
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, October 2, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

All broadcasters gave top play to Democratic Party Deputy President Edano's plan to launch a new party for liberal-minded colleagues whose applications for membership in the Party of Hope are likely to be rejected on account of their ideology. Edano met with Chairman Koizu of Rengo (Japanese Trade Union Confederation), the DP's largest support organization, this morning to call for his understanding and cooperation for establishing a political party that advances liberal agendas.

POLITICS

Ruling, opposition lawmakers discuss upcoming general election

On NHK's "Nichiyō Toron" Sunday debate show, lawmakers from the ruling and opposition parties discussed the general election to be held on Oct. 22. Pointing out that it is unclear what kind of policies the Party of Hope is planning to implement for the people of Japan, LDP Election Committee Chairman Shionoya and Komeito Deputy Secretary General Takagi stated that their coalition will continue to provide a stable government by winning the upcoming election. Party of Hope lawmaker Wakasa said that his party is aiming to become a group that can go up against the ruling coalition. Concerning the possibility of Tokyo Governor Koike running in the upcoming election, Wakasa said that Koike may run if there is the possibility of the new party taking the reins of government as a result of the election. But Wakasa added that Koike may choose to run in a later election instead of the one on Oct. 22. Japanese Communist Party Election Committee Chairman Kokuta criticized the Party of Hope by saying that it is a mere supplement to the LDP because it supports constitutional revision and the new security laws.

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 1, 2017](#) (Nikkei)

- [Prime minister's schedule on Sept. 30, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Sept. 29, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan's largest opposition party splits](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Kibo's coordination with DP hits bump](#) (The Japan News)
- [Koike holds the whip hand in Japan's fractured opposition](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [DP, Party of Hope differ substantially on security policy, constitution, consumption tax](#) (Nikkei)
- [Full text of policy agreement to be signed by DP members joining Party of Hope](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Koike campaign joined by Osaka, Aichi governors for October election](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japanese Communist, Social Democratic parties to team up in lower house election](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Proposed Party of Hope regulations to allow for more than one leader](#) (Mainichi)
- [Problems on the horizon for Koike's political strategy](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Both PM Abe, CCS Suga out of Tokyo for 4 hours on Oct. 1](#) (Mainichi)
- [Gist of Nippon Ishin's campaign platform](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Campaign pledges of Party for Japanese Kokoro](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Abe's predominance called into question in general election](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: More than rosy promises needed to secure future of social security](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Can the long-running govt overcome complacency? / Economic policy seen at 'impasse'](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: 'National crisis' scenario could push Japan on perilous course](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Koike's new party should clarify which Abe policies it opposes](#) (The Mainichi)

- [Editorial: Whether Abe keeps control of govt focal point of election / DP's merger into Kibo no To fuels distrust](#) (The Japan News)
- [Ex-U.S. spy, UN rapporteur warn of mass surveillance by government](#) (Akahata)
- [Koike reverses cancellation of official attendance at event](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

OPINION POLLS

- [34% say they will vote for LDP, 19% for Party of Hope in LH election, Yomiuri spot poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Spot opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Kyodo News 2nd trend survey & results from Tokyo Shimbun](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

AMBASSADOR

- [Tokyo posting will be defined by 'tight' Trump-Abe ties, Hagerty says](#) (The Japan Times)
- [U.S. envoy to Japan says military action against N. Korea unlikely](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Koike party's rise clouds outlook for weak yen](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission to investigate Toshiba for document falsification allegations](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan's manufacturing employment hits 7-year high](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [INTERVIEW: Ireland hopes to boost exports under Japan-EU EPA](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Tainted water leak suspected at Fukushima nuclear plant](#) (Kyodo News)

INTERNATIONAL

Italy to expel North Korean ambassador

NHK reported this morning that Italian Foreign Minister Alfano said during an interview with an Italian paper that Italy will expel the North Korean ambassador to Italy as a countermeasure against North Korea's nuclear and missile development. The foreign minister also reportedly said that Italy will maintain its diplomatic relations with North Korea by saying: "I think it's useful to maintain a channel of communication."

- [Abe expresses desire to advance peace treaty with Russia](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Trump must restrain provocative language in dealing with N. Korea issue](#) (The Japan News)

SECURITY

U.S. military community donates 16,000 origami cranes to vandalized sacred cave in Okinawa

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that members of the U.S. military community, including elementary school students, in Okinawa donated on Saturday 16,000 origami cranes to a Chibichirigama cave in Yomitan that was vandalized last month by local teenagers. Chibichirigama is a sacred cave where Okinawan civilians committed mass suicide during the Battle of Okinawa in 1945, and the vandalism destroyed remnants of the battle and piles of origami cranes that had been placed in the cave as symbols of hope and healing. Shocked by the news of the vandalism, the wife of a Kadena airman launched a social media campaign on Sept. 13 asking people to make origami cranes for the cave. American service members, spouses, and other people from around the world donated more than 16,000 cranes to support the campaign. The organizer told the paper that the offering of so many origami cranes is a demonstration of the desire to share the emotional pain of the people of Okinawa. The leader of a group of family members of those who died in the cave expressed appreciation by saying that hope for peace is universal.

- [ASDF conducts PAC-3 drill in Okinawa with eye on DPRK's ballistic missile launches](#) (Sankei)

SOCIETY

- [3.2 mil. Japanese suspected of gambling disorder: gov't estimate](#) (Kyodo News)
- [77 pct of Japan public unaware of antidiscrimination law for disabled](#) (Jiji Press)
- [More Japanese wives are in workforce despite husbands' high income](#) (Kyodo News)

SCIENCE

The massive network of the human body – Prologue

Saturday's "NHK Special" aired the prologue of its series, "The massive network of the human body," saying that although it had been believed in the past that the brain worked as a "control tower" for the body and sent "messages" to other internal organs, the latest study has found that internal organs, such as the heart, liver, and intestines, can directly communicate with each other by emitting chemical signals. The program said this discovery has allowed scientists to detect 13 types

of cancer using just one drop of blood. The discovery is also reportedly aiding the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis patients in Japan.

The massive network of the human body – Part 1: The kidney – Key to life expectancy

Sunday's "NHK Special" aired the first part of its series, "The massive network of the human body," focusing on the kidney. The program said although it had been believed that the kidney just produced urine, scientists around the world are working to understand the power of the organ. The kidney reportedly sends out various signals to other organs and is in charge of controlling the amounts of various substances in the blood. The program said the kidney not only helps to improve high blood pressure but also holds the key to longevity since it controls the amount of phosphorus in the blood, which is closely connected to the rate of aging.

