
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, November 21, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and Fuji TV led with reports that President Trump announced on Monday that North Korea will be put back on the list of state sponsors of terrorism. TBS led with a report that an Okinawan fishing boat was found capsized in waters off Palau, saying that all seven crew members are missing. TV Asahi gave top play to a report that the Tottori police are planning to send papers to prosecutors on the alleged assault by sumo grand champion Harumafuji.

INTERNATIONAL

GOJ welcomes relisting of North Korea as state sponsor of terrorism

Most networks reported that the GOJ has welcomed the relisting of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism by the U.S., quoting Prime Minister Abe as telling reporters this morning: "Our nation welcomes and supports the relisting of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism by the United States as this will strengthen pressure on North Korea." NHK quoted Defense Minister Onodera as saying this morning: "North Korea has not conducted any ballistic missile tests over the past two months but we cannot deny that it continues to conduct various types of research and development. It is necessary to apply unified international pressure on North Korea. North Korea is likely to react sharply, so we cannot rule out the possibility that it will take additional provocative actions. In any case, increased vigilance is crucial and we will continue to maintain a sense of readiness to respond." TV Asahi reported that a senior GOJ official stressed the significance of maximizing pressure on North Korea by saying that the relisting will send a "strong message to North Korea."

- [Osaka mayor asks San Francisco counterpart to veto bill on comfort women statue](#) (Yomiuri Evening edition)
- [Chinese premier to meet Japanese business leaders](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Foreign Minister Kono to attend climate summit on behalf of Abe](#) (Mainichi)
- [Nikai tells LDP members to stress Japan's position on comfort women issue when in U.S](#) (Sankei)
- [JIIA to hold symposiums on "history and reconciliation" across the globe](#) (Sankei)

ECONOMY

Environment Ministry launches project using "nudge theory"

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the so-called "nudge theory" developed by U.S. economist Richard Thaler, who won this year's Nobel Prize in Economics for his work on behavioral economics. The program said that Professor Thaler's theory is based on the human tendency to lack self-control and make decisions that are not the most advantageous. Professor Thaler believes that by taking advantage of human nature, people can easily be "nudged" into making better decisions. The Ministry of the Environment is reportedly launching a nationwide project using the nudge theory in which it will send reports indicating above-average electricity consumption to relevant households in order to promote energy conservation.

- [Gov't to support dairy, sugarcane farmers affected by TPP, Japan-EU EPA](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japanese business delegation visits China in trade outreach](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Mitsubishi Corp. lands 30 billion yen Philippine light rail deal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan plans to reduce corporate tax to push wage hikes](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan logs 5th straight month of trade surplus in Oct.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan Atomic Power to seek lifespan extension for aging plant](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Commentary: The false promises of farm exports as a growth strategy](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Government considers allocating part of forest management tax revenue to prefectures to fund staff development](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Cartoon: Abenomics not lifting all boats](#) (Akahata)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Nov. 20, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gist of Lower House representative interpellations, Nov. 20](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [CDPJ's Edano, Party of Hope's Tamaki take different approaches in Diet interpellations](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP's Kishida projects individuality in Diet representative interpellation debut](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Party of Hope to compile proposed amendments to security laws](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Debate needed on revising constituencies comprising multiple prefectures](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Interview: New DP leader envisions coalition with CDPJ and Party of Hope](#) (Sankei)

SCIENCE

- [Germany, France lead Paris Agreement; Japan envisions U.S. return to pact](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan criticized by international community for ivory trade practices](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)

EDUCATION

- [Panel's draft final report proposes new law to revitalize regional universities](#) (Yomiuri)

SOCIETY

- [Japan Inc changing tacks to re-hire women workers](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

AMBASSADOR

Ambassador Hagerty discusses bilateral business ties with Aichi governor

Chunichi Shimbun and other news outlets in the Chubu region reported on Ambassador Hagerty's courtesy call on Aichi Governor Omura on Monday, during which they confirmed mutual efforts to further enhance bilateral economic ties with the considerable investment in the U.S. made by over 200 local firms, including Denso, which has assembly lines in Tennessee, in mind. The Japanese

official asked for the Ambassador's support for the Mitsubishi Regional Jet (MRJ) test flights currently being conducted in America for planes being manufactured at a Mitsubishi factory in the prefecture. The Ambassador was quoted as saying in reply that Aichi Prefecture holds the key to strengthening U.S.-Japan economic relations.

SECURITY

Defense chief acknowledges that ASDF trained with B-52s

Asahi reported online on press remarks this morning by Defense Minister Onodera, who acknowledged that two ASDF F-15 fighter jets conducted a joint drill with two USAF B-52 strategic bombers over the Sea of Japan on Aug. 22. He stressed that enhancing coordination between the two militaries will lead to stronger pressure on North Korea.

- [Japanese version of Tomahawk eyed](#) (The Japan News)
- [Continued surveillance sought for Aum-linked groups](#) (Jiji Press)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa says, "No more!"

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times both reported heavily on the latest developments concerning Sunday's fatal traffic accident involving a Marine who was driving under the influence of alcohol, including Okinawa Area Coordinator Nicholson's apology to Governor Onaga yesterday and the U.S. military's decision to implement a stricter liberty policy not only for personnel in the island prefecture but for all service members in Japan.

Okinawa Times wrote that the U.S. military authorities in Okinawa reacted quickly to the latest incident, explaining that Nicholson phoned a senior prefectural government official only five hours after the accident to explain the circumstances and issued a statement expressing condolences to the victim's family on the same day. Pointing out that the top Marine in Okinawa chose to visit the prefectural government the next day and offer an apology to the governor in front of the press, the article said this swift response marked a sharp contrast to the U.S. military's "slow" handling of the CH-53E helicopter accident in October. The central government also responded quickly, with Foreign Minister Kono, who was overseas at the time, instructing Vice Minister Sugiyama to file a protest with Ambassador Hagerty without delay. The daily emphasized, however, that Okinawa's distrust of the U.S. military still runs deep, highlighting the governor's remarks to Nicholson: "The U.S. military cannot be called a 'good neighbor. The people of Okinawa are fed up.... No more. No more."

Ryukyu Shimpo wrote that although Brig. Gen. Paul Rock, the U.S. military's No. 2 official in Okinawa, had initially planned to visit the prefectural government on Monday, Lt. Gen. Nicholson decided to meet with the governor instead and apologized repeatedly together with Naha Consul General Ehrendreich. However, local officials are reportedly very skeptical about the effectiveness of the stricter liberty policy focusing on a ban on alcohol, with one of them saying: "It will end eventually.... We would like to tell U.S. military personnel never to leave base!"

- [U.S. Ambassador Hagerty sees "Henoko as only solution," "appreciates contribution of Okinawan community"](#) (Okinawa Times)
 - [U.S. Ambassador stresses significance of "Henoko," maintains stance of Japan, U.S. gov'ts](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Okinawa vice governor protests Okinawa ambassador over fatal DUI incident](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Amphibious rapid deployment brigade to train in Okinawa](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
 - [Citizen group finds U.S military also conducting low-altitude flight training over Amami](#) (Okinawa Times)
 - [Over 25,000 sexual assault cases reported at U.S. military facilities in 4 years: DoD report](#) (Okinawa Times)
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