
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, October 20, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks gave top play to reports that powerful Typhoon Lan is expected to make landfall on Honshu on Monday. TBS led with a report that the Emperor may abdicate on March 31, 2019.

INTERNATIONAL

MOFA lodges protest against ROK military's plan to create Takeshima unit

NHK reported this afternoon that Foreign Minister Kono told reporters today that MOFA has lodged a protest with South Korea over a plan presented by the South Korean military to create a new unit in charge of the Liancourt Rocks (Takeshima/Dokdo), saying that it runs counter to the development of a future-oriented relationship amid increasing tension over North Korea. Kono was quoted as saying: "We lodged a strong protest as this is totally unacceptable. It runs counter to the need to strengthen the future-oriented trilateral relationship between Japan, the U.S., and South Korea under the current security climate." He added: "It was also agreed at the vice-foreign ministerial-level meeting between Japan, the U.S., and South Korea that strengthening trilateral cooperation is important. I would like to strengthen trilateral ties as the North Korean situation is becoming more tense."

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 19, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Abe's coalition seen near supermajority in Japan election poll](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Fading Hope: Koike's challenge to Abe fizzles in Tokyo and beyond](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

- [VOTE 2017: Only 17% of LDP candidates agree with Abe on scandal conduct](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [DP members running under Kibo in LH election keeping distance from Koike](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Post-election moves by DP members running as independents may change political landscape](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Rengo's endorsement of Ozawa may be step to promote realignment of opposition parties](#) (Nikkei)
- [Trump eyes MSDF helicopter carrier visit during Japan trip: sources](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to survey disputed isles to advance joint activities with Russia](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan-U.S. alliance key to dealing with global threat from N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Cartoon: Strongman Xi](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: U.S., Russian leaders](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan names envoy to UNESCO as ambassador to Hungary](#) (Kyodo News)

OPINION POLLS

- [LDP keeps momentum, Kibo loses steam, CDPJ gaining strength in LH election: Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Political parties' proportional representation standing in LH election campaign: Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP fighting uphill battles in four single-seat constituencies in Okinawa: Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)

ECONOMY

- [Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. rose 8.7% year-on-year](#) (Asahi)
- [Japan logs goods trade surplus for fourth consecutive half](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Japan shouldn't sit at negotiating table while U.S. is twisting arms on trade](#) (The Japan News)

- [Editorial: Japan should avoid hasty FTA negotiations with the U.S.](#) (Sankei)
- [NEXI to provide 400 billion yen in trade insurance for coal-fired thermal plant in Bangladeshi](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Top Japanese labor body finds hands tied on wage hike demand](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [ICCAT: Bluefin tuna catch can rise 50%](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan's aging fleet of reactors spell trouble for energy blueprint](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SOCIETY

Fraudulent condominium repairs on the rise

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on an increase in cases where malicious design consultants demand kickbacks from general contractors for major repairs to condominiums, using more of the residents' reserve funds than necessary. The program said that the number of condominiums undergoing repair has been increasing in Japan lately and reported on ways to avoid falling victim to fraud.

- [North Korea tops political issues that interest middle, high school students: Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Survey: 700,000 in Japan likely addicted to gambling](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [80% of children say they would vote after turning 18: survey](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

- [Japan defense chief to meet counterparts from ASEAN, U.S., S. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

CH-53E wreckage removed without local investigation

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo gave prominent front- and inside-page play to the U.S. military's operations on Thursday to dismantle and remove the charred Marine helicopter from the accident site adjacent to the Northern Training Area, with the former emphasizing that "key material evidence" in a potential criminal case was taken away without allowing local police to examine it. Although the Okinawa police launched their own investigation on the suspicion that the aircraft violated the act against endangering aviation, the U.S. military has rejected their request for access

to the site. Okinawa Times blamed the SOFA and a 1960 bilateral document for allowing the U.S. military to reject Japan's requests for access to U.S. military "property."

- [Ginowan leader to visit U.S.](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)

