
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, October 27, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, TBS, and Fuji TV led with reports on the revelation that Subaru used uncertified staff to conduct vehicle inspections at two plants in Gunma Prefecture. TV Asahi gave top play to a report that a new leadership team for the Party of Hope will be launched this afternoon. NTV gave top play to a report on Typhoon Saora which is expected to reach Japan this weekend.

INTERNATIONAL

USG adds additional North Korean officials, entities to sanctions list

NHK reported this morning that the USG strongly condemned North Korea's human rights abuses by saying they "remain among the worst in the world" and announced that it has added seven officials of the Kim regime and three entities to the List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons. According to the network, the officials include Minister of Labor Jong Yong Su, the North Korean consul general in Shenyang, China, and the second secretary at the DPRK Embassy in Vietnam. In addition, a North Korean company based in Algeria was included for limiting the freedom of movement of North Koreans and having them work under slave-like conditions. DOS spokesperson Nauert said in a statement that "human rights abuses by the DPRK regime remain among the worst in the world" and the DOS will continue to identify officials involved in human rights abuses and impose sanctions.

Suga comments on Ontario assembly's motion designating Nanjing Massacre Day

Jiji Press reported that Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga commented at a press conference this morning on a motion passed by the Ontario provincial parliament in Canada to designate Dec. 13 as

Nanjing Massacre Commemorative Day. "This runs counter to the position of the Japanese government," Suga was quoted as saying. "Such moves are extremely regrettable as the governments of Japan and China are making efforts to improve relations. The adoption of the motion could divide the diverse local community, including the Asian community."

- [Trump's Asian tour puts spotlight on legacy of Obama 'pivot'](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan may have overpaid U.S. for defense equipment](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Canada PM congratulates Abe on election victory](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Xi Jinping should use his hold on power to stabilize East Asia](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Doubts grow over the effectiveness of economic sanctions on DPRK](#) (AERA)
- [Cartoon: Strong party, strongmen](#) (Mainichi)

ECONOMY

Interest in universal basic income grows worldwide

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that since AI is expected to replace many jobs in the future, there is growing interest in the idea of a universal "basic income" system under which monthly cash payments would be unconditionally provided to all individuals without requiring them to work. The system is reportedly being tested in more than ten nations around the world, and a pilot program began in Finland about six months ago under which monthly payments of about 70,000 yen are distributed to the poor. According to the program, about 100 trillion yen would be necessary to introduce the system in Japan and the income tax would need to be raised by 20% to secure the funds.

- [Productivity reform essential to the wage growth Abe seeks](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Kobe Steel unit loses JIS certification / 4 more cases of data fraud suspected](#) (The Japan News)
- [Subaru chief says improper inspections may date back decades](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Finance Ministry proposes cuts in medical fees and reductions in cost of new drugs](#) (The Japan Times)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Oct. 26, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Strength of in-house groups in House of Representatives and House of Councillors](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan Diet to convene Wed. to re-elect Abe as PM after election](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Party of Hope likely to appoint Atsushi Oshima as co-party chief](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Yuriko Koike](#) (Asahi)
- [Number of members in each LDP faction after election](#) (Mainichi)
- [CDPJ deputy leader Nagatsuma to double as policy chief](#) (Mainichi)
- [Deputy PM Aso clarifies comments attributing election win to N. Korea](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Hashimoto quits as Nippon Ishin legal adviser but hints at possible political comeback](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: CDPJ and Kibo should break habit of shifting political alliances](#) (The Japan News)
- [Abe asks Yasuoka to serve as LDP constitutional revision headquarters special adviser](#) (Mainichi)
- [41.51% of teens voted in Lower House election, gov't survey](#) (Yomiuri)

OPINION POLLS

- [84% of election winners support revision of top law, Yomiuri survey](#) (The Japan News)
- [39% "do not read newspaper," Mainichi Shimbun's 71st survey on reading](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

- [Reforms to the technical intern training program unpopular among applicants?](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Cabinet Office launches poverty relief program through secondhand clothing](#) (Asahi)

AMBASSADOR

- [On reconciliation tour, American ex-POW, 95, revisits Miyagi mine, scene of horrific memories](#) (The Japan Times)

SECURITY

B-2A bomber to participate in ASDF military review

Fuji TV reported at noon on the ASDF's military review to be held on Oct. 29 at Hyakuri Base in Ibaraki, saying that a U.S. B-2A bomber, which can carry nuclear weapons, will fly from the U.S. to participate in the review on that day, according to a source. The network said this will be the first time for a B-2A bomber to fly in skies above Japan, adding that its participation in the review is intended to keep North Korea in check. The network said B-1B bombers will also participate in the review for the first time.

- [U.S. Marines conduct live HIMARS shelling exercises for 1st time in joint drills with GSDF](#) (Akahata)
- [The Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Agency yet to export defense equipment after two years of inception](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa may react strongly to Defense Ministry's confirmation of resumption of CH-53E operations

Okinawa Times and Ryukyu Shimpo reported on the Defense Ministry's announcement on Thursday that it has confirmed the U.S. military's resumption on Oct. 18 of flight operations of CH-53E helicopters following the emergency landing in Higashi Village in Okinawa on Oct. 11. Okinawa Times wrote that the prefecture and relevant municipalities, which have been insisting that the cause of the incident should be explained before resuming flight operations, will likely react strongly to the ministry's response. The paper also wrote that the ministry's response demonstrates its "subservience" to the U.S. military. Ryukyu Shimpo expressed a similar view, saying that local residents' disappointment with the GOJ will likely increase.

- [GOJ requests Okinawa permit for transferring rare coral](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)
- [Ginowan mayor "places hopes on President's remarks"](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)

