
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, October 3, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks led with reports on the shooting massacre in Las Vegas on Monday, in which at least 59 people were killed and many others injured. NHK reported that the Las Vegas police told a news conference on Monday that they believe that the girlfriend of the gunman is in Tokyo, adding that they need to ask her some questions about the mass shooting but she is currently out of the country. The network said that although the police believe that the woman was not involved in the incident, they plan to question her when she returns to the U.S. When asked at a news conference this morning whether the GOJ has any information about the woman, Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga said that the GOJ has no information at this time.

TBS gave top play to a report on the establishment of a new liberal party called the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDPJ) led by Deputy Democratic Party President Edano.

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 2, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japanese opposition split turns election into 3-way fight](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gist of LDP's campaign pledges for Lower House election](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [LDP platform specifies revising Article 9, omits deficit deadline](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Gist of Koike's interview with Yomiuri Shimbun on Oct. 2](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Party of Hope may need to change strategy with Koike not running in election](#) (Yomiuri)

- [Gist of Edano's news conference on founding Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Rengo won't back Party of Hope](#) (Yomiuri)
- [What will happen to the Democratic Party's 14 billion yen in political funds?](#) (Mainichi)
- [Party of Hope won't back DP's "heavyweights"](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Party of Hope and Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan differ over security and Constitution](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Democratic Party collapse may set off crisis in party politics](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Editorial: Parties must offer specific measures to address anxiety](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Is tense North Korean situation really an election issue?](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Former top MOD bureaucrat appointed as "special advisor for national security"](#) (Nikkei)
- [Mayuko Toyota scandal brings to light how working as a Diet secretary can become a living hell](#) (The Japan Times)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet nonsupport rises to 46%, surpassing support rate, Kyodo News 2nd trend survey](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [53% say they will "definitely vote" in Lower House election, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)
- [Political party support rates, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK Online)
- [62% say Koike "should focus on her duties as Tokyo governor," Yomiuri spot poll](#) (Yomiuri)

SECURITY

Defense Minister Onodera comments on Henoko relocation work and Osprey landing at Ishigaki

NHK reported this afternoon that although Okinawa Prefecture is calling on the GOJ to immediately cancel the relocation work at Henoko since endangered coral was found in the area, Defense

Minister Onodera expressed the view that the government will move forward with the work because it is taking appropriate measures to protect the environment. Onodera was quoted as telling reporters this morning: "We have been appropriately holding discussions with the Okinawa side, and the prefecture's criticism that our response has been inappropriate and unfaithful is unfair.... The Ministry of Defense will move forward with the relocation work while continuing to pay attention to safety and give maximum consideration to the natural environment in order to realize the return of MCAS Futenma as soon as possible."

Meanwhile, concerning the incident in which Ospreys landed at Ishigaki Airport in Okinawa on Sept. 29 after a warning lamp lit up during the flight, Onodera reportedly said: "Whenever such precautionary landings take place, we ask for information from the U.S. side and relay it to the relevant municipalities."

- [Okinawa Gov. issues administrative guidance urging halt of reclamation work off Henoko](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Ospreys have flown to 23 prefectures in five years since deployment](#) (Akahata)
- [Anti-military research scientist Yamagiwa elected head of Science Council of Japan](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

ECONOMY

- [INTERVIEW: Japan farm union wants smaller low-tax import quotas under TPP](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan plans policy push for robotics, autonomous driving](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Tokio Marine to buy AIG's medical insurance business](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Chinese capital buying up established Japanese inns in rural areas](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan may cut corporate tax rate to 25%](#) (Sankei)

INTERNATIONAL

U.S. think tank says China building oil drilling facilities in East China Sea

NHK reported this morning that the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) released the results of its analysis on China's gas field development in the East China Sea on Monday, saying that it was able to confirm from satellite images that China has built three additional mining facilities on the Chinese side of the Japan-China median line this year. The activities of Chinese ships in waters near the mining facilities reportedly intensified from July to September of this year. The

network reported that up until now MOFA has only confirmed 16 structural objects on the Chinese side of the Japan-China median line, but the CSIS analysis indicates that the total number of facilities has reached 19.

Rohingya crisis

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on the situation of the Rohingya people, an ethnic group mainly made up of Muslims living in the western region of Myanmar, which is predominantly Buddhist. The Rohingya have been denied citizenship in Myanmar since 1982, effectively rendering them stateless. The program said more than 500,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh to escape the fighting between Myanmar security forces and armed insurgents. The international community is casting a stern eye on Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi for failing to resolve the Rohingya crisis. The program added that the problem is becoming increasingly serious due to rising anti-Muslim sentiments in the country.

- [Japan's Kono seeks IAEA support to tackle N. Korea nuclear threat](#) (Kyodo News)

SOCIETY

- [Rapid rise in applications for refugee status](#) (Mainichi)

EDUCATION

- [Nikkei, Columbia Journalism School announce Asia scholarship](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Only 2 Japanese universities make top 200 in world rankings](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa governor issues non-binding instructions to suspend Henoko work

Ryukyu Shimpo front-paged a report saying that Okinawa Governor Onaga gave the Defense Ministry's Okinawa bureau on Monday non-binding administrative instructions to suspend the ongoing landfill work at Henoko. The governor issued the instructions in response to the defense bureau's failure to report to the prefecture until September the presence of a rare type of coral at the construction site even though the coral was discovered in July. The governor stated in the written instructions that the defense bureau's action was inappropriate and that the ongoing work should be suspended in order to hold discussions with the prefecture on measures to protect the coral.

- [One Osprey that landed on Ishigaki Island departs for Futenma](#)
- [Only one base inspection conducted since signing of SOFA environmental pact two years ago](#) (Okinawa Times)

