
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, December 22, 2017

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK and Fuji TV gave top play to the Abe cabinet's approval on Friday of a record-high \$862 billion budget plan for fiscal 2018, noting that it features \$290 billion in social security spending and \$46 billion for defense, both record figures. Other broadcasters' top items included yesterday's deadly fire in Jecheon, South Korea, and the secessionist parties' victory in Thursday's regional election in Catalonia

INTERNATIONAL

Government spokesman comments on Japan's support for UN motion on Jerusalem

Several broadcasters, including NHK, took up press remarks this morning by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga regarding Japan's endorsement of a UN General Assembly resolution calling for the U.S. to cancel its decision to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital. The top government spokesperson said: "Japan supports a two-state settlement of the conflict between the Israelis and the Palestinians. We believe that pending issues, including one related to the final status of Jerusalem, should be settled by negotiations between the two direct parties based on adopted relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the existing agreements that have been reached between them. We voted in favor of the motion with this position in mind." He added that Japan has always cooperated with the United States on the issue of peace in the Middle East.

Japan to station diplomats at NATO

Nikkei reported online that the GOJ decided on Friday to establish a mission to the NATO headquarters in Brussels in FY2018 with the goal of strengthening the coalition against North Korea through greater coordination with European countries.

- [Japan to give consideration to U.S. by not making a UN speech](#) (Asahi)
- [S. Korean envoy to 6-party talks to meet Japan's counterpart on Fri.](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Revising comfort women agreement is beyond the bounds of possibility](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Now is the time to pursue a China-Japan-South Korea summit](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

ECONOMY

- [Japanese minister to visit Vietnam next week for TPP talks](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Toyota-backed fund invests in Israeli robotics startup](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Kansai Electric decides to scrap 2 old Oi nuclear reactors](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Trump tax cuts could mean a \\$3.5bn boon for Japan Inc.](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Cartoon: Shoddy manufacturing and management](#) (Sankei)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Dec. 21, 2017](#) (Nikkei)
- [Editorial: Properly discuss 'stipulating SDF' in top law to gain public understanding](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Our reasons for opposing Abe's revision agenda on Constitution](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Gist of FY 2018 draft budget](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cabinet OKs largest-ever 97.71 tril. yen draft budget for FY 2018](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Cartoon: PM Abe](#) (Asahi)

OPINION POLLS

- [Half of Japanese and Americans think bilateral ties are "in good shape," Yomiuri-Gallup poll](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Yomiuri-Gallup opinion poll & results from Yomiuri Shimbun](#) (Yomiuri)

SECURITY

- [Illegal export of U.S. infrared camera to China reveals legal loopholes](#) (Yomiuri, Evening edition)
- [Joint nuclear disaster preparedness drill conducted in Yokosuka](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa legislature adopts motion calling for suspension of flights over civilian property

Ryukyu Shimpo and Okinawa Times reported that the Okinawa prefectural assembly approved a resolution on Thursday demanding the suspension of flights by Futenma-based airplanes over civilian property, such as daycare facilities, schools, and hospitals. Assembly representatives will reportedly visit Tokyo next week to deliver a copy of the motion to the U.S. Embassy, Foreign Ministry, Defense Ministry, and other ministries.

- [GOJ to reduce Okinawa budget with gubernatorial race next fall in mind](#) (Okinawa Times)
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