
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Wednesday, January 10, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, NTV, and TV Asahi gave top play to reports on blizzards in Hokkaido today. TBS and Fuji TV led with reports on the Japanese canoeist who spiked his rival's drink with a banned substance.

ECONOMY

Toyota, Mazda to build new auto plant in Alabama

NHK reported this afternoon that amid President Trump's calls for foreign investment and employment expansion in the U.S., Toyota and Mazda have decided to build a new auto assembly plant in Alabama by the end of 2021. The network said Toyota and Mazda formed a capital alliance last year and disclosed a plan to jointly build a new plant capable of manufacturing about 300,000 cars annually for sale in North America by 2021. The network added that the two companies chose Alabama because Toyota already has an engine plant there and an assembly plant in Kentucky, and many auto parts manufacturers that do business with Toyota have factories near Alabama.

- [New Keidanren chief expected to continue cooperating with administration](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Profile of Hiroaki Nakanishi, selected as next Keidanren chief](#) (Mainichi)
- [Motegi in Mexico to arbitrate between Mexico, Vietnam on TPP labor issue](#) (Mainichi)
- [Panasonic to double number of system engineers in U.S.](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan, EU officials agree to cooperate on quantum tech](#) (The Japan Times)

- [About 40 percent of foreign workers feel discriminated against at Japanese firms, survey finds](#) (The Japan Times)

INTERNATIONAL

- [Main points of ROK FM's statement on agreement with Japan on comfort women issue](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan to offer money, expertise to Russia on healthcare facility project in Russia's Far East](#) (Nikkei)
- [Japan minister voices regret to Duterte over "comfort women" statue](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Foreign Minister Kono to visit Myanmar, UAE and Canada](#) (Mainichi)
- [China restricting North Korean spies' activities amid worsening bilateral ties](#) (Shukan Toyo Keizai)
- [FM Kono concerned Japanese diplomacy being overwhelmed by China's expansion](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Chromosome defects found among N. Korean defectors who lived near nuke test site](#) (The Mainichi)

POLITICS

- [Hagiuda says, "We'll discuss limits on PM's right to dissolve Lower House"](#) (Mainichi)
- [Cartoon: LDP presidential race](#) (Asahi)
- [Miyazaki becomes first Supreme Court justice to continue to use maiden name](#) (Nikkei)
- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 9, 2018](#) (Nikkei)

OPINION POLLS

- [46% support Abe cabinet, 37% do not, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)
- [29% say "no need" for DP, CDPJ, and Party of Hope to form joint parliamentary group, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)
- [Cabinet and political party support rates, NHK public opinion poll](#) (NHK)

SCIENCE

- [METI tests AI in drafting Diet replies](#) (Mainichi)

SOCIETY

Book on life lessons from 80 years ago captures hearts of today's youth

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the book "Kimitachi wa Do Ikiru ka?" (How Do You Live?), which was written by Genzaburo Yoshino 80 years ago. The story revolves around a second year junior high school student, Copel, who under the guidance of his uncle learns how to think for himself about such issues as bullying, poverty, social disparity, courage, and education. The program said that although it was written 80 years ago, the book is capturing the hearts of many young people today.

SECURITY

Yomitan assembly adopts resolution of protest over helicopter landing

NHK reported that following the incident in which a Futenma-based AH-1 helicopter made an unscheduled landing in Yomitan, Okinawa, the local assembly unanimously adopted this morning a resolution of protest calling for the suspension of flights by all military aircraft based at MCAS Futenma until the cause of the incident has been identified. The resolution reportedly points out that the anger of local residents has "reached a peak," and also calls for the consolidation and reduction of U.S. military bases in Okinawa, the removal of U.S. Marines from Okinawa, and the drastic revision of the SOFA. The network added that the assembly will deliver the resolution to the USFJ.

- [Okinawa governor expresses anger over helicopter landings](#) (NHK)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

- [Okinawa upset over two latest incidents involving Futenma aircraft](#) (Okinawa Times, Ryukyu Shimpo)