
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, December 12, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

Most networks gave top play to reports on snowstorms along the coast of the Sea of Japan today. Fuji TV led with a report that Charles Jenkins, the husband of Hitomi Soga, died yesterday at the age of 77.

INTERNATIONAL

ICAN's Nobel Peace Prize and the pursuit of a nuclear-free world

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" focused on the speech delivered by ICAN campaigner and Japanese hibakusha Setsuko Thurlow at this year's Nobel Peace Prize award ceremony, saying that she was given the important task of conveying a message to a world that is divided over the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The program said Japan's role as the only nation to have suffered the devastation of atomic bombings in wartime is being called into question. But as Japan relies heavily on the U.S. nuclear umbrella, its official position is that pursuing nuclear disarmament through the NPT is more realistic than the nuclear ban treaty. The program interviewed Foreign Minister Kono, who said that Japan has no choice but to depend on the U.S. nuclear umbrella while maintaining the three non-nuclear principles, and that if Japan were to participate in the nuclear ban treaty, it would no longer be protected by U.S. nuclear deterrence. He said although Japan shares the same goal of a nuclear-free world, it has chosen a different path. Kono explained that the nuclear powers should first negotiate to reduce the number of nuclear weapons to a minimum point, create a framework to verify the number of nuclear weapons held by each nuclear power, and then seek to

completely abandon nuclear weapons. The program said although Japan was originally in support of the nuclear ban treaty, it decided not to participate in the end due to strong pressure from the U.S.

- [China-North Korea border bridge closes for repairs](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [China closes border bridge to send “warning” to North Korea: diplomatic source in Beijing](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan hails antinuke group’s Nobel Peace Prize, resists policy change](#) (Kyodo News)
- [FOCUS: Jerusalem issue puts Japan’s top envoy in tight spot in Middle East](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan pledges to support Iraq’s post-Islamic State recovery](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, S. Korea to skip finance dialogue this year](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abductees plight highlighted at U.N. talks on N. Korea rights abuses](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [AIIB makes unusual move by granting loan to Chinese state-owned enterprise](#) (Yomiuri)
- [U.S. beef price jump 3% on the month](#) (Nikkei)
- [Toshiba and Western Digital close to ending legal dispute](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan’s free trade campaign could sputter without U.S. or China](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Japan’s Kubota lands major Myanmar waterworks project](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [A U.S. specialist firm efficiently handles reactor decommissioning](#) (Nikkei)
- [Gov’t mulls limiting new drug development premium to top 25% pharmaceutical companies](#) (Sankei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister’s schedule on Dec. 10 – 11, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Forty-three members of DP’s Tokyo chapter bid farewell to the party](#) (Asahi)

- [Leader proposes plan to disband opposition Democratic Party](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Reactivate debate between prime minister, leaders of opposition parties](#) (The Japan News)
- [Up-and-coming FM Kono worrying about his “father”](#) (Shukan Shincho)

OPINION POLLS

- [Cabinet approval rating steady at 53%, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [91% pleased with decision on abdication, 46% say pressure should be prioritized in relation to DPRK, Yomiuri poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)
- [49% support cabinet, 35% do not, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)
- [Cabinet and political party support rates, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)

SCIENCE

- [Japan plans to join U.S.-led moon station project](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan’s greenhouse gas emissions fall for 3rd straight year](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan to launch Epsilon rocket next month](#) (Asahi)

EDUCATION

- [Gov’t to submit legislation aimed at curbing rise in enrollment at colleges in Tokyo](#) (Asahi)

SECURITY

International conference on cross-border organized crime begins in Tokyo

NHK reported that representatives of law enforcement authorities handling organized crime from 14 nations and regions in Asia, including Japan, China, Vietnam, and Macao, gathered for a two-day international conference that began in Tokyo today to discuss how to deal with cross-border organized crime. The network quoted National Policy Agency (NPA) chief Sakaguchi as saying: "Highly organized crime rings are obtaining huge amounts of money through specialized fraud, drug smuggling, and money laundering. Organized crime in cyberspace is also on the rise. Close cooperation among nations under an international framework is necessary to deal with cross-border

crime." In addition, the network said an NPA official also reported that Japanese organized crime groups are smuggling stimulants from Taiwan and other places to earn money and Japanese specialized fraud groups are setting up bases in China and other foreign nations.

- [DM Onodera interviewed on missile defense, SDF, succession to PM Abe](#) (Sankei)
- [USFJ stationing costs mark record high](#) (Akahata)
- [Gov't to establish new counterterrorism center ahead of 2020 Olympics](#) (Kyodo News)

**OKINAWA LOCAL
PRESS**

U.S. military dismisses claim that part fell from Futenma-based aircraft

Okinawa Times wrote that concerning the incident in which a small cylindrical object fell onto the roof of a nursery school in Ginowan, Director General Nakajima of the Defense Ministry's Okinawa bureau told Okinawa Vice Governor Tomikawa on Monday that the Marines have told him that they don't believe that the object fell from an aircraft based at MCAS Futenma. Nakajima conveyed the U.S. military's explanation that although it looks like the cover for an instrument to detect damage to CH-53 helicopter blades, they have confirmed that the covers for all the helicopters at Futenma were removed and stored before the aircraft departed from the base. According to the paper, Tomikawa and Ginowan Mayor Sakima, who was briefed by Nakajima earlier, expressed doubt about the U.S. side's explanation.

- [Okinawa gov't to send mission to Italy, Germany in Jan. to study SOFAs with U.S. military](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)