
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Tuesday, January 9, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, NTV, TBS, and Fuji TV gave top play to reports on the ministerial meeting between North and South Korea at Panmunjom this morning. TV Asahi led with a report on the finding that a Japanese canoeist spiked the drink of a rival competitor during a race held last year in order to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

INTERNATIONAL

North Korea to send delegation to PyeongChang Olympics

NHK reported this afternoon on the talks between North and South Korea that began at Panmunjom today, saying that South Korea's vice minister of unification Chun Hae-sung told reporters that North Korea said it will send a delegation of senior officials, athletes, and a cheering squad to the PyeongChang Olympics to be held next month. The network added, however, that it is unknown whether any conditions were attached to the decision. The network also reported that Seoul proposed military talks with Pyongyang to relax military tensions between the two nations, as well as holding a working-level meeting on reuniting families separated by the Korean War.

South Korea not to seek renegotiation of 2015 agreement

NHK reported on its website that South Korean Foreign Minister Kang held a press conference this afternoon, during which she said that South Korea will not call on the Japanese government to renegotiate the 2015 comfort women agreement. Kang also reportedly said that South Korea will

match the amount of money provided by the Japanese government under the agreement with its own contribution.

Sugiyama officially appointed as next ambassador to the U.S.

NHK reported this morning that the Cabinet has officially decided this morning to appoint Vice Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama as the new ambassador to the U.S., effective Jan. 29. The network said Senior Deputy Foreign Minister Takeo Akiba will be promoted to Sugiyama's current post and North American Affairs Bureau Director General Takeo Mori will succeed Akiba, effective Jan. 19.

- [Japan “cannot accept” new S. Korean policy on “comfort women” deal](#) (Kyodo News)
- [S. Korea not to seek renegotiation of “comfort women” deal with Japan](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan mulling inviting Putin in 2019 to press isles issue](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Shinzo Abe seeks improved Sino-Japanese ties in 2018](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Abe to visit Baltics, Southeastern Europe from next week](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Kono seeks to boost Indian Ocean relations](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan, Maldives agree to push Tokyo’s Indo-Pacific strategy](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan, Sri Lanka affirm maritime, security cooperation](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Editorial: Enhance Japan-U.S. alliance to help rein in North Korea / Improve ties with China through visits](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: Calm response needed to President Moon’s comfort women accord comments](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: Inter-Korean talks must not result in easing intl pressure on Pyongyang](#) (The Japan News)
- [Japan’s influence in UN waning after term as non-permanent UNSC member ended](#) (Kanagawa Shimbun)
- [CCS Suga pledges support for radio broadcasts targeting abductees, North Korean citizens](#) (Sankei)
- [International body OK’s Japanese names for undersea features](#) (The Japan News)

Defense Secretary Mattis “apologizes” for repeated U.S. aircraft incidents

NHK reported this morning that Defense Minister Onodera and Defense Secretary Mattis spoke by phone this morning, during which Onodera asked for drastic measures to be taken in relation to the series of incidents and problems involving U.S. military helicopters in Okinawa. According to the network, Onodera said: "In view of the worries and concerns of the local people, we once again ask for drastic measures to prevent a recurrence and ensure thorough inspections and maintenance." In response, the Secretary reportedly "apologized" and said he plans to take up the matter as a major issue. All commercial networks carried similar reports.

NHK said the two defense chiefs also talked about the ministerial meeting between North and South Korea scheduled for today and agreed that it should not be dialogue for the sake of dialogue and that the U.S., Japan, and South Korea should continue to work closely and maximize pressure on the North to change its policy. The network also quoted Onodera as telling reporters after the teleconference: "I talked about the series of incidents occurring last September, October, and December in Okinawa, citing concrete examples. The U.S. and Japan share the perception that flights should be conducted after safety has been ensured."

