that a JAL passenger jet was unable to take off because one of its engines caught fire while the aircraft was on the runway this morning.

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### North Korea did not detect U.S. bombers

NHK reported at noon that South Korean media said North Korea did not respond when the U.S. military's B1 bombers flew in international airspace off the North Korean coast on Sept. 23 to keep North Korea in check because the North Korean military's radar failed to detect the aircraft. According to the network, all South Korean papers reported this morning that "North Korea was not even aware of the U.S. bombers" and questioned the response capability of the North Korean military. The network said the ROK military is increasing vigilance against an accidental clash with North Korea and preparing for further provocative actions by the North, including a ballistic missile launch.

- [Japan slips in competitiveness ranking, emerging Asian economies up](#) (Kyodo News)
- [EU to ease restrictions on Fukushima food imports](#) (NHK online)

- [Japan, South Korea discuss ways to expand business ties](#) (Mainichi)
- [Exhibition marks 130 years of Japan-Thailand ties](#) (NHK online)

<b>POLITICS</b>
-----------------

- [Prime minister's schedule on Sept. 26, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Tokyo Gov. Koike vows to "reset Japan" with new "Hope" party](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gist of new party platform announced by Tokyo Gov. Koike](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Opposition Democrats seek merger with Tokyo gov's party](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Politicians continue to leave DP to join Koike's new party](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Koike's new party making advances to Komeito for cooperation](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Survey of newspaper editorials on Abe's plan to dissolve Lower House](#) (Sankei)
- [Koike criticized at Tokyo assembly for founding new party](#) (Asahi)
- [Okinawa Minister Esaki shows mixed feelings toward Koike's "Party of Hope"](#) (Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Is the new party only meant to give some Diet members "hope" for survival?](#) (Sankei)
- [Abe indicates tax increase may be postponed again](#) (Jiji Press)
- [DP notifies Lower House of Matsubara's resignation from party](#) (Mainichi)
- [Komeito member quits parliament over misuse of lawmakers' housing](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ishin Matsui welcomes Koike's "Party of Hope"](#) (Sankei)
- [Hamada appointed as senior vice minister of disaster reconstruction](#) (Kyodo News)
- [LDP endorses Komura's son as candidate for general election](#) (Sankei)
- [Ex-Upper House member Arai asks for reinstatement of LDP membership](#) (Sankei)
- [Gov't estimates 440 billion yen to provide free preschool for children aged 0-2](#) (Nikkei)

- [Editorial: Election a chance to assess Abe gov't's achievements / Debate all-generation social security plan](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Abe's phony excuses for snap poll highlight his irresponsibility](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Abe's reasons for calling snap election far from convincing](#) (The Mainichi)

## ECONOMY

- [Japan wrangles over new target date for balancing budget](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Spent nuclear fuel removal at Fukushima plant to be delayed again](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan Airlines announces code-sharing deal with Hawaiian Airlines](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Interview with Toru Nakaya, chairman of the Central Union of Agricultural Cooperatives](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan successfully undertakes large-scale deep-sea mineral extraction](#) (The Japan Times)
- [2016 lumber self-sufficiency rate reaches 30-year high at 34.8%](#) (Nikkei)
- [60% of Japanese corporate chiefs oppose delaying fiscal reform, Nikkei poll](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## SOCIETY

### TV screenwriter poses questions about euthanasia in Japan

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on Sugako Hashida, one of Japan's most popular TV screenwriters. Hashida, who turned 92 this year, recently caused a stir by openly declaring that she wants to die by euthanasia, which is prohibited by law in Japan. In her latest book, she wrote that since she has no family, she should have the right to choose euthanasia in the end because she does not want to cause trouble for others. She said that when people age, they become consumed by anxiety about how they will end up dying, explaining that having the option of euthanasia can help ease their anxiety. The program also reported on Switzerland, where euthanasia is legal, and other people in Japan who are hoping that euthanasia will be legalized in their nation.

- [Girls can be leaders too!](#) (Asahi Evening edition)
- [Letter to the Editor: What does it mean to be internationally minded?](#) (Mainichi)

## SECURITY

- [Behind the Scenes / Henoko litigation battle remains a quagmire](#) (The Japan News)
- [Commentary: Shift to “Two Non-Nuclear Principles”](#) (Sankei)

## OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

### **Police request U.S. military’s cooperation for Okinawa robbery investigation**

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that according to the Okinawa city police, a man in his 20s was apparently assaulted and robbed of 5,000 yen by two foreign-looking men at around 10:30 p.m. on Monday in the city of Okinawa. The victim told the police that the two foreign-looking men asked him for money in English, held his arms behind his back, and hit him in the face. After losing consciousness, the victim found that 5,000 yen had been stolen from his wallet. In addition to interviewing the victim and conducting door-to-door investigations in the neighborhood, the police have asked the U.S. military to cooperate with the investigation.

---