
 **JAPAN MEDIA
HIGHLIGHTS**

Afternoon Alert - Friday, January 19, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK gave top play to a report that Okinawa Governor Onaga said it is "extremely regrettable" that three U.S. helicopters flew over Futenma Daini Elementary School where a window fell onto the playground from a U.S. military helicopter on Dec. 13. The governor also reportedly questioned the U.S. military explanation that it has confirmed by checking the radar and with the pilots that the helicopters did not fly over the school.

NTV led with a report that a Keio University student was arrested for stabbing his father to death on Thursday. TBS gave top play to a report that sumo grand champion Kisenosato has withdrawn from the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament. Fuji TV reported that the Emperor and the Empress visited a site where they will reside temporarily after the abdication before moving to the Togu Palace where the Crown Prince and his family live now. TV Asahi reported on the finding that the GOJ is planning to push back its goal to achieve a budget surplus by two years to FY2027.

INTERNATIONAL

- [Gist of joint statement issued after Japan-Australia summit](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: S. Korea must be careful not to open a hole in intl net encircling N. Korea](#) (The Japan News)
- [Editorial: South Korea's moves to prioritize reconciliation with North raise concerns](#) (The Mainichi)
- [PM Abe decides not to attend Davos Conference](#) (Nikkei)

- [Former diplomat on North Korea crisis, relations with China, U.S., more](#) (Sande Mainichi)
- [Families of missing Japanese to urge ICC to prosecute N. Korea leader](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Russia takes Japanese fishing boat to Kunashiri](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Japan names new ambassadors to Bahrain, Algeria](#) (Kyodo News)

ECONOMY

- [Tokyo to host 2-day TPP talks from Monday: minister](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Australia to seek signing of TPP without U.S. by March: Turnbull](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Japan poised to introduce new research whaling ship](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Japan should not pursue nuke fuel reprocessing despite U.S. OK](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)
- [Asia factories eyed for generic drugs](#) (The Japan News)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on Jan. 18, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [Shunichi Kuryu, new commissioner-general of National Police Agency](#) (Mainichi)
- [Gov't to submit 64 bills to regular Diet session](#) (Yomiuri)
- [LDP to receive Y17.4bn in gov't subsidies in 2018](#) (Asahi)
- [Cartoon: The divided opposition](#) (Mainichi)

OPINION POLLS

- [50% approve of introducing cruise missiles, cabinet support rate rises to 46%, Jiji Press poll](#) (Jiji)

SECURITY

[Okinawa Governor Onaga criticizes U.S. military for allegedly flying helicopters over Futenma school](#)

NHK reported at noon that in response to reports that three U.S. helicopters allegedly flew over an elementary school near MCAS Futenma where a window fell onto the playground from a U.S. helicopter last month, Okinawa Governor Onaga said at a press briefing today: "It is extremely regrettable and I am resentful." The governor also reportedly said: "The U.S. military explained that it confirmed by checking the radar and talking to the pilots that the helicopters did not fly over the school, but I cannot trust the U.S. explanation." He was also quoted as saying: "If they claim it didn't happen, they should disclose the official radar data and present objective evidence to the people of Okinawa."

Meanwhile, the network also quoted Defense Minister Onodera as telling reporters this morning: "The Ministry of Defense has confirmed that the helicopters flew over the school through video footage and reports by observers. We have provided the U.S. side with the footage and asked them to check once again." Onodera also said: "We will continue to strongly call on the U.S. military not to fly over schools near MCAS Futenma."

The network also reported that the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution of protest this morning calling on the U.S. military to suspend military aircraft flights and training above civilian areas.

- [Japan, France to hold ministerial security talks on Jan. 26](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ruling, opposition parties to clash in series of Okinawa elections, starting with Nanjo City](#) (Yomiuri)
- [2 coastal nations observe training by Japan, Indian coast guards](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

SOCIETY

Japanese food products becoming smaller

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported that Japanese food products such as chocolate bars, cheese, and "onigiri" rice balls are becoming smaller in size. The program said this is because food manufacturers have decided to change the size or quantity of food products instead of increasing prices in response to the rising cost of raw materials owing to the depreciation of yen.

- [River use mulled for after a Tokyo quake](#) (The Japan News)

TRENDING@JAPAN

- [Book turns 80, its lessons for young people remain eternal](#) (Sankei)

- [With approach of Tokyo Olympics, more students speaking in foreign tongues](#) (Nikkei)
 - [Don't call me, I'll text you](#) (Nikkei, Tokyo Shimbun)
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