Defense Minister Onodera requests USFJ to inspect all its aircraft

NHK reported this afternoon that Defense Minister Onodera disclosed at a press conference today that he has asked the USFJ Commander, Lt. Gen. Martinez, to conduct safety inspections of all USFJ aircraft following the recent series of incidents involving U.S. military aircraft. Onodera was quoted as saying: "I am asking the U.S. side to take thorough measures for flight safety." Concerning Okinawa Governor Onaga's comment that the Japanese government should be ashamed of its lack of ability to solve its own problems, Onodera said: "I think his words represent the anxiety of the people of Okinawa, where incidents have occurred repeatedly. The Japanese government will strongly call on the U.S. side to ensure flight safety."

Defense Minister Onodera to visit Aegis Ashore facility in Hawaii

Jiji Press reported that Defense Minister Onodera announced today that he will visit Hawaii from Jan. 9 to 11, adding that he is expected to visit a testing facility for the Aegis Ashore system, which the GOJ is planning to introduce. Onodera reportedly said: "I will personally examine its performance and safety. Based on that, I will provide an explanation to the public on the need to introduce the system."

- [Japan's NSC to control defense buildup plan, giving PM more say](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Nearly half of Japan's defense priorities underfunded](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Fewer U.S. nuclear-powered subs called at Japanese ports](#) (Akahata)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 8, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 7, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 6, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 5, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [National Security Secretariat a growing presence in policy](#) (The Japan News)
- [JCP sets conditions for opposition united front in 2019 Upper House election](#) (Mainichi)
- [Scholar plumbs postwar polls to challenge Japanese Constitution 'myths'](#) (The Japan Times)
- [Editorial: Abe Cabinet must gain results through long-term policy goals / Humble, careful steering of govt crucial](#) (The Japan News)
- [Finance Ministry sold state-owned lot to aviation academy for a bargain](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: Year of the Dog](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Expected political schedules for 2018](#) (Mainichi)

ECONOMY

- [METI minister indicates mid- long-term growth rate outlook to be revised](#) (Yomiuri)
- [METI minister welcomes UK's reported interest in joining TPP](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan eyes lifting over 20-year-old ban on British beef imports](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Abe again urges business leaders to raise wages by 3%](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Kawasaki Heavy to commercialize autonomous underwater vehicle in 2020](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Nissan, Renault, Mitsubishi to set up fund to invest in self-driving technology startups](#) (Yomiuri)

- [JPX mulls combining Mothers, Jasdaq](#) (The Japan News)
- [47% of companies have introduced AI, Mainichi poll of 121 major companies](#) (Mainichi)
- [Tokyo plans subsidies for EV charging spots](#) (The Japan News)
- [For fish to recover, countries must cooperate: Japan official](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [METI mulls constructing new nuclear power plants](#) (Sentaku)

SCIENCE

The massive network of the human body – Part 3: Bones

Sunday's "NHK Special" aired the third part of its series, "The massive network of the human body," focusing on bones. The program said the latest research has discovered that bones are not simply masses of calcium to support internal organs but they also have an affect on youthfulness, including memory and muscle strength. According to the program, bone cells send messages to form bones or stop forming bones, and osteoblast cells, which form new bones, send out messages to increase memory and muscle strength. The program also said subjecting bones to a certain level of shock through activities such as jumping prompts the bone cells to send messages to form bones, which leads to increased bone density.

- [Gov't to put autonomous ships into service by 2025](#) (Yomiuri)
- [New JAXA radar to spot small debris](#) (The Japan News)

SOCIETY

- [Japan lawmaker group eyes law to protect manga, anime](#) (Jiji Press)
- [Japan eyes 1st survey on middle-aged social recluses](#) (Jiji Press)

SOCIAL MEDIA

- [Prime Minister's Office launches Instagram account](#) (Mainichi)

OKINAWA LOCAL
PRESS

- [Onaga to visit Guam from Jan. 10](#) (Ryukyu Shimpo)
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