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 **JAPAN MEDIA  
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Thursday, November 16, 2017

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#### HEADLINES

##### Noon news

TBS led with a report that the former U.S. base worker who was arrested on charges of assaulting and killing a 20-year-old woman in Uruma, Okinawa, last April said during a trial held this morning at the Naha District Court that he had no intention to murder the woman. Other networks continued to report on the case of alleged assault by sumo grand champion Harumafuji.

#### INTERNATIONAL

##### President Trump stresses significance of his Asia trip

NHK reported online that President Trump delivered a speech at the White House on Wednesday, during which he stressed the significance of his first visit to Asia. According to the network, the President said he was able to confirm unity with nations to maximize pressure on North Korea, quoting him as saying: "We asked all nations to support our campaign of maximizing pressure for North Korean denuclearization. They are responding by cutting trade with North Korea and expelling North Korean diplomats and workers." The network said the President also said he agreed with Prime Minister Abe in Japan to maintain cooperation to realize the goal of North Korean denuclearization. The President also reportedly said: "Japan also committed to shoulder more of the burden of our common defense. This will include purchases of U.S. advanced capabilities from jet fighters to missile defense." The network also pointed out that although the White House indicated that the President would decide whether to put North Korea back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism during his visit to Asia, the President did not refer to the topic in his speech on Wednesday.

- [Japan's Abe tones down South China Sea rhetoric](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [FM Kono issues statement welcoming adoption of UN resolution condemning](#)

## DPRK (Nikkei)

- [North Korea situation may change; exit strategy needed: expert](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [Interview: Former U.S. Defense Secretary advocates dialogue with DPRK](#) (Asahi)
- [Commentary: Japan, U.S. should share the same view of China](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japanese expert on Trump's Asia tour, diplomatic challenges](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Imperial Hotel achieves long-held dream of winning Trump's stay](#) (Shukan Gendai)
- [Japan seeks support for Osaka's bid to host 2025 World Expo](#) (Jiji Press)

## **ECONOMY**

- [Japan, EU agree on efforts to conclude free trade talks soon](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Vietnamese leader holds out hope for US rejoining TPP](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan, Indonesia sign \\$1 billion loan for constructing new seaport](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Toyota puts more focus on SUVs in the competitive US market](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [9 N-reactors in Japan use Kobe steel products](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Renewed nuclear pact with U.S. to allow Japan to continue reusing nuclear fuel](#) (Nikkei)
- [Visitors to Japan to top 28 m. in 2017](#) (Jiji Press)

## **POLITICS**

- [Abe vows to beef up alliance with U.S. amid N. Korea threat](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 15, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Koike's resignation as Party of Hope leader could speed up split within party](#) (The Mainichi)
- [No party leaders' debate taking place during the current Diet session](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

- [Okada calls for joint DP, CDPJ, Kibo proportional representation list in Upper House election](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

## SCIENCE

### War on the environment

NHK's "Close-up Gendai +" reported on the COP23 that recently took place in Bonn, Germany, saying that President Trump's announcement in June of the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Agreement is causing a stir. The program said the U.S. coal industry is making a comeback with a 15% increase in coal production from the previous year, adding that U.S. coal exports to Poland, which still relies heavily on coal, are on the rise. The program said this development is reversing measures against global warming. Keio University Professor Toshihiro Nakayama said that President Trump needed to promote the coal industry because many of his supporters are from areas that rely heavily on coal. He also said that many Republicans are extremely skeptical of global warming and multilateral agreements.

On the other hand, some state governments such as California as well as major American companies are working together to push back against the Trump administration and developing their own measures to fight global warming. The program said environment-related businesses are thriving in California, adding the state has agreed with China to strengthen economic cooperation in renewable energy. California has also begun providing assistance to developing nations to help them fight global warming.

- [Japanese satellite to beam down emissions data for emerging Asia](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

## SECURITY

### PM Abe, Adm. Harris confirm closer cooperation

NHK reported this afternoon that Prime Minister Abe met with visiting PACOM Commander Harris at the Kantei today. The network said the two officials confirmed closer cooperation toward enhancing the response capability and deterrence of the U.S.-Japan alliance given the increasingly severe security situation in the region. According to the network, PM Abe said: "President Trump's recent visit to Japan has further strengthened the ties of the U.S.-Japan alliance." Adm. Harris reportedly referred to the recent joint military training held between the MSDF and three U.S. carriers in the Sea of Japan by saying: "The military drills represent the excellent relationship between the U.S. and Japan. President Trump has stressed the importance of the U.S.-Japan alliance, and I would like to play my own role."

### Former Okinawa U.S. base worker denies intent to murder

All networks reported at noon that the former U.S. base worker who was arrested on charges of assaulting and killing a 20-year-old woman in Uruma, Okinawa, said during a trial that began at the Naha District Court this morning that he had no intention to murder the woman. According to the networks, the suspect admitted that he had intended to assault her and that he abandoned her body, but said: "I had no intention to kill her and I did not kill her." He reportedly said that although he had planned to render her unconscious, take her to a hotel, and let her go after assaulting her, his plan did not work out. The prosecutors reportedly claimed that he did intend to kill her because he stabbed her in the neck several times with a knife. NHK said a ruling will be handed down on Dec. 1.

- [Abe vows to beef up alliance with U.S. amid N. Korea threat](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ex-U.S. base worker denies intent to kill Okinawa woman](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Domestic cybersecurity insurance market to quadruple by 2020](#) (Nikkei Evening edition)

#### OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

### **Onaga remains adamant in opposition to FRF after three years in office**

As today marks the third anniversary of Okinawa Governor Onaga's election as governor, Ryukyu Shimpo ran a retrospective piece on his first three years in office. During a news conference on Wednesday, the governor reiterated his pledge to oppose the FRF construction at Henoko but made no comment on whether he will run in the next gubernatorial election in the fall of 2018. The paper wrote that although Onaga has not yet announced whether he will seek a second term, Futenma relocation will be the major issue in the election if he runs in the race. A source close to the governor said that Onaga will pay close attention to the results of the Nago mayoral election to be held in February 2018, speculating that he may not run in the gubernatorial race if incumbent Mayor Inamine fails to get reelected. A group of LDP prefectural assembly members announced in August that it will launch a committee to select their candidate for governor. Noting that there is talk of former vice governors, an incumbent Diet member, the head of a private school, and several business people running for governor, the paper conjectured that the local LDP legislators decided to launch the committee to prevent such rumors from circulating.

In a related development, the paper wrote that Onaga is enjoying the highest public support among past Okinawa governors. The paper's public opinion survey conducted [in May] this year showed that 66.7% of respondents endorsed Governor Onaga, while 19.3% didn't and 14% were undecided. Similar surveys in the past showed that 38% supported Governor Nishime in 1982, 33.6% backed Governor Ota in 1992, 36.5% approved of Governor Inamine in 2002, and 35.9% supported Governor Nakaima in 2007.

- [Heinous crimes by U.S. military personnel cause 620 victims in post-war Okinawa: local paper survey](#) (Okinawa Times)
  - [Suga to back Nago assembly member in next year's Nago mayoral race](#) (Okinawa Times)
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