

---



# JAPAN MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Afternoon Alert - Monday, December 11, 2017

The following information reflects the reporting of the cited news media and does not reflect the opinions of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. Japan Media Highlights is intended for USG use only and should not be forwarded. Visit the website [here](#). For more information, contact [TokyoMATT@state.gov](mailto:TokyoMATT@state.gov).

## HEADLINES

### Noon news

All networks gave top play to reports that the Tottori police sent to prosecutors today files on sumo grand champion Harumafuji for allegedly assaulting a junior sumo wrestler.

## INTERNATIONAL

### Japan, U.S., ROK begin military training

NHK reported at 3 p.m. that South Korea's Ministry of National Defense announced that Japan, the U.S., and South Korea began a two-day training drill today based on the scenario of North Korea launching a ballistic missile in order to demonstrate strengthened trilateral cooperation in increasing pressure on the North. According to the network, MSDF Aegis ships and U.S. and ROK naval forces deployed in waters near Japan and South Korea will detect and track a mock missile and share information on its trajectory. The network said such training was conducted for the first time last June and this is the fourth time for it to be held. NHK said South Korea has been playing up its stance of strengthening ties with Japan and the U.S. to increase pressure on the DPRK through large-scale exercises by the U.S. and South Korean air forces this month and extending the GSOMIA with Japan.

- [Cartoon: President Trump](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [China said planning to set up North Korean refugee facilities](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Sudden dive in gasoline prices reported in North Korea](#) (Asahi)

- [China's Xi plans to attend next week's Nanjing massacre ceremony](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe repeats hopes for "future-oriented" Japan-S. Korea ties](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan pledges contribution to Israel-Palestine peace process](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital could spark turmoil](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, Russia mull outdoor tourism project in Northern Territories](#) (Sankei)
- [Japan gearing up for busy top diplomacy at home in 2019](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Locals deny forced labor by Koreans at coal mine now UNESCO site](#) (Kyodo News)

## ECONOMY

### **Economic revitalization minister explains new economic package**

In NHK's "Nichiyo Toron" Sunday debate show, Economic Revitalization Minister Motegi talked about the Abe administration's new 2-trillion-yen economic package focusing on boosting productivity and promoting the development of human resources in view of Japan's rapidly aging population. The administration approved the package at a cabinet meeting on Dec. 8. The cornerstone of the package is support for early childhood education that will make schooling completely free for all children aged 3 to 5 and provide support for families with children up to age 2. The cost will be paid for using part of the revenue from an October 2019 consumption tax hike that was originally earmarked for debt reduction. Tuition for higher education will also be covered for low-income households. The package will also provide support for investment by enterprises that improve their productivity.

Motegi stated that the aging population is one of the most pressing issues for Japan and that the Abe administration has expressed its resolve to address the issue by providing additional support for the young generation. In response to concern expressed by one of the three economists who participated in the discussion that the package will make it difficult for the GOJ to achieve its goal of restoring fiscal soundness, Motegi said that although it might be difficult for the GOJ to achieve the goal by fiscal 2020 as planned, the Abe administration will maintain its goal of turning the primary balance deficit into a surplus in the near future.

- [Japan and EU settle trade pact, aim for 2019 start](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan-EU trade deal flies in face of protectionist trend](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, Europe to contain U.S. via bilateral EPA](#) (Sankei)

- [Japan, US, EU to join in pressuring China on fair trade](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Latvia PM says EU-Japan trade pact will lead to economic growth](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan may support 'One Belt, One Road' as a trade-off for constitutional revision](#) (Sentaku)
- [Obayashi alleged to have rigged bid on maglev-linked construction](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Indonesia, Japan to decide on gauge for Jakarta-Surabaya rail by March](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Gov't to lead AI semiconductor development through public-private collaboration](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan poised to lift fiscal 2018 growth outlook](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan asks UAE for extension of oil-field contracts](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Pacific bluefin tuna catch quotas to change based on stock recovery](#) (The Japan News)
- [Pacific bluefin tuna to get flexible catch quotas](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Gov't eyes INCJ fund reform to boost investment in venture firms](#) (Kyodo News)

<b>POLITICS</b>
-----------------

### **Support for Abe cabinet at 43.7%**

TV Asahi reported at noon on the results of its opinion survey carried out over the weekend, which found that 43.7% of respondents, down 0.5 points from last month, expressed support for the Abe cabinet, and 39.6%, down 1.9 points, expressed nonsupport. On political parties, support for the LDP was 42.3%, followed by 14.5% for the CDPJ and 5.3% for Komeito. When asked who is best suited to be the next prime minister, 29% chose Shinjiro Koizumi, 16% favored Prime Minister Abe, and 16% selected former LDP Secretary General Ishiba. While 40% supported PM Abe's handling of North Korea, 42% expressed disapproval.

- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec. 9, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec. 8, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [LDP headquarters to meet on Dec. 20 to present basic thinking on four constitutional revision issues](#) (Sankei)

- [Calls for restricting power to dissolve Lower House emerge in LDP](#) (Mainichi)
- [Komeito to resume constitutional revision debate](#) (Asahi)
- [Support for Party of Hope plummets with decline in “Koike fever”](#) (Sankei)
- [Editorial: Innovative efforts needed to embody goals in new economic policy package](#) (The Japan News)
- [LDP lawmakers dominate list of top donation recipients in 2016](#) (Kyodo News)
- [What the polls are saying \(Part 3\): Opposition parties are becoming regional parties](#) (Nikkei)

## SCIENCE

### Scientific misconduct at Tokyo University

Sunday's "NHK Special" reported on the issue of scientific misconduct by University of Tokyo Professor Yoshinori Watanabe, saying that it was found in August that five of Watanabe's research papers on molecular and cellular biology contained fabricated data. The program said two other professors at the University of Tokyo wrote papers in 2006 and 2014 in which data was found to be fabricated. The program interviewed more than 100 people and learned that Japanese scientists are fiercely competing for the GOJ's scientific research funds in order to maintain their labs. The program also reported on competition among scientists to publish papers in leading scientific magazines such as Nature and CELL.

- [Japan to test hydrogen-fueled power generation from Feb.](#) (Jiji Press)

## SECURITY

- [S. Korea, Japan, U.S. to hold 2-day missile tracking drill from Mon.](#) (Jiji)
- [Japan seeing increase in boats drifting apparently from N. Korea](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Editorial: Boost vigilance to prevent poaching, illegal landings by North Koreans](#) (The Japan News)
- [“You are a real hero!” – 50 Okinawa residents write messages to U.S. Marine seriously injured while rescuing Japanese](#) (Sankei, Online)
- [\[News not reported by two Okinawa papers\] A selfless U.S. Marine in comma after saving Japanese – Okinawa papers ignore his heroism, giving top play to a court decision against ex-U.S. base worker](#) (Sankei, Online)

**OKINAWA LOCAL  
PRESS**

- [U.S. serviceman in coma after his car involved in pileup on Okinawa Expressway](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
  - [Official from U.S. consulate general in Naha visits Miyako mayor](#) (Miyako Shimpo)
- 

