
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Monday, October 16, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and NTV gave top play to the start of the U.S.-ROK joint military training today. TBS led with a report on the results of a joint opinion poll conducted by JNN and Mainichi, which showed that the LDP is likely to secure more than 261 seats, a comfortable majority, in the Lower House in the upcoming general election. Fuji TV also reported that the ruling coalition is likely to secure almost two-thirds of the seats in the Lower House. TV Asahi gave top play to a report on the cold weather in Tokyo today.

ECONOMY

Aso departs for Washington for U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue

NHK reported at noon that Deputy Prime Minister/Finance Minister Aso left Narita for Washington this morning to attend the second round of the U.S.-Japan Economic Dialogue with Vice President Pence slated for Monday in Washington, saying that the focus will be on to what extent the two sides will be able to produce results in such areas as trade before President Trump's visit next month. The network said there is still a gap between the two nations over trade and investment rules. While the U.S. is interested in a bilateral FTA with Japan, Japan is basically pursuing the TPP. The network added that the U.S. is opposed to Japan's safeguard mechanism for frozen U.S. beef, adding that Japan is planning to propose introducing a system in which the amount of imports is carefully controlled so that it will not exceed the level that would trigger the safeguard. Aso reportedly talked about the economic dialogue at a press conference on Oct. 6, during which he expressed hope to hold constructive discussions in order to further deepen economic relations while protecting national interests.

- [Japan to offer \\$10bn plan for Asian LNG infrastructure](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Indonesia to study ship-based power generation](#) (The Japan News)
- [Bain plans to inject Toshiba Memory \\$9bn to support growth](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Two winds are blowing through Japan](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Balance of power: Shift toward renewable energy appears to be picking up steam](#) (The Japan Times)

INTERNATIONAL

China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative

Saturday's "NHK Special" reported on China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative, a major national project aimed at developing the infrastructure for China's trade routes on land and by sea and creating a huge economic zone connecting China and Europe. The program reported on how three "hot spots" -- Kazakhstan, Poland, and Germany -- have become major suppliers of energy, food, and other products for China, and/or buyers of inexpensive Chinese products. Large numbers of Chinese workers are heading west under the banner of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

- [Editorial: Political parties should also be prepared for Trump's visit to Japan](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan labels North Korea 'significant geopolitical risk' to global economy](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Unified nuclear Korea to be Japan's nightmare](#) (Sankei)
- [Coast Guard chases off 700 DPRK fishing boats poaching in Sea of Japan since September](#) (Sankei)
- [Ex-vice minister of foreign affairs Yabunaka says Hoosiers are Japanophiles](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

POLITICS

Poll: CDPJ gains more support than Party of Hope

TBS reported at noon on the results of its opinion poll conducted over the weekend, which found that support for the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (CDPJ) exceeded that for Koike's Party of Hope. According to the network, public support for the Abe cabinet rose 0.6 points from last month to 48.7%, and nonsupport dropped 1.3 points to 49.2%. In terms of support for political parties, the LDP garnered 32.8%, while the CDPJ gained 7.3% and the Party of Hope got 5.2%. With regard to

Prime Minister Abe's decision to dissolve the Lower House at the beginning of the extraordinary Diet session, 21% of respondents welcomed it, while 75% did not.

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 15, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 14, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 13, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Breakdown of time party leaders devoted to each campaign issue in Oct. 15 speeches](#) (Asahi)
- [Koike affirms she'll stay as party chief after general election](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Koike rules out forming coalition with Abe's LDP](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan's Democrats plan post-election reunion as Hope flags](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Maehara says merging again with DP would make fools of voters](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Hosono says Part of Hope will not merge with DP](#) (Asahi)
- [Left-wing Rengo unions to support Constitutional Democratic Party in LH election](#) (Sankei)
- [2017 Lower House Election / Gender parity still lacking in lower house election](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: The ruling coalition's election strategy](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Yuriko Koike](#) (Asahi)
- [Kono winning trust from Abe, but his father's presence may affect future aspirations](#) (THEMIS)

OPINION POLLS

- [30% planning to vote for LDP in Oct. 22 election, Jiji Press poll](#) (Jiji)
- [Abe's ruling coalition poised to win over 300 Lower House seats, Jiji Press forecast](#) (The Japan Times)
- [LDP support high despite 47% against Abe continuing as prime minister, Mainichi special opinion poll](#) (Mainichi)

- [Special opinion poll & results from Mainichi Shimbun](#) (Mainichi)
- [2017 Lower House Election / Parties, candidates clearly split on top law revision, Yomiuri poll of candidates](#) (The Japan News)
- [Hope party ticket members split on key campaign issues, Asahi-U of Tokyo poll](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [81% say there is lots of fake news online, Yomiuri poll](#) (The Japan News)

SOCIETY

Teams salivate at prospect of drafting three high school stars

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on the Japanese professional baseball draft scheduled for Oct. 26, saying that it is attracting a lot of attention as the fates of three highly talented players will be decided there. The three players are Kotaro Kiyomiya from Waseda Jitsugyo, who holds the unofficial record of 111 home runs during his high school career; Shosei Nakamura from Koryo High School, who broke the record of home runs hit by a player in a single tournament during the National High School Baseball Championship this summer; and Hisanori Yasuda from Riseisha High School. The program reported on the three players' upbringing and training.

- [Vietnamese flock to Japan foreign trainee program as total tops 26,000](#) (The Japan Times)
- [LGBT groups, educators call for diversity in school uniforms](#) (The Japan Times)

SECURITY

- [Okinawa governor's support group likely to lose clout in Lower House election](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan scrambles fighter jets less in first half, but sees uptick in 'unusual' flights by China](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Forced chopper landing highlights Okinawa's high concentration of bases](#) (The Mainichi)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa takes issue with radioactive material in helicopter that made emergency landing

Okinawa's two major dailies continued to report extensively over the weekend and on Monday morning on the latest incident involving a CH-53 helicopter near the Northern Training Area on Thursday, focusing on the fact that an unspecified radioactive material was used in the indicators for

the helicopter's rotor blades. Although the U.S. military has retrieved the material in question, the dailies echoed the strong concern of local Okinawans, with Okinawa Times saying that firefighters engaged in operations to extinguish the fire without knowing about the radioactive material. The paper said the U.S. military failed to comply with a bilateral guideline established following the crash of the same type of helicopter at a local college campus in 2004, holding the U.S. military responsible for swiftly providing the Japanese side with information on whether an aircraft is carrying hazardous materials or weapons that could impede rescue or firefighting operations.

Okinawa Times separately reported on Saturday that Okinawa Vice Governor Tomikawa visited the U.S. Embassy on Friday and asked U.S. military officials to go to the prefectural government office to provide a briefing on the incident. Asked by reporters afterward about how the prefectural government would respond if the CH-53 flights were resumed after the 96-hour suspension, the vice governor said: "We definitely want U.S. military officials to come to our office to provide an explanation. Visiting our office is crucial for maintaining a friendly relationship between the U.S. and Japan. If they fail to do so, it would have various negative effects."

The same daily also claimed that Prime Minister Abe, who it described as having been relatively indifferent to Okinawa issues up until now, firmly instructed GOJ officials to follow up on the latest mishap very closely without relying on the U.S. military. The paper quoted a GOJ source as saying that the premier did this with the ongoing general election campaign in mind. The article said SDF personnel with expertise on aviation accidents were allowed by the U.S. military to enter the cordoned off area a day later, quoting a MOD source as saying: "Thanks to the strong U.S.-Japan relations, the arrangement became possible in response to the GOJ's strong request. Our initial response was a success